

Connections

December 2010



Come Let Us Adore The Incarnate Christ!

Join St. Alban's throughout
the month of December as
we celebrate Advent.

Advent Week One

Saturday, Dec. 4, 12:30 p.m.
Ordination of Kelly Ayer, Bishop
Michael Curry presiding

Advent Week Two

Sunday, Dec. 5, 12:30 p.m.
Interfaith Hanukkah Party with
Beth Shalom

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Taize Style Contemplative Worship

Saturday, December 11, 5:00 p.m.
Celtic Mass

Advent Week Three

Sunday, December 12, 3:00 p.m.
Music at St. Alban's - Beggar Boys

Tuesday, Dec. 7, 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.
Taize Style Contemplative Worship

Advent Week Four

Christmas Eve
Friday, Dec. 24, 4:00 p.m.
Family and Children's Christmas
Eve service and Eucharist, Father
David preaching

Christmas Eve
Friday, Dec. 24, 7:00 p.m.
Lessons, Carols & Holy Eucharist



Christmas Eve
Friday, Dec. 24, 10:30 p.m.
Midnight Mass, carol sing Rev. Eliza-
beth Marie Melchionna preaching

Christmas Day
Saturday, Dec. 25, 10:00 a.m.
Christmas Day Mass, Rev. Elizabeth
Marie presiding

First Sunday in Christmas,
Sunday, Dec. 26, 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
No Sunday School, Father David
preaching

*Have you completed a
Membership Form for each
member of your family? If not, we
encourage you to do so and return
it to the church office. Thank you!*

Music @ St. Alban's presents

A Celtic Christmas with The Beggar Boys

Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m.

Nationally acclaimed singer Abigail Haynes Lennox and Irish piper Matt McNeely join the Beggar Boys as they return to Davidson for this annual holiday tradition. Warm your spirit with songs, tunes, and stories from around the Celtic world. Carols, old and new, retell the Christmas story in a program perfect for the entire family. This concert will be broadcast LIVE on WDAV 89.9 fm Classical Public Radio. A portion of the proceeds from this concert will benefit the Mooresville Soup Kitchen. This program is sponsored in part by St. Alban's Episcopal Church and Macon Associates.

Tickets are available at the door or in advance by calling (704) 941-0650. Box Office Hours are 9 am - 3 pm, Monday - Friday.



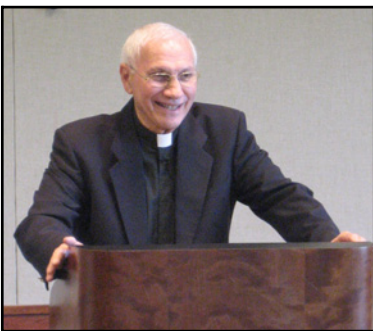
Notes from the Associate Rector

St. Andrew's Woodleaf Service Day

A group from the Davidson College Catholic Campus Ministry and the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry joined the McCoy family at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Woodleaf, NC on November 6. We participated in our third workday at the parish's cemetery. The parish, founded in 1840, has a cemetery in which both white and black parishioners were buried during the time of slavery. We are working with descendants of the founders of the parish to restore the graveyard, ultimately to have it reconsecrated by Bishop Curry. The team worked hard pulling weeds, clipping brush, and felling cedar trees. The students certainly enjoyed the opportunity to get outside and do some work that engaged their bodies as well as their minds!



The team of Episcopal and Catholic students at the St. Andrew's Woodleaf cemetery workday in November.



The Rev. Naim Ateek lecturing.

Naim Ateek Lecture

On November 2, Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry and the Dean Rusk Program for International Studies co-hosted The Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek in a public lecture attended by about 30 people at Davidson College. Rev. Ateek is an Episcopal priest in the Diocese of Jerusalem and is the co-founder of the Sabeel Center for Liberation Theology. Two of Rev. Ateek's seminal books are *A Palestinian Christian's Cry for Reconciliation* and *Justice and Only Justice*. He spoke about the ways in which Episcopalians in the United States could work for justice for Palestinian Christians in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip.

Bishop Gregg's Visit

Bishop Gregg made his annual visit to the Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry at the college on November 14. He joined us for worship in Lingle Chapel where he celebrated and preached. He then joined us for supper at the Carolina Inn where he engaged the students in conversation. We appreciate his visit and the Diocese of NC's support of campus ministry, of the future leaders of our church.



Canterbury students with Bishop Gregg on his yearly visit.

Confirmation 2010

On October 10, 2010, Bishop Curry confirmed 18 youth from St. Alban's. The confirmation program took a slightly different structure this year. Each youth was paired with a mentor from the parish, with whom he or she met during the summer and through the fall. Additionally, two Canterbury students from Davidson College attended all of our fellowship dinner and classes in the fall. I wanted to share with you some of the reflections our youth shared:

Why do you want to be confirmed?

- "I want to show that I am an Episcopalian, that I am a servant of God, and that I love God and Jesus. I want to continue to worship God and pray."
- "I want to join the Kingdom of God and my family."

What have you liked best about the confirmation process?

- "Finding God in my life, seeing my friends, meeting new people, and discussing God freely."

What is the most important thing you've learned about yourself in the confirmation process?

- "I have found God in myself, and in my community, and in places I never expected."
- "The most important thing I have learned about myself in the confirmation process is that prayer can help me in lots of different things."
- "I learned that I perform ministries every day."

What would you change about the confirmation process?

- "I would like more time with Harriet and Paul and my mentor."
- "The only thing I would change would be the length of time we did classes because there is still more to explore."

Confirmation has had a deep impact on the lives of these youth. I would ask for your continued prayers for our youth and for your support of our youth program through your time, talents, and treasure.

Rev. Elizabeth Marie Melchionna



Youth in conversation with their mentors during confirmation.

Stewardship 2010

Finding ways to ask people to pledge some of their monetary gifts to St. Alban's has not been an easy task. We don't want to be intrusive, yet in this time of multi-tasking eight or more hours a day, it's hard to get anyone's attention.

We understand that many of us are close to retirement and need to fund sagging portfolios, others are paying for children's college expenses so they will be ready for a rapidly changing world, where much of their lives will exist in a world yet imagined. Still others are living on fixed incomes that are being stretched every day.



St. Alban's exists because of the gifts of those who came before us. The pledge you make for 2011 will help keep St. Alban's as your spiritual home for years to come. If you have already returned your pledge card, we thank you. If not, please take a minute to consider what you and your family can do for 2011.

As we are trying to close out the 2011 Stewardship Campaign, please email your pledge information as soon as possible to Financial Secretary Noreen Obrien at nobrien@gostalbens.org,

Please include: Your Name, Phone, Email Address, Pledge Amount, Frequency (weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually)

You will receive an email confirming the receipt of your pledge.

May God grant you peace,

The Stewardship Committee

A Message from St. Alban's Weekday Preschool

Your Weekday Preschool program is back in session and proudly celebrating TEN years of learning with young children! We have a "walk down memory lane" in the hallway as you approach the Assembly Area downstairs. You really should take a look; it's representative of this ministry program of the church...who we are and what we do each day. You are ALWAYS welcome downstairs!

Each year our staff has an area of concentration. This year, our program-wide focus is "I CAN... Building Confident and Capable Children!" As teachers of young children we know that this concept is both simple and complex. It's as simple as allowing children the time (and patience from us) they need to do all they can for themselves. I think this is as hard for us, the adults in their lives, as it may be for them. We are so ready to step in and complete tasks for them. More completely, "I CAN" means teaching young children the foundational skills they need to support these words, modeling for them the language and actions that are required, and then giving them the practice and encouragement that enables them to step up to new situations with confidence. So we will travel through this year documenting our children's growth. It's amazing to see how far each child travels in a year.

As I close, believe it or not, we are already planning for the 2011-2012 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child, we would like to hear from you. We are distributing a survey asking for parent input. I also have important information that you will need before the end of the calendar year. Please contact me in the preschool office at 704-892-8955.

Thank You, Meg McConnell (Preschool Director)



Celebrating the Season with an Epiphany Pageant!

We're trying something new this year ... replacing the Christmas Eve pageant with an Epiphany pageant on January 9 to be put on by the PreK-5th graders. The Christmas pageant has been a great event, but organizing, rehearsing, and executing it has always been a tremendous strain on everyone from children, to families, to teachers, to staff. Additionally, Epiphany actually recognizes the revelation of the Baby Jesus to the non-Jewish or Gentile world through the visit of the Magi, the wise men. So all those pageants on Christmas Eve with the wise men bringing gold, frankincense and myrrh? Yep, they took liberties with the church calendar a little bit.

We believe that many more families will be in town for an Epiphany pageant and we will be able to



focus on the story of Jesus' birth without all the distractions of travel, extended family visits, and gift-giving. We will rehearse during Sunday School on January 2 (don't worry, if you are travelling that weekend, your child can still participate in the pageant the next week) and perform the pageant during the 10:30 a.m. service on January 9. If you would like to help plan or put on the pageant, please let your child's Sunday School teacher know. We can use every hand we can get!

Middle & High School Notes



St. Alban's middle and high school students have been busy this fall. In the

Sunday School classroom, middle schoolers have been working with the Rite-13 curriculum. Our high school students have been using a lectionary-based curriculum, which helps them when they hear sermons during Sunday services. Outside the classroom, both groups helped sort and package pet food for the Ada Jenkins Center at our annual Blessing of the Animals. Our high schoolers have had several gatherings, including a "taco night" with live music from some of our very own youth. And in November, youth participated in Mary Kennedy's yoga classes. In all, it's been a great year so far!

Welcome New Vestry Members!

At our Annual Meeting, three new vestry members were elected for three terms. Many thanks to all of them for serving St. Alban's in this leadership role.

Steve Alfaro

Steve is currently an Instructor and Business Development Manager for Everblue Training Institute, the nation's largest LEED educational company, specializing in energy efficiency and environmental design for buildings and homes. Most of his professional life has been spent in the home building and commercial construction industries. Having grown up in Charlotte, he has lived in the Carolinas since 1980, including college at Clemson University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in business, and now considers the Huntersville/Lake Norman area home. He has been a member of the Episcopal Church since 1985 and St. Alban's since 2001. He has been a Sunday-school teacher for both Primary and High School age groups; served several years on the Stewardship Committee; was a member of the St. Alban's Pre-school board; volunteers seasonally with Room In The Inn and currently oversees scheduling for the ushers.



Elizabeth Root

Elizabeth and her family, Lindsey Hobbs Jr., moved to Davidson in 2002. Her husband, an Urban Planner, was already part of the Town's Planning staff when they moved from S. Charlotte and Christ Episcopal. Their daughter, Sophia, attended Davidson Elementary and was recently confirmed at St. Alban's. Elizabeth, a Masters level Exercise Physiologist and Educator, has worked with the Town for the last six years coaching sports for pre-schoolers, planning special events and coordinating programs for home school students, seniors and camps. Volunteering is one of Elizabeth's favorite activities. She has had a great time assisting with St. Alban's VBS, annual BBQ, and Community Garden. She has served in many volunteer leadership roles to include Davidson Farmers Market, Girl Scouts, Davidson Lands Conservancy and the Town's Comprehensive Planning group. Elizabeth considers St. Alban's her big extended family.



Anne Shandley

Originally from the Midwest, Anne has lived in Davidson for sixteen years. With a background in education, she held several different roles and positions in high schools and colleges supporting young adults in their decision-making over the last 20 years. With the help of other parents in the community, she created the Davidson Youth Activity Center for middle school students at the Ada Jenkins Center which became the Boys and Girls Club of Davidson. She has worked as a school counselor at both North Mecklenburg and Hopewell high schools before taking her present position seven years ago as director of college counseling at Cannon School. With her husband, Tom, she has happily raised three children in the Davidson community - Elizabeth 26, Joey 23, and Will 18. While raised in another faith, Anne has found a home in the Episcopal Church. After attending services at St. Alban's for many years, she was received into the Episcopal Church at St. Alban's in the spring of 2008.



2011 St. Alban's Vestry

Richard Terry (Senior Warden) Leslie Urban (Junior Warden), Steve Alfaro, Chris Jones, Greg Jordan, Eileen Keeley, Pat Parsons, Jeff Ready, Elizabeth Root, Anne Shandley, and John Wedgeworth

Parish Notes & Upcoming Activities

Room In The Inn (RITI) kicks off in December.

RITI is a ministry to our homeless neighbors during the coldest winter months providing a hearty meal, warm bed and safe rest. St. Alban's hosts one night a month (Thursday), partnering with Davidson United Methodist Church, which provides the facilities. There are many ways you can participate in and/or support this vital ministry. Our nights this year are:

- December 16
- January 13
- February 10
- March 10

This is a wonderful opportunity for groups, families and individuals to share the love of Christ with our brothers and sisters living on the streets. Please prayerfully consider participating in this ministry. The signup sheets are in a notebook on the table outside the office.

For more details on RITI or if you have any questions, please contact Sherry Klepfer at 704-799-9995 or sherry@theklepfers.com.

The Angel Tree is back! St. Alban's and the Davidson Police Department are helping families in our own backyard during the Christmas season with gifts and gift cards.

How does it work? Take a tag (or more than one!) from the tree, sign out the tag in the notebook next to the Angel Tree, purchase and wrap the gift indicated on the tag, and return the wrapped gift with the tag attached by Sunday, December 12. Gifts can be placed at the foot of the Angel Tree.

The Angel Tree team will sort and package the wrapped gifts by family, and the Davidson Police Department will deliver them. If you prefer, you may provide WalMart or Food Lion gift cards (monetary donations are not being accepted this year). Your gift through the Angel Tree will help a family that otherwise wouldn't enjoy this part of the Christmas celebration this year, so please share the season with our less fortunate neighbors.

For more information, please contact Vicki Blaney or Deacon Rebecca.

Mission Statement

In joyful response to the message of Christ, we gather in community to worship God and to love and serve our neighbors as ourselves.

Celebrate Beth Shalom's 6th Annual Chanukah in Davidson Sunday, December 5, from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at St. Alban's.

See the flyer in the hallway outside of the church office for more information about this fun and exciting event.

Men of St. Alban's (MSA) along with their children (or grandchildren) are planning a fellowship evening on Thursday evening, December 30 to cheer on the Davidson Wildcats vs. St. Joseph's. More details will follow including dinner before the game.

Also, if you are not on the MSA email list, please send an email to Jill Tessier at parishadmin@gostalbens.org and we'll be sure to add you to our list.

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Mission Statement

www.saintalbandavidson.org

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st. alban's episcopal church