

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,

Thank you to all those who joined us for the two Sunday morning forums on our worshiping life. I set out some of the elements that from my perspective inform worship planning and asked for feedback on some specific changes made during the past year. For those who did not attend, there was widespread enjoyment of the material from the New Zealand Prayer Book and members really appreciate the Prayers of the People written by other members of the congregation. (BTW—The team who writes the prayers are striving to do this twice a month. Speak to Bob Webb if this is something you are interested in.) Folks were split on the question of including the scriptures printed in the bulletin or not. Some like the demand of a different focus and the communal experience of *listening* to scripture closer to the experience of the early church. Others find they need the printed word to comprehend the scriptures and like being able to refer back to them. On the question of music there was a wide ranging discussion from the need to have a certain degree of familiarity to the best ways to introduce new music. Some people welcome regular changes in worship, others like consistency. This points to a fundamental feature of worship—it is an exercise is

accommodating one another. To a large extent what I “like” is not the point. In a political culture rife with insistence on “My way or the highway” this is a profound countercultural practice. But there is more.

Lillian Daniels, writer and pastor in the United Church of Christ, tells the story of someone complaining to her about why they had stopped going to another church saying, “You know, when I was sitting there in worship I just didn’t get much out of it.” To which Lillian replied, “Well, it wasn’t directed at you.”

It wasn’t directed at you.

That of course, is *the* fundamental feature of worship. It isn’t about us. It is about God. We experiment with change in worship not to accommodate our tastes, but to find the best means for offering our individual and corporate worship to God. In a sense, all of worship is an offering to God—the sermon preached, an anthem sung by the choir, the prayers written, the hymns sung, the gifts of money that represent our life and labor, the time parents spend getting their children ready and prepared for Sunday School and worship, the joy,
(Continued on page 3)



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—October

The meeting convened at 6:03 p.m. in the Church Library.

Bible Study: Mark 10:46-52 was led by Mtr. Sara.

A representative of Advanced Security Systems explained a security system proposal submitted to the Vestry by that firm. Following questions, the Vestry voted to accept the proposal.

Consent Calendar items (September 2015 Vestry minutes and a Rector's Report were approved by an affirmative vote. The August 2015 Financial was pulled from the Consent Calendar and will be addressed at the next Vestry meeting.

Mtr. Sara reviewed a resolution submitted for action at the November Diocesan Convention. The resolution changes the Canons to allow parishes greater flexibility in establishing Vestry member size. If adopted, Section 33.2 on the Canons of the Diocese would allow Vestry membership to consist of not fewer than five members, instead of the current nine. The resolution also requires that notice of any proposed change of an existing Vestry number be given at least sixty days previously by the person officiating at a regular Sunday Service.

The Vestry reviewed two ministry proposals: 1) Participation by Tim Doty and others in the Episcopal "Haiti Connection Conference", celebrating reconstruction of the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, April 6-8, 2016. 2) The expansion of the Street Meals ministry to include a second day of bag lunch delivery to the needy in Arcata.

Zack Curtis, Mary Bockover, and Dona Moxon were named as the Nominating Committee for 2016.

YOUR VESTRY

Mary Bockover 822-9123
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Wally Cooper 822-4716
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Zack Curtis 839-1536
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George Inotowok 510 575-2512
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Barbara Moore 826-1727
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Dona Moxon, Sr. Warden 822-4999
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Michele Olsen 826-1044
dodesbooks@gmail.com

Jenni Simpson, Junior Warden 499-0110
jenben1970@yahoo.com

Vacancy (to be filled at Annual Meeting)

Dan Scofield, Treasurer 822-9123
d_m_Scofield@yahoo.com

St. Alban's Facebook Page

St. Alban's now has three Facebook administrators, Shirley Curtis, Laura Miller and Diana Cooper. If you have something you would like posted on Facebook, please forward to them. Also "Like" St. Alban's Facebook page to receive postings as they occur. Just search for "St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Arcata, Ca" at www.facebook.com

Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

By the time you read this, we'll be back on Pacific Standard Time and hopefully we all remembered to set our clocks back an hour around the witching hour of Halloween into All Saints' Day. Because I'm a "nester," I love this time of year when it gets dark earlier and I can snuggle into the evening by the fire with a good book. I recognize that that's a luxury and that many of you can hardly wait for the return of longer hours... but I digress.

This month I want to compliment the ushers, Tom Dewey, and our rector for putting together an excellent "Shake Out" drill, helping us all to gain the muscle memory necessary for responding to the first minutes after an earthquake. Please use this time to do other safety preps around your home. Change the batteries in your smoke/carbon monoxide alarms, check your canned food and other non-perishable food supplies and be sure the prescriptions in your emergency packs are up-to-date. And, if at all possible and you haven't invested in the plug-in lights that we have at church, have a flashlight in every room for quick access in an emergency – and check their batteries too. Now for tending the woodstove and that book...

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

(Rector's Letter continued from page 1)

sorrow and sometimes distraction of our hearts, and the wine and bread. All of it an offering—expressions of awe and devotion to the God under whom we stand.

So we make our offerings, week in and week out. For an hour or so our attention is outwardly directed, not consumed with our own opinions and preferences, but toward God—maker of all things seen and unseen, source of all our creative offerings. And our offerings build on those of all who have come before. As Lillian notes, the prayers and proclamations have been shaped by the lives of others who came before. People who like us knew what they "liked" and submitted it to the purposes of the worship of God.

Blessings, Sara+

Arcata Community Thanksgiving Dinner Committee

The Committee is reaching out to the faith community with help putting on a Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner will be held at the Arcata Community Center on Thanksgiving Day from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help organize, set up, cook, serve or clean up. If interested, please call or email Leslie Zondervan-Droz at Lesliezd@reninet.com or 953-6300.



Directories Available

Beginning, **Sunday, November 8**, new parish directories will be available. Pick one up on Sundays or stop by during office hours.

St. Alban's Spiritual Forum

November Schedule 2015

November 1, 2015 The History of Christian Theology – Part 23: Anabaptists and the Radical Reformation
w/ Philip Cary

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

November 8, 2015 As Death Draws Near. w/Marylee Bytheriver

A conversation with Marylee Bytheriver, who is nearing the end of her life due to metastatic cancer. She will talk about the lessons and blessings as well as the fears and sorrows she is experiencing and answer your questions about what it is like to know that your time is short.

November 15, 2015 The History of Christian Theology – Part 24: Anglicans and Puritans
w/ Philip Cary

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

November 22, 2015 The History of Christian Theology – Part 25: Baptists and Quakers
w/ Philip Cary

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

November 29, 2015 The History of Christian Theology – Part 26: Pietists and the Turn to Experience
w/ Philip Cary

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

November Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Caitlin Scofield
- 2 Ginnie Ellis
- 5 Mary Bockover
- 7 Maureen Johannsen & Arianna Brown
- 11 Emily Arents
- 12 Mike Robnett
- 24 Bethyl Hover
- 29 Mac McClary
- 30 Andrew Curtis



- 7 Winfield and Elizabeth Shoemaker
- 11 Richard and Carolyn Hunt
- 26 Robert and Connie Webb



Editor's Note: Did we accidentally miss your birthday or anniversary? Our apologies. Please let us know so that we can bring our list current.

What St. Alban's Means to Me – Rachel Curtis

Editor's Note: Rachel Curtis is a Senior at McKinleyville High School. She and her family have been worshipping at St. Alban's for 3 ½ years. Rachel shared this on Sunday, October 18 at both worship services.

St. Alban's has been very good for me and my faith. I have been in many different congregations in my lifetime and I have seen a lot of different ways to go about reaching out to the youth in a faith community. It has always seemed to me that St. Alban's has been the best at it. Sunday school has allowed me to gain a closer connection with God and understand God better in ways that church alone cannot do. I am with people my own age and we are able to have insightful and meaningful discussions into the nature of Christianity and our own role in the world. Nothing is quite the same as struggling with questions about your faith among people who are going through the same thing as you. And another thing that makes St. Alban's special is that I am able to go out into the world with the support of my faith community and travel to places that are thousands of miles away like the Episcopal Youth Event in Philadelphia, PA and the pilgrimage to North Carolina to talk to other Christians who are also my age. It is this connection with other people that strengthens my ties with God, because every time I look at another person of my faith who is my age, I see God reflected in their eyes. It is truly comforting to know that you are not alone in your faith, and sometimes it does seem that way when there are so few people my age in the church at this time. I am glad that St. Alban's has made an effort to include me in a time where so many my age get left out.

Street Meals Update – Bill Strider

Thank you, Connie Webb, for tabling at HSU to inform people about some of the happenings at St. Alban's. That session netted some new Street Meals volunteers who have allowed us to expand and reach more hungry people in Arcata.

Our Street Meals program was inspired by my year in Atlanta prior to my arrival in Humboldt in 2008. I was part of a service-oriented organization that, among other activities made lunches for the Atlanta homeless. "Feed Everyone" was one of the guiding principles of the group. This is where I learned the ins-and-outs of constructing bag lunches in assembly-line fashion. I began attending St. Alban's in the spring of 2010, and a little over a year later we were up and running with Street Meals.

We've been partnering with the Food For People food pantry with distribution at the Nazarene Church (Campbell Creek Connexion) on Saturday mornings. Recently Food For People added a second weekly distribution on Wednesday evenings at the Trinity Baptist. Not wanting to burden our Friday crew with another day of prepping, I waited for God's grace to kick in and provide the help needed for a Wednesday expansion. Voila. We are now making 108 lunches weekly to cover both the Wednesday and Saturday distribution periods. Thanks be to God!

Due to attrition, we are down a couple of volunteers who have been faithful contributors to our Friday prep session. We meet at 1:00 on Friday afternoons to put the lunches together. If this is something that sounds like something of which you would like to be a part, please let me know. Thanks!

A Thank You from Ann Tait

Editor's Note: Ann Tait is a former member of St. Alban's. She received a portion of the offering designated for Wildfire Relief.

Thank you so much for sending me your wildfire relief check. Thank you for caring about me at such a difficult time. Please share this with the congregation.

Losing our home has been incredibly painful and difficult but I have never felt that I have lost "everything". My family is all alive and so is my faith. For me this is one of God's "mysterious ways". My husband and I have wanted to retire but have not felt able to. Now we will do it. Starting anew at 62 will be my next adventure.

Thanks to good insurance I am not in need of money. I have shared your generous gift with a friend, and will tell you with his permission that he attends the Lakeport Episcopal Church. He was care provider for their priest, Father Leo, during his final illness. He had just moved when the fire came and he is now homeless and jobless. Your gift will help him to survive. He tells me the bishop has been helping as well.

It is wonderful to see faith and goodness in action during this calamity. Personal thanks to Rev Sara for your kind note. I would respond in kind but my handwriting is sadly illegible these days.

Thanks again everyone and God bless you!-----Anne Tait

A Thank You from Bishop Beisner

Grace and peace to you, and many thanks for your contribution to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund. Your gift helps us to provide direct assistance to victims of recent regional fires; it also enables us to participate in the work of long-range rebuilding of impacted communities. I am deeply grateful for your compassionate generosity.

Yours in Christ, The Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner, Bishop

Special Offerings for 2015

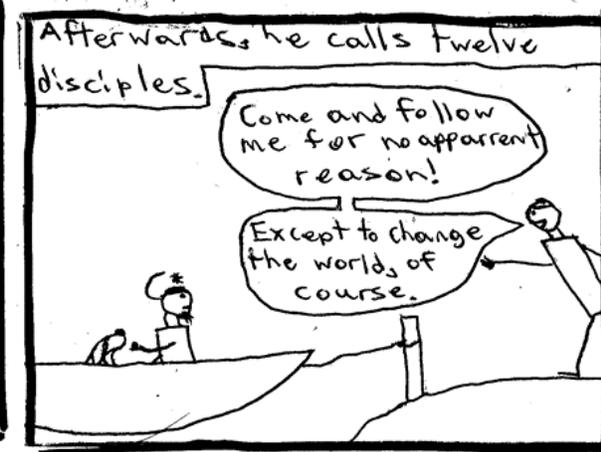
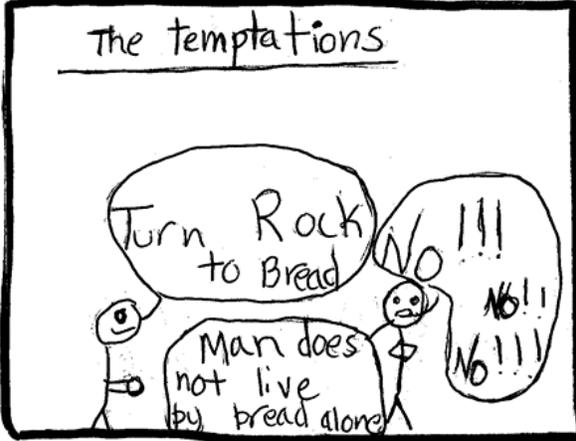
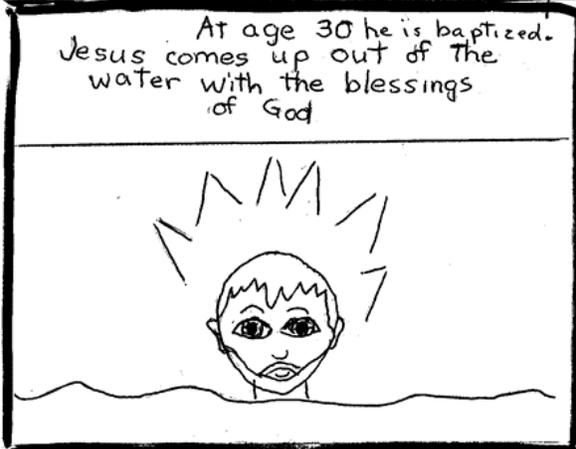
Thank you to everyone who has given to our offerings for missions so far this year. You are a generous people!

Good Friday Offering for the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East	\$ 542
Priest Associate Discretionary Fund	\$ 444
Youth Pilgrimage and Camp Scholarships	\$1,662
Fire Relief through the Bishop's Discretionary Fund	\$1,946.25

The Story of Jesus

Chapter 3

by the Youth of St. Alban's



St. Alban's Book Group

On Monday, November 2, from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M., join Mtr. Sara and the members of the Book Group as we discuss the status of the book group and possible books to read. Potluck starts at 6 P.M. and the discussion at 7 P.M.

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	3rd Wednesday, Library	6:00-8:00 p.m.	Dona Moxon
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library, every other month	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter



Saint Alban's Church

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www.stalbansarcata.org

«Title»«First»«Last»
«Address»
«Post Office Box»
«City», «State» «Zip/Postal Code»



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1
2:00 A.M.