



# *The Albanac*

January 2011

## ANNUAL MEETING

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23rd**  
**at the 10 AM service**  
**(no 8 am service)**

**Three very important reasons to  
attend the Annual Meeting:**

Election of Vestry Members and  
Diocesan Convention Lay Deputies

Presentation of the 2011 Budget

Committee Reports presented



**The Nedds family has offered to host the entire Annual Meeting brunch following the 10AM service and meeting on Sunday! Thank you Nedds family!!**

**Instead of bringing a dish to share please join together and let's fill to overflowing the shopping baskets for the Center for Food Action. Baskets will be placed in the entrance to the church.**

**CAN WE TOP 150 FOOD ITEMS?!?!? LET'S DO IT!!!**

**DIOCESAN CONVENTION**  
**Friday, Jan. 28th-Saturday, Jan. 29th**

This year's convention will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Parsippany. The Rev. Kathryn King, Deacon Barbara Harriman, John Murphy, Megan Kendall and Bob Wurster are the deputies from St. Alban's.

They will report back to the congregation next Sunday, January 30th.

**Subtle messages are real messages**

I had been struggling with a piece of software that Chris LaCass had installed on the office computer to make my life easier. Chris was patiently trying to understand why. 'Well', I explained, 'there is this box around the page where the margins are and I don't like it ... it makes me feel completely boxed in and I don't like being boxed in!' After he finished laughing he changed the format on the screen and made the box go away. I am, at this very moment, working quite happily in the new software program.

I have a similar feeling of being boxed in on Sunday mornings and it is coupled with a feeling of boxing you all out. It happens as we receive the offering and are about to start the Eucharistic Prayer. Do you know what happens at that point in the service? The ushers, to facilitate a smooth distribution of communion at the rail, place the removable altar rail piece into the opening of the rail. It makes sense to do it then because that is when they are there. But I feel like it is blocking everyone else out - quite literally closing the gate! To me it says "Everyone who belongs in is already in and if you are not 'in' you don't belong here.' It may be a subtle message yet it is a real message and it does not accurately convey the message that we speak which is 'this is God's table and all are welcome here.'

It has gotten me thinking about other things in our parish life that are sending subtle yet real messages.

When the choir is practicing at the organ before the service we continue to talk as we walk in and out of the church and office doors. It is unfortunate that the choir does not have another place to rehearse but it doesn't. I am sure we do not intend for the message to be that the choir is not valued and the time that they offer in preparation for the beautification of our worship is unimportant – but I wonder if that is how it feels.

We stand and talk in the church rather than in the narthex prior to the service. This creates very audible voices in the church where some are preparing for worship and seeking quietness with God. I am sure that we do not intend for the message to be that their desire to seek Christ and prepare their hearts for worship is unimportant – but I wonder if that is the message we are sending.

The stairwell that most of us and our visitors climb each week to go to fellowship is a tower of tall, blank walls. The lighting is OK, the handrails are solid, and the stairs are kept clean.

It's just a stairwell, after all. But, is a stark, well lighted and clean space enough of a message to send about our life or is there a different message we want our physical space to convey?

And what about these subtle truths?

◆The largest picture hanging in the narthex of our parish family is from 2003! 75% of the children in the Christmas pageant this year aren't there nor is nearly the same percentage of our current congregation! Family constellations have changed and those images remain the same.

◆When sending new families to find our nursery and church school classes we have to give them directions and tell them room colors because there aren't signs posted on the walls and doors to clearly identify what happens there on Sunday mornings.

Some of the subtle messages are good ones too. For instance:

◆There is a genuine feeling of welcome and friendliness during the peace as everyone can expect to be greeted and newcomers are often invited to bring the bread and wine forward for the Eucharist. I think that says 'there is a place for you here'.

◆There are pew activity bags prepared for children to use in worship so that both parents and children may experience a peaceful time in worship (though I think we could do a better job of letting people know where they are!)

◆We offer wheat and gluten free options at the Eucharist for those who have allergies but, I need to put it in the bulletin so everyone knows!

These are just some things of which I am aware. It is by no means a complete list. We need all of us for that! So, here is the challenge. Please take a couple minutes and complete this little form and turn it in with your offering. I will gather these and share them with the wardens and vestry as part of our work to make sure that we are conveying the messages we want to convey. Because it is absolutely true that subtle messages are real messages. And we want every message we send to say "There is a place for you here and you are welcome here."

Peace,  
Kathryn+

A message I get at St. Alban's is \_\_\_\_\_

A message I want us to give is \_\_\_\_\_ and I suggest we:

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### **2010 PLEDGE UPDATE**

Is your pledge complete for 2010? Please check your 4th Quarter Pledge Sheet or call Diane Firkins at 201-337-4909 if you are uncertain. Thank you!

## THANK YOU FROM THE ESSEX COUNTY JAIL

On December 16th, a Christmas party was held for six Mothers and 9 children at the Essex County Correctional Facility. The Moms were thrilled that they were remembered by the people of St. Alban's. Through the generosity of the women of St. Alban's, we were able to give a gift bag containing the book, "Chicken Soup for The Prisoner's Soul" and soft white socks to each inmate. They asked me to thank you.

Deacon Harriman

### **NEEDED: New and Experienced Ushers for Rewarding and Essential Sunday Morning Positions**



Do you have a nice smile and friendly demeanor? Do you enjoy greeting people? Can you count to 100? Do you believe that St. Alban's is a place where everyone is welcome? Are you willing, about once a month, to arrive at church by 9:40AM, greet people as they arrive, and do a few jobs during the service to assist with the orderly, yet joyful, progress of the worship service? Well, then you are exactly who we are looking for!

We are currently looking to increase the number of people who are involved in our Ushers ministry. We have a solid and dedicated core who are ready for reinforcements. Because it is done as a team, ushering is one of those ministries that is perfect for newcomers and long-time parishioners alike. All that is required is a willingness to serve!

I will be holding an usher training session on Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> from 11:45 to 12:30PM. This is a session for all current ushers and those willing to join in this ministry. We will be walking through the tasks assigned to ushers on Sunday mornings. Some things will stay the same but some will be adjusted so it is important that everyone attend so that things continue to run smoothly.

If you think that this is a ministry in which you would like to become involved please speak with either Diane Rees or me.

Thank you!

Kathryn+

### **New Ministry Begin Launched Seeking 5 Detail Oriented People**

The current practice at St. Alban's is for the ushers to also serve as the counters for the Sunday offering. The practice in many churches is to separate the roles of ushers and counters to provide for increased involvement of parishioners and also



because the skill sets are different. We will be moving to separate the two positions here and so we are seeking adults to serve as counters. The counters responsibilities include:

- ◆Serving on a rotating basis, as part of a pair, to count the Sunday offering.
- ◆Fill out the 'counters sheet' which records donations by pledge numbers so that accurate records can be maintained by the church.
- ◆Prepare the bank deposit slip and place it in the locked bank deposit bag.

I am seeking to create 5 teams of two members each. Each team will consist of one vestry member and one person from the congregation at large. Teams will be assigned a specific week of the month (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, etc.) Special non-Sunday services will be assigned as needed. Training will be provided. Clear printed instructions will be passed out at the training session and available as part of the counter's regular supplies.

Please speak with Diane Rees or me if you are interested in serving in this ministry.

THE YOUTH & CHILDREN ENJOYED A BOWLING OUTING ON DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>.

## **"SOUP"ER BOWL SUNDAY** **February 6th**



### **BEAT TEAM HUNGER**

The Youth Group is asking everyone to bring a can of soup or a dollar to be donated to the Center for Food Action.

Thank you for your help!



## St. Alban's Pre-School

Our Pre-School is NOW ENROLLING

for the 2011-2012 School Year

2-year old through Kindergarten

- Known for excellence in education
- Classes include read & create, science, gym, music/creative movement & cooking
- Sport Court
- Full and half day classes
- Extended care available
- Pledging parishioners receive a 15% discount on tuition

201-337-5928

Teresa Ercan, Director

### OUTREACH

#### ***Christmas is for Children***

“The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there.”

Because of the overwhelming generosity of our St. Alban's family, the stockings of 30 underprivileged children were filled to capacity on Christmas morning. Toys, books, games, art supplies, and especially warm clothing for each child were delivered to Best Practices in Verona in time for Santa to arrive. What a wonderful surprise for each of these children to find a toy or game they wanted and a warm coat or outfit to wear to school.

St. Alban's has exclusively worked with Best Practices for the past 6 years, and this year was our best year for participation in Christmas is for Children. Working with his staff, Marcelo Gomez, Director of Best Practices, compiles a list of wants and needs for the children. This year we sponsored families which included 5 and 6 children.

Thank you all for opening your hearts and helping to support this program.

## **St. Paul's**

Organized by Sandy and Wally Weiss and attended by many from St. Alban's, a wonderful Christmas party was held for the men of St. Paul's on January 6. After a feast of ham, turkey, baked macaroni, vegetables and dessert was served, Santa and his elves arrived to hand out gifts. Each man received a warm shirt, gloves and socks, and a raffle of many extra gifts was held. It was a night of fun and fellowship for all.

Sandy and Wally have been serving St. Paul's for too many years to count. They have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to ensure that the men enjoy not only a warm and hearty dinner each month but a night of friendship as well. Thank you both for your enthusiastic commitment to St. Paul's. Keep up the good work!

## **Food Pantry**

Food collection for the Food Pantry will continue, and the shopping list will be included with the Sunday bulletin. For January we are collecting health and beauty items . . . toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant and bar soap. Items can be placed in the wicker basket in the Narthex or in the shopping cart at the bottom of the stairs.

Donations for the prison ministry will be also be collected. Items needed each month are:

Boxed macaroni and cheese (small)  
Individual boxes of raisins  
Fruit rollups  
Juice boxes  
"Jif To Go" peanut butter (individual packages)  
Ritz Fresh Stacks crackers

Paula Hoffman, Outreach, Vestry

## **CHRISTMAS IS FOR CHILDREN**

Dawn Berliner, Matthew Kordonsky and his friend Scott deliver gifts to Marcelo Gomez, Director of Best Practices

**FURNITURE AVAILABLE** - Please call Carol Guzzo at 201-465-4116 if interested

Two small desks about 2 years old - one is black wood and the other is birch veneer and metal.

Glider chair - oak with padding on the top and bottom

Side table - glass top with wicker bottom

## THANK YOUS

*Dear saints of St. Alban's,*

*I was blessed and humbled by the Christmas gift check from all of you. I so appreciate the outpouring of care shown toward me and all the St. Alban's parish staff. I hope that in a couple months you will be able to see an outward and visible sign of how Nicholas and I are using the gift because we are using it for puppy training classes for Joy! She is the cutest puppy I have ever had but she is a terrier! I have had goldens in the past and I have told people that when you are training a golden you say 'jump' and they ask 'how high and how many times'. You ask a wheaten terrier and they say 'yes, I know exactly what you want but what's in it for me?'*

*For this gift and all the ways that Nicholas and I are gifted in our ministry here thank you.*

*Kathryn*



- Paula Hoffman, Dawn and Wayne Berliner for organizing *Christmas Is for Children*
- Sandy and Wally Weiss for collecting gifts for St. Paul's
- Dagi Murphy for Prison Ministry children's gifts
- Barbara Harriman for gifts for the women in prison
- Jessica Picinich for collecting gifts for the children at Shelter Our Sisters
- To all the parishioners who donated gifts to all the programs above
- All service participants
- Lou Fifer and the readers for Lessons and Carols
- Altar Guild and volunteers for decorating the church so beautifully
- Frank Van Dyke for lighting the stained glass windows

- Trish Beck for organizing the poinsettia sale and the whole Beck family for arranging them
- Don LaCass for decorating the planters
- Kathryn for the Christmas Eve reception
- Bob Wurster for bringing the seasonal saints to joyful life
- The Crafters for baking St. Nicholas cookies
- Chris LaCass for his continued tech support and expertise
- The Office Angels for help with mailings and Christmas bulletins
- Helen Franke and volunteers for their work on the Christmas pageant and to all the children who participated
- Ray Pool for playing the harp on Christmas Eve
- To graduate and senior acolytes who stepped in for Christmas services
- John Murphy and all the carolers who sang at Oak Ridge Rehabilitation Center
- Sue Lister who arranged for the pizza party at the Greening of the Church
- Ed Bristol for creating a program to record the Time & Talent responses
- John Murphy for the Emergency Evacuation signs he made for the Church & Pre-School
- Bruce Ercan for changing countless light bulbs
- The Rev. Alan King for serving on Christmas Eve
- Kayla Knox and Beatrice Zamfir for providing childcare
- Don LaCass for cleaning out the light fixtures in the Narthex

*Bless you all for your kindness!*



## BIBLE READINGS

### **Sunday, January 2**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  
Psalm 84  
Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a  
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

### **Sunday, January 16**

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-12  
1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### **Sunday, January 30**

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

### **Sunday, January 9**

Isaiah 35:1-10  
Psalm 146:4-9  
James 5:7-10  
Matthew 11:2-11

### **Sunday, January 23**

Isaiah 9:1-4  
Psalm 27:1, 5-13  
1 Corinthians 1:10-18  
Matthew 4:12-23

## **Prayers of the People – January**

Our thanksgivings and intercessions:

We continue to pray for all who are affected by war, hunger and other calamities and ask for God's grace upon those who work for peace and restoration.

We give thanks for all the blessings of life. We pray for our companions in Paterson.

We pray for those who are unemployed and under-employed.

We pray for those who are ill: Mercedes, Anne, Janet, Jeanne, Linda, Fred, Brenden, Rachel, Joan, Jill, Jan, Marie, Harry, the McCurdy family, Brenda, Tim, Earl, Keith



We pray for those who have died, especially Alice Draper and Jana Stark. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

## ***St. Alban's Episcopal Church***

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The Most Rev. Katharine J. Schori, Presiding Bishop

The Rt. Rev. Mark Beckwith, Bishop, Newark Diocese

The Rev. Kathryn L. King, *Rector*

The Rev. Barbara Harriman, *Deacon*

Diane Firkins, *Parish Administrator*

Lou Fifer, *Minister of Music*

Don La Cass, Phyllis Alsdorf, *Wardens*

Carol Guzzo, *Clerk*     Kathy Miles, *Treasurer*

### *Vestry:*

Trish Beck, Rick Hanifan, Paula Hoffman, Megan Kendall, Cindy Ludwig,  
Lois Mahonchak, Steve Meetre, Linda Nazare, Will Nedds

## ***St. Alban's Pre-School***

Teresa Ercan, *Pre-School Director*

### *Teachers:*

Tina Marie Bell, Cathy Connolly, Elisa Farhi, Dawn Ferraro, Cathy Mazzola,  
Christy Macagne, Rosa Mignogni, Beth Schall, Freida Scillieri

*“Welcoming All To Share God’s Love”*