

# 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,

"With Adam and Eve, Abraham and Sarah, Naomi and Ruth, Paul and Barnabas, we are all travelers, sojourners, situated in a given place sometimes only for a season. Changes call us forth from one community to another and from the familiar to the unknown." *Taken from a 'Litany of Sending and Blessing' by the Rev. Dr. Katherine M. Lehman.*

As I write this Mother Sara's sabbatical time is almost over, she will return to you on Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup>, and I will once again begin assisting at Christ Church. It has been a joy and delight to be with you these past three months, to worship with you on Sundays, and to participate in the ongoing life of this community of faith. Being with you has enriched my life and I am grateful for your friendship and our shared kinship in the gospel.

Pastorally this has been a busy summer and I am grateful for the magnificent help and support given to me, and to all of us, by St. Alban's Pastoral Care Team. Comprised of Emily Arents our Parish Nurse, Cathy Larripa, Bill Strider and Cindy Woods, the Pastoral Care Team and I gathered each week to ensure that the ongoing needs of our congregation were being met. My thanks go to them for their hard work and dedication.

Thanks go also to those who assisted with our worship, to Brenda and the Altar Guild for making sure that all was prepared for worship, and for being so agreeable in light of my idiosyncrasies, to Susan and Nan for glorious music, and to our ever-

willing teams of acolytes, ushers, readers, intercessors and chalice bearers who were present and ready to work each Sunday. For the Fora, the Coffee Hours, to have a plate prepared for me is such a treat, the Wisdom Group luncheons, the Vestry Meetings and for John our Sexton and Carolyn our Secretary I also give thanks; you have all welcomed me as a part of your parish family.

For their guidance in our mission and ministry I send my thanks to all parish leaders, especially Cindy Woods our Senior Warden, who has worked tirelessly on your and my behalf.

There were several occasions for particular celebration, including the baptism of Tessa Kathleen Hover, great granddaughter of Marlene, the August the marriage of John Breazeal and Aimee La Haie, and the attendance of Rachel Curtis and Chloe Robnett at the Episcopal Youth Event in Philadelphia. Jack Moore was commissioned as a Eucharistic Visitor to help carry the Sacrament to those of us who are ill or otherwise homebound.

The cycle of life is a constant presence in our lives; on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> we buried George Rodes, husband of Colleen and father of Joe. Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon him.

As I leave may you have joy in your lives, in your ministry and may God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you, may God be gracious to you and give you peace, now and forever.

*Lesley+*

*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 June 15** in the Church Library

Bill Strider shared information about PICO (People Improving Communities through Organizing). PICO is hoping for support from St. Alban's in the creation of an Arcata based chapter. A PICO informational meeting will be held on July 12th in Orick.

Bill also gave a Disaster Planning update regarding a possible concern for the loft beams below the organ pipes. Bill will be in contact with GHD Engineering to provide an inspection of the support posts and beams for the loft.

Cindy Woods gave an overview of the Vestry Goals; Sabbatical is well underway, Welcoming Church will encourage participation in Humboldt Pride Day in September and Plugging-in-Team continues to focus on building relationships with parishioners. The recent Wisdom group meetings are a good example of relationship building.

The Vestry agreed to schedule the summer retreat on Saturday August 2. Information regarding the location will be forthcoming.

Sabbatical Funds previously designated for the Episcopal Youth Event will be increased from \$500 to \$625. The Camp Living Waters designation will be adjusted to \$1400.

Dan Scofield presented the monthly Treasurer's report. Dan pointed out some adjustments that need to be made between capital expense and the property maintenance account. There was also an explanation about prepaid pledges and how those numbers affect the monthly account-

## YOUR VESTRY

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Cathy Larripa, Parish Clerk	832-4242
Dan Scofield, Treasurer d_m_Scofield@yahoo.com	822-9123



ing and that they ultimately balance out the numbers toward the end of the year.

**The Vestry met on July 20** in the Church Library

Connie Webb updated the Vestry on a mission: Engage grant proposal request for \$3000 from St. John's Episcopal in Roseville, CA. Funds would be used to cover costs of a monthly contemporary worship service over nine months.

Bill Strider gave an update on the August 2 Vestry retreat to be held at the Arcata Zen Center. Activities for the day will include: Bible Study, centering prayer practice, yoga and access to the Arcata Community Forest.

A motion was passed allowing a neighborhood child care provider to designate St. Alban's as a secondary gathering location during an emergency.

Cindy reported a general fund deposit was inadvertently placed into the street meals account causing an overdraft from the general fund. (Notification made and fees reversed)

Bill Strider reported on several building and grounds tasks. 1) Susan O'Gorman, from GHD Engineering has looked at the loft and will provide a written report if needed.

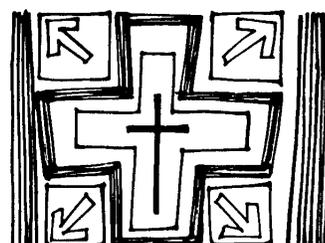
2) The Mosaic Project's first step will be to remove a small (damaged) tree and pour concrete. 3) A small lock box for a key has been purchased and will be set in place for access by the fire department.

The Vestry discussed several ideas for document storage and computer back-up systems

and will look into best practices for maintaining records.

Cindy facilitated a discussion about buying a new office laptop and the Vestry suggested that the purchase cost not exceed \$1500. Additional information will be presented at the August Vestry meeting.

Dan Scofield submitted a written Treasurer's report which was reviewed.



**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.

September 7, 2014

Marriage (session 4)

w/Mary Bockover & Cindy Woods

September 14, 2014

Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (cont.)

September 21, 2014

Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (cont.)

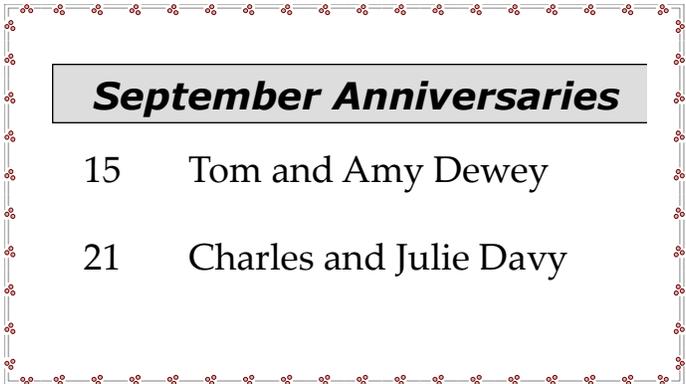
September 28, 2014

Paul's Letters to the Thessalonians (cont.)



**September Birthdays**

6	MacKenzie Ridgwood
8	Evaonne Hendricks
11	Taran Lu
18	Colleen Reed Rodes Jamin Price-Hall
24	Marlene Hover
26	Shawn Thompson
29	Anna Cooper
30	Chloe Robnett

**September Anniversaries**

15	Tom and Amy Dewey
21	Charles and Julie Davy

**Up Close & Personal with Mother Sara!**

There will be two opportunities for parishioners to visit with Mother Sara – “up close and personal” – to ask questions and to hear her stories about her sabbatical experiences. Maureen Johannsen is hosting one for 10-12 people at her home on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

Bob and Connie Webb are hosting the second one at their home for the same number of people on Friday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2pm. If you are unable to attend either event, Mother Sara has said she would hold a meeting after the 10:30 service on October 12<sup>th</sup> for those wanting to hear about her experiences.

Please look for the sign-up sheets in the Parish Hall if you are interested in attending either of the hosted events. —from your Sabbatical Team.



**Pastels on the Plaza Saturday, October 4, 2014**

Once again, the youth and children of Saint Alban's will be drawing on the Arcata Plaza the morning of Saturday, October 4th. This will be our fourth year of promoting St. Alban's for the benefit of Northcoast Children's Services and their many programs that benefit young children and their families in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties.

Please call Mary Wheetley (601-6285) or Chloe Robnett (444-8751) if your family is interested in participating.



## EYE 14

# Episcopal Youth Event

First of all, we would like to thank everyone who helped make our trip possible. We appreciate your support and this trip has given us many new insights into our mission in the world. When we arrived in Philadelphia it was like we were stepping into a strange new world. We had never seen so many Episcopal youth in one place before. We met so many different people from different places, from Taiwan to Maine. We sang, we prayed, and we went to workshops together. We were working together in a harmony that nothing else could match. Everyone was friendly and loving and caring, for we all had one thing in common: God. Through us God created a community of youth, ready to go out into the world and do good. It was an amazing experience and we hope that our future youth may also be blessed with such an opportunity.

Thank you.

Rachel Curtis and Chloe Robnett

### Health Ministry at St. Alban's



When this newsletter goes to print, we'll be most of the way through our Sabbatical time. Have any of us thought about it? Have any of us taken it to heart? Are any of us actually doing it – making time to rest, reflect, ponder dropping the parts of our lives that keep us from recognizing and welcoming God into a place prepared for God?

Although it would be wonderful, there are few of us who could designate 24 hours of every week to a true Sabbath as our Orthodox Jewish sisters and brothers do. So how about getting into the Sabbatical mode in more manageable portions, starting with a Sunday afternoon? That won't work with family commitments? What about an hour then? Yes I know, for those of us who live alone it's far easier to make that time, but even with a family of folks to consider, there's a part of me that says, "You can do it!" Time spent with God can enrich and nourish every person, every relationship. And, although in its strictest sense, we don't participate in Sabbath for any reason other than nurturing our relationship with God, renewal and gratitude inevitably result. Alleluia!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

## Belated Summer Reading

We are well into the summer season. July 4<sup>th</sup> has come and gone, MLB baseball's All Stars game is past, and we are heading into the "Dog Days" of August. While here on the North Coast we may not experience the sultry heat of the eastern and southern states, August can bring with it a kind of lethargy, summer pastimes are beginning to pale, school looms on the horizon and many of us find ourselves looking forward to the normal routines September will bring. An aside here,

Did you know that "Dog Daies" are mentioned in the lectionaries of the early editions of The Book of Common Prayer? Wikipedia gives us the following information:

"According to the 1552 edition of the The Book of Common Prayer, the 'Dog Daies' begin July 6th and end August 17th. But this edition, the 2nd book of Edward VI, was never used extensively nor adopted by the Convocation of the Church of England. The lectionary of 1559 edition of the Book of Common Prayer indicates: 'Naonae. Dog days begin' with the readings for July 7th and end August 18th. But this is noted as a misprint and the readings for September 5th indicate: 'Naonae. Dog days end'. This corresponds very closely to the lectionary of the 1611 edition of the King James Bible (also called the Authorized Version of the Bible) which indicates the Dog Days beginning on July 6th and ending on September 5th. A recent reprint of the 1662 edition of the Book of Common Prayer contains no reference to the Dog Days."

There is an online version of the 1552 BCP where, if you go to "THE TABLE AND KALENDAR EXPRESSYNGE THE ORDRE OF THE PSALMES AND LESSONS" in July and August, you will see clearly marked "Dog Daies".

Dog Days aside, during summertime many of us find time for extra reading either at home or when we travel. There are always those books for the beach, Kindle or tablet downloads to read on the plane, audio books for road trips, my older son will keep up with his latest book on his smart phone, there are many ways for us to enjoy the printed word. An avid reader myself, I do enjoy novels and mysteries that have some association with the Church, especially the Anglican Church. Probably not a surprise! I thought I might share some of these with you.

Perhaps one of the better-known series of contemporary church novels is Susan Howatch's *Starbridge* series. Set in and around a cathedral city, with a resemblance to Salisbury, these six stories follow clergy and lay folk through a succession of crises centered around faith and love. The first, *Glittering Images*, was published in 1987 and is set in 1930's England. As the series unfolds our characters lead us along their own journeys, while we read of the events taking place in the world around them. Howatch followed up with a trilogy centering on a parish in the City of London that has a healing ministry. The first in this group is titled *The Wonder Worker*.

Gail Godwin's *Father Melancholy's Daughter* and its sequel *Evensong* focus on the life of Margaret, a Virginia priest's daughter. Her mother leaves the family and subsequently dies when Margaret is seven. As Margaret grows and eventually becomes a priest and rector herself, she struggles with many of life's questions. One of these is most likely familiar to us all, "How do I know God's will for my life?" Set against the familiar background of Episcopal parishes and the ensuing life of the church, these stories are wonderful and heart wrenching at the same time.

*Continues on Page 7*

## Farewell Celebration for Canon Britt Olson

After almost 8 years of service to the Diocese as Canon to the Ordinary, the Rev. Canon Britt Olson is moving to Seattle, WA where she will join her husband Bryon Hansen who has accepted the call to serve as Pastor of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (ELCA).



Please join members of the Deanery in a celebration to give thanks to God for her ministry with us and to wish her God speed.

Saturday, September 27 from 3-6 p.m. at Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP to the Church Office (822-4102) by September 23.

*from page 6*

On a lighter note, it was a given that I would love a mystery-thriller series about a female priest set in upstate New York. Julia Spencer Fleming writes of Clare Fergusson, a former Army helicopter pilot, now the first female rector of a small town parish in Millers Kill, NY. For those who do not know, Kill is another word for creek or river, from the Old Dutch. Clare's exploits with the town's police chief Russ Alstyne make for exciting reading and, having been in charge of congregations, make me wonder how she ever managed to get any parish work done! The first book is *In the Bleak Mid Winter*, there are eight books in all and they are a really good read.

Kate Charles is another author of church centered mysteries. Her *Book of Psalms* series, titles *A Drink of Deadly Wine*, *Appointed to Die*, *The Snares of Death* and others, give an insight into the excesses and downfall of personalities and of the inner church struggles often between Evangelicals Anglo-Catholics. These are easy reading, but may be difficult to find; a good resource might be the library, a used bookstore as well as Amazon. I have some copies, many I have passed on the friends.

Many of you are probably familiar with Marilynne Robinson's books *Gilead* and *Home*. Set in a church in small town Iowa, the Congregational pastor reflects on fathers and sons, forgiveness and the joys and grace of old age. I have friends, both clergy and lay, who love these books and found them spiritually uplifting. I, alas, did not, and after several attempts finally gave up on them. Put that down to my English roots possibly, but I simply could not connect with the character or his story telling. I wish that I could.

Finally, there is always Trollope's classic, *Barchester Towers*, all the wonderful things we love about Downtown Abbey, class, conflict, ambition and romance set in a nineteenth century English cathedral city. I suppose we don't get to see the costumes and there is no Maggie Smith, but still a great and wonderful read. It has been years; decades, since I dipped into this novel, perhaps I should give it another look!

Happy reading!

*Lesley+*

## 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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