



# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

A R C A T A , C A

Dear People of Saint Alban's,

It was good to be away. It is good to be back.

Let me begin by saying thank you. Mtr. Lesley McCloghrie, parish nurse Emily Arents and Senior Warden Dona Moxon asked you to give me a slow start back, not overwhelming me with details of all that happened while I was away. And you did give me a gentle re-entry. Thank you.

And you loved Mtr. Lesley well through her husband Keith's unexpected death. You cared for her in the days immediately following but also honored her desire to continue as your sabbatical priest until my return. I attended the funeral—what a labor of love. From Claire and Ralph who directed traffic, to our ushers Dona, Bob and Garrett, to deacons Cindy and Pam who served as co-officiants, to Susan for the music, to the kitchen crew of Thomas, Sanford, Anne and Carolyn, to Ann on altar guild, to our staff Carolyn and Joseph who prepared bulletins and the space ahead of time and many others—thank you. You made a space for those who loved Keith and Lesley—from St. Alban's, from Christ Church, from the Fortuna Senior Hiking Group, from their family—to grieve, to laugh, to honor Keith and commend him to God. Well done good and faithful people. Some of you have asked when Mtr. Lesley will be with us again. It is customary for a sabbatical priest to absent herself from the congregation for a period following the sabbatical while the Rector gets resettled into the life of the congregation. That said, she will be with us again soon and in the meantime know she misses you.

One of the blessings of the last part of the sabbatical was the opportunity to worship in several local congregations. I did not enter worship with an eye to critique (a professional hazard of being clergy) but simply to worship—to offer my thanks and praises to God. (Truth be told, I would probably be harder on other Episcopal churches than on congregations of other traditions.) My visits to these other congregations taught me a lot about myself and our tradition. Without



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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.*

**From the October 29, 2019  
Diocesan E-News  
Disruptive Evacuations and  
Power Outages**

This weekend our diocese experienced a second round of power outages, then, in a quick turn of events, evacuations in the possible path of the Kincade Fire. The Office of the Bishop disaster response team mobilized to empower and resource the local clergy and laity. Canon Andrea and Kati Braak were on the phone coordinating and connecting local teams to do the work of making sure that connections to people were being made and that they were safe.

While the power outages impact many in our diocese, the evacuations affected five churches who closed on Sunday: St. Paul's, Healdsburg; St. Stephen's, Sebastopol; St. Luke's, Calistoga; St. Patrick's, Kenwood; and Incarnation, Santa Rosa. Led by their clergy, these congregations quickly packed up their registers and records, as well as their historic churchware and vestments, closed their churches and moved to safe ground. Upon arriving at their final destinations, the staff and leadership of the churches began calling through their membership rosters to make sure all were safe. Other churches just outside the evacuation zone are prepared and waiting, in case the mandatory evacuation zone is extended. At the time of publication, no church buildings have been touched by the fire.

As we mentioned, many of us are without power. Power outages were announced and carried out very quickly this weekend with the power company citing the severe winds and conditions as the reason. We recognize that this compromises most of our diocese.

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**Your Vestry**

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Liz Finney, Clerk finneyliz@gmail.com	845-4498
Dan Scofield, Treasurer	822-9123



The In Gathering of pledges will take place at both services on **Sunday, November 10.**



## Health Ministry at St. Alban's

At our Health Ministry meeting this month, we realized during our discussion that perhaps many of you may be unaware of who the team members are and what we do. So this newsletter article will be about just that.

As Parish Nurse, I realized pretty early on that I couldn't do this work alone. Yes, for sure, I have nursing experience and a lot of prayer time going for me, but there needs to be other minds, hearts, eyes and hands involved to offer the best for the parish. With that in mind, our team is composed of Mother Sara, Mother Nancy and Deacon Cindy, all gifted people with pastoral care skills. We meet every month and I do my best to visit all homebound parishioners at least once per month. There are others that I stay in phone, text or email touch with also. Mostly, what I want each of you to know is that anything at all that you tell me and that we discuss is completely confidential. What does that actually mean? Whenever one of you shares information with me about your own or a family member's health – physical, emotional, spiritual or mental – it is always confidential. I will always ask if this is information to be shared with the parish, or with Mother Sara and the team, or whether it's to remain with me. I handle this case by case. If you allow me to share it with the team, it remains confidential amongst the four of us. Period.

I hope this clarifies any concerns you may have. Please don't hesitate to talk with me about any concerns you may have and know that I highly value and thank you for your trust.

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

## December Holiday Dinner

St. Alban's Episcopal Church is invited to join with other faith community members in providing food and volunteer service for the **Saturday, December 14th** Holiday Dinner at St. Mary's Catholic Church, on Janes Road in Arcata. Additional information and sign ups for this pre-Christmas event, will be available the second week of November. All are welcome to this abundant table as we gather together to work side by side, both serving and sharing with others in this community meal. If you have questions please feel free to contact Deacon Cindy.



<b>Spiritual Forum for November</b> 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	
November 3	Diocesan Convention 2019 Preview The Very Rev. Sara Potter  Mother Sara will review the resolutions and other issues coming before the Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California on November 7, 8 and 9 in Redding, CA
November 10	Ministry Review: Arcata House Partnership/Extreme Weather Shelter Dn. Cindy Woods and Jam Ramsey
November 17	Creation Care Update Daniel Moyer, Chair, Creation Care Ministry
November 24	Diocesan Convention Debrief The Very Rev. Sara Potter  Mother Sara will report on the resolutions and other actions taken at the first convention presided over by Bishop Traquair.

### A Note from Mother Lesley

October 3, 2019

Dear People of St. Alban's,

A note to say thank you! For having me as your priest these past three months for all the prayers, love and support after Keith's death, these filled my heart — thank you.

I love dishes — as you know — and the good bye gift of jug and platter are lovely. Handcrafted and unique I will find a special place for them on my table where they will bring memories of you.

Blessings,

Lesley+



**Rector's Letter** (Continued from page 1)

exception they did a great job of welcoming me, both before worship and during the exchange of the peace (or the equivalent thereof). I made a point of clearly introducing myself as a local pastor who was on sabbatical (yes, congregations really do this for their clergy!). Aesthetics *are* not to be taken for granted. Our space is beautiful and I am thankful to the Vestry for overseeing the refurbishing of the altar, organ bench and shortening four pews to accommodate those with wheelchairs and walkers (though it does feel like the deck has been reshuffled—no one is in their customary pew!). I gained a renewed appreciation of our musical tradition. While it does require a level of musical literacy, I appreciate the complexity of our hymns and how they give expression to our theological tradition tying us to previous generations of Christians. I realized I take for granted how we pray. In the first place, not every congregation provides opportunity for those present to offer the concerns and thanksgiving of their hearts. Some did so explicitly, passing around a microphone for members to share their prayer requests. But that was the exception rather than the rule. Further, the prayers rarely expressed concern beyond the immediate worshipping community. Our pattern of including the universal church, the welfare of the world, the nation and those in authority, those in need, the deceased and the local community is not common practice. I am deeply thankful for those who write our prayers twice monthly trusting God to help them put those concerns into words and trusting the congregation to accept their offering to our common worship.

It was good to be away. It is good to be back.

Blessings,

Sara+



**St. Alban's got talent!?!**

**Find Out Friday, November 22, 6:30 p.m.**



Do you sing, write poetry, juggle, play a musical instrument or have some other talent to share? Then join us on **Friday, November 22** at 6:30 p.m. for the fourth annual *St. Alban's Got Talent Show*. We will start with some light refreshments and time for fellowship followed by the show at 7 p.m. Between acts we will hear some classic Mac McClaryisms, as faithfully recorded by his former students, and Camp jokes from our youth. We will end with a few favorite hymns. Donations will be accepted to help with purchase an item beneficial to St. Alban's worship life.

Sign-ups will be posted in the Parish Hall. Questions? Speak to Mtr. Sara, Betsy Neal, Rick Timmons, Connie Webb or Diana Cooper.

*Disruptive Evacuations and Power Outages—continued from page 2*

Bishop Megan sent a pastoral message out to the diocese this week addressing these situations. In it she said noted that she and the Office of the Bishop, as well as the whole diocese are standing with our friends in Christ. She encouraged all to make sure that they are taking care of themselves by activating a support system that may involve clergy, counselors and care groups. She invited us to share our feelings and to understand that what we are feeling is a normal part of dealing with disaster. "I know the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, has walked every painful path ahead of us," she said. "He is called the man of sorrows. Because we are his followers and he walks with us still, we can affirm to you: We see you, and we stand with you."

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California is strong as we stand together: deanery to deanery, church to church, and person to person. Let us pray together in our homes or in the homes of our hosts; whether lighted or dark:

*Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of your servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation: that, among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, we may ever be defended by your gracious and ready help; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

BCP 832



Donate to Disaster Relief; **100% of your donation will go towards disaster relief**, distributed by the clergy at their discretion. Donate at this link: [bit.ly/NorCalDisasterRelief](https://bit.ly/NorCalDisasterRelief) (works in email and web edition of newsletter)



# Advent Evensong at St. Alban's Tuesdays at 6 pm

December 3

December 10

December 17

*Mark your calendars ... Details to follow ...*

### **Fall and Winter Warm Clothing Donations**

The COAT collection box is located just inside the St. Alban's front door and you will find the SOCK BOX in the parish hall on the round table.

Coats, jackets and socks will be delivered to Arcata House Partnership throughout the cold season.

(A note of thanks! The boxes are starting to fill!)



# Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

1675 Chester Avenue

Arcata, California 95521



## Monthly Ministry Meetings and Other Regularly Scheduled Events

### Weekly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day and Place</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Bible Study	Wednesday, Library	6:30-7:30 p.m.	Bob Webb
Choir Rehearsal	Sunday, Sanctuary	12:15 p.m.	Nan Voss-Herlihy
Spiritual Forum	Sunday, Library	9:15 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter

### Monthly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Creation Care Ministry	1st Tuesday, Classroom 3	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Daniel Moyer
Vestry	3rd Sunday, Library	12:30-2:30 p.m.	Dona Moxon
Wisdom Group	3rd Wednesday, Parish Hall	11:30-1:00 p.m.	Emily Arents
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library, every other month	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter