

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Oakland & Franklin Lakes

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 17, 2021

WEEKEND UPDATE

BRING YOUR BELLS TO CHURCH TO RING!!!



For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dearest Saints of St. Alban's,

For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven.

This Sunday will be our final worship together as priest and family of faith. It will mark the ending of a period of my ministry for which I am deeply grateful. It has been over a decade rich with grace and challenges. We will offer all of those before the altar and placing it all in God's hands.

There is another conclusion that we will mark on Sunday ... **THE END OF DEBT!!** On Tuesday, we closed on the sale of the property and the mortgage with Valley National Bank was retired! Over the next weeks all the financial pieces will be sorted out and our internal and external

obligations fulfilled and accounts restored. This has been nearly a decade of tireless and often challenging efforts by many. We will begin the service by burning the mortgage.

Please bring bells with you so that, as we ring bells to celebrate new life in Christ at Easter so we may ring our bells with joy to celebrate this new day in the life of this faithful community of worship and ministry.

It is a milestone day in our life together. I hope that those who are comfortable and able will join us in person and those not able to be present will join us online.

Blessings in Christ,
Kathryn+

Come Worship with Us...



This Sunday we will be holding In-Person Worship at 10 AM.

WE WILL BE INDOORS WITH PLENTY OF ROOM FOR DISTANCING. PLEASE WEAR A MASK FOR SINGING, AND BE CONSCIOUS OF SOCIAL DISTANCING

PLEASE JOIN US!!!

No preregistration is necessary but there will be a sign-in book upon entrance.

The Zoom Information and Sunday Bulletin for the service will be forwarded in a separate email.



Come Worship with Us...



What Happens Now?

Now that Kathryn has announced that she will be concluding her ministry among us at St. Alban's, what happens now? Well, the first thing is that we will take the next few weeks to let the news settle in, give thanks for all that has been, and be intentional about saying good-bye to each other. We all are embarking on a new time in our lives as we continue to faithfully serve Christ but will be doing so in different places.

Bishop Carlye Hughes and Canon Margo Clark are fully aware of the transition time ahead and are committed to partnering with us so that we can plan and step boldly into the future that God envisions for us. But just as important will be the discernment that we will enter into to assess what future we hear God calling us into as well as what we want for ourselves and our beloved church family. Even if we were not entering a clergy transition this would be a time of transition for us because we are completing the sale of the property, retiring the debt, and ... oh yes ... there is the pandemic still hanging around and impacting nearly every aspect of our lives!

Canon Clark's area of ministry responsibility is clergy deployment and parish transition. She brings important skills and experience to working closely with congregations in just such times as these. **Canon Clark will be at St. Alban's on Sunday, October 24th to preach and preside. She will engage in conversation and next-steps to engage the process moving forward.**

Until then, please keep our parish family as well as Kathryn and Nicholas in your daily prayers. May we all find a lively sense of God's presence with us as we journey forward into all that is yet to be.

The Reverend Canon Margo Peckham Clark, Canon for Congregational Life, will be at St. Alban's on Sunday, October 24th at 10 AM to preside, preach, and begin the conversation about what is next for us as a parish.

Please be sure to be either present in-person or on Zoom to be part of the conversation and learn about the path forward.



**The Reverend Canon Margo Peckham Clark
Canon for Congregational Life**

We are called in this moment to reflect on the cycle of abundance sparked with the first light and made manifest in the Creation, in the calling of prophets, and in the gift of God’s own son on Earth. As we share our gifts through the Eucharist and through our service to the world, we participate in the ongoing creation of abundance and generosity.

Every Perfect Gift

 *The Gift of Helping a Stranger*

Last summer, I ran out of gas at a gas station. The car stopped moving a few yards from the pump. To my great relief, another customer came over and offered to push my car to the pump.

Before this kind, young person drove away, I shouted “Wait!” and hurried toward him.

He shook his head from side to side. “I don’t want anything for helping you,” he declared.

“Not even homemade chocolate chip cookies?” I countered.

He laughed, took the bag of cookies, and thanked me.

When we share the gift of being human beings together, especially in difficult moments, we slip into an awareness of abundance. We feel full. We know goodness given and received. Travels continue. Cookies and laughter are enjoyed. Every good gift comes from God, and in sharing our gifts we become even more gifted, whether or not we are recognized or rewarded for sharing.

Sometimes we step up to help from a desire for recognition. We offer our gifts, like James and John in today’s Gospel text, out of loyalty to Jesus and a desire to be useful. Our egos may be attached in healthy, or unhealthy, ways.

Sometimes we share a gift without expectations. We give without needing recognition. We push a car for a stranger and get a tired priest, her daughter and two dogs back on the road to Vacationland.

Making an annual financial commitment to a congregation is like offering to push a stranger’s car to a gas pump. It gets ministry moving. We seek no recognition, yet are rewarded in surprising ways. We offer our gifts because doing so creates the type of world we want to inhabit – a world where strangers collaborate and laugh together during a frustrating and embarrassing experience, sharing every good gift along the way. | tens.org

The Rev’d. Dina Van Klaveren is Rector of St. Andrew’s in Glenwood, Maryland and a member of the TENS Board of Directors.



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

Are you a person who easily receives gratitude or compliments from others, or do they make you feel shy? What is it like to be recognized for your giving?



All Hallow's Eve ~ Sunday, October 31st ~ 10 AM Service

~ Indoor Worship with Outdoor Broadcast on TV Monitor for social distancing

~ Wear your costumes to church and join your St. Alban's family for some fun following our 10 AM Service

~ Outdoor parade of costumes and trunk or treat

~ For planning purposes, we will need a count of volunteers providing treats (nut free please) as well as children participating ~

PLEASE JOIN US ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!



PLEASE JOIN US ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31ST

Wear your costumes to church and enjoy outdoor

Trunk or Treating

immediately following our 10 AM Service

Please respond to the office by Monday, October 25th and let us know if you will be attending and if you will be passing out treats (treats should be nut free). We look forward to seeing all of our young church / families costumes this year! Light refreshments will be served.





All Saints Sunday

**Since All Hallow's Eve is on Sunday, October 31st,
we will be observing All Saints /All Souls Day at
our 10 AM Service on Sunday, November 7th**

**We will start taking names for remembrance on
that day next week.**

**Please watch your parish email for more
information.**

Used Bicycle & Sewing Machine Drive



Saturday, October 16, 2021

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Parking lot of St. John's Episcopal Church
East Main Street, Ramsey**

We are collecting bikes and sewing machines to be put to good use in the developing world. Bikes should be in reasonably good condition and sewing machines should be functional.

pedals for progress

sewing for peace

www/p4p.org



Just a reminder to please continue to send in your pledges either by mailing them into the church office or through our online giving on our website at <http://www.stalbansflow.org/> Your support is greatly appreciated!

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If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please email the parish office stalbansofl@optimum.net .

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ALTAR CANDLE WEEKLY DEDICATIONS AVAILABLE

St. Alban's will be again offering an opportunity to remember your loved ones with a weekly dedication of the lit sanctuary candle. For a \$10 donation, your loved ones will be remembered in memory or thanksgiving during our weekly prayers and bulletin as well as dedicating the lit sanctuary candle to them for the week beginning on the Sunday Service of your choosing.

If you are interested in making a donation, you can either mail in your check with the names of your dedication or make a donation directly on our website <http://stalbansflow.org/> All dedications must be made by Thursday of the week prior to the date of your choosing.

If you have any questions, please contact the parish office at 201-337-4909.



Don't forget to choose St. Alban's as your designated charity at smile.amazon.com/ch/04-3802711 to generate donations for Rector Wardens Vestrymen of St Albans Episcopal Church in OfI and check out our [AmazonSmile Charity Lists](#) to donate items we need most.

