



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,

Following Nancy Streufert's ordination to the priesthood the Bishop and I had a brief conversation in the sacristy regarding the way our respective travels to the Holy Land have changed our perspective on violence in our own country. It is easy to witness the violence reported on the nightly news of people in far off corners of the world, lament the strife they are experiencing and breathe a quiet prayer of thanksgiving that we live here and not there. The 30 second sound bite coverage of those wars reinforces the sense of randomness to the violence by reporting it void of its historical context while at the same time downplaying the violence in our own society. As an example, the conflict in Israel has historical roots beginning in the pogroms against Jews in Russia in the 1880s which gave rise to Zionism—the political effort to establish a permanent homeland for the Jewish people. As the British Mandate in Palestine came to an end in 1948 the nation state of Israel was born. There was one major difficulty with this plan—there were already people living in Palestine—so the nation of Israel was born at the cost of the displacement of over 750,000 Palestinians. My point here is not to engage in a debate about

the current affairs of Israel but simply to acknowledge that at the heart of the conflict in that part of the world is the historical trauma of two peoples that has yet to be adequately addressed. Likewise the conflict with ISIS in Iraq and Syria is rooted in historical and theological differences between Sunni and Shi'a Muslims. Our own nation has as part of its history systematic violence perpetuated against different groups of people—First Nations peoples and African slaves and their descendants. The disproportionate number of incarcerated African American men suggests that we have yet to adequately address our own history of violence. Increasingly in our context, violence is tied to the unholy trinity of drugs, weapons and cash.

In the season of Lent and through Holy Week we follow Jesus to the cross and are faced with the challenge of taking up our own cross. We are confronted in his story with questions of how violence is exercised, by whom and to what end. For Jesus lived in a time when crucifixion was a tool of the Roman government to suppress revolts and keep occupied people in their place. How could the crucifixion and resurrection be God's saving response to humanity? The Church has an-

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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 Feb. 15, 2015

Dona Moxon, George Inotowok, and John Breazeal will rotate Parish Clerk duties for the time being.

Mtr. Sara reviewed upcoming events:

Ashes To Go, Vestry Retreat, Usher Training, visit of Rev. Joe Duggan, and the Lenten small group dinner program.

Annual Meeting review: Vestry consensus that a format change be considered. The Annual Meeting program format will be discussed for the next Annual Meeting in the fall.

Vestry monthly meeting dates/times were changed to the 4th Wednesday of the month, 6-8 pm. Vestry meetings move to the 3rd Wednesday in the fall to avoid conflict with holidays.

Calendar scheduling:

- Congregational Leadership Conference, Christ Church, Eureka, April 11th, 9 am to 3 pm. Online registration required. To register go to: www.norcalepiscopal.org/clc-online-registration. Registration closes at 8 am on Wednesday, April 8th.
- Church Work Day, May 9th, 9 am to 2 pm.
- May/June dates for the Mutual Ministry Review are dependent upon Canon Andrea's availability.

Mtr. Sara reviewed Vestry goals. Discussed were activities in Outreach, Mission & Vision, and Assessment Priorities.

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Dona Moxon, George Inotowok,
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Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

Here we are, a couple of weeks into Lent with a month plus until Easter. My commitment this year – I've given up giving up for Lent – is to re-engage in the daily readings, using Mother Sara's Lenten suggestions. In the past, I'd get up early and, after dressing and taking care of my Chili Dog's needs, I'd light a candle, and settle into my 'prayer corner' to read and pray. Somewhere a year or so ago, I drifted away from the practice. I never stopped praying, but the morning discipline vanished. So this Lent, I've started the practice again and hope that Mother Sara's encouragement to start using the Book of Common Prayer as well will rekindle a good discipline! And then I hope to continue past Easter on into the rest of the year and beyond.

Similarly, I'm going to encourage us to take on something beneficial for our health. I've decided to take on drinking one more glass of water daily and eating one more veggie or fruit. This too I want to continue past Easter. How about you?

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

(Pastor's message, continued from page 1)

swered this in different ways through the centuries. Let me note this. Too often the Gospel is bifurcated and Jesus' life and ministry are focused on to the exclusion of his death and resurrection or his death and resurrection are emphasized with barely a nod to his life of radical hospitality to the poor, outcasts and sinners. But each of the four evangelists tells the Good News as a whole—not one of them leaves out Jesus' ministry nor his death and resurrection. They are meant to be taken together. The crucifixion then is the next step in the Incarnation—God's identification with the utterly helpless, even condemned criminals. What does that mean for the crosses we take up? For our response to violence? That is the work of Lent. To be continued.

Lenten Blessings,

Sara+

Usher training

As part of the congregation's ongoing Disaster Preparedness preparations all ushers are asked to join us for a training on emergency evacuation procedures led by Tom Dewey on Saturday, March 21 from 9:30-11 a.m. at Saint Alban's. There will be an evacuation drill the following morning, Sunday March 22, during both worship services. Ushers are asked to register their participation by calling the Church office by Wednesday, March 18 or by emailing the Rector at revsara@stalbansarcata.org.

(Vestry Highlights, continued from page 2)

The Rev. Nancy Streufert was approved as a check signer on the Priest Associate Discretionary Fund.

Mtr. Sara and Dan Scofield presented the annual Parochial Report. The report was accepted by a formal motion.

The Role of Trustees: An important ministry within the Diocese of Northern California

This spring, our Deanery will elect a new Trustee to serve on the Diocesan Board of Trustees beginning in December 2015. The Board of Trustees was authorized at the 2011 Diocesan Convention, formalized in the revised Diocesan Canon 16. In December 2012, the seven Deanery-elected Trustees were joined by three Trustees appointed by Bishop Beisner and five Trustees elected at the 2012 Diocesan Convention to form the new Board of Trustees, assuming the responsibilities formally held by the Board of Directors and the Diocesan Council. A member of the Trustees shall be a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church, resident in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California, and a communicant in good standing of a congregation of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California.

Trustees will:

- Through a Mutual Ministry process with the Bishop, help set goals for the Diocese and periodically evaluate progress toward goals.
- Help develop Diocesan Policy and Strategy in support of mission priorities and operations priorities established by Convention.
- Contribute to Strategic Planning for the Diocese, looking ahead and helping develop policy options to meet changing circumstances.
- Help oversee Diocesan Finance and Administration in support of mission priorities, including the development and adoption of the annual operating budget of the Diocese.
- Serve as Directors of the Diocesan Corporation, the civil legal face of the Diocese, with duties set forth in State law, the Articles of Incorporation and the Bylaws of the Corporation, and in acts of Convention.
- Help oversee Diocesan Property and Development in support of mission priorities.
 - o The Diocesan Corporation is the owner of all of the assets of the Diocese, including all real property, funds and other assets of the Missions in the Diocese, with rights and responsibilities of such ownership.
 - o The Trustees shall use diligence to increase the principal funds of the endowments of the Diocese.

Trustees may expect monthly meetings augmented by the Diocese's communication network. They may be invited to work on subcommittees. They are asked to participate in a planning retreat, each January, at the Mercy Center in Auburn, CA.

The new Trustee will be elected at our Deanery convocation Saturday, April 11 2015 at Christ Church, Eureka at 3 p.m. following the Congregational Leadership Conference. Bob Hines of Christ Church, Eureka is the current Trustee representing the Sempervirens Deanery and is com-

pleting his term this year. If you wish to speak with Bob regarding his experience as a Trustee please contact him at 445-8974 or hinesbob33@yahoo.com.

Bishop Beisner will be with us.

Clergy as well as laity can be elected.

If you have prayerfully considered being elected to this important servant ministry as Semper Virens representative to the Board of Trustees here are several things to consider:

- You are regular in attendance at worship
- You are 18 years of age or older
- You are a member of record for at least 6 months
- You are a communicant in good standing
- You are a pledging member of the parish

Board members are elected for a three-year term and attend meetings which are generally at the Office of the Bishop in Sacramento, in addition to committee and other special meetings.

Here are several questions to prayerfully consider:

- What attributes or talents will you bring to the Board?
- What ministries have you participated in within the last two years at your parish?
- Which areas of leadership have you been a part of in your parish.

Please include a recent picture suitable for publication. Please forward the photo and responses to revsara@stalbansarcata.org.



***Daylight savings time begins
March 8th!***

**Don't forget to set your clocks
forward an hour, so you don't
miss us, and we don't miss you!**

Spiritual Forum

These sessions will consist of a 30 minute lecture on DVD followed by 30 minutes of discussion concerning the lecture.

Mar. 1, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 3: Pauline Eschatology w/ Philip Cary
Mar. 8, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 4: The Synoptic Gospels w/ Philip Cary
Mar. 15, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 5: The Gospel of John w/ Philip Cary
Mar. 22, 2015	The History of Christian Theology – Part 6: Varieties of Early Christianity w/ Philip Cary
Mar. 29, 2015	Palm Sunday – No Forum

March Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

5th	Ann McClary
9th	Tim Paik-Nicely
10th	Sarah Kavasharov
12th	Marylee Bytheriver
13th	Tamee Hover
16th	Dan Scofield and Miriam Hohl
18th	Isabel Robnett
19th	Betty Price
23rd	Leah Lu and Rothwell Broyles
28th	John Hendricks
29th	The Very Rev. Sara Potter

Anniversaries

20th Diana and Wally Cooper



True North Regional Assembly

On February 28th, from noon until 4 p.m., over 200 people met in the tiny town of Orick, at the Orick Community Hall. They were noisy. They were diverse. They were enthusiastic and hopeful. They were wonderful!

True North is a grass roots organization. It is an organizing network. It is a group of people with common values, united across Tribal Lands, Del Norte, and Humboldt Counties. It includes different races, cultures, age groups, and economic capacities. True North supports community members in Local Organizing Committees (LOCs), networks, and cultural groups, to take action on issues important to them.

This regional gathering included members of Wiyot, Hoopa, Klamath, and Smith River tribes. It included Latino and white, young, old, and in between. There were Buddhists, Unitarians, Methodists, Episcopalians, and a number of others.

In July, 2014, True North began its listening phase, asking the questions, "What is the pain in our communities?", and "What is the hunger for change?" After listening to people in the communities and identifying the problems each community faces (speaking to over 1,000 people!), the LOCs met to narrow down their emphasis to three main areas that needed addressing. For instance, the Arcata/McKinleyville group narrowed the concerns to 1) Homelessness/lack of housing; 2) Health care (including mental health); and 3) Fair wages/economic opportunities.

The foci of the different groups varied in small amounts, for instance, Klamath group was concerned with respect for the Creator and Creation,

caring for children and elders, and self-determination or sovereignty.

The goal of the regional assembly was to find from two to five themes that our communities had in common, and to affirm the values that unite us all.

Our ultimate goal is to build an organization that can mobilize 1% of the population in Humboldt, Del Norte, and the Tribal Lands. That would mean mobilizing 1500 people across the region, with 150 strong True North leaders with ten followers each. Ultimately, it would also mean introducing True North to the greater community at a Founding Convention with at least 500 people no later than Spring 2016.

Having identified these common problems, the smaller networks (ours was Eureka/Arcata/McKinleyville) met to reword the problem in a sentence starting with "I want to live in an area in which. . ." In doing so, we narrowed the three themes down to one major problem: Homelessness/lack of affordable housing.

Having finished the listening portion, True North is moving toward the "Seasons of Research" phase. This means to research the main problem chosen by the smaller network.

If you are interested in joining, the next meeting, the upcoming research training, will be held in Eureka on March 16th. The location will be announced. See me for more information. —Evaonne Hendricks

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
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

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	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	4rd Sunday, Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Dona Moxon
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter



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