

January 2012

Rector:

The Rev. Julie E.
Calhoun-Bryant

Wardens:

Mary (Kiki) White
Bobbi Lombardo
Sue Grosso
(Warden Emeritus)

Vestry:

Dick Askeland
Andrew Augustine
Beth Beehner
Pat Greenow
Bob Maynard
Denis (Skip) Visco

Vestry Clerk:

Kate Bell

Organist-Choir:

Phoebe
Swope-Askeland

Parish Secretary:

Arthur Friedel, III

Treasurer:

Kathleen Eckermann

Financial Secretary & Webmaster:

David Gregg

Property Chair:

Lee Eckles

Fellowship Chair:

Bobbi Lombardo

Finance: Allen Ditch

Outreach Chair:

Sharon Wilson

St. Alban's Episcopal Church Syracuse, New York

Sunday Schedule: January 8, 15 and 22

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, traditional language
9:00 a.m. Jan. 8: First Sunday Coffee Hour
Jan. 15 and 22: Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with Music & Choir
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

The Annual Meeting of St. Alban's Episcopal Church is Sunday, January 29.

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with Choir and Rector's Address
10:00 a.m. Opening Prayers, Nominations, Opening of Polls
and Treasurer's Report in the church

Convene to the Fellowship Room for a Continental Breakfast.
Annual Meeting continues after people are served and settled.

To Be Elected

1 Warden for a 2 year term
2 Vestry Members for 3 year terms

Deadline for nominations is one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

January Dates of Note

Saturday, January 7 is Kids Night Out

From 5:00-8:00 p.m. kids in grades K-8 are invited to come for
games, crafts, and more. Guest art teacher at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner included. Only \$5 per kid.

Tuesday, January 17 at Noon: Daytime Fellowship Lunch

Everyone is invited to join us at the Olive Garden. Unlimited soup,
salad and breadsticks is only \$7. Guests always are welcome.

Next Lunch: Valentine's Day

Sunday, January 22 - Afternoon at the Movies

At 12:30 p.m. the movie Soul Surfer will be shown on the new 32"
flat screen TV in the Fellowship Room. Soul Surfer is the incredible
true story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a
shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a
champion again through her sheer determination and unwavering
faith. The movie's rated PG. Microwave popcorn & soda provided.

Next Movie: The King's Speech, February 26

Mother Julie's Schedule (subject to change)

St. Alban's Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
(315) 446-3490
www. stalban.us

Week of:

Jan. 8: Out of the office for Cont. Education & Retreat

Jan. 15: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Jan. 22: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday

Jan. 29: Sunday, Tuesday a.m., Thursday, Sat. p.m.

Office hours: Tues.-Friday
9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Rector's email: rector@stalban.us

Organist's email: phoebe@stalban.us

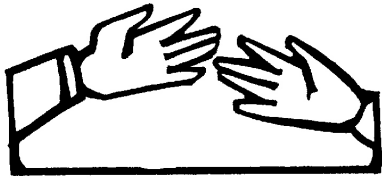
Office email:
stalbans@juno.com

Meetings	Annual Meeting	Happy Birthday!
<u>January 18</u> Wardens at 6:00 p.m. Vestry at 7:00 p.m. <u>February 2 at 5:45 p.m.</u> Worship Work Group	<u>January 29 at 9:00 a.m.</u> Holy Eucharist and Annual Meeting Continental Breakfast served at 10:15 a.m.	January 3 Nancy Vogt 5 Lorraine Merrick Jimmy Grosso is 20 6 Shirley North 8 Meg Houston is 16 13 Pauline Stanley is ? 15 Joyce Eckles 18 Mimi Osmun Early February 3 Maryann Tripp is 85 4 Renie Norton Brittany Beehner
<u>Parish Budget</u> Income: November - \$7,276.94 Expenses: November - \$9,684.82 Deficit to Date: \$17,619.59 Projected Deficit to Date: \$23,655.31		

New Items for a New Year from the Memorial Fund

- 1) Portable Speaker System and Microphone: \$171 - Unit can be connected to an iPod, microphone or computer.
- 2) Table for the Rector's office: \$239 (original price: \$999) - Table is 54" by 36" and has a butterfly leaf that folds out to make it 54" square. The office didn't have a table.
- 3) 32" flat screen, HDTV for the Fellowship Room: \$280 (original price: \$350) - This TV replaces the old style 20" TV; it has a USB and a computer port, as well as the usual two ports for gaming systems.

Note: The Memorial Fund had a balance of \$17,661.79 before purchases were made.



Outreach Ministries

1) Kids Night Out Continues on January 7, February 4 and March 3

Kids Night Out is the program we began offering last year for youth from the neighborhood and parish. It's held on the first Saturday of the month, November to March, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. All kids in grades K-8 are invited. Last month 9 children from the neighborhood attended, along with 2 from the parish. Kids from a new family came in both November and December.

Volunteers are needed to assist the core leadership team in running the program. The core team members are Kate Bell, Mother Julie, Sue Grosso, Sharon Houck and Kiki White. Healthy snack and juice providers also are needed.

2) Giving Tree: Coordinator Lorraine Merrick was asked to pass on New Salem Baptist Ministries' heartfelt gratitude to the people of St. Alban's for the 100 books for children and teens and over 260 cans of fruits and vegetables she delivered to them. The items were included in Christmas baskets delivered to 65 families on Syracuses' impoverished south side.

3) Refugee Resettlement continues to need machine washable, new or gently used:

- + Blankets, Comforters and Baby Blankets
- + Coats, Hats, Mittens, Gloves & Scarves for all ages

Pat Greenow coordinates this ministry. Donations can be left in the box in the ramp door vestibule by the coat closets.

4) January 15: Van Duyn Needs Volunteers for Worship Service Transportation

The Rev. Deacon Jane Luck, Chaplain at Van Duyn Home and Hospital, needs help transporting wheelchair residents to and from the 1:45 p.m. Sunday worship service. Volunteers are needed from 1:00-3:00 p.m. If you can help on January 15 please let Mother Julie know.

5) Bishop's Contributor's Fund

Each year at this time Bishop Skip comes to the people of the diocese to ask for financial support of the Contributor's Fund. He writes, "The requests that come before me are significant and worthy and the Contributor's Fund enables me to offer assistance when no other resources are available. I am delighted to report to you that this past year, the Fund has been used to contribute to flood relief in the Southern Tier of our Diocese, medical supplies and expenses for Mission of Miracles [to our companion diocese of El Salvador], clergy leadership training, youth and young adult ministry, membership to mission-oriented organizations that are no longer covered in the Diocesan budget, as well as numerous other worthwhile endeavors." Checks to "Contributor's Fund" and mail them to 310 Montgomery Street, Suite 200; Syracuse, NY 13202-2093.

Stations of the Cross Donated

Several years ago Mother Julie's parents, the Rev. and Mrs. Robert F. Adkins, Jr., donated a set of the Stations of the Cross to St. John's, Elmira Heights. St. John's closed last year, so they asked Julie if St. Alban's needed them. She said "Yes!" and now they grace the walls of the church. Thank you mom and Bob!

Annual Year End Gifts from the Mission Fund

At the December meeting the Vestry voted to make the following gifts:

\$200 to Yale Divinity School, Mother Julie's seminary

\$200 to CROP

\$100 to Vera House

\$100 to Grace House, a new venture of Grace Episcopal Church, Syracuse

Rector's Roses Go To

- Phoebe Swope-Askeland and Choir Members Dick Askeland, Kate Bell, Sarah Bennett, Allen Ditch, Meg Houston, Bob Maynard, Pauline Stanley, Nancy Vogt and Kiki White for the wonderful music on Christmas Eve.
- Andrew Augustine and Pat Greenow for coordinating a festive parish Christmas party.
- Pauline Stanley and the members of the Altar Guild who decorated the church so beautifully.
- Jimmy Grosso for putting his RIT education to good use and figuring out how to set the timer to light up the stained glass wall when neither the directions nor the diagram matched the timer we have in the church.
- Kiki White for researching and purchasing from the Memorial Fund the speaker system for the Fellowship Room.
- Beth Beehner for researching and getting bids from 3 companies to replace the windows in the Alban Room and Librarian in the Christian Education wing.
- The 18 members of the Sunday Morning Bible Study and the Vestry who attended a conversation with Nottingham High School Community Coordinator Greg Jones at 9:00 a.m. on December 18.
- Those who donated a total of \$250, and the angel who donated \$200, at the Youth Group lunch fund-raiser for their trip in April to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.
- Bobbi Lombardo for making Christmas visits to two shut-ins on December 20 when I was ill.
- December Kids Night Out volunteers Kate Bell, Sue Grosso, Bobbi Lombardo and Brian Calhoun-Bryant.
- Finally, a bouquet of roses to David Gregg for getting out the 2011 pledge statements on January 1 when the last deposit date was made on December 30!

A Quick Look Ahead

February 5: Healing and Holy Eucharist at both services

February 19: Mardi Gras

February 22: Ash Wednesday services at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

February 26: Afternoon at the Movies - The King's Speech will be shown at 12:30 p.m.

Youth News

January 15: Joint Youth Group Get Together

From 12:30-2:00 p.m. the youth of St. David's, Dewitt will be present with us at St. Alban's. This is an opportunity for our youth to get to know one another. Pizza will be served. Hope you can come for food and fun!

January 22: Afternoon at the Movies

The movie Soul Surfer will be shown in the Fellowship Room at 12:30 p.m. It's the story of a 14 year old champion surfer who lost her arm when she was attacked by a shark, and how she recovered and returned to surfing. Rated PG.

February 12: St. Alban's Scout Sunday

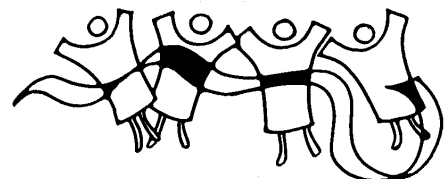
At the 10:30 a.m. service all scouts, past and present, are invited to come in uniform. Youth Group scouts will host the coffee hour following the service.

Priestly Ponderings

One Advent Sunday, in the middle of my sermon, it occurred to me (that can happen when I'm preaching from a mental outline) that God doesn't want you or me to be a "better person." The Son of God did not come down from heaven to be born a human child, Jesus did not die on the cross, so that we could be better people. No, Jesus came so that we might be made new, completely transformed from slaves to sin into children of God. Jesus came so that we could be born anew, born again - a new creation, a new You.

Saint Peter is a dramatic example of this. The night Jesus was arrested Peter was so afraid that he denied Jesus three times rather than risk being arrested as an accomplice. After Jesus' resurrection and the coming of the Holy Spirit, Peter could be found standing in the streets of Jerusalem telling hundreds, if not thousands of people about what God has accomplished in Jesus Christ. Peter didn't come out of hiding and lead the disciples into the streets of the capitol city because he decided to conquer his fear and be a better person. He was wholly remade, holy new, through the power of God.

In this new year of 2012 make your "resolution" to seek out opportunities, to make the time, to sit in God's presence. You will not be graded on how "good" you are. You will be offered the gift of a lifetime - becoming a new person, a new creation, a Spirit-filled, heart-overflowing, joy-full child of God. Happy new year! Mother Julie+



January 11-13 Mother Julie will be on a personal retreat to pray, study and reflect on her ministry at St. Alban's as she begins the new year by moving from half time to two-thirds time.