

## AROUND THE PARISH

as of December 15, 2015

St. Alban's seeks to be a welcoming, Christ-centered community,  
committed to sharing Christ's love, empowering people to grow spiritually,  
deepening our relationship with Christ and living out our faith in the community and the world.

### COMING EVENTS

12/15 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH  
12/16 6:30pm, Bible Study, PH  
12/22 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study, PH  
12/23 6:30pm, Bible Study, PH  
12/24 9:30am, Altar Guild Decorating  
**7:30pm, Christmas Eve Service**  
12/29 10:00-11:30am, Bible Study  
12/30 6:30pm, Bible Study

(PH = Parish Hall; SS = Sunday School)

### PLANNING AHEAD

+January 31, 2016, Annual Meeting, PH.  
One service at 9:30am; meeting 11:15-  
12:30pm



### ST. ALBAN'S CHRISTMAS EVE

Join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus on December 24 at 7:30pm for St. Alban's Christmas Eve, which will be a bit different than previous years. The Eucharist service will begin at 7:30pm, and we will incorporate Christmas carols into the service as part of our worship. (In previous years, we have had a half hour of carols preceding the start of the worship service.)

You are also invited to stay for cookies, coffee and tea in the Parish Hall following our service.

THE Wonder OF  
**CHRISTMAS**

### YOU ARE CHRISTMAS

**You are Christmas....**

*Every time you smile and help to make the world a brighter place.*

**You are Christmas....**

*Every time you laugh and let the sound join with all the happy music of the world*

**You are Christmas....**

*Every time you speak a word of faith to some fearful soul along an unpaved road.*

**You are Christmas....**

*Every time you pray a prayer for those who need your very special blessing.*

**You are Christmas....**

*Every time your loving hand goes out of the way to give that extra special service.*

### CELTIC CONCERT A BIG SUCCESS!!

The Celtic Concert was a big success with 175 people attending, many of them new to St. Alban's. We raised \$1,500 and donated 400 food items to Chase Lake Community School. In addition, one lady dropped off seven bags containing packets of a fleece blanket combined with a stuffed toy and book prior to the event. The music program was fantastic.

Following the program, the parish hall was filled with people sharing conversation and

refreshments, as well as taking advantage of the opportunity to purchase CDs. Thank you to the many people who made this event possible.



### **10:30 COFFEE HOUR MINISTRY**

In case you didn't know, there's a calendar on the kitchen door for people to sign up to bring treats for coffee hour. One of our frequent contributors moved, so it would be helpful if others would sign up.

The primary duty is to bring the treats, arrange them on a tray, help with serving and clean-up. We do have some coffee hour angels who frequently help with putting the treats on the table before the end of service and helping with clean-up. Treats can be whatever you choose to contribute. Now that Winco is nearby, it is easy and economical to obtain treats. These are frequently cookies, sometimes cheese and crackers, sometimes fruit, sometimes potato chips -- it's up to you.

Treats at coffee hour are a way of having fellowship with each other and welcoming newcomers. Findings from a 2014 Survey of Episcopal Congregations found that "Churches that describe their coffee hour as 'vibrant with lively conversation' or 'somewhat chaotic with lots of food' were much more likely to be growing than congregations that had no coffee hour or described their coffee hour as 'typical' or 'rather formal' ". Please consider participating in this ministry.



### **RECTORY UPDATE**

Thank you to all who shared input about the future of rectory. The most frequent comment we received was that, whatever option is chosen, people wanted to maximize the amount of hours available for a priest. Another concern expressed was that there are safeguards to insure that, if the rectory is sold, the money would be used just to pay for priest hours.

The final decision probably depends on the priest chosen.

1. If the priest doesn't need a house, we would probably sell the rectory and invest the proceeds, using the earnings to help pay for more priest hours.
2. If the priest needs a house long term, it may make more sense to sell the rectory and purchase a house in better condition. Because of the value of the current rectory with the view, we could probably find a house in better condition for less money. Note that if we provide a house for a priest, we also provide utilities and maintenance which does impact our budget. Providing a house equates to 30% of time for priest (or 12 hours).
3. If a priest wants a house only on a short-term basis until he or she could purchase a house, then it would make sense to use our existing rectory for that time period.
4. Other alternatives suggested like equity sharing or using part of the proceeds from the sale of the rectory to use the money for repairs on the church which would reduce the amount of earnings available to pay for priest hours.

Protecting the earnings to go just for a priest's salary can be covered by setting up procedures similar to established procedures

for our Endowment Fund. Any changes to these procedures would require a two-thirds vote by the entire Vestry.

If you didn't have a chance to give comments at coffee hour on December 6<sup>th</sup>, feel free to contact any members of the Rectory Committee: Phil McClelland at 425-446-2355, Dave Finnell 206-422-7685, or Maryellen Young 425-776-2461



## STEWARDSHIP REFLECTIONS

### **December 20 – Advent 4**

How blessed we are to hear again some of the phrases from Mary's song of praise: *"He has mercy on those who fear him....he has lifted up the lowly....he has filled the hungry with good things....he has come to the help of his servant."* The blessings outlined in the *Magnificat* continue to be given to use in a multitude of ways. As this holy season begins, let us especially be grateful that God continues to be willing to uphold all of us in our daily lives.

### **December 24 – Christmas Eve**

God's greatest gift is given to us – his very own self, incarnate, born to live on the earth as a daily witness of God's continual presence and love. Can we even begin to understand and value this priceless offering? How does our life as a Christian steward reflect our humble gratitude for this incomprehensible gift?

### **December 27 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

*"You have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives..."* could very well be part of the striving steward's prayer. What kind of light shines through you to reflect your love of God, and your desire to spread that light in the service of others?

### **January 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

*"Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity..."* How is the divine life reflected in us as we go about our daily lives? Do we strive to have others see the face and hands of Jesus in us? Perhaps it's not too late to make such a resolution for the coming year.

### **January 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany:**

#### **The Baptism of our Lord**

*"You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."* In our own Baptism, we have been *"marked as Christ's own forever."* God is always with us, and we are his beloved children. He longs for us to build a real, holy relationship with him. Part of being a good steward is using the tools of prayer, study, corporate worship and generous giving to move steadily and intentionally toward that holy relationship.



## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### **December 20 – Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**Micah 5:2-5a; Canticle 15**

**Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)**

8:00 Lector: Denise Robertson

EM: Jeff Tobin

10:30 Lector: Shirley Clark

EM: Mary Fowler

**December 24 - Christmas Eve**

**Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96**

**Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)**

7:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Dan Mullene

**December 27 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

**Isaiah 61:10-62.3; Psalm 147**

**Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7; John 1:1-18**

8:00 Lector: Howard Hayden

EM: Shannon Duggan

10:30 Lector: Barbara Laggozino

EM: Dan Mullene

**January 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

**Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 84**

**Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a;**

**Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23**

8:00 Lector: Sharon Joy

EM: Jeff Tobin

10:30 Lector: Susie Nichols

EM: Mary Fowler

**January 10 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29**

**Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**

8:00 Lector: Shannon Duggan

EM: Howard Hayden

10:30 Lector: Barbara Laggozino

EM: Reilly Mannery

**Also serving as Crucifer/Acolyte**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday at 10:30: Sam Wells**

**Other Sundays at 10:30: Emily Goergen**