



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,

Wow. What can I say, but that our Christmas Eve celebration was simply magical? Our organist Susan Twomey remarked to me after worship on Christmas Day that what sets that occasion apart is the level of participation from so many members of the congregation. When the adult and youth choir came up to sing together at the end of the carols and Nan Voss quipped that it was about half the congregation she was exaggerating but only slightly! So many of you gave your time and gifts to enrich the worship of those present and as your own offering to God. What better occasion to create such beautiful worship than in thanking God for the birth of His Son, Emmanuel, God with us? The season of Christmastide continues for 12 days until January 6—Epiphany. Historically, Epiphany was actually a more important celebration than Christmas—the nativity of our Lord. And in many places around the world this is time that the exchange of gifts takes place patterned after the gifts that the wise men, the Magi, brought to the Christ Child as recorded in Matthew 2:1-12. Epiphany means manifestation and in this case means the, “manifestation of Christ to the gentiles.” So we celebrate that in this birth God was breaking into human history for his chosen people and for *all* people. Our Epiphany celebration, the culmination of the Christmas season, will take place on **Saturday, January 6 at 6 p.m.** in the parish hall. We will sup together, worship and make sure the Wise men make their way to the crèche and the Christ Child.

On a related note, last year our stewardship team sent information to each household of the congregation regarding a planned gift to the parish. This was part of our New Year's resolution as a family and was finalized in late September of 2017. An additional 8 members of the congregation indicated that they have made a bequest to St. Alban's in their will or designated St. Alban's as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy. These gifts will help insure that for years to come St. Alban's will be a place in worship and in the practice of the faith that “the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.” Speak with Mtr. Nancy or myself for further information.



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.

December Vestry Highlights

Present: Diana Cooper, Shirley Curtis, Liz Finney, Leah Lu, the Rev. Sara Potter, Tina Rousselot, and Bob Webb.

In order to get as many parishioners to participate in the *Toxic Charity* book study as possible, Vestry members made plans to personally invite those who had not yet signed up for a session.

Calendar dates for the upcoming year were set: the budget meeting for January 9, at 2 p.m. and the Annual Meeting for January 28. The diocese has set our deanery Clergy Leadership Conference for February 24; St. Alban's will host. This year the meeting will be used as an opportunity to gather information for the bishop search process.

The Vestry approved removal of the poplar tree next to the parking lot in order to prevent further damage to the pavement in that area. The Jr. Warden anticipates that removal will not be until February or March. Tina Rousselot and Ann McClary will work to restore the garden area under the tree and determine a replacement for the tree.

Annual Meeting—Save the date!

The annual meeting for Saint Alban's is set for **Sunday, January 28** during the 10:30 a.m. service. Lunch will be served. The meeting will include elections of new Vestry members (2 three year positions and a one year position) and delegates to Diocesan Convention. Please note, the four members elected to serve as delegates to convention will also serve as delegates to the special convention on February 9, 2019 (location TBA) to elect our new Bishop. Please plan to join us.

YOUR VESTRY

Shirley Curtis, Senior Warden awazzuk@att.net	839-1536
Bob Webb, Junior Warden spider.man@suddenlink.net	826-9127
Mary Bockover Mary.bockover@humboldt.edu	822-9123
Diana Cooper dawcooper@gmail.com	822-4716
Leah Lu leahpattesonlu@gmail.com	826-2985
Tina Rousselot tinaupnorth@suddenlink.net	822-6619
Vacancy	
Liz Finney, Clerk finneyliz@gmail.com	845-4498
Dan Scofield, Treasurer d_m_Scofield@yahoo.com	822-9123

Epiphany Celebration!

Join us as we gather for worship and a meal for the **Feast of the Epiphany on Saturday, January 6, at 6 p.m.** to bring the season of Christmas to a close with a proper celebration of the wise men's visit to the Christ child. 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 night. Sign-ups for food are in the customary place in the parish



Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Happy New Year! Let's make a commitment to nourish our resilience! Here are some ideas about achieving resilience. Our dear Marlene is recovering remarkably quickly from breaking her femur and the surgery to secure it. A good deal of her success is directly attributable to her regular exercise regime, so she has the upper-body strength to support herself. Truly wonderful!

Other members of our church who exercise regularly attend the S.A.I.L. classes – Stay Active and Independent for Life – which I highly recommend. They are offered in several locations in Eureka and McKinleyville. Their locations, instructors and times can be found at <http://www.a1aa.org/programs-and-services/sail-exercise-class> or calling (707) 442-3763.

Another great option is to participate in T'ai Chi with Connie Webb on Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30 to 5:30pm in the Parish Hall. Please call her if you'd like to start doing this beautiful, strengthening exercise with her and other parishioners.

There are also several good yoga classes through OLLI or in the community. Each of these options offers a modality that has repeatedly promoted increased strength and flexibility for folks as they age. What a great way to start the New Year!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

Spiritual Forum for January

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

The Sunday adult forum will return in February after the five-week congregational study of *Toxic Charity* that begins Sunday, January 7.

St. Alban's Book Group Meets Monday, January 15 at 6 p.m.

Due to the New Year's Day holiday on the regular book group meeting day, the meeting time has been moved. After the potluck, at 7 p.m. the group will discuss *Toxic Charity*. It was decided not to take on an additional book this month as folks will be reading *Toxic Charity* as part of the congregational study. This informal discussion of the book does not replace involvement in one of the five week study groups. For more information contact either Betty Price or Diana Cooper. There will also be discussion regarding books for 2018. It has been proposed that the group focus on reading books that have one or more copies available from the county library for those whose budgets do not allow purchasing books. Come discuss this.

Meet Your Vestry Nominees

Emily Arents – 3 Year Term

I was raised in the Episcopal Church, and raised my children in the church also; but after going through a divorce, I wandered off in several different directions, none of which felt like the home I was looking for. Periodically, I tried to find my way back to church, and finally found what I'd been missing when I landed at St. Alban's in May of 1998. I've been a regular member here ever since.



Early on, I served a 3-year term on the Vestry, serving as clerk at the same time. It's been my joy to serve as Parish Nurse since 2002, and also as a Eucharistic Visitor and choir member during that time. I've also been one of the delegates or an alternate several times to Diocesan Convention.

Personally, I feel blessed to live in this beautiful corner of the planet and happily share it with 3 more generations of my family. They, my friends, and my beloved puppy make my life here full and complete, but it's all supported by the abiding love and guidance of the gift of faith in Christ Jesus.

Daniel Moyer – 1 Year Term



I was born Christmas Eve 1980 at Alta Bates Hospital in Berkeley. When I was two years old my family moved from Oakland to Concord. Although we moved to Concord my family continued to attend Shiloh Church in Oakland. It was at Shiloh that I grew to learn about and love the Lord. I graduated from Concord High in 1999 and then began studying at Diablo Valley Community College in Pleasant Hill. After attending community college I transferred to Humboldt State in 2005 and graduated with BA in Geography in 2007. While attending HSU I met my future wife Erin O'Brien. After graduation I was employed at Sun Frost Refrigerators in Arcata.

Recently I began working at Humboldt Wholesale. Erin and I got married in the summer of 2015 and the officiant at our wedding used the Book of Common Book Prayer during the ceremony. That was the first time I learned about the Episcopal Church.

I did not attend church regularly while I lived in Humboldt. However, I felt a calling to return after my daughter, Charlotte Moyer, was born on July 22, 2016. I want Charlotte to grow up knowing and loving the Lord. I first attended Saint Alban's shortly after Charlotte was born. I was welcomed with enthusiasm and open arms by everyone I met. I look forward to continuing to grow with Saint Alban's.

Meet Your Vestry Nominees (continued from page 4)

Ed Farrelley – 3 Year Term

My wife Susan and I are new to the area, having relocated from outside of San Diego early in 2017. While in Southern California I attended St. Mary's in the Valley Episcopal church for almost 17 years. There I led the Finance Ministry for a number of years, as well as participating at various times in our Outreach, Education, Communication and Stewardship Ministries. I also worked, as a member of a task force, with the Office of the Bishop in San Diego on plans and financing options for a new St Mary's worship space and church pre-school, but unfortunately this effort was derailed by the Great Recession and subsequent San Diego county wildfires. I was raised Roman Catholic, and was an altar boy back when everything was in Latin.



When we moved to Humboldt we wanted to find a new church family, and one of our top priorities was locating an open and affirming worship community, which is how I came to visit St. Alban's in the first place. From the start I felt very welcomed here, and have attended regularly since May. I have also very much enjoyed the education forums each week between the services, and learned a lot. I've also, with the gentle guidance of Mother Sara, gotten involved with Altar Guild, and volunteered as a Counter for the weekly offering.

I am retired, and try to get out each day and experience some of the absolutely wonderful nature God has blessed Humboldt with, typically accompanied by my large yellow dog. Prior to this I worked with animals for over 12 years, most recently spending almost 8 years with an animal welfare non-profit. There I ran our animal adoption program, directed our pre-K thru 8th grade Humane Education program and managed a Pet boarding/training/grooming facility to help fund the other programs. In my prior life I was a software industry executive in the Bay Area and a management consultant when I lived on the East Coast. I was in the tech business for a while -- I started working with computers when they were the size of large trucks, cost millions of dollars, had water cooled plumbing and lived in special climate controlled rooms - and were considerably less powerful than the smartphone I have in my pocket today.

The Episcopal Public Policy Network

The Episcopal Public Policy Network is a grassroots network of Episcopalians across the country dedicated to carrying out the Baptismal Covenant call to "strive for justice and peace" through the active ministry of public policy advocacy.

The Episcopal Public Policy Network invites you to: **"Join the movement to...**

1. **Pray** for those suffering from hunger and the success of the efforts of those working to end hunger.

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Poplar Tree Removal

Robert Webb – Junior Warden

A serious safety issue has become evident. The walkway adjacent to the handicap parking space in our parking lot is raised one to one and one-half inches above the curb. A couple of our parishioners have stumbled as they stepped up over the curb.

I discussed this issue with Keith Barnhart of Alves Construction on November 19th intending to get an estimate to correct this issue. Keith advised me the walkway is being pushed up by the roots of the poplar tree growing in the planted square outside Mtr. Sara's office. Indeed, the walkway is now tilted above the angle that is permissible by ADA code. Furthermore, the walkway is being lifted on both sides of the planted, square area. Keith told me he was surprised the cement had not already begun to crack up. He advised me that the roots will continue to push the cement slabs up, and the slabs will break up. This poplar tree will continue to grow. They are large trees. The immediate fix is to remove the poplar tree that is causing the damage and kill the roots. We can then expect the slabs to settle back over the next couple of years.

A side benefit from removing the tree is that our lights will much illuminate our parking lot at night.

I asked for a rough estimate to repair the damage should it occur. Keith advised me that should any contractor work on this then they must meet ADA code. The cost to repair the damage would be in excess of \$20,000. Even then, the tree would have to come out.

On December 17, 2017, the Vestry approved removal of the poplar tree. This is a job that we can do with the help of some of you. I expect to remove the poplar tree sometime in February 2018. After the tree is removed, we shall restore Florence's Garden at minimal cost (less than \$150).

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please do not hesitate to contact me. Also, please let me know if you are willing to assist in the tree removal. We will certainly need at least one pickup truck to haul away the slash and logs to Wes Green.

The Episcopal Public Policy Network (continued from page 5)

2. **Fast** to develop a spiritual practice of self-deprivation, to prepare for and strengthen advocacy efforts with our government.
3. **Advocate** by writing letters and emails, making phone calls, and visiting with your representatives."

Within a range of Episcopal Church policies, it focuses on several key areas determined by the Church's priorities on evangelism, reconciliation and environmental stewardship, and issues where the Episcopal Church can have a unique and important voice at the federal level. Key issues are: Environment, immigration, refugee resettlement, international development and conflict.

To sign up go to: <http://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/?2>

Arcata House Partnership (AHP)

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Offering. A total of \$ 1,410 was given with \$ 470 going to support the Extreme Weather Shelter. There is no emergency shelter in Arcata so on nights when the temperature drops below freezing or we have multiple nights of rain AHP and several local congregations including St. Alban's work to provide emergency shelter. Guests arrive at the Annex on or after 2 p.m. and receive dry clothing, bedding and an evening meal. They are transported to the host church at 7 p.m. and return to the Annex at 7 a.m. the next morning. AHP budgets 10-12 nights per winter to operate the Extreme Weather Shelter so our gift and any other additional funds allow them to operate more nights if needed.

The Arcata Night Shelter on Boyd Road is still in operation but its focus has changed somewhat. No longer an emergency shelter of limited duration residents can stay for a longer period of time as they work with a case manager toward permanent housing. We have for many years prepared meals for the Night Shelter on the first and third Monday of each month and the fifth Monday when there is one. Many thanks to those who have cooked so faithfully over the years. If you would like to join their ranks the sign-up sheet is located in the parish hall.

Sign Up for Emergency Notifications

Local governments are now providing emergency notifications via your land line, cell phone or internet. However, you must sign up for this service.

How does this work? If you sign up for the service, in the event of an emergency you will receive a call with information about the emergency and what, if any action, you need to take to ensure that you will be safe.

The City of Arcata uses a service called CodeRED. The City's website describes the service as follows: "The City of Arcata uses CodeRED to send emergency notifications by phone, email, text and social media to keep citizens informed of evacuation notices, utility outages, water main breaks, fires, floods, chemical spills or other emergency situations.

The City may also activate CodeRED to send general notifications to registered subscribers to let them know about non-life-threatening health and safety matters such as planned road closures, water main repairs, water and power service interruptions, etc. Receive these types of notifications by electing to receive general alerts."

To sign up for it go to: <http://cityofarcata.org/685/CodeRED>

If you do not live within the city limits, you can sign up for Humboldt County's service at: <https://humboldt.gov/alerts>. The City of Eureka also uses CodeRED. To sign up for the City of Eureka's emergency alerts go to: <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/AB26DBCF6611>

Don't have a computer or don't go on the internet, let Diana Cooper know. She will arrange a time to bring her computer to church and you can sign up during coffee hour.



Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

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«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 <small>[Meets 1/15 due to 1/holiday]</small>	1st Monday, Parish Hall	6:00-8:00 p.m. (Potluck at 6) 7:00 p.m. Discussion	Betty Price
Craft Group	3rd Monday, Parish Hall	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Evaonne Hendricks
Vestry	3rd Sunday, Library	12:30-2:30 p.m.	Shirley Curtis
Wisdom Group	3rd Wednesday, Parish Hall	11:30-1:00 p.m.	
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library, every other month	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter