

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Annual Parish Meeting – January 28, 2018**

Rector Greg Peter opened the St. Alban's Annual Parish Meeting with prayer at 11:15. There were approximately 42 parishioners in attendance.

Senior Warden Remarks:

Pat Chandler welcomed parishioners to the Annual Meeting. She referred to 2017 as a Year of Transition starting when we called a new Rector and sold the Rectory. We learned a great deal from doing the hard work and saw great accomplishments from that work. She highlighted a number of activities done by the Vestry, including establishing a fund from the Rectory sale that pays for the equivalent portion of a Rector's salary if he lived in the Rectory (30% or 12 hours), developing a Vestry Covenant, established a Facilities Use Committee, hiring a much needed Parish Administrator, completing an insurance inventory, establishing a Safety Committee in addition to the usual things. The Vestry accepted the overwhelming recommendation of the Call Committee to hire Greg Peters as Rector, which became an additional Easter blessing when announced to the parish. He officially started July 1 after which he and the Vestry worked to develop a Mutual Ministry Agreement for year one of his tenure. From that came 3 Goals: To deepen our spiritual lives and relationship with Christ (as requested in the 2016 Parish Profile), expanding our year-round stewardship program, and participating in the Diocesan College of Congregational Development. Moving forward, she is excited to participate in seeking God's will for St. Alban's. (See Annual Report for more details.)

Rector's Report:

Greg Peters, the newly appointed Rector, expressed his gratitude for God's grace in allowing him to serve at St. Alban's. He appreciated being surrounded by great staff and volunteers that show joy and professionalism in their work. He finds St. Alban's truly a place of mutual ministry. He reported that Sunday attendance was up by 0.2 people in 2017 over the previous year and up by 5.4 people over the 2015. He listed a few parishioners that have left and some who have recently come to join our church family. He highlighted some of the fellowship opportunities over the past 6 months, since he has been Rector, including a meal after the Thanksgiving service, the greening of the sanctuary for Christmas, and the Epiphany Party. Building on our traditional events (Annual Picnic, Easter Brunch, Legacy Society social, Pancake Supper to name a few), we are building on a firm foundation to strengthen our ties to one another for mutual support. These events lend themselves to opportunities to invite others to join us. He said he was thankful for a stable of good preachers, and would love to see it expand beyond white men over 50. When asked about St. Alban's, he points to our bulletin board of outside ministries and says, "That's why I'm here." In conclusion, he looks forward to building on the existing mission and ministries of St. Alban's, attracting new folks and helping all find a deeper relationship with Christ and each other and expanding our relationship with the greater community and other faith communities. (See Annual Report for more details.)

Junior Warden-People's Warden Remarks:

Shirley Clark, as warden of the people, reminded parishioners that she is their voice on Vestry, and she is the one to come to if you have concerns or questions. She is also the Vestry Liaison for the Fellowship Ministry. The celebrations and events at St. Alban's are a lot of fun to participate in, and she encourages everyone to get involved and help out. If you have an idea for a new event, let her know.

Election of Vestry Members and Convention Delegates:

Vestry Members: Sr. Warden, Pat Chandler, recognized and thanked the out going Vestry members, whose terms are ending. They included Roger Andersen, Judy Kistner, and Jeannie Wells. Each was offered as a thank you gift a rose bush, a perennial to grace their yards as they have graced the Vestry. These outgoing Vestry members and one ongoing Vestry member, Jim Gilman, made up the Vestry's nominating committee for new Vestry members. Identified nominees to fill the 3 vacant seats on Vestry for 3-year terms included Steve Forsythe, Dan Mullene, and Martha Philippoff. They were each asked to make a short statement about themselves. Additional nominations were requested from the floor. With none coming forward, **a motion was made by Eric Hanson to close the nominations.** The motion was seconded by Kären Ford and passed. **A motion was made by Kären Ford to elect Steve Forsythe, Dan Mullene, and Martha Philippoff to 3-year terms on the St. Alban's Vestry by acclimation.** The motion was seconded by Eric Hanson and passed.

Convention Delegates: Pat moved on to the election of Convention Delegates. Delegates are elected every other year for 2-year terms and are one female and one male. The same nominating committee for Vestry members also identifies convention nominees. Two nominees were put forward: Carrie Cone and Jim Gilman. Pat asked if there were other nominations from the floor. Hearing none, **a motion was made by Eric Hanson to close nominations.** The motion was seconded by Phil McClelland and passed. **A motion was made by Susie Nichols to elect Carrie Cone and Jim Gilman as Convention Delegates from St. Alban's for two-year terms by acclimation.** The motion was seconded by Shirley Clark and passed.

Treasurer's Report (including Budget, Stewardship & Outreach)

Budget: Treasurer Maryellen Young reported that the previous year was a very successful financially and thanked parishioners for their support in 2017 and for their pledges for 2018. December 2017 was an especially good month for income, bringing in \$24,000 instead of the usual \$12,000. Summaries of actual 2017 financials and the 2018 approved budget were included in one of the meeting handouts and reviewed for the group by Maryellen. Income in all categories exceeded budget: pledges, unpledged income, loose offerings, Christmas & Easter offerings and building use. Expenses were basically on target except for 3 months of salary savings for the rector and parish administrator, both of whom started in July instead of April as anticipated by the budget.

We did have designated fund expenses, including repairs that Phil McClelland will cover in his Buildings & Grounds report as well as expenses for sale of rectory and for calling a new priest. Proceeds from the sale of rectory covered all expenses with the majority of the proceeds invested in a Diocesan Investment Fund (endowment) from which income will pay the equivalent of 30% of a rector's salary going forward (equivalent to the percentage of salary compensation if a priest lives in a rectory). The residual was converting to a new roof account. Expenses for calling a new priest had been set aside from previous years' surpluses.

Maryellen discussed the Vestry's approved disposition of the 2017 surplus of \$32,000. This surplus occurred because of our greater than anticipated income and having a rector and parish administrator for only 6 months instead of the 9 months, for which we had budgeted. The allocations of the surplus funds approved by the Vestry were provided in the financial handouts attached. Some of the funds are to be used for the following:

- Using part of the 2017 surplus and acknowledging that 56% of 2018 pledges reflected an increase in amount pledged, the Vestry authorized adding 2 hours per week to Greg's time for at least the upcoming year. Therefore, in 2018 17 hours will be paid for by our budget with the remaining 12 hours paid for from earnings from the investment of the sale of the Rectory. (These 12 hours equate to 30% of a full-time priest, the equivalent amount that would act as compensation if a priest lived in a rectory.) This totals 29 hours per week for Greg and equate to 72.5% of a full time priest, up from 67.5% in 2017. This is only for 2018 and maintaining this increase in hours in years to come will depend on the funds available.
- We also added an additional 1 hour per week to Jeannie's time, our Parish Administrator. In addition, we will compensate her for extra hours worked in the first quarter of 2018 in preparing W-2's and payroll taxes, the annual meeting and the Bishop's visit in February.
- We added funds to designated accounts (those accounts that are not part of the annual operating budget), including: Repaid monies spent from our Buildings & Grounds Savings for roof and furnace repair; allocated \$3,000 for the new roof fund; added money to the budget reserve fund and reimbursed monies spent from the "sabbatical fund" for expenses in calling Greg.
- Set aside money for Safety & Security items identified by the Safety committee, led by Jim Gilman.

See Annual Meeting handouts for detailed numbers of the budget, a narrative budget and the allocation of the 2017 surplus.

Stewardship: Maryellen Young went on to report that our "Stewardship: A Way of Living" campaign for 2018, led by Judy Kistner with help from Jeannie Wells and herself, resulted in pledges of almost \$141,000, up from \$133,000 in 2017]. Although we received the same number of pledges for 2018 as we received last year, 56% of the 2018 pledges were increased over 2017, resulting in a 6% increase in total amount pledged. She attributed the increase in pledges to a "God thing" in that she got the idea of encouraging parishioners to consider increasing their pledge for 2018 even if it was just \$1/week/month/year as a step in their faith journey. We received pledges from 5 new people, replacing the 5 who either are no longer with us or unable to pledge in 2018. The resulting budget for 2018 is summarized in a meeting handout. While the 2018 budget is not balanced, the budget shortfall will be funded by the surplus from 2017

Outreach: Maryellen Young, chair of the Outreach Committee, continued her report. St. Alban's is committed to continuing outreach support for local food banks, the parish Discretionary Fund needs and Outreach donations. St. Alban's donated more than \$14,000 in 2017 to selected outside organizations and individuals, plus an additional \$4,000 at the Celebration of New and Mutual Ministry and Celtic Christmas Concert where the public at large also participated in making contributions. All these funds went to support worthy causes outside our walls and represent more than a tithe (10%) from St. Alban's to our greater community.

Celebration of our Ministries

Pat reminded those present that Stewardship is a Way of Life and that money is only part of one's commitment to the Lord and the church. Our members regularly donate their time and talent as well. Reports from many of our ministries are listed in the meeting handouts. Judy Kistner, chair of the Stewardship Committee, read a list of our many ministries and asked those who participated in each and were present to stand and be recognized. She reminded those present that this demonstrates how

hands, hearts, and treasures make up the ministries of the church. Those ministries include: Vestry, Stewardship, Outreach, Worship, Music, Altar Guild, Pastoral Care, Liturgy, Lay Readers, Ushers, Hospitality, Faith Formation, Sunday School, ECW, Eucharistic Visitors, Hem of His Garment, Buildings & Grounds, Safety & Security, Convention Delegates, Facilities Use, Communications, Endowment Board, Finance Committee, Officers of the Parish, Office/Administration, and that's a lot for a small church! See the Annual Report for reports for many of these ministries.

College for Congregational Development:

Rector Greg Peters reminded the attendees that participating in the Diocesan College for Congregational Development is one of the 3 goals set forth in the Mutual Ministry Agreement for 2017-18. This program was started in our own diocese and is spreading across the country. It involves attending classes 2 weeks each summer for two summers or 4 weekends per year for 2 years. It is a comprehensive training program that seeks to nurture and develop congregational development practitioners from within existing parish lay and clergy leadership, bringing leaders together from various churches to look at the reason we are here and how we can develop their worship and ministries to better serve Christ and the community. It helps us be who we are more effectively and authentically. Our team consists of Rector Greg Peters, Steve and Maureen Forsythe, and Jim Gilman. Their first weekend session is in February.

Buildings & Grounds Report

Junior Warden for Buildings & Ground, Phil McClelland, reported on the facility repairs and upgrades made in 2017. The roof required some major repair to stop the leaking and to do away with the crooked line of bowls down the center aisle. He reminded those present that this was a temporary fix and that a new roof is needed very soon. Additional repairs will not be viable. The old tractor was falling apart and had lived out its life, so a new, better grade more powerful tractor was purchased, which promises longevity. As a result of getting familiar with the new tractor, we replaced 3 broken windows, caused by flying rocks. Furnaces were an issue in 2017. The Sunday School Wing furnace quit working and needed a new heat exchange. Once that was done, the main building's furnaces had some parts fail, which caused a loss of heat. He reminded everyone of the Sunday we held service in the hall of the Sunday School Wing. The parts were still under warranty so we only paid for labor. Boy Scout Troop 300 again volunteered two days during the year, doing yard clean-up work – spring and fall. And Girl Scout dad, Brad Goergen, power washed the playground equipment. He then read off a whole list of things that still need to be done, including investigating in the replacement of the roofs of all 3 buildings.

Capital Campaign:

Introduction: Finance Chair, Maryellen Young, introduced the idea of a capital campaign to raise money for the deferred maintenance that needs doing. She told those present that we need to maintain and enhance the physical resources entrusted to us by God and those who have gone before us. We have been able to do some regular maintenance and upgrades in recent years, such as the new doors on the east and west ends of the main building, new furnaces in the main building, new carpet in the parish hall, new lighting in the main building, etc. However, one of the really big projects, replacement of the roof, has been in put off for many years, and we are now at the point that it must be done. The Annex ramp also needs to be replaced or repaired before it becomes a hazard. She passed out an introductory flyer that contained a prayer and a draft of the steps needed to conduct a capital campaign. It also displayed a logo that shows a church building with people holding hands in it and above the roof it say:

Our Faith, Our Future. She also provided cards and a basket at each table, and asked parishioners to write any suggestions they have for what they would like to see done. She also asked them to indicate on the card if they would be willing to help with the campaign, either in a fundraising or in a project management capacity. She reported that we have a start of the fund raising from a seed gift given, from some remaining funds in the Rectory Savings Account, and from the 2017 yearend budget surplus, totaling \$38,000. This will get us started. We also could use some endowment income to do a 1:1 match of gifts given.

Discussion: Wendre Vaughn reminded the group that we have 35 Boy Scouts in Troop 300, with 5 of them working on Eagle Scout project and more coming up the ranks. The Annex Ramp is a perfect Eagle Scout project. Maryellen told the group that we have investigated putting solar panels on the roof, but that an expert evaluated that and determined we don't get enough hours of sun to make it viable. Hearing no more discussion, Sr. Warden Pat Chandler commented that this is prayerful, generous, and hard working parish, and she is confident that we can get the job done.

Thanksgiving for Church Family & Ministries; Commissioning of Vestry & Convention Delegates

Karen Ford presented a special gift to Rector Greg Peters from the Altar Guild of a second new Alb, from England and measured to fit. (The first one was given before the Celebration of Mutual Ministry the previous October).

Rector Fr. Greg Peters then invited the current and new Vestry members, Convention Delegates, and members of the College for Congregational Development team to come forward for a commissioning blessing and prayer. A closing prayer of thanksgiving for our parish and its members were offered and the meeting was closed at 12:30.

Carrie M. Cone
Clerk of the Vestry
3/10/18