

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 St. Alban's,

When I last wrote I was days away from leaving for our denomination's General Convention in Austin, TX. At the moment, those hectic 10 days seems ages ago. In the intervening weeks we spent time in Ohio with Aaron's family returning just in time for Camp Living Waters and then in early August had some overdue vacation. I am still digesting the incredible fullness of the larger Church's gathering. This is the first of two installments.

In one sense General Convention is a large family reunion. Everyday there was an opportunity to connect with people I had not seen in years—like the Rev. Rachel Thomas who was my mentor in Connecticut when I did my field education—or make new friends when discovering a mutual acquaintance—like meeting the Rev. Bernie Lindley, priest-in-charge of St. Timothy's in Brookings, OR (Shirley Curtis' parents are his parishioners) or standing in line for coffee and meeting the Bishop of New York who is a friend of Mtr. Lesley's and had stories to tell about visiting Humboldt County in his younger years. Some encounters were poignant like the morning I learned during opening devotions of the death of Jack Fleischer, the 19 year old son of my childhood friends the Rev. Scott and Vicki Fleischer who now live and serve in South Carolina. Each encounter, whether joyful or sorrowful, was an opportunity to give thanks for the members of this expression of the Body of Christ (or as our Presiding Bishop would say, "The Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement") that have nurtured and formed me over decades.

The main work of Convention is the legislative work of developing and considering resolutions that will guide the work of the larger church for the next three years and beyond. Some have calculated that this is one, of if not the, largest democratic body in the world (there are 880 deputies in the House of Deputies elected by their respective dioceses plus 150 or so bishops). Legislative work was done in many areas. Some of the most notable was in Prayer Book revision, Marriage Rites, Israel/Palestine, Title IV (disciplinary canons for clergy) and readmission of the Diocese of Cuba.



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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.

July Vestry Highlights

Present: Emily Arents, Diana Cooper, Shirley Curtis, Ed Farrelly, Liz Finney, and Bob Webb.

Treasurer Dan Schofield went over the quarterly financial report, noting that both income and expenses are close to what would be expected at that point in the year.

The Jr. Warden reported that the new roof on the south side of the nave was completed, and that he was working to schedule the installation of the solar panels.

Ed Farrelly presented the results of the outreach survey. A core group of about 20 parishioners is very interested in outreach ministry. The Vestry will follow-up with those who indicated on the survey that they would like to be contacted by a Vestry member.

The membership of the Sabbatical Team is nearly finalized and plans to set up a first meeting in August.

Diana Cooper reviewed her findings regarding wage and benefit projections for St. Alban's for the next five years. The Vestry will also be looking at cost projections for other areas of the budget to better grasp the financial needs of the parish.

New Office Hours

The new hours we adopted in July and August worked so well we are keeping them! To review, the hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from **9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** We hope this change will better accommodate some staff needs and be better for those who need to stop by on their lunch hour. Please make a note of the change.

Your Vestry

Shirley Curtis, Senior Warden awazzuk@att.net	839-1536
Bob Webb, Junior Warden spider.man@suddenlink.net	826-9127
Emily Arents cnmily1@gmail.com	825-6711
Mary Bockover Mary.bockover@humboldt.edu	822-9123
Diana Cooper dawcooper@gmail.com	822-4716
Ed Farrelly edward.farrelly@gmail.com	(760) 420-9543
Daniel Moyer danielmoyer24@gmail.com	(925) 207-4679
Liz Finney, Clerk finneyliz@gmail.com	845-4498
Dan Scofield, Treasurer d_m_Scofield@yahoo.com	822-9123

Save the date....Training in Racial Reconciliation

As a part of our commitment to the ongoing ministry of reconciliation given us by our Lord in baptism, and especially the work of racial reconciliation, lay and ordained leaders of Episcopal Churches are asked to periodically participate in trainings related to dismantling racism in the church and society. The next training will be offered at Christ Church, Eureka on **Saturday, October 6** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Rev. Deacon Lew Powell will be our facilitator. Registration information will be forthcoming.

Health Ministry at St. Alban's

I hope everyone has had a healthy and happy summer while taking care to protect from too much sun. Of course, here on the North Coast this summer, that hasn't been too much of a problem. Please never forget though, that you can get as bad a sunburn on a hazy, somewhat cloudy day as on one with full on sun..

I hope too, that everyone has partaken of the abundance of fresh fruits and veggies available these last months. I've been doing a better job of that myself lately and have delighted in the colorful plates I can create as I have added more yams to my diet. On the gray days we've had, a colorful tasty meal has perked up my spirits from the doldrums. Think about a more colorful palette for your meals and improve your diet at the same time!

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

August Vestry Highlights

Present: Emily Arents, Mary Bockover, Diana Cooper, Ed Farrelly, Liz Finney, Daniel Moyer, the Rev. Sara Potter, Bob Webb.

The Vestry worked on the results of the outreach survey, determining what further information needed to be gathered to complete the data before presenting the information in a newsletter article.

The Sabbatical Team held its first meeting in August and has begun looking at the needs that will have to be addressed to prepare for Mtr. Sara's sabbatical, tentatively scheduled for July-September 2019.

Daniel Moyer reported on projected utility cost increases as part of the Vestry's project to understand the parish's potential financial needs over the next five years.

Ed Farrelly is looking into the possibility of switching St. Alban's internet/phone service to Suddenlink for better internet speeds.

The copier is at the end of its lifespan and needs to be replaced. Diana Cooper, Shirley Curtis, and Ed Farrelly will investigate replacement options.

Health coverage for Mtr. Sara's family through HSU may end by spring, so St. Alban's will need to plan to resume paying for coverage.

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

The final version of the resolution on **prayer book revision** memorialized the 1979 Prayer Book (it will remain the standard), but also encouraged the development of new liturgies in the next triennium with special attention to inclusive and expansive language and creation care. Expansive language versions of Eucharistic Prayers A, B and D will be available this fall.

One of the best summations on the **marriage legislation** came from the Rev. Brian Baker, former Dean of Trinity Cathedral, Sacramento, CA:

"What did we do on marriage rites?

Gave clergy everywhere in the U.S. the authority to use the marriage equality marriage rites, regardless of the theological leanings of the bishop. It allows a more conservative bishop to connect the priest/couple/congregation to a same-sex-marriage-friendly bishop for pastoral support. Resolution B012 authorized the use of a blessing rite to bless same sex couples living in jurisdictions where same sex marriage is not legal (such as Honduras and Haiti.) These rites are under the direction of the bishop so they can't be used if the bishop doesn't approve. Resolution A086 put off for another 3 years a blessing rite for opposite-sex couples who cannot get married for financial reasons but who want their relationships blessed by the church. This was referred to two committees 'for further review and recommendations including a comprehensive study of the legal implications and other ecclesial options. It is found at the end of A086."

The **readmission of the Diocese of Cuba** and seating of Bishop Griselda Delgado del Carpio was a highlight of General Convention. In response to the geopolitics of the time, the House of Bishops in 1966 voted unilaterally to separate from the Episcopal Church in Cuba and the diocese was essentially left to fend for itself under Communist persecution. The readmission at General Convention in July was the beginning of righting an historical wrong in the life of the Church. There are some practical dimensions to this including funding the pensions for the 20+ clergy who have not had access to the Church's pension fund. More to come later in the fall.

The final component of General Convention were the many auxiliary events. While not part of the official General Convention schedule, these were a rich part of the experience. More on those next month.

Thank you for granting me the time and freedom to serve the larger church in this capacity.

Blessings,

Sara+

<p>Spiritual Forum for September</p> <p>The Spiritual Forum is held between 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Library</p> <p>A lively and spirited discussion of religion, philosophy, literature, history, and personal faith</p>	
September 1	No Forum <i>Happy Labor Day!</i>
September 9	Report and Discussion on Results of Outreach Survey (See Ed Farrelly's article on page 6)
September 16	History of Christianity: The First Christianity (See Mother Nancy's article below)
September 23	History of Christianity: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome (See Mother Nancy's article below)

From the Priest Associate— the Rev. Nancy Streufert

**Adult Sunday Forum – A History of Christianity:
The First Three Thousand Years**

Beginning this month, the Sunday adult forum will feature this beautifully filmed and informative 6-part series from the BBC presented by British historian Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church at the University of Oxford. Join us at 9:15 am in the library and learn how our Christian faith came about!

- September 16 The First Christianity
- September 23 Catholicism: The Unpredictable Rise of Rome
- September 30 Orthodoxy: From Empire to Empire
- October 7 Reformation: The Individual Before God
- October 14 Protestantism: The Evangelical Explosion
- October 21 God in the Dock

“Oxford historian Diarmaid MacCulloch invites viewers along on a provocative, engaging 2,000-year tour of Christianity, from first-century Palestine to modern San Francisco, Russia, and Korea. Learn intriguing secrets about the early Church, its genuine Middle Eastern roots, and how it spread through India and China on its way to becoming the world's first truly global religion.” (pbs.org)

**St. Alban's to Participate in Coastal Cleanup Day
Saturday, September 15 9 a.m. to noon**

Our Baptismal covenant calls us to be good stewards of creation. St. Alban's parishioners of all ages will have the opportunity to put this into practice at Clam Beach during Coastal Cleanup Day on September 15. Meet at Clam Beach at 9 a.m., bring work gloves and wear closed toe shoes (shoes appropriate for work). For more information, contact Cindy Woods at 825-0867 or minitrees55@yahoo.com.

Update on our Outreach survey

Ed Farrelly, St. Alban's Vestry

The results are in! Thanks to all who turned in an outreach survey – we received 40 responses. Judging by the comments we got back, it is clear there is a tremendous level of interest within our church family for supporting or expanding our outreach efforts. There was no one who felt St. Alban's should not be involved in outreach. About half of the respondents are involved in outreach efforts in the community in addition to St Alban's efforts. Detailed data from the surveys is posted in the parish hall, for those who like to dig into all the nitty gritty details. For the rest of us, we've summarized the information below.

Feedback from the 5 adult forums which featured outreach related speakers was uniformly positive. Typical comments included "we need housing first" (Arcata House Partnership), "food insecurity is far greater than publicly known" (Food for People), "people need to be willing to change, but someone is often needed to help them ..." (Betty Chin Foundation), "like Betty, Dale really walks the talk! His commitment to foster children ... is impressive (The Forgotten Initiative) and "I am very happy how vigorously Tim vets potential programs to assure there is no graft" (Haiti outreach).

When asked about how they saw themselves being involved in outreach, there was the highest level of support, both financial and volunteered time, for Arcata House night meals. Interest in a green/Earth/creation care ministry was also very strong, with many wondering how they could learn more or get involved. Haiti outreach, Arcata House support and the extreme weather shelter closely followed in terms of interest. The Native American ministry and other outreach initiatives, including Food for People and The Forgotten Initiative, were also mentioned.

The consensus is that our youth have a significant role to play in our outreach efforts. Assisting with night meal preparation was frequently mentioned, as was the suggestion to ask the youth themselves how they would most like to be involved.

No surprise that when asked for 'other' comments, the responses ranged all over the map, with lots of thoughtful contributions. Some notable ones: "consider renaming outreach to something like 'Reconciliation' of the community outside of St Alban's", "the mental health issue is at the heart of all the other issues we face locally" and "Perhaps add after-school care and/or creative lessons for the community (art, poetry, etc.)".

A number of follow up conversations were conducted with those who requested. And ... it is still not too late to add your input, so don't be shy! Contact any of your vestry members or clergy to share your insights and help inform our deliberations as we determine how to direct St Alban's resources.

[Editor's note: The outreach survey and St. Alban's outreach -- or Reconciliation of the community outside of St. Alban's -- will be discussed at the September 9 Forum. Join us in the library between services, 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m., to hear more details and share your insights and ideas.]

Changes Afoot on How the St. Alban's Newsletter is Distributed

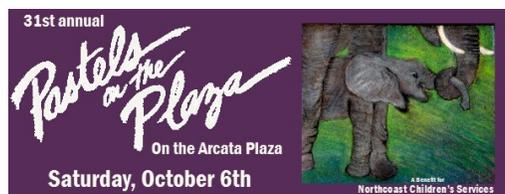
We would like to reduce the number of newsletters that get mailed each month. Doing so would result in the church being a better steward of its resources by reducing the expenses related to copying, paper and postage. It will also make us more earth friendly as it will reduce the amount of paper being used as well as greenhouse gases related to all of the different aspects of producing the newsletter.

In addition to being mailed, the newsletter is emailed to many parishioners. It is also available at the church's website, www.stalbansarcata.org. If you currently receive the newsletter by mail we will be working with you to switch to sending it to you via email. If you don't have email, are not that familiar with using it (though the newsletter editor Diana Cooper is willing to coach) or just like receiving it in the mail box, you can continue to do so. Just let us know, otherwise look for changes to how you are receiving the newsletter soon.

Calling St. Alban's Young Artists to Participate in Pastels on the Plaza Saturday, October 6 at 8:30 a.m.

Families with children, mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 6** so that your child can participate in creating a beautiful pastel sidewalk piece for St. Alban's. Please arrive at the Arcata Plaza by **8:30 a.m.** For further details please contact Tina Rousselot.

Annually Northcoast Children's Services partners with local businesses and artists to transform the sidewalks of the Arcata Plaza into a colorful art gallery. Proceeds from this event help fund its Preschool and Family Services that extend to over 1,000 children and families in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties annually.



The Great California Shake Out and Emergency Evacuation Training

As part of the congregation's ongoing Disaster Preparedness preparations, a training on emergency evacuation procedures for our ushers and other worship leaders will be led by Cindy Woods on **Saturday, October 13 from 9 a.m.-12 noon** at Saint Alban's. There will be an evacuation drill the following morning, Sunday October 14, during both worship services. Ushers are asked to register their participation by calling the Church office (822-4102) by Wednesday, October 10 or by emailing the Rector at revsara@stalbansarcata.org. The training and drill are part of the Great California Shake Out, an annual event to encourage residents of California to practice the emergency drill for a major earthquake. So wherever you are on Thursday, October 18 at 10:18 a.m., remember to **drop, cover and hold!**



Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

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www.stalbansarcata.org



Meetings, Clubs, 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. Nancy Streufert

Monthly Gatherings

<u>Group</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Craft Group	3rd Monday, Parish Hall	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Evaonne Hendricks
Vestry	3rd Sunday, Library	12:30-2:30 p.m.	Shirley Curtis
Wisdom Group	3rd Wednesday, Parish Hall	11:30-1:00 p.m.	
Worship Committee	1st Saturday, Library, every other month	10:00 a.m.	Mtr. Sara Potter