

The Albanac

JANUARY 2014

ANNUAL MEETING and SINGLE SERVICE OF WORSHIP @ 10AM SUNDAY, JANUARY 26th

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 26th. As is our custom, we will gather for a single service of Holy Eucharist at 10AM. The meeting will take place during the service with the Rector's report occurring at the sermon time. A potluck luncheon will follow.

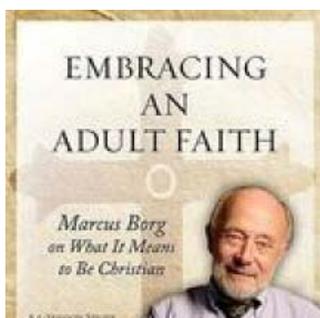
At the Annual Meeting, which is required by our By-Laws and State Statute, we will hold a general meeting of the members of the parish, hold elections for Vestry, hear a budget presentation by the Finance Committee, and take up such other reports as deemed necessary for our common life.

We will also make use of the new TV screens and view a glimpse of our parish life in 2013.

This is an important aspect of our life together and all are strongly encouraged to be in attendance. Nursery care provided and children's Sunday school will meet.

Reminder to all Committee Chairpersons:

Annual reports are due in the church office by **January 15th**
(ready to be copied format or e-mailed, please!)



LENTEN STUDY 2014 EMBRACING AN ADULT FAITH With Marcus Borg

Five consecutive Sundays, March 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th
(You do not need to be able to attend all sessions to participate)

11:45 to 12:45 with soup and bread

Child Care will be provided

Please sign-up in the narthex so we have a workbook for you

What It Means to Be Christian

Embracing an Adult Faith is part of the EMBRACING education series produced by Moorehouse Education Resources, a Division of Episcopal Church Publishing.

It is an exciting and engaging five-session adult formation resource for those seeking a richer understanding of issues in contemporary Christian practice and theology: Who is Jesus? Who is God? What is salvation? How do we practice our faith? How do we live in community?"

The series is designed to be used in this way: We watch and listen to bestselling author and theologian, Marcus Borg, stimulate a thoughtful and heartfelt conversation among a small group of participants, captured on a DVD. We then take off from there, delving more deeply into each session's theme. As group members we become teachers for one another as we discuss and share together in an adult learning setting.

Ruth Ann Collins, Adult Formation Officer for The Episcopal Church had this to say about the program: What a refreshing and long overdue resource. Finally an adult formation resource which respects the subject matter, the teacher and the learner! This resource is a must for anyone who is committed to bringing transformative faith formation experiences to adults and congregations.

Marcus Borg is Canon Theologian at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Protland, Oregon. Internationally known in both academic and church circles as a biblical and Jesus scholar, he was Hunderer Chair of Religion and Culture in the Philosophy Department at Oregon State University until his retirement in 2007. He is the author of nineteen books, including Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time, The God We Never Knew, Reading the bible Again for the First time, and the Heart of Christianity. His newest book is: Conversations with Scripture.

This is just one topic in the **EMBRACING** series. If we find this meaningful we will use more going forward. Others in the series include: **Embracing Emergent Christianity** with **Phyllis Tickle** and **Embracing the Prophets and Confronting the Pharoahs** with **Walter Brueggeman**.



Update on the Organist Search Process

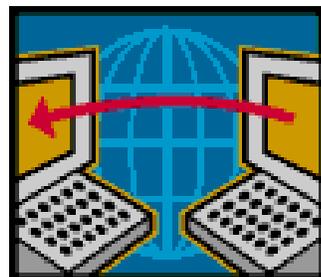
And the song goes on ... and on ... and on!

As you are all aware, since the departure of our wonderful Lou Fifer in October of 2012 we have been blessed with many months of George Wessner, a couple months of Eugene Siroken, a number of weeks of Peter Candera, three weeks of Dylan Wyka and thankfully very few weeks of 'others' that were not ... well, as much of a blessing! Unfortunately, none of these are interested in a regular position. So, I have continued to make connections with other organists and the American Guild of Organists to identify candidates to lead us in music for worship and to direct our faithful and joyful choir.

We were able to identify a candidate who is interested in the regular position and we are in the process of discernment to determine if this is a good match for us. We will keep you posted as the process continues.

I want to thank the members of the choir who have stayed faithful during these transitions and have offered to be part of this ongoing process.

Ministry Scheduler Pro – The Year in Review A Story of Success, Frustration, and Progress



We started out 2013 with high hopes for instant success with the new online scheduling program, Ministry Scheduler Pro. Kathleen Kerin, one of our seminarians last year, took on the task of gathering and entering the profile information that would allow for a computer generated schedule for all ministry positions associated with the Sunday morning service as well as some meeting and volunteer opportunities. While the gathering of the profile information went reasonably as planned, the entering and keying of the information proved more of a challenge. The anticipated April online launch came and went as we discovered, as is not too uncommon with computer programs, that a little box checked or left un-checked makes a world of difference.

In September we were finally ready to attempt our first 'live' schedule. For some it worked very well, for others it seemed that information they had loaded for times that they would not be available were overlooked by the scheduling system. We discovered another layer of 'boxes' – fixed those ... we think! Another challenge is getting all participants to input their 'not available to serve' dates before the system generates the schedule. The December / January schedule was not without problems but there were far fewer.

In addition to the computer generated schedule and the ability for people to indicate their preferences for serving, one of the enticing features is that people can request a sub if their availability changes after the schedule is generated. The program will then automatically send an email out to everyone else in that ministry (acolytes for instance) seeking a sub. We then discovered the wrinkle that when someone accepts the 'sub' request it has to be processed by the administrator in order for the change to be made and everyone notified that the cycle was complete. Now we know that and have ironed that wrinkle!

So, we believe that we are very close to having Ministry Scheduler Pro working well. The schedule for February through Easter will be generated on January 22nd. All service participants have been contacted to input their availability dates no later than January 20th. We THINK we have got everyone's names spelled correctly. We THINK we have got everyone's email addressed correct. We THINK we have learned the system for processing everyone's requests ... and we THINK we have established the administration system that will make it all work. We THINK ... and time will tell.

So thank you to everyone who serves. Thank you to everyone who has been faithful, and patient, in giving feedback along the way. We THINK ... and PRAY!!! ... we have got this now!

IF YOU ARE AN ACOLYTE, USHER, GREETER, COUNTER, CLOSER, COFFEE HOUR HOST, EUCHARISTIC MINISTER, or READER PLEASE INPUT ANY DATES THAT YOU ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO SERVE NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JANUARY 20th.

IF YOU NEED HELP LOGINING ON PLEASE CALL THE
PARISH OFFICE.



Being a Eucharistic Minister

Eucharistic Ministers assist the clergy in the distribution of the Sacrament and at St. Alban's they also lead the Prayers of the People. They and other members of the Worship Committee: lectors, ushers, greeters, altar guild, and choir contribute to making the celebration a meaningful experience for the parish each Sunday, and on special occasions.

All adult members of St. Alban's and teens who have been confirmed, are encouraged to join in this ministry. Eucharistic ministers may choose to sit in the congregation during the service without vesting, and assist on the altar after the offering. Arrangements can be made for family members to serve together on the same day.

If you are interested in being trained for service in this ministry, please speak with me or a member of the clergy.

Jeanne Sylvester, Vestry Liaison Worship Committee

2014 Stewardship

Thank you for prayerfully completing and returning your Pledge Card for 2014.
If for some reason you were unable to get to it until now
we appreciate your prompt attention.

Thank you!

The Work of Christmas

When the star in the sky is gone,
When the Kings and Princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
The work of Christmas begins.
To find the lost.
To heal the broken.
To feed the hungry.
To release the prisoner.
To teach the nations.
To bring Christ to all.
To make music in the heart.

By Howard Thurman

To all the saints of St. Alban's,

Please accept my sincere thanks for the generous purse given to me at Christmas.
As usual, your generosity to me is more than kind.

Blessings,
Deacon Barbara

Dear Saints of St. Alban's,

Thank You for the generous Christmas gift! It was so thoughtful of you to think of me.
Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Love,
Teresa



A performance of Silent Night with handbells during the Holiday Sing A Long led by our music teacher Reverend Kathryn

YOUTH MINISTRY



Hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season!!

I want to thank all of the Youth that participated in the Christmas Pageant - you all did a wonderful job!! It is so important for the older "Youth" of the church to assist our younger parishioners in our church traditions! You all are role models for them and they really look up to you! Great job! As part of this responsibility, I will be working with our Church School committee so that some of our Senior Youth can help to teach Church School on certain Sundays. This is a great experience and a way to give back to the church for all you have learned from your church school experiences over the years.

We had an enlightening experience caroling for the Veterans in Paramus. (*See photos on back pages*) Everyone brought their best voices and I know we were all touched with the responses we saw from the residents there! The kids had lots of questions on the way home. These experiences really do help to start conversations on how much outreach and doing things for others really mean to people. It put us all in the Christmas spirit! Looking forward to continuing with these service projects throughout the year!

We ended the month tubing at Campgaw during school vacation!

Our Tri Parish Youth Council has been discussing various church events to help raise money for our 2014 Summer Mission Trip!! Our first will be to offer a Parent's Night Out for all of the church's

children ages 3-11yrs on January 25th 6:00-9:00 at St John's Ramsey! There will be a movie and pizza! Wear your PJs!!

As always, I welcome any suggestions or comments!! Please feel free to contact me anytime!

Megan
201-951-1121
meganpk@ymail.com

Youth Upcoming Events:

January 12th - Junior Group Meeting 4:00-6:00 St Alban's

January 13th - Council Meeting 7:30 St Alban's - all Representatives encouraged to attend (revised date due to weather cancellation last week)

January 25th - Parent's Night Out - 6:00-9:00 at St John's Ramsey
Youth providing Movie night at St John's for children of the parishes ages 3-11yrs so that parents can enjoy some time out! A donation of 10.00 per child (20.00) per family will help to support our Summer 2014 Mission Trip!

January 26th - Senior Group Meeting 4:00-6:00 St Alban's

Megan's Worship Schedule:

January 5th - St John's

January 12th - Trinity

January 26th - St Alban's

During each of my visits, we will continue to work on each parish's Youth Group bulletin board. Please bring any pictures you may have!

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Christmas Gifting Tree

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

This year was no exception . . . every year our St. Alban's family opens their hearts and generously purchases gifts for those in need. From our Giving Tree we supported 20 children (10 from Oakland families) and 16 disabled adults and helped to make their Christmas merrier. We are truly blessed to be able to help others in need. Thank you all for opening your hearts and for your overwhelming generosity.



St. Paul's

The snow could not keep us away! We served a delicious ham dinner with all the trimmings to the men of St. Paul's on January 2. After dinner and dessert were served, gifts of a warm shirt, gloves and socks were given to each of the 24 residents. It was a great night of fellowship for all.

Veteran's Home (See photos on back pages)

On December 22, about 20 St. Alban's adult and youth members went caroling and visiting the men and women at the Veteran's Home in Paramus. Thanks to the direction of the Capeci family, we were able to sing our way through the many wings of the building, chatting with the residents and handing out gifts of warm lap throws, socks and puzzle books. Our plans are to visit again in the spring.



Upcoming Events

Spectrum for Living - The residents from Spectrum for Living had such a great time in October that they've asked if they can come back! We are tentatively planning on having a Saint Patrick's Day lunch and celebration for them on March 9. Please contact Paula Hoffman, Michele Capeci or Don LaCass if you are interesting in helping out.

Bowling Sunday - Would anyone like to go bowling again? Our Bowling Sunday last year was such a great success, we would like to do it again but we need someone to organize it this year. There's not much to do – just book the date at Holiday Bowl and sign everyone up. See Paula Hoffman if you can do the planning.



Relay for Life - Relay for Life is a life-changing event that gives everyone a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost, and fight back against the disease and this year will be held this year on Friday, May 30, at Ramapo High School. Our last team, the Saints of St. Alban's, participated in 2012 with 45 members and finished second in fund raising amounts. It's always a very moving but also a fun-filled night. We always have many participants but we need a new team captain this year. Please contact Don LaCass or Paula Hoffman if you are interested.

Paula Hoffman

DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA BED?



Does anyone have a twin bed frame and mattress set that could use a new home? We have had a request for one. If someone has one available, please contact the parish office.



FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

6:00 – 9:00 PM

Kindergarten through 5th grade may participate

(6th – 12th grade may assist)

PNO is a long-standing and loved tradition at St. Alban's and we were happy to bring it back starting in December! It was a fun (and BUSY!) night with a good time had by all. Thanks to Audrey Sounders and Reverend Kathryn who pulled it all together. The evening is meant to be an opportunity for our younger children to have a special time with their church friends while giving parents an opportunity to enjoy dinner together.

Kathryn is offering to continue to host the events at the rectory in the Youth Center. One additional adult volunteer is needed each time. Additionally youth (6th grade and up – up to 4 helpers each PNO) can volunteer to help out and enjoy being together as well!

Kids may come in pajamas or play clothes.

For planning purposes we need to know by Wednesday, January 29th who will be attending so that supper and supplies can be organized.

PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE TO RESERVE A SPOT FOR YOUR CHILD.

IF YOU HAVE A MIDDLE SCHOOL OR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH WHO WOULD LIKE TO ASSIST PLEASE ALSO NOTIFY THE OFFICE AND KATHRYN WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THEM TO DISCUSS THE EVENING.

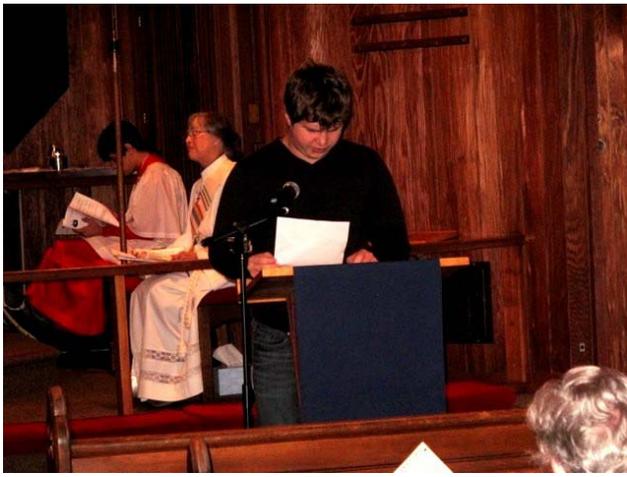
THE FEAST OF ST. NICHOLAS



LESSONS & CAROLS



GREENING OF THE CHURCH



GREENING OF THE CHURCH



CAROLING AT THE VETERANS HOME IN PARAMUS





Christmas Pageant





Youth Snowtubing Trip



A Prayer for Being Ourselves

Let us be still and know that we are not God!
Let us be aware of God's continuing and compassionate presence.
Let us be sensitive to our particular strengths and weaknesses.
Let us be open to new faces, new ideas, new ways.
Let us be quiet long enough to hear God's voice and our neighbor's cry.
Let us be fair, be friendly, be faithful.
Let us be adults in the world and yet still Children of God. Amen.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

-Taken from: Intercessions for the Christian People

JANUARY MILESTONES

Birthdays: 7th Bob Barker, 8th Bill DeLorenzo, 9th Heidi McCallum, Leigh Beck, 10th Nicole Beyda, 11th Carolyn O'Neill, Judy White, 13th Bob Block, 15th Heather Potash, 18th Will Nedds, Gabi Dugan, 20th Shane Mohamed, 23rd Bruce Gilliard, 25th Pam Hellenen, 28th Bob White, 30th Jim McCallum

Anniversaries: 8th Jane & Leigh Lydecker

Dear Friends,

Thanks to all of you for the warm and supportive welcome I have received. Your generous Christmas gift was very much appreciated. Thank you and a very Happy New Year to all of you!

Sincerely,
Christine

Dear St. Alban's Saints,

Each Christmas since my arrival I have been the grateful recipient of a generous Christmas purse gift. I cannot tell you what a blessing it is and the timing is always perfect for something. You may have noticed that our 2001 station wagon is no longer a resident of 950 Surrey Lane. Our cute new Kia Soul is happily occupying that space and a portion of this gift will help with this welcome addition. The other bit will be tucked away for our February visit to my see my parents.

It continues to be my privilege to walk this journey in your midst.

With thanksgiving and joy,
Kathryn+



- ❖ Everyone who responded so generously with Christmas gifts for families in need, the Veteran's Home residents and the men of St. Paul's Shelter and our new opportunities with children in Oakland.
- ❖ To everyone who contributed to the decoration of the church for our Christmas season and all the willing hands and joyful hearts that greened and un-greened the church!
- ❖ To the altar guild and Louise Gilliard who roll up their sleeves for the added work of the season with faithful hearts and joyful countenance.
- ❖ For all the service participants: ushers, acolytes, choir, greeters, readers, Eucharistic Ministers, our seminarian and clergy, organists, parish administrator, office angels, bookkeeper, vestry and everyone who makes all we do in Christ's name possible.
- ❖ To the adults who assisted with the Christmas pageant, Sandy Dugan, Kristopher and Katie Beier, Carol Guzzo, Linda Nazare, Amy Rogers, Cathie and Jay Studwell, Audrey Souders, Kathie Miles, Megan Kendall, Chitra Mohamad, and Kathryn.
- ❖ To all our kids and youth who unfolded before the mystery of the Word made flesh.
- ❖ To Colleen Habick who assisted Kathryn with the preparations for the Epiphany Open House at the rectory and everyone who shared food and fellowship on that wonderful afternoon.

**Thanks to all the saints of St. Alban's who give generously
of their time, talent and treasure.**



BIBLE READINGS

Sunday, January 5

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

Sunday, January 19

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

Sunday, January 12

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

Sunday, January 26

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: especially Luciano, Carol, Brendan, Colton, Patty, Tony, Gloria, Minerva "Minnie", Judy, Mercedes, Stephen, Keith, Gerry, Christine, Mike, Ashley, Stephanie, Cassidy, Julia, Frank, Mary, Brenda and Carol and Goren.



We pray for those who have died. May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, rough the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

JOURNEY OF THE MAGI

by T.S. Elliot

Submitted by Gene Bristol

"A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a long journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter."
And the camels galled, sore footed, refractory,
Lying down in the melting snow.
There were times we regretted
The summer palaces on slopes, the terraces,
And the silken girls bringing sherbet.
Then the camel men cursing and grumbling
And running away, and wanting their liquor and
women,

And the night-fires going out, and the lack
of shelters,
And the cities hostile and the towns unfriendly
And the villages dirty and charging high prices:
A hard time we had of it.
At the end we preferred to travel all night,
Sleeping in snatches,
With the voices singing in our ears, saying
That this was all folly.

Then at dawn we came down to a temperate valley,
Wet, below the snow line, smelling vegetation;
With a running stream and a water-mill beating
the darkness,
And three trees on the low sky,
And an old white horse galloped away in the meadow.
Then we came to a tavern with vine-leaves over
the lintel,
Six hands at an open door dicing for pieces of silver,
And feet kicking the empty wine-skins.
But there was no information, and so we continued
And arrived at evening, not a moment too soon
Finding the place; it was (you may say) satisfactory.

All this was a long time ago, I remember,
And I would do it again, but set down
This set down
This: were we led all that way for
Birth or Death? There was a Birth, certainly,
We had evidence and no doubt. I had seen birth
and death,
But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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www.stalbansflow.org

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*
Cathie Studwell, *Seminarian*
Megan Kendall, *Youth Missioner*
Christine Halloran, *Parish Administrator*
Nell Burger, *Bookkeeper*

Don La Cass, Cindy Ludwig, Ron Potash, *Wardens*
Pam Hellenen, *Clerk* Kathy Miles, *Treasurer*

Vestry: Gary Friedman, Carol Guzzo, Paula Hoffman,
McCallum, Linda Nazare, Jeanne Sylvester

St. Alban's Pre-School

Teresa Ercan, *Pre-School Director*

Teachers:

Cathy Connolly, Cathy Mazzola,
Christy Macagne, Rosa Mignogni, Beth Schall, Freida Scillieri, Jill Zuidema

"Welcoming All To Share God's Love"