

# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

A R C A T A , C A  
 T H E R E V . S A R A L . P O T T E R , R E C T O R

Dear People of St. Alban's,

We are headed into some of the most holy days of the year—Holy Week and Easter. I am mindful of how the beauty and mystery of our worship celebrating Christ's dying and rising is the work of so many of us together. I am especially thankful to Shirley Curtis and George Inotowok who have covered the office while Carolyn Willis has recuperated from her surgery in late February. They have kept everything running ship shape and I think we have all been reminded of how much more Carolyn does (and knows) beyond answering the phone, preparing the bulletins and writing checks.

I am also deeply thankful for our new Stations of the Cross by the late Haitian artist Jean Sylvestre. The Stations are a gift of Jan Ramsey and the Rev. Nancy Streufert. Those who were with us in worship on the first Sunday in Lent, March 5, learned that it was quite an adventure getting the Stations from Haiti to Arcata, CA. Finally, Nancy created exquisite bulletins for our use during our services of Station of the Cross on Fridays at noon. Thank you both for making this possible and enriching our Lenten worship.

On a separate note, in January I announced to the congregation that the Vestry had endorsed Zack Curtis' application for Holy Orders to the Priesthood. Following that announcement several members of the congregation asked me about the process toward ordination in the Episcopal Church. The process of discernment toward Holy Orders is a matter of ecclesiology—the study of the theology or doctrines of the church as they apply to the practical and institutional life of the Church. In our tradition a call to Holy Orders must be perceived and affirmed by the larger body, not just the individual. Furthermore an individual is ordained for the larger Church and not just the local congregation. Both of these theological convictions are reflected in our process for discernment and preparation for ordination. St. Alban's has a long history of supporting those seeking Holy Orders, sometimes from within the congregation and sometimes those already in seminary. Over its 60+ year history St. Alban's has supported 10 individuals seeking ordination as priests and 3 as deacons (this includes Zack and Cindy Woods).



*Continued on page 4*

*Saint Alban's is a community of disciples growing into the full maturity of Christ. Our mission as a community worshipping in the Episcopal tradition is to be devoted to God through prayer, study and action; faithful in welcoming the stranger and serving the needs of our parish and beyond.*

## March Vestry Highlights

Present were Mary Bockover, Diana Cooper, Shirley Curtis, Leah Lu, The Rev. Sara Potter, James Springer and Bob Webb.

The Vestry reviewed its 2016 goals in preparation for the Mutual Ministry Review scheduled for March 25 and went over the clergy letters of agreement, noting that the Rector will be due for sabbatical between 2018 and 2020.

The Jr. Warden updated the Vestry on the progress of buildings and grounds projects. Initial estimates for replacing the choir loft railing with a glass panels proved to be very high, so we will have to look at less expensive options. He has received one bid for installation of an automatic earthquake shut-off valve for the gas meter and is awaiting a second bid. The Jr. Warden also mentioned his concern that in the event of a major earthquake the organ pipes in the sanctuary could be rocked off the pins securing them, posing a hazard to people in the pews below. The organ service-person suggested adding hardware to the screws to prevent the pipes from slipping off. While the Jr. Warden is in the process of acquiring and installing the hardware, parishioners will be alerted to the potential earthquake danger.

The Vestry approved a bid from A & I Roofing for \$2,535 to repair and replace three failing skylights and to install a collection box and drain pipe to improve roof drainage. Funds to cover the repair will come from Capital Savings and General Savings.

## YOUR VESTRY

Shirley Curtis, Senior Warden 839-1536  
awazzuk@att.net

Bob Webb, Junior Warden 826-9127  
spider.man@suddenlink.net

Mary Bockover 822-9123  
Mary.bockover@humboldt.edu

Diana Cooper 822-4716  
dawcooper@gmail.com

Leah Lu 826-2985  
leahpattesonlu@gmail.com

James Springer (360) 434-4009  
jtspringer@energysolutions.com

Vacancy

Liz Finney, Clerk 845-4498  
finneyliz@gmail.com

Dan Scofield, Treasurer 822-9123  
d\_m\_Scofield@yahoo.com

## Paypal comes to a website near you!

There is now another way to support St. Alban's using the donation feature on the website. Look for the "Make a Secure Donation" icon on the homepage under the "Contact Us" information on the left hand side of the page. Thank you to Deborah Mooney for setting this up for us!

Now Accepting **PayPal**

## **Health Ministry at St. Alban's**

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

I don't know about you, but these Lenten days and our wet, windy and cold winter shared a real heaviness for me. It has seemed like endless months. I started being aware of lots of rain in October, and here we are in late March enduring yet another week of wet! My commitment to walking has helped, especially when I concentrated on awareness of God's presence, yet I have to admit to a sense of slothfulness on my part and a struggle to submit to exercise in spite of drips and puddles if not downpours!

So Easter will be particularly welcome, joy and flower-filled this year. Let's get ready to peal the bells, adorn the cross and sing out the alleluias! Let the promise of resurrection both spiritually and physically permeate everything! Enjoy Spring and have a Blessed Easter!

### **Did someone say, Haitian food on Palm Sunday? Yes they did!**

Palm Sunday coffee hour, 10:30 service, will be our chance to offer Mtr. Sara Potter, Emily Arents and Tim Doty, our well wishes as St. Alban's traveling companions to Haiti. Their journey to Haiti will begin after Easter, April 22nd to May 2nd.

What better way to celebrate a send off then to set the table and serve up some fine Haitian cuisine. Our coffee hour hosts, Deborah, Cathy, Casper, Elena and Cindy invite you to join them for this special day. For an added bonus we will indeed be serving Just Haiti coffee.

### **Summer Camp Scholarships Available**

Summer camper scholarships in the amount of \$200 will be available to 60 children and youth who are active in Diocese of Northern California congregations. The scholarships are available on a first-come, first-served basis to be used for **Camp Living Waters** and other youth camps and events in the Diocese. An online application is available on the Diocesan webpage, [norcalepiscopalchurch.org](http://norcalepiscopalchurch.org), linked to the e-news. If you have questions about applying for a scholarship, please contact Tamoya Bell, Benefits Coordinator and Accounting Specialist at [tamoya@norcalepiscopal.org](mailto:tamoya@norcalepiscopal.org).

### **Earth Day Celebration and March for Science April 22, 2017**

St. Alban's will be joining other local groups celebrating an Earth Day event sponsored by Humboldt State University on Saturday, April 22. A science expo will be held at the Arcata D Street Neighborhood Center and a March for Science that coincides with other events around the globe. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Parish Hall. HSU will be providing more details in the coming weeks. Stay tuned! For more information or to confirm your attendance contact Cindy Woods at (707) 825-0867 or email [minitrees55@yahoo.com](mailto:minitrees55@yahoo.com)

**Rector's Letter** *(Continued from page 1)*

Those who feel a call towards Holy Orders first meet with the clergy in charge of their congregation. If the clergy person senses that there is a call in place *and* that it is an appropriate time for the individual to continue in the discernment process they write a letter of introduction to the Bishop. The Bishop meets with the discerner and, if concurring, approves the discerner to begin meeting with a congregational commission on ministry or, in the case of our deanery, a regional discernment group. In recent years our regional discernment group has been made of members of St. Alban's, Christ Church, Eureka and St. Francis, Fortuna. The regional discernment group meets with the discerner over several months to explore the sense of call. At the end of the discernment period the group makes a report to the Vestry and clergy in charge of the discerner's congregation indicating their assessment of the call and recommendation regarding the discerner's readiness to take the next steps in the process. The Vestry and clergy in charge receive the report and decide whether or not to endorse the discerner's application. If the Vestry and clergy endorse the application then the report and recommendation are sent to the Office of the Bishop. At this point the process moves from the local congregation to the Diocese.

The discerner submits all the needed materials for his or her application to the Office of the Bishop. The application materials range from extensive writing about one's spiritual life and sense of call, a resume and college transcripts to a background check and psychological evaluation. The latter two are paid for by the discerner's congregation as an indication of the congregation's support of the discerner. For more details see Bob Webb's report on page 6. Zack is currently submitting his application materials. Once all the materials are received the Bishop reviews them and decides whether to invite the discerner to a discernment weekend with the Diocesan Commission on Ministry (DCOM). At the end of the weekend the DCOM makes a recommendation to the Bishop and Standing Committee whether to admit the discerner as a Postulant. The Postulant works with the DCOM to develop a plan for their formation as a priest or deacon. Cindy Woods is at this stage in the process. Some elements of formation are consistent from person to person and some elements vary relative to the experience and needs of the Postulant. The formation is aimed to help the Postulant develop competency in the seven areas outlined in our canons (church laws). Generally speaking, the period of formation is three years. This is a huge undertaking. I am thankful to God to the many people who commit themselves to the work of discernment and support those in discernment toward Holy Orders. It has been a joy of my ministry here to work with those in discernment and supervise those in formation. Please continue to hold Zack and Cindy in your prayers.

And speaking of prayers, please hold Emily Arents, Tim Doty and I in your prayers as we prepare for our journey to Haiti.

Blessings,  
Sara+

<b>Spiritual Forum for April</b>	
The Spiritual Forum is held between 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Library A lively and spirited discussion of religion, philosophy, literature, history, and personal faith	
Sunday, April 2	Bible Study: Death of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)
Sunday, April 9	Palm Sunday – No Spiritual Forum
Sunday, April 16	Easter Sunday – No Spiritual Forum
Sunday, April 23	Bible Study: Doubting Thomas (John 20:19-31)
Sunday, April 30	Bible Study: The Walk to Emmaus (John 24:13-35)
<i>Coming Up May 7 through November 19</i> Apocalypse Controversies and Meaning – The Book of Revelation	

### **Missio-Engage Report on our Sanctuary Service**

Submitted by Connie Webb – chairperson

A year and a half ago, the missio-Engage team received a grant from the Diocese to begin a new meal service with the goal of reaching out and engaging new younger people into our church community. We provided ten services last year and seven Sanctuary services this year. You will remember the services were held on Sunday afternoons at 4 pm, with the exception of The Blessing of the Animals, The Neighborhood Caroling Evening, and Ashes on the Plaza. Each Sanctuary service included a meal, a time of discussion along with a sermon and prayer. We endeavored to reach into our community through new ways of publicizing the events and personal invitation. We were successful in bringing in a few new people but that has dwindled of late. Considering the amount of effort required to produce these services, we are now in agreement that it is time to discontinue the monthly service but continue as a mission-Engage team to effectively reach out into our community, engage and welcome new people into St. Alban's. We hope to do this by continuing the most effective activities, such as Ashes on the Plaza, and the Blessing of the Animals, while trying some new approaches, like activities with environmental concerns. We also hope to continue the work with our Native American community as well. Thank you for your prayers and support of this ministry.

### **Camp Living Waters 2017: July 23–July 28**

Camps past, present and future mark your calendars and make your plans to be at Camp Living Waters. Applications will be available shortly. See the article on page 3 for information on scholarship opportunities. Contact St. Alban's office for more information.

## Our 2017 Budget

By Robert L. Webb

Due to the generosity of the St. Alban's community, last year's Vestry budgeted for some items that in other years would have been a significant strain or impossible. The purpose of this article is to highlight five of those items.

- A. We were able to increase Mtr. Sara's stipend by 5% to \$63,342 per year. The guideline we followed on this is the Diocese's "Congregational Ranges." You can view the "Congregational Range Sheet" at:  
[http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/Websites/newnorcalepiscopal/files/Content/1391839/2017\\_Cong.\\_Range\\_Sheet-Final-10.08.16.pdf](http://www.norcalepiscopal.org/Websites/newnorcalepiscopal/files/Content/1391839/2017_Cong._Range_Sheet-Final-10.08.16.pdf)  
The 2017 Range Sheet shows St. Alban's to be in Range C. That means the base range for our Rector's stipend is \$61,999, the midpoint is \$73,873, and the high is \$85,700. For us, it means we are now paying our Rector at the base salary, whereas without the 5% we would have been paying her below the base.
- B. The Vestry examined what we pay the staff. This proved to be challenging as we have no data as to what constitutes a fair wage for these positions. COLA for 2016 was .03%. The Vestry opted for a .05% increase in the staff's pay with the commitment to do research to determine what counts as a fair wage for each of our staff. That may prove to be a challenge, but we are obligated to our employees to pay them a fair wage.
- C. We were able to cover the ordination fees, totaling \$1085, for Zack Curtis. It is important for the congregation of which the applicant is a member to fully participate in that process. Your Vestry was very pleased to support Zack's ordination process.
- D. The Vestry budgeted \$2,300 for St. Alban's to participate in the Diocesan College for Congregational Development. The College is a comprehensive training program that seeks to nurture and develop congregational leadership from within existing parish lay and clergy leadership.
- E. Finally, your Vestry increased what we put into our capital savings. As you are aware, upkeep of our facilities can be expensive. There are times when these expenses pile one upon the other. Our intention is to be prepared when maintenance or equipment replacement is required.

## Good Friday Offering

The offering for Good Friday, April 14, is designated for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East. Check should be made out to *St. Alban's* with *Good Friday Offering* in the memo. Please be generous in support of the work of the Gospel in the Land of the Holy One.

# St. Alban's Wish List for 2017

## Adult Formation

Portable White Board (\$170+)

## Facility—General

A 48" or 36" dry mop (\$30+)

## Office

Cases of paper for the office (\$41.99 for a case of 8.5x11 and \$57.99 for a case of 8.5x14)

Rolls of 100 stamps (\$49+)

## Worship

Refinishing the wooden pews

Refinishing the wooden altar

Mechanism to lower and raise the hanging cross above the Altar

Fair Linen (\$275)—speak to Brenda Wood

Additional mic for the sanctuary--speak to Bob Webb

Dehumidifier for the sacristy—speak to Brenda Wood

Dehumidifier for the Chapel—Speak to Mtr. Sara

Shades/window coverings for the windows in the choir loft—speak to Susan Twomey

## Parish Hall

Retractable shades for the skylights—speak to Bob Webb

## **St. Alban's Book Group**

Join the discussion of *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

Monday, May 1, 2017

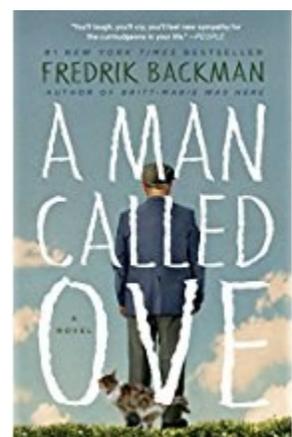
6 – 8 p.m.

At Maureen Johannsen's Home

Please bring a potluck dish to share.

The book for April 3 is:

*The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating*





# Saint Alban's Church

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(707) 822-4102  
www.stalbansarcata.org

«Title»«First»«Last»  
«Address»  
«Post Office Box»  
«City», «State» «Zip/Postal Code»



## Meetings, Clubs, and Other Regularly Scheduled Events

### Weekly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day and Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday, Sanctuary	12:15 p.m.	Nan Voss-Herlihy
Spiritual Forum	Sunday, Library	9:15 a.m.	Mtr. Nancy Streufert

### Monthly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Bible Study	2nd and 4th Mondays, Library	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Bob Webb
Book Group	Maureen Johannsen's home	6:00-8:00 p.m. (Potluck at 6)	Cathy Larripa
Craft Group	3rd Monday, Parish Hall	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Evaonne Hendricks
Vestry	3rd Wednesday, Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Shirley Curtis
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library, every other month	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter