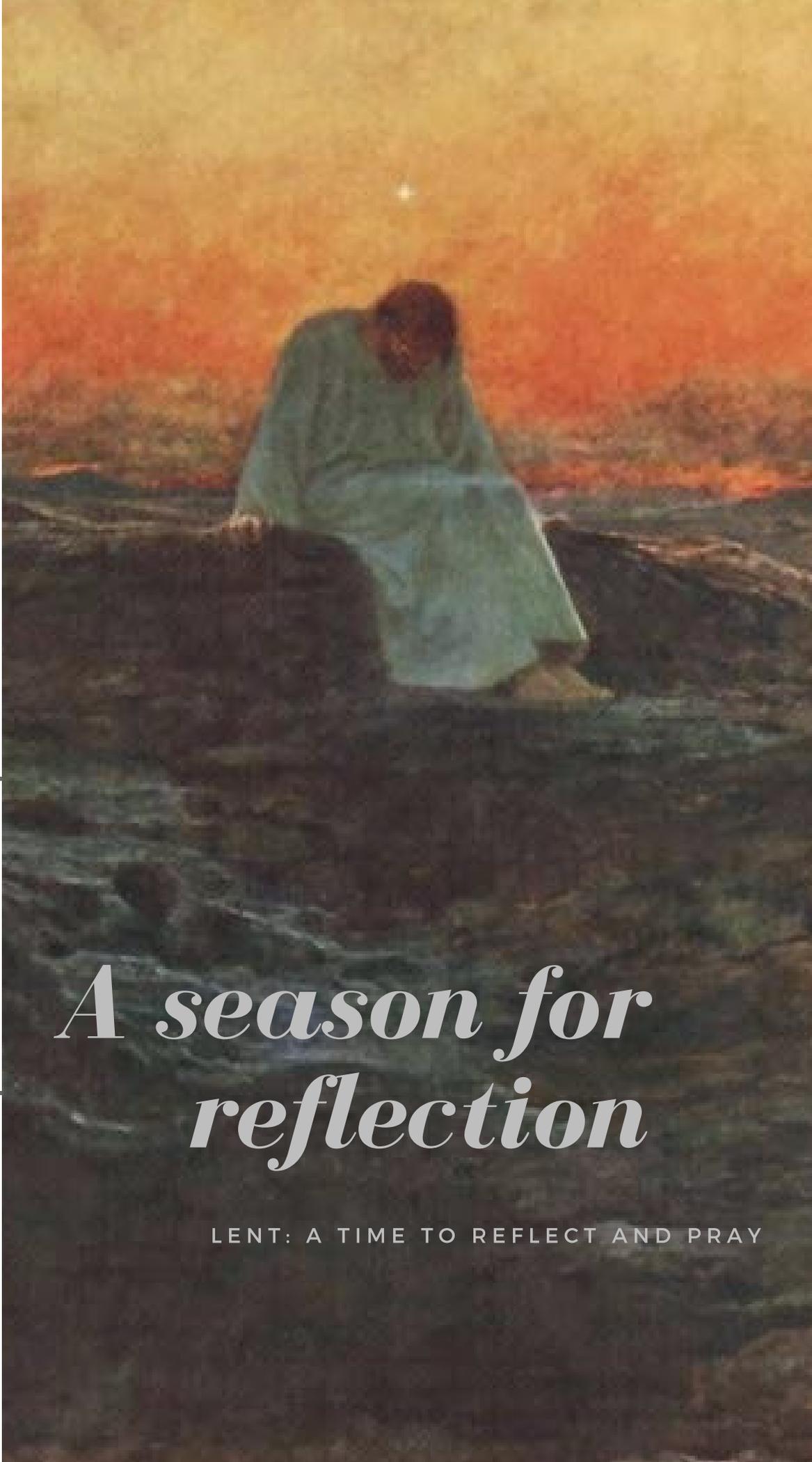


Sonlight

SAINT ALBAN'S
SINKING SPRING

VOLUME THIRTY-ONE
ISSUE TWO
FEBRUARY 2018



A season for reflection

LENT: A TIME TO REFLECT AND PRAY

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from the rector's desk

THE REV. DENNIS J. REID

Grace to you and peace as we enter into this holy season of Lent. Lent is a season with many characteristics: repentance, forgiveness of our sins, the mercy of God, and the love and obedience of Christ that took him even to the cross for our sake. These all probably sound familiar, but perhaps another trait of the Lenten season may not: courage. As followers of Jesus Christ, part of our calling is to be like him, to live as he did. Indeed, he took on our flesh that he might know our ups and downs, our joys and sorrows, and of course, our death and our life. He took on these things so that we might have life in him. It took great courage for Jesus to do what he did -- he was tempted by Satan for forty days in the wilderness, he was challenged by the Pharisees, the scribes, and the crowds everywhere he went, he was scourged and mocked in his Passion, and he, as an innocent man, faced his death on the cross. Right from the start in the season of Lent, we too face our mortality

on Ash Wednesday: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." It is a not-so-subtle reminder that our time on earth is limited, as even Christ himself came to know. Yet we as Christians do not face our mortality in despair. Yes, we approach this season with a conscious knowledge of our need for God's forgiveness, but that is the hope of the Christian faith -- that is the courage of the Christian faith, that we take Christ's words to heart in the full knowledge that he has taken our very lives into his heart. Take heart and have courage in this season of Lent, for even though we die, we know that our Redeemer lives -- and because he lives, so too shall we live.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis J. Reid".

Annual Meeting



On January 28 following the 9 am service, St. Alban's held our Annual Meeting led by Senior Warden, Bill Reid. Written committee reports were available and Bill Reid (Senior Warden), Rector Fr. Dennis, Ed Moffett (Finance) and Rindy Foltz (SACLC) gave summaries of their reports for the members in attendance. We bid farewell to departing Vestry members and welcomed newly elected members. Diocesan convention members were also elected. The 2018 budget was approved and Fr. Dennis led us in the closing prayer of Thanksgiving.

We welcome new Vestry members Bev Leonti, Eric Heathershaw and Kurt Hencken



Thank you to departing Vestry members Kathy Fromuth, Dennis Harkin and Dan Escher



receiving the ashes

Reflections of members



I have a memory of being in an adult Bible class during Lent where we each received an unlit candle. We were asked to pick a word that represented a way in which we could improve ourselves. I picked perseverance. Anytime I struggle in some serious manner, I think of that candle. I still have it tucked away. Lent is also the time to accept the challenge of bettering myself. I prefer to look at it that way rather than "having to give up something." And, lastly Lent is a reminder to forgive myself because Jesus has forgiven me.

Tracy Lesher

Looking back as far as I can over the 72-some years of my sojourn on this planet, I find I've spent an awful lot of time *scurrying*. Like a kitten chasing its tail, I remember running around in many circles chasing something that I could never quite catch. I'd wonder if I'd be any happier, richer, more tranquil, or wiser if I ever did catch that *something*.

I doubt it.

Since 1979, Saint Alban's has been my Church home. Since I was baptized in the latter 1940's at Christ Church Cranbrook in Michigan, the Episcopal Church has been my church home in a wider sense. At Saint Alban's I've sung in the choir, served on four Vestries (the first as parish treasurer and two terms as Senior Warden in the third). In that time, I hope I've served the Parish well; I know I've received plenty of comfort from the friends I've made here.

Clem Page

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent. During Lent, we give something up to remind us of God's sacrifices for us. Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are not perfect.

Alex and Zach Hobart

When I was younger I remember going to Church earlier on Ash Wednesday to receive ashes and it being somewhat challenging to keep them on our forehead all day! It symbolized the beginning of the Lent Season which meant fasting, "giving something up for Lent" and no meat on Wednesdays or Fridays. It was also a time for prayer and reflection: Stations of the Cross every Friday and plenty of opportunities to go to Confession.

Today, receiving Ashes also reminds me that I am a Christian. But it signifies that God is calling me to enter into a much deeper relationship with him through reflection and prayer and to be open to where He is willing to lead me. After losing someone it also symbolizes how fragile life can be. But just like the Ashes take us through the death of Jesus, they remind us that there is hope for a much more fulfilling life after death with Christ Jesus.

Michelle Heathershaw

being the junior warden

CAROL ANDERSON



The Junior Warden shall either be elected annually by the Vestry or shall be appointed by the Rector. In the absence of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden is to assume the duties of the Senior Warden.

It is the responsibility of the wardens to see that the financial obligation of the parish are met and the buildings belonging to the parish are kept in good repair and are adequately insured. Under the Rector or Priest-In-Charge, they shall see that all things needed for the orderly worship of God and for the proper administration of the sacraments are provided.

They shall prevent or repress all disturbance of divine worship. In the absence of a Rector or Priest-In-Charge, they shall, with the advice of the Ecclesiastical Authority, procure suitable supply for the continuance of the services.

It has been an honor serving as the Junior Warden this past year. The position not only afforded me the opportunity to work with some very dedicated people but, also, to observe some of St Alban's "church mice" busy going about their duties throughout the week. I'm sure you heard the saying that it takes a village to raise a child? I've learned that it takes a congregation to run a church. What I had recently seen was the preparation of an interment. In addition to the service Danny prepared the columbarium while Charles ordered the plaque. As Andy and Diane prepared the thank-you notes for gifts received, Lynn was writing their name in the Book of Remembrance. During any week we have Nancy faithfully ordering the grocery cards, Abbie retrieving signatures for bills to

get paid, and Sue monitoring the building's security. Need a fob, see Bill. Need a special event listed on the electronic board, you'll see Alice at the computer. How about picking up a prayer shawl? Nancy, Robin, Jackie, Claudia, Flo, and Carol just finished a few on Wednesday. Then there is a member of the altar guild clearing the small altar from the Wednesday noon service to setting up for the Sunday 8am service. If you see Danny and Claudia tearing down or setting up tables from the coffee hour you're sure to see Leslee

setting up for the exercise group or preparing for another health ministry session. You can always bet on bumping into our Senior Warden and property chairman with their numerous meetings with the Rector. How blessed we are at St. Alban's for all these wonderful ministries happening outside of us seeing each other across the pew on a Sunday.

It was exciting for me to be a part of all this. I encourage anyone who is looking to deepen their faith journey to join one of our ministries.

It's been a privilege and blessing for me.
Carol Anderson



The Sonlight has a new logo. The original design was created and donated by Mike Spangler. Thank you so much Mike for sharing your creative gift with us!



"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving kindness; In your great compassion blot out my offenses"

the learning center

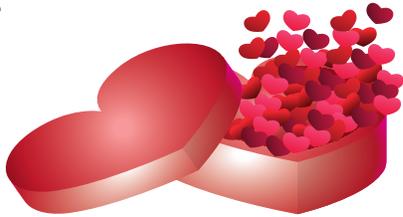
Curriculum

In February, we will be focusing on the people who work in our community, the color purple, the numbers 10-11, the shape is a heart, and the letters, Yy, Zz, and Vv. The children should understand that we love our friends and family and we exchange Valentines to show our love and friendship. Discussions on

ways to be a good friend, how to treat your friends, and how to show kindness should be touched upon. We will also be continuing to practice each child's first and last name, address and phone number. In science, discussions will center on dental health, parts of our body and how we use them, the 5 senses, and nutrition and food groups.



We will be having a Valentine's Day party on Wednesday, February 14th. The children will be making a special Valentine snack and passing out Valentines to each other.



We would like to welcome our newest teacher, "Miss" Deanna Prefach. Deanna is a Sophomore at Alvernia University and is majoring in Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse.

She is very excited to be part of our wonderful team of teachers here at St. Alban's!

God Bless,
Rindy Foltz

Christian Education

February Bible Verse:

Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32

Week 1: Jesus Calls a Taxman

Week 2: Jesus makes Sick People Well

Week 3: The Story of the Lost Son

Week 4: Jesus Calms a Storm



A Life of Service

Charles Dunn



For years I enjoyed working on the Stewardship Committee and thus by default also on the Finance Committee with many, many, many committed members of St. Alban's. It has always been amazing how year after struggling year with a "faith budget" we ended financially afloat. I have to say that the committee's results reflect the combined efforts of our church membership and the LORD's intervention. I would encourage anybody to get involved and experience the rewards of committee membership and the love of GOD's presence.

Kay Kalbach

Kay served as finance secretary for over thirty years. While dedicated to her work at St. Alban's, she is also an avid Eagles football fan. Whenever the Eagles were on Monday Night Football, those on the finance committee knew to speed things along at their meeting so Kay could get home in time to cheer on her team!



Andy O'Connor & Rudy Knolker



When Andy and I became members of St. Alban's in 2003, we were greeted by three ladies of the parish - Helen Stevenson, Anne McKinney and Gloria Bjorken. They became symbols to us of what church life at St. Alban's was and how we could become part of the congregation. They volunteered for everything, talked to everyone and became involved in all aspects of St. Alban's. Their example is something all could strive to duplicate in our daily lives. Thank you ladies for all you did for us.

Andy and Rudy

St. Alban's is truly blessed to have had such a wonderful group of people who dedicated so many years to the church. Thank you doesn't begin to express the gratitude for your life of service.

Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4: 9-11

committee

focus:

The Evangelism Committee

The Evangelism and Renewal Commission.

Committee members: Kathy Fromuth, June Dunn, Nancy Daubert, Denise Hencken, Kurt Hencken, and Bill Reid.

Evangelism is telling our story as Episcopalians, the outward expression of our faith- that which gives us great happiness and even in the worst of times, gives us comfort and strength. It is the expression of the gifts in each of us and sharing them with others. There are endless ways to evangelize-greeters, ushers, outreach, social activities, and print or social media. A lot of aspects of church life are intertwined with evangelism.

Renewal is inward spiritual growth, growing in God's grace. Our life during the rest of the week could be just as much a reflection of our faith as the time we spend in church on Sundays. We have and continue to facilitate adult programs during the fall and and Lent, and organize day and weekend retreats not only at our church but at a number of retreat facilities in Berks County.

We have a suggestion box in the Narthex, on a table to the left as you enter, and if you feel called to be a part of this ministry, see either Fr. Dennis or any committee member.



bulletin board

Wilson Food Pantry

This month the pantry is short of

Canned vegetables and fruits

Canned meats

Mac & cheese

Rice

Spaghetti noodles

Pasta sauce

We can use all donated non-perishables.

We thank everyone who supports us.

Valentine Bark

It is that time of year again when we will be selling various kinds of candy bark for Valentine's Day. It is \$7.50 per box- the same as last year. Think of those who would enjoy getting a special treat for Valentine's Day- your child's teacher, a close friend, your mother-in-law. Lots of people come to mind and it is a very good price for a box of candy.

Hope to see you at our candy table.

Knowing and Living Into Our Spiritual Gifts Led by Fr. Dennis Reid Saturday, March 3rd, 10am - 12pm

As Christians, we are part of a movement that seeks to draw all people into the gracious, reconciling love of God through Jesus Christ. It is Christ's call on our lives to know Him, to make Him known and in the process draw everyone into the life that is really life, the life lived with God and for the welfare of others and ourselves.

This program, written by The Rev. W. Frank Allen, is an attempt to deepen your understanding of Christ's call on your life and the gifts that come from God through the Holy Spirit. You will have an opportunity to learn or remember how the Holy Spirit moves in the lives of people like you and me. We will consider how that presence and power can help you in your Christian walk and in your ministry in your church and in the world.

A sign-up sheet is on the parish bulletin board

coming events

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY

11

**Pre-Lent
Pancakes!
Between 8am
and 10am services**

WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY

14

**Ash Wednesday
Services:
7am
Noon
7pm**

SATURDAY
MARCH

3

**Spiritual Gifts
Workshop
10am to Noon**



praying the seasons



As we enter new seasons frequently during the Church year, the nature of our prayer changes with them. This Collect for Ash Wednesday recalls our sin and, more importantly, the mercy of God.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
