

# 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,

Money matters.

Every once in a while I have one of those experiences that reminds me that the language we use in church about giving is almost like a foreign language that we make little effort to interpret to newcomers (pledge, tithe, stewardship, in-kind contribution, etc.) and that there are very real generational differences in how people experience and interact with money. In a sermon some months ago I mentioned the practice of regularly reviewing one's check book as a way of noticing where our treasure, and therefore our heart, is (I still think it is a good practice). Someone remarked to me that her young adult children don't use a checkbook. Who needs a check book when you can pay your bills online? Who needs cash or a checkbook when you can pay for everything else with a debit or credit card? It is no wonder that an increasing number of churches use Pay Pal or similar services to provide an option on their website for donating to the church. I have some reservations about forms of giving that might inadvertently encourage indebtedness but the point is still clear—within a congregation there are those who relate to their money through a plastic card or a com-

puter rather than through a checkbook or cash (or all of the above).

If those differences exist regarding the actual use of money then it is no surprise they come up in giving patterns as well. In the fall the Stewardship Team asks members of the congregation to make a financial commitment (pledge) to the congregation for the coming year. There are a certain number of households who give regularly to the congregation but have not made a formal pledge. Some of them have indicated that they are reluctant to make a pledge because their finances are somewhat uncertain and they do not want to make a commitment they cannot keep. Others, especially younger folks, are hesitant about making a year commitment because quite frankly they do not know where they will be in six months let alone a year's time. I am reminded that last year five young adults from the congregation (those between 20-30 years old) moved away in the first part of 2013. They had been a part of this community between one year to 2 ½ years when they left.

*(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 met with the St. Alban's Youth during the noon hour on Sunday, March 16th. The Youth offered their vision and ideas for our church life including art and music and a willingness to be challenged academically and musically within our St. Alban's community.

The formal meeting was called to order at 12:45 p.m.

The Vestry meeting began with a facility walk through led by Jr. Warden Bill Strider, giving an overview of the current maintenance projects. Bill provided information and led the discussion to determine the highest priority for the next project.

Working groups met to review their various responsibilities including Ministry, Administration and Facilities.

The Vestry continued to work on Sabbatical scenarios to better understand the systems and protocols in place that address the daily workings of St. Alban's as well as less familiar situations of our church life.

Mtr. Sara gave an update on the 2014 Episcopal Youth Event in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania scheduled for early July. Chloe R. and Rachel C. are planning to attend with the support of family, St. Alban's and the Diocese.

Dan Scofield gave a detailed overview of the 2012 Audit and the Vestry voted to approve as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

## YOUR VESTRY

Mary Bockover mary.bockover@humboldt.edu	822-9123
Wally Cooper dawcooper@gmail.com	822-4716
Zack Curtis awazzuk@att.net	839-1536
Marlene Hover	822-3847
Dona Moxon dmmoxon@gmail.com	822-4999
Michele Olsen dodesbooks@gmail.com	826-1044
Jenni Simpson jenben1970@yahoo.com	499-0110
Bill Strider, Jr. Warden wmstrider@yahoo.com	616-7361
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

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 4th Ian Curtis
- 5th Lilyan Haigh
- 16th Ann Wood
- 18th Winfield Shoemaker
- 22nd Owen Scofield
- 24th Jonah Hohl
- 28th Heather Hobson Lewis
- 29th Fannie Erickson
- Tina Rousselot
- 30th Stephen DeMarino



## Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

We just had another wake-up call – or as Lori Dengler put it - we dodged another bullet. The recent earthquake, a 6.8, was a roller, not a jolter, and was very deep under the ocean. Most of its force went westward, not east towards us. On top of that, I learned that one of the reasons the Richter scale number was so high was that the quake lasted as long as it did. So it's the intensity of the temblor and the length of time it lasts that determines the Richter scale number.

Are you prepared for the next one? We've had a few workshops here over time, and now Anne Pierson, who is doing her deacon training here at St. Alban's, is working with a few of us to prepare the church better. So please expect to hear from one of us soon asking about your preparations and getting some basic information so we can be of help to one another.

After the even more recent 4.4 quake in Los Angeles, I heard a seismologist there say "We live in earthquake country – we must consider them a **normal** part of our lives." If we took her comment seriously, we would start getting better prepared... Let's do it!

## The Greeting Card Ministry is Changing

Due to lack of participation, the greeting card ministry is changing. We will be sending greeting cards to our homebound on major holidays. We will no longer be sending cards for birthdays and anniversaries. When you see greeting cards on the table in the parish hall, please take the time to sign them. We look forward to participation of the greeting card ministry in its new format. Thank you to all those who participate!

## Rector's Article

*(Continued from page 1)*

If any of this describes you then let me make this suggestion. Begin by noticing what you currently give and use that as your starting point. Then make a pledge commitment for a shorter period of time—3 to 6 months. At the end of time review what happened. Was it easier than you expected? If you had difficulty, what were the challenges? What did you learn about your relationship to money? What did you learn about your relationship to God? Then plan for the next period of time.

For those of the generations who still use the checkbook and cash I ask this—have you made a gift to the church in your will? A good place to begin is a gift that would cover two years of your pledge. Have you made provision for the remainder of your pledge to be paid in the year when you die? In this season when we are keenly aware of our mortality those plans, as difficult as they can be, witness to your love for the local Body of Christ and this worshipping community.

Blessings,  
Sara+

## HSU'S 7th Annual Big Time and Social Gathering

Humboldt State University will host its seventh annual California Big Time and Social Gathering on Saturday, Apr. 5 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the West Gym.

Details, disability access, and shuttle maps are available at the MultiCultural Center at 707.826.3364 and [mcc@humboldt.edu](mailto:mcc@humboldt.edu).  
<http://now.humboldt.edu/news/hsu-hosts-california-big-time-on-april-5/>

## 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.

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| <b>April 6th</b>  | <b>Embracing the Prophets by Walter Brueggemann (Session 11), Mtr. Sara</b><br>This session is part of continuing series in exploring and discussing the significance and relevance of the Old Testament prophets to our place in a contemporary culture that has embraced the values of power, money, and violence.  |
| <b>April 13th</b> | <b>Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians</b><br>This will be the first in a continuing discussion and study of Paul's letters to the Thessalonians, the earliest documents of the New Testament canon. We will be using N.T. Wright's and Patty Bell's Bible discussion guide, <i>1 &amp; 2 Thessalonians</i> . Copies of this discussion guide are available at the Forum. |
| <b>April 20th</b> | <b>No Forum. Easter</b>   |
| <b>April 27th</b> | <b>Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (continued)</b>  |

## Sabbatical Team Report

Your Sabbatical Team wants to update you on the ongoing preparations before Sara leaves on her well-deserved sabbatical after the June 8<sup>th</sup> service. June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014 is a BIG day! That's when we will celebrate Pentecost, St. Alban's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Parish, Bishop Beisner's presence with us, and especially sending our Rector off on sabbatical in style! Whew! We will all need a sabbatical – and actually, that will be one of our objectives during Sara's absence.

Your Sabbatical Team has been meeting regularly since August 2013 to get all our ducks in a row. To start off, our Rector and the Vestry have set up an agreement with the Rev. Lesley McCloghrie for covering most of the Sundays and for some office time during Sara's absence. We've accumulated, through good Vestry planning and generous parishioners, the funds needed to cover the expenses for both priests and we've created a very helpful brochure for each parishioner explaining everything about this Sabbatical Time. The Guide is available now on the credenza in the narthex. It's also available on the church's website under the 'Resources' tab.

Mostly, with this update, we want to stress that this is **not** a time for any of us to disappear into the woodwork. We really must continue to show up for any assigned duties and to offer help to the Rev. McCloghrie whenever possible. There will be forums on the subject of sabbatical. It's important for us as a parish to remember that, as Sara takes time to study, rest, travel, recreate and renew, we can plan to do the same. We look forward to getting to know Lesley and to enjoying her perspective on liturgy as well as her style and pastoral qualities that will be a blessing for all of us.

-Your Sabbatical Team - Emily Arents, Maureen Johannsen, Cathy Larripa, Dona Moxon and Tina Roussetot.

## Prayers of the People

Author Anne Lamott wrote that there are three essential prayers: help, thanks, and wow! However, we at St. Alban's, who are on the team to rewrite "The Prayers of the People," would also like our prayers to be relevant to our congregation both globally, locally, and personally, as we all pray to find God's will for us.

As mentioned in last month's newsletter, a small group has been meeting regularly to discuss and write new "Prayers of the People." The process is simple. After thinking about current issues in the world, the community, and our parish, one or two people write a draft and submit it to others on the team for review and consensus. We make an effort to keep our prayers within the framework of the Prayer Book as we are called to pray for the Church, the Leaders, the World, the Community, those who suffer and those who have died. We then suggest, add or delete changes as necessary and submit the prayers to Mother Sara for final approval.

The current plan is to have our prayers read one Sunday a month. The first prayers to come out of our team were read at both services on March 23rd. Did you notice the moment of silence between each prayer? We are hopeful that this silence will assist all of us in being more deliberate about our praying as we take the time to focus on each prayer.

In addition, we are privileged to have a youth team who bring their perspective and concerns to the "Prayers of the People." Their heartfelt prayers were read on March 16th.

The next step in our process is to get input and feedback from the congregation. Are these prayers working for you? Is there anything you would like to see added or even deleted?

The members of the team are: Bob Webb, Maureen Johannsen, Cindy Woods, Barbara Moore, Marylee Bytheriver, Anne Pierson, and George Inotowok. If you have any comments and/or suggestions, please feel free to talk to us! We value your opinions and want this practice to work for all. And, may God hear all of our prayers so that we may do His will!

## Drivers Needed

All of us are getting older, and there comes a point when we are no longer able to drive. Our mobility is severely limited and we must rely on others for transportation. Here at St. Alban's we have several parishioners who are unable to come to our church services without someone providing transportation. These people are part of who we are, and they are sorely missed when they are not with us. Can you help out here?

There is a list of those needing rides, along with their addresses, on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. All of those on the list normally attend the 10:30 a.m. service, and some are within a block or two of the church. If you are able to provide a ride either to or from church for any of these parishioners, please sign up. Several drivers would lighten the load and add flexibility for scheduling. Doing so will make it possible to work around other responsibilities many of us have on Sunday mornings.

Most of those needing rides just need a ride – that's it. There are, however, some who will require more assistance. Emily Arents will arrange to provide training for any who would be willing to meet that challenge.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to talk to Emily Arents or Bob Webb. Thanks.

**ST. ALBANS OPERATING FUNDS FOR JANUARY TO FEBRUARY 2014**

Dan Scofield, Treasurer

	YEAR TO DATE
<b>INCOME:</b>	
Pledge Offerings	23,492.01
Other Operating Income	2,472.44
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 25,964.45</b>

<b>EXPENSES:</b>	
Clergy Expenses	10,752.45
Diocesan Expenses	6,174.32
Staff Salaries	3,132.67
Property Expenses	2,844.13
Congregational Support and Outreach	1,729.90
Deposits to Saving Accounts	800.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 25,333.47</b>
 Net Income and Expenses	 630.98



This is a summary of our budgeted income and expenses for the first two months of 2014. As you can see, we have a small surplus at this time. Even though our financial situation is sound, we are a little behind on anticipated pledge income. We have budgeted for about \$12,400 each month in pledge income and we have gotten about \$11,700.

We have been able to pay our bills as they arrive and we have no outstanding loans. Here is a summary of our account balances as of February 28<sup>th</sup>:

<b>Assets</b>	
Bank Checking and Savings	22,976.89
Endowment	<u>34,343.19</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 57,320.08</b>

## Doctrine of Discovery Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m.

Members of the Wiyot tribe have invited Saint Alban's to join them on Sunday, May 4 at 4 p.m. at the end of I St. near the Bay in Eureka for a ceremonial burning of the papal bull that instituted the Doctrine of Discovery. The Doctrine of Discovery of the 15<sup>th</sup> century which gave Christian explorers the right to claim lands they "discovered" and lay claim to those lands for their Christian Monarchs was repudiated by The Episcopal Church at our 76<sup>th</sup> General Convention. In February 2013 a delegation from Saint Alban's met with the Wiyot Tribal Council to share our denomination's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and our offering toward their sacred site fund. We are honored to be asked to participate in this next step of reconciliation.



## Maundy Thursday—April 17

Every year at their meeting following Holy Week, the Worship Team reviews the worship services noting what went well and what we might want to change in the coming year. Each year we have sensed that something in our Maundy Thursday worship did not quite capture the nature of the event—worshippers spread throughout the sanctuary for a celebration that was marked by intimacy between Jesus and his disciples. So this year we are going to experiment by integrating the service of foot washing and the agape meal into a single worship service in the parish hall followed by the stripping of the altar in the sanctuary. Worship that evening will begin at 6 p.m. Participants are asked to bring offerings of bread, soup, salad, cheese, fruit, wine or juice.

## Holy Week Schedule

### April 13, Palm Sunday

8 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, Rite I

10:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Palms and Holy Eucharist, Rite II

### April 15—Tuesday of Holy Week

5:30 p.m. Healing and Holy Eucharist

### April 17—Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Meal and service of foot washing, stripping of the altar

### April 18—Good Friday

7 p.m. Hal Hopson's Tenebrae with the choir

### April 20—Easter

6 a.m. The Great Vigil of Easter

10:30 a.m. Festive Holy Eucharist

## Holy Humor, Batman! Sunday, April 27

There is a tradition in the ancient Orthodox Church that designates the Sunday after Easter as Holy Humor Sunday (or Bright Sunday or Hilarity Sunday)—the notion being that Resurrection was God's great practical joke on death. "*Risus paschalis* - the Easter laugh," the early theologians called it. So this year we are (again!) resurrecting this custom (no pun intended). Come to worship on April 27 ready to share your best jokes (clean ones only thank you!) and discover that Jesus is the LIFE of the party!

## Save the Date!

The parish workday is set for Saturday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details to follow.

## Meetings, Clubs, and Other Regularly Scheduled Events

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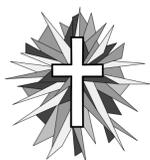
### Weekly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day and Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday, Sanctuary	12:30 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	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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«Title»«First»«Last»  
«Address»  
«Post Office Box»  
«City», «State» «Zip/Postal Code»

Look for Bill Striders article on "Wintertalk" in the May newsletter!