

# 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

January, 2015

Dear People of Saint Alban's,

"Tradition, tradition!" sings Tevye in the musical *Fiddler on the Roof*. And this is a season full of traditions in our families and in the household of faith. Growing up my family took the 12 days of Christmas seriously which meant amongst other things that as long as the Christmas cards were postmarked by January 6 they were not technically late (our Christmas tree was another matter and was known on occasion to stay up until an early Lent!).

One of the traditions I have come to cherish at Saint Alban's is our annual or almost annual Christmas pageant. This year our young people asked for something more challenging. When I first looked at the script that Connie Webb, our Church School director had chosen I thought, "Wow—that's a lot of lines." But those of you who were here know that they pulled it off with great aplomb, with just a little help from a few "wise" men. The joy of that experience is incarnating that well known story—making it come alive—which of course is what we celebrate at Christmas—God made known to us in flesh and blood, in the Incarnation.

Our midweek Advent services of Holden Evening Prayer, soup supper and Holy Communion have become another treasured tradition and our last one this year was one of our largest and most joyful. I asked those gathered if they would be interested in gathering again for worship and a meal on Tuesday, January 6 to bring the season of Christmas to an end with a proper celebration of the wise men's visit to the Christ child. I was answered with a loud and resounding, "yes." We will have a simple meal of soup, bread, special drinks and a King cake. Our worship will end with seeing the wise men safely to the crèche and a favorite Epiphany hymn as we take lighted candles, signifying the Light of the world, out into the world. It remains to be seen if this celebration will become a tradition but we plan to have a good time in any case. Sign-ups for food will be in the usual place in the parish hall. Y'all come now, you hear!

Christmas blessings,

Sara+



*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 met on Sunday, December 21 at 12:45 p.m., in the Church library.

Mtr. Sara gave an update on Stewardship in Cathy Larripa's absence. A majority of pledges have been received and thank-you notes have been sent out in appreciation for everyone's generosity.

Marlene Hover, Bill Strider and Cindy Woods are serving as the Vestry Nominations Committee and they reported on their progress in asking people to consider serving on Vestry for the upcoming three year term.

Mtr. Sara handed out information on several important approved Resolutions from the 2014 Diocesan Convention held in Santa Rosa on November 14th and 15th.

Barbara Moore and Connie Webb gave a presentation on a recent research project completed by the Missio: Engage team. The research focused on the possibilities and interest in an alternative worship service at St. Alban's.

The Vestry will continue to look at the various St. Alban ministries in conjunction with 2015 goals. Jenni Simpson researched information on discernment tools and had an initial conversation with Canon Andrea McMillin regarding tools and resources.

The Vestry considered several calendar items including setting the January budget meetings, a February working retreat for the 2015 Vestry and scheduled the Parish Annual meeting for Sunday, January 25, 2015.

## YOUR VESTRY

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Cindy Woods, Sr. Warden 825-0867  
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Cathy Larripa, Parish Clerk 832-4242

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

Mtr. Sara reviewed the guidelines for the Rector's Discretionary Fund and will be presenting an updated report at the Annual meeting in January.

Dan Scofield presented the monthly Treasurer's report and advised that he met with the auditor for the annual financial review. Dan also stated that year end pledge trends look encouraging.

## Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

The morning I started to work on this piece for our newsletter, the Times-Standard headlines blared "1964 Flood: 50 Years Later." What a horrific disaster that was, so much so that it was later referred to as a 1000-year flood! Here on the North Coast, we are often told that we need to be prepared for a major disaster, as being so remote puts us at higher risk for protracted delays in getting outside help.

Clearly our greatest risk here in Humboldt County will more likely come from an earthquake and/or a tsunami and over the last few years, we at St. Alban's have had several presentations on the possible devastation and how we could best prepare ourselves. Even though we get 'reminder' temblors frequently, I was surprised at the lack of attendance to our most recent presentation in the Spring of 2014. Another reminder to us for community preparedness has actually come from our Diocese which has put out the call for each parish to have a Disaster Preparedness Plan in place. Thanks to Anne Pierson's efforts during her ministry with us, and the hard work of Bill Strider, Becky Price-Hall, Diana Cooper, Laura Miller and yours truly, we have one nearly completed. We have a notebook now and also a computer file with photos and instructions for caring for the church. We have a list of all but a very few members with their local and out-of-area phone contacts, plus any equipment or skills they have that might be of use. There is a list of our most at-risk parishioners and we are very close to having a phone tree in place as well.

Have you each got an individual or family plan in place? Let's not put it off!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

## Save the Date! Nancy Streufert's Ordination

Nancy Streufert, who served as our seminarian from fall of 2012 through early 2014 will be ordained to the sacred Order of Priests on Saturday, January 31, 2015 at 11 a.m. at Christ Church, Eureka. You are warmly invited to join Nancy and the people of Christ Church for this joyous occasion.

## Annual Meeting

Please save **Sunday, January 25, 2015** as the date for our Annual Meeting. There will be one service at 10:30 a.m. followed by lunch and the meeting in the parish hall. We'll have the fabulous slide show, our children will sing and we will have the customary business of electing new Vestry members and delegates to Diocesan Convention.

See you there!

## Yarn Needed!

Alice Hackett and Marlene Hover, knitters extraordinaire, have been knitting hats for the homeless for quite a while, but they are running out of yarn. Even the thrift stores seem to have little or none. The hats have been very popular during the Street Meals donation times on Saturdays, but they can't make them out of nothing. If you have leftover yarn from a knitting or crocheting project, (4-ply, not sport or baby yarn), you can donate it by leaving it in the narthex, or call Marlene at (707) 822-3847, and she can pick it up. Your donations will be most appreciated. It's cold out there!



## Spiritual Forum

Jan. 4, 2015

Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (cont.)

The study is a continuing discussion of the Paul's letters to the Thessalonians using N.T. Wright's and Lin Johnson's Bible discussion guide, *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. Copies of this discussion guide are available at the Forum.

Jan. 11, 2015 Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (cont.)

The study is a continuing discussion of the Paul's letters to the Thessalonians using N.T. Wright's and Lin Johnson's Bible discussion guide, *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. Copies of this discussion guide are available at the Forum.

Jan. 18, 2015 Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (cont.)

The study is a continuing discussion of the Paul's letters to the Thessalonians using N.T. Wright's and Lin Johnson's Bible discussion guide, *1 & 2 Thessalonians*. Copies of this discussion guide are available at the Forum.

Jan. 25, 2015 Annual Business Meeting – No Forum

## Computer Items Available

Mtr. Sara's new laptop is not compatible her office's **Dell Monitor** (DVI and VGA compatible) and **Kensigton Docking Station**. They are yours for a small donation. Please speak to Mtr. Sara if you interested.

## The Prayers of the People and You

Have you noticed that at least once each month the prayers of the people are written by members of the St. Alban's congregation? The members of the team who write the prayers are Mary Bockover, Marylee Bytheriver, Maureen Johannsen, Barbara Moore, Fred Moore, Win Shoemaker, Bob Webb, and Cindy Woods. Our purpose is to write prayers that are relevant to current events in the church, the world, our community, and to St. Alban's. Most important, they are intended to reflect your concerns. To do that, however, means that we need to hear from you. We need your feedback and input. When you see that one of us has written one, let us know what you think about the prayer. If you found the prayer reflective of your concerns let the author, or one of the team members, know. Be sure, also, to let us know what things you would like to see included in the prayers. Finally, and we think this most important, please pray for us.

**January Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Birthdays**

|      |                     |   |                      |                                   |
|------|---------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5th  | Casey Lu            |  | 20th                 | Jane Leer                         |
| 6th  | Marilyn Paik-Nicely |   | 24th                 | John Weburg                       |
| 7th  | Anthony Pulver      |   |                      |                                   |
| 8th  | Leonora Rivera      |   | <b>Anniversaries</b> |                                   |
| 9th  | Elizabeth Shoemaker |  | 21st                 | The Rev. Doug and Nellie Thompson |
| 14th | Stefan Price-Hall   |   |                      |                                   |

**Stewardship Update**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to those who have committed, or recommitted, to the financial support of Saint Alban's for 2015. As 2014 draws to an end, 46 pledges have been received for a total of \$141, 644.60.

This year, youth (7-years old and up) received letters from Mtr. Sara inviting them to share not only a portion of their financial treasure, but to specifically consider what gifts God may have given them to share with others. Gifts identified ranged from athleticism to imagination and a variety of artistic abilities (e.g., playing instruments, singing, drawing and painting). Saint Alban's is blessed to have among us young stewards singing in the youth choir, serving as acolytes, helping and mentoring younger children and blessing us with their enthusiastic presence.

Thank you to all for sharing your gifts of time, talent and treasure with Saint Alban's. Indeed, we are each an important piece of the Saint Alban's puzzle.

*(Note: It is never too late to make a pledge ... please contact the church office if you have any questions or need a pledge card.)*

Blessings,  
Cathy Larriga, for the Stewardship Committee

**Flower and Candle Schedule**

There are open dates for sponsoring flowers and candles in 2015.

Flowers are \$50.00. Open dates are: January 11, April 5 and 26, August 2, and December 20.

Candles are \$10.00. Open dates are January 4 and 11, February 1 and 15, April 5 and 19, May 3 and 24, August 30, November 22 and 29, and December 13.

Please contact Marlene Hover at (707) 822-3847, or the Church office at (707) 822-4102, in order to reserve your date.

## Meetings, Clubs, and Other Regularly Scheduled Events

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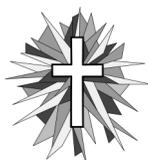
### Weekly Gatherings

| <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/<br>Eucharist | Tuesday, Sanctuary   | 5:00 p.m. Silent prayer<br>5:30 p.m. Prayer service | Emily Arents, Evaonne<br>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       | 2nd and 4th Mondays, Library | 6:30-8:00 p.m.    | Bill Strider     |
| Book Group        | 1st Monday, Parish Hall      | 6:00 p.m. Potluck | Fred Moore       |
| Craft Group       | 3rd Monday, Parish Hall      | 7:00-9:00 p.m.    | Betty Price      |
| Vestry            | 3rd Sunday, Library          | 12:45 p.m.        | Cindy Woods      |
| Worship Committee | 1st Saturday, Library        | 10:00 a.m.        | Mtr. Sara Potter |



### Saint Alban's Church

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