

# 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 Saint Alban's,

It was with a mixture of pride and sadness that I announced to the congregation on Sunday, September 29 that Merry Phillips has accepted the call to serve as Organist at Christ Church, Eureka. Merry's last day to serve as Organist at St. Alban's will be Sunday, December 8. We will celebrate her ministry with us at that time. She will have a few weeks of rest before she begins her position at Christ Church on Christmas Eve. Marylee Bytheriver (chair), Zack Curtis, Barbara Moore, Wally Cooper, and Nan Voss Herlihy have agreed to serve as the Search Team for a new Organist. They are tasked with identifying current and future needs for our music ministry, drafting a new position description, posting the position, interviewing candidates and making a recommendation to the Vestry and me. They will provide periodic updates to the congregation on their progress. Please hold Merry, the people of Christ Church and the Search Team in prayer during this time of transition.

Plans for my sabbatical in the summer of 2014 are beginning to take shape. While the plans will likely change some between now and then, the sabbatical is planned for 13 weeks from mid-June to mid-September. The congregation will

continue to pay my salary during this time. In 2010 and 2011 funds were set aside for the sabbatical that will be sufficient to cover the cost of supply clergy during the sabbatical. The Rev. Lesley McCloghrie has agreed to provide coverage during that time.

In terms of study I am exploring the possibility of a two week course through St. George's College in Jerusalem. I am also hoping to visit some churches in Seattle, WA who have done some great work in adult formation with demographics similar to Arcata. As a family we are planning a long overdue trip to visit my eldest brother and his family in Nagoya, Japan. The balance of the sabbatical will be spent camping, hiking and in other forms of rest and recreation. The trip to Japan will be self-funded and we have been saving for this for awhile. The sabbatical team is identifying funding sources from within the congregation, the diocese and beyond for the other components of the sabbatical.

My thanks to the sabbatical team—Emily Arnts, Maureen Johanssen, Cathy Larripa, Merry Phillips and Tina Rousselot—for their planning efforts. Their work is not only to help plan the content of the sabbatical for me but also for the

*(Continued on page 3, column 2)*

*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.*

## Vestry Highlights

The Vestry meeting was held in the library on October 20, 2013. Cindy Woods called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

- Mtr. Sara prepared a Rector's Report which members received and reviewed prior to the meeting. Questions related to the report will be address at the next meeting.
- Cindy Woods gave a brief presentation of the resolutions to be presented at the 2013 Diocesan Convention. The Diocese is pleased to announce The Right Reverend Michael Curry will be the keynote speaker. Additional information and details about Convention can be viewed online at <http://www.norcalepiscopal.org>.
- Bill Strider gave an update from the "Plugging In" committee. Surveys have been collected and several priority lists have been developed to identify areas of service. The committee continues to find ways to match talents and tasks looking at the needs within and beyond our parish community.
- Tina Rousselot and Maureen Johannsen reported on the Sabbatical Planning Team's work. The team is working with Mtr. Sara on the sabbatical fund, proposed course registration, travel expenses and advance planning for coverage of the Rector's responsibilities.
- Mary Bockover requested a review/change of the vestry meeting day and time as we move toward 2014. The discussion will be revisited following the election of new vestry members at the January 2014 meeting.

*(Continued on page 3, column 2)*

## YOUR VESTRY

Mary Bockover mary.bockover@humboldt.edu	822-9123
Zack Curtis awazzuk@att.net	839-1536
Maureen Johannsen maureenj@reninet.com	822-0540
Dona Moxon dmmoxon@gmail.com	822-4999
Ellen Robnett robnetteureka@aol.com	444-8751
Tina Rousselot tinaupnorth@suddenlink.net	822-6619
Bill Strider, Jr. Warden wmstrider@yahoo.com	616-7361
Mary Wheatley marywheatley@gmail.com	825-8836
Cindy Woods, Sr. Warden minitrees55@yahoo.com	825-0867
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Cathy Larripa, Parish Clerk	832-4242
Dan Scofield, Treasurer d_m_Scofield@yahoo.com	822-9123

## Knitters Need Yarn!

That's 4 ply or thicker to be exact! Alice Hackett and Marlene Hover are knitting hats for Veterans and for homeless folks. If you have any worsted weight or thicker yarn and would like to donate it to a great cause, please bring it to the church. Thank you!

## Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

Here it is November, the month of my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. Its quieter atmosphere of gratitude for the harvest, for our families – and of course for wonderful food – appeals to me more and more. I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

I feel the need to review an important aspect of health protection during these flu-prone months. My greatest concern is for our most frail and most susceptible folks – the very young, the very old, and the immune-compromised. Please check with your health care professional if you have questions about your own status. Even if you have gotten a flu shot this year, I implore you to remember to also:

1. Wash your hands frequently. Keep a bottle of Purell or other liquid disinfectant in your purse or car, or even kitchen counter, and **use** it. Use the hand sanitizers we have in the pews. Keep your hands away from your mouth and nose.
2. Use a Kleenex product, not a handkerchief, if you are sneezing or coughing. Please cover your mouth and nose when sneezing, ideally with the crook of your elbow or with the aforementioned Kleenex. Be sure to encourage your children to do the same.
3. If you are sick, please stay home and take care of yourself. Do not infect others if at all possible. Be especially conscious of our very young, very old, or the immune-compromised as they are the ones at greatest risk of serious/ fatal consequences if they become ill.

In other words, be a good neighbor!

## Rector's Letter

*(continued from Page 1)*

congregation. How will the congregation grow during this time? What will you learn together? Please share your thoughts and ideas with them. Look for an update from the Team at the annual meeting in January.

Blessings,  
Sara+

## Vestry Highlights

*(continued from Page 2)*

- Maureen Johannsen presented a proposal to form a “counting group” consisting of both vestry and non-vestry members. Mary Bockover and Cindy Woods will follow-up with Marylee Bytheriver, Mtr. Sara and Treasurer, Dan Scofield and report back at the November vestry meeting.
- Mary Bockover led a brief discussion about displaying the LGBT Peace Flag at St. Alban's. The Vestry agreed by consensus to place the flag in a visible place in the Parish Hall.
- Bill Strider and Cindy Woods led a discussion about the Rector's review process. An annual review of the Rector's performance is completed by the Senior and Junior Wardens with input from the congregation and vestry.
- Dan Scofield presented the September Treasurer's Report noting we are \$6086 under the year-to-date budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.  
Noonday prayer was led by Cathy Larripa.

## Spiritual Forum

All are invited to participate in St. Alban's Spiritual Forum, which meets most Sundays from 9:15 till 10:15 in the church library. The format allows for lively discussion on a variety of topics of wide interest. Child care is provided.

**November 3rd**                      **Wisdom, Liturgy, and Poetry: The Psalms and Wisdom Literature, with Nancy Streufert**

In this, the fifth of a five part series, Nancy Streufert will lead a discussion of the Old Testament and its importance to our Christian faith.

**November 10th, 17th, And 24th**                      **A Study of the Gospel of Mark (continued)**

The study is a continuing discussion of the Gospel of Mark using N.T. Wright's and Lin Johnson's Bible study guide, *Mark*. Copies of this discussion guide are available at the Forum.

**November 17th**                      **A Study of the Gospel of Mark (continued)**

**November 24th**                      **A Study of the Gospel of Mark (continued)**

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

### NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES



- 1st                      Caitlin Scofield
- 2nd                      Ginny Ellis
- 5th                      Mary Bockover
- 7th                      Maureen Johannsen &  
Arianna Brown
- 11th                      Emily Arents
- 12th                      Mike Robnett
- 18th                      Loretta Bourne
- 24th                      Bethyl Hover
- 25th                      John Breazeal
- 29th                      Mac McClary
- 30th                      Andrew Curtis

- 7<sup>th</sup>                      Elizabeth & Winfield Shoemaker
- 11<sup>th</sup>                      Carolyn & Rich Hunt
- 26<sup>th</sup>                      Connie & Bob Webb



## Website Update

When you receive this newsletter, our new website should be up and running. Our domain name is the same: [www.stalbansarcata.org](http://www.stalbansarcata.org). After Robin Hodson announced last spring that she was stepping down as webmaster, the Vestry explored several options for a new site finally deciding to work with [mychurchwebsite.net](http://mychurchwebsite.net). The staff at mychurchwebsite.net have been very helpful and the new site is set-up in such a way that it easily updated. Many thanks to Mary Bockover, Dona Moxon and Mtr. Sara for transferring and archiving the material on the old site and working on the new site design.

Please note—the navigation bar on the homepage of the new site is somewhat different than the old. The monthly calendar and liturgical schedule are found under “Info Center” on the homepage. Please take a few minutes to browse the site and become acquainted with the information on it. You will see changes from time to time as we utilize more of the tools included with the site.

## You are invited!

The people of the Semper Virens Deanery are invited to celebrate with **Saint Francis Mission in Fortuna** at the Open House and Dedication of their renovated sanctuary on **Saturday, November 23**. The Open House will begin at 1 p.m. with worship and the dedication following at 3 p.m. Over the summer and fall Saint Francis undertook major renovations to their sanctuary, parish hall and bathrooms to provide improved accessibility. A series of asbestos panels were removed from the ceiling of the Nave and other additional deferred maintenance issues were addressed. The renovations were made possible by a bequest to St. Francis from the late Rev. Kenneth Samuelson. They are thrilled to be able to say, “All are welcome!”

## Evensong Service at St. Alban's Wednesday, November 13 at 6 pm

Evensong is a chanted (sung) Evening Prayer service from the Book of Common Prayer. The liturgy is one of the great treasures of our Anglican heritage and has deep roots in the medieval plainsong chant of the monastic hours of prayer and the rich choral tradition of the Church of England. It is a service of praise and thanksgiving to God for watching over us through another day and for protection through the night.

Please join us for a traditional Anglican service of Evensong on Wednesday, November 13 at 6 pm in the nave of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. The chanting of the psalms, canticles, and prayers will be led by cantor Nan Voss-Herlihy. Canticles and hymn will be accompanied by Merry Phillips. Paul Gossard will read the Scriptures and Nancy Streufert will officiate. Evensong is an ancient and beautiful way to come together in worship at the end of the day. We hope you will join us! For more information contact Nancy Streufert 442-1212 or [nancy.s.streufert@att.net](mailto:nancy.s.streufert@att.net).

## To the Dear People of St. Albans

Christ Church is most fortunate to have Merry Phillips join us as our new Music Director in December. We know, however, that our good fortune is most likely felt as a great loss by St. Albans. Merry has contributed to St. Albans in many, many ways, and we appreciate that her leaving will be a sad time for many members of St. Albans.

In Christ's love,  
Mtr. Susan  
Priest in Charge, Christ Church

## On Giving to Our Church

Before asking you to consider filling a need that we face as a parish, I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude: I am privileged to be able to worship and serve with each and every one of you. Never having served on the Vestry before this year, I had no idea how much our parish does with so little. This is a testament to our congregation's dedication in bringing its talents to our church as well as to our larger community. St. Alban's has been transformed for the better over the last few years in a way that I cannot remember, and I have been a parishioner for almost two decades.

Now I will express a need that our parish faces and that you hopefully can help us fill. Another insight gained from serving on the Vestry is that, as a parish, we are responsible for *all* of our expenses. We come together to worship, serve and be spiritually educated and enriched in a house of the Lord that we must maintain financially. We do not get money from the Diocese for this. We alone have to pay for the maintenance as well as the continued use of our building; water, energy, phone bills (etc.), just like we do at home. And recently we have had some costs that require more giving from the congregation.

While it is true that we all do a lot, the problem is that our service efforts do not pay the bills. We now are faced with maintenance costs needed to fix structural problems with our building – plumbing, electrical, and deck reconstruction to name a few – that we must pay for with hard, cold cash. This is not meant to diminish the many contributions you already make to our parish, but we need more than this to keep the building safely in use. I am not alone in this request.

Our Vestry and Stewardship Committee is asking all of us to examine how much we gain from being able to worship and serve in a building that needs more than our good will to be maintained, and so to please consider doing one of the two following things.

One: if you have not yet made a financial pledge to St. Alban's, please consider doing so, no matter how much it is. St. Alban's budgeting requires that we can anticipate the monies we have available and will reasonably have in the future, which depends solely on assessing the pledges people have made and their willingness to be true to them. Two: if you have already pledged to St. Alban's consider raising that amount, even if by a few dollars. Of course whether you can do either of these two things will depend on your situation, but if you can afford to make a pledge or increase what you give, it will be received with gratitude as well as much need.

Sincerely,  
Mary I. Bockover  
St. Alban's Episcopal Parishioner &  
Vestry Member

## Elders' Dinner and Intertribal Gathering

The Northern California Indian Development Council will hold the **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Elders Dinner and Inter-Tribal Gathering from 10 AM-9 PM on Saturday, November 9, 2013 at Redwood Acres in Eureka, CA.**

The main features of the gathering are the Salmon and Turkey dinner served from Noon to 4 PM and a traditional give away ceremony to all Honored Elders in attendance, regardless of race. There is no charge for entrance to the Gathering and the dinner is free to all Elders (age 55 & over). A \$6.00 donation is asked for all others.

## Where is your pledge card?

Merry Phillips w/Pat Ford

It's time to sit down and prayerfully consider my pledge for the coming year ... oh wait, where is that letter and card I received in the mail? If you are like me, there is a pile on the table (or some flat surface in your house) with a stack of 'to do' items: bills, correspondence, and that envelope from St. Alban's that came two weeks ago. It must be in there ... well, before I go looking, I think I'll 'google' pledge cards online. Some would call this 'productive' procrastination. I know better!

What do I find? As you can imagine, I find everything from 'how to create a pledge card' to a most fascinating historical collection of pledge cards. There are images from this collection of all kinds of pledge cards: cards from churches and charitable organizations, and cards with special pledges such as "the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag" and the "Florence Nightingale pledge." One in particular caught my attention and resonated with me – it was called the "Consumer's Victory Pledge." It was a card from a past wartime era which stated: "As a consumer in the total defense of democracy I will do my part to make my home, my community, my country ready, efficient, and strong. [1] I will buy carefully. [2] I will take good care of the things I have. [3] I will waste nothing."

As Cathy Larripa mentioned in her September newsletter article, serving on the Stewardship Committee provides a person with a whole new perspective on what stewardship and pledging means. I was grateful to be asked to serve, and especially thankful to Pat Ford who encouraged me to say 'yes' to the opportunity. In Pat's words, "everyone should serve on the Stewardship Committee at some point!" I've been exploring ideas of stewardship and the generations –

what are some of the generational differences that influence our decision-making regarding giving, and in particular, giving to the church? Most articles break the generations down into similar age groups defined by the same general characteristics and values. As a fifty-five year old, I find myself on the border between Generation X and the Baby Boomers, in terms of my formative experiences of money and stewardship, as well as current financial realities. As a Generation X'er, I like to have the differences between 'wants' and 'needs' clarified and to have the church finances transparent. We are fortunate at St. Alban's that between our Rector, the Vestry, and our Treasurer our budgeting processes are both careful and transparent. As a borderline Baby Boomer, I like having choices for giving. In addition to an annual pledge, St. Alban's provides many opportunities and choices throughout the year for giving. Above all, I realize that what speaks to me the most about the "Consumer's Victory Pledge" is the idea of "stewardship as the antidote to materialism." By finding that pledge card (in the pile on my desk), filling it out and turning it in, I feel I will be supporting St. Alban's efforts to budget and "buy carefully," to "take good care of the things" we have abundantly been given, and to "waste nothing" by not taking for granted the gifts of time, talent and money that we are given.

No matter where you are in the process; digging through the pile on your table or "productively" procrastinating, now is the time to complete this task! Please join me in putting our envelopes in the plate at the In-Gathering (both services) on November 17.



## Meetings, Clubs, and Other Regularly Scheduled Events

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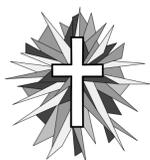
### Weekly Gatherings

<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
Evening Healing Prayer/ Eucharist	Tuesday, Sanctuary	5:00 p.m. Silent prayer 5:30 p.m. Prayer service	Emily Arents, Evaonne Hendricks/ Mtr. Sara
Spiritual Forum	Sunday, Library	9:15 a.m.	Bob Webb

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### Monthly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Bible Study	4th Monday, Library	7:00-8:00 p.m.	
Book Group	1st Monday, Parish Hall	6:00 p.m. Potluck	Betty Price
Craft Group	3rd Monday, Parish Hall	7:00-9:00 p.m.	Betty Price
Vestry	3rd Sunday, Library	12:30 p.m.	Cindy Woods
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library	9:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter



### Saint Alban's Church

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