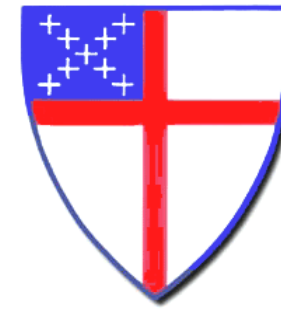


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The Good News at St. Alban's

Volume Year 2010 • Issue 5

September 2010

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
330 85th Avenue—St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Address Service Requested



We thank God for:

The Parish Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Church Staff

The Rev. Stuart A. Swann—Priest In Charge
The Rev. Muriel de Bussy—Assisting Priest

Beth Gordon—Parish Administrator
Edward Crader—Organist & Choirmaster
Church Office: 727-360-8406 Fax: 727- 367-2801
Church E-mail: stalbansepiscopal@earthlink.net
Website: www.stalbanstpetebeach.org

The Attic Shoppe
316 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-360-5647
Nancy Waits, Director

Vestry Members

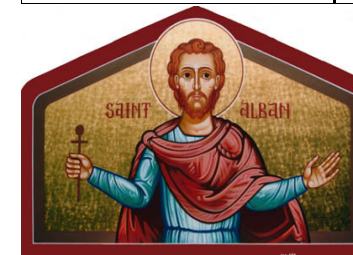
Glenda Rice, Sr. Warden
Joe MacConnell, Secretary / Clerk
Carol Conrad
Dave Gray
Anna McKenzie
Brooke Taliaferro

Non-member, non-voting
Beth Gordon, Acting Treasurer
Berry Ludwig, Facilities Manager

St. Alban's Episcopal Day School
8410 Boca Ciega Dr., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Day School E-mail: stalbandayschool@aol.com
Beth Gregory—Day School Director
727-363-1533

Inside this issue:

Greetings from Fr. Stuart	2
From the Senior Warden—Glenda Rice , Shared Ministry Update	3
September Calendar	4
September Birthdays & Anniversaries	5
Changes in Worship	6
Leadership Update	7
Goings On at St. Alban's	8, 9
A Word from the Day-School, Inspirations	10
Spotlight on Stewardship, Thank you!, Planned Giving	11



Our mission:

*"Go then, to all
people everywhere
and make them
my
disciples...
and teach them to
obey all that I have
commanded you."*
Matthew 28:19



Friday night, August 27th, and it is time for "Baseball With The Bishop" ...Smith that would be! As part of our shared ministry, St. Alban's and St. Dunstan's attended together with 30 strong. Percentage wise, our group must have had the largest number of "collars" in the group with Fr. Stuart, Fr. Don and Fr. Harry attending the game with the joint gathering!

The crowd was lively and enjoyed the outing with peanuts and cracker jacks and rooted loudly for the home team. Despite the cheers and a few prayers from the Bishop's crowd, the Rays were unsuccessful against the boys from Boston.

This was a great outing of fun, which will have many in attendance coming together in October at the Annual Convention! September will be the seventh inning stretch as we prepare for the Convention on October 9th. In the meantime, GO RAYS!!!!

Greetings from Fr. Stuart Swann—Priest in Charge



I keep this proverbial magnet on the side of my computer. The magnet was a gift from a parishioner some years ago. I like to keep the reminder in clear view, because I often need a reminder to look on the light side when things get too stressful or serious.

I was recently reminded of this again when Sera, a very sweet and precocious 10 year old girl, told me, "*Fr. Stuart, you are a very happy person, but you need to smile*

more." Wow, like a bolt of lightning, I felt zapped by God! This same young person recently asked me, "*How does God speak to us?*" I tried to tell her different ways that I hear God speaking ... through prayer, study of the Bible, in worship and fellowship with others, in quiet reflection, and even when I'm working in the yard. On this occasion, though, I told her that God must be speaking through her to remind me to smile more!

A cheerful heart is good medicine, that's true. I suspect our smiles make way for good cheer to enter our hearts. What a strength it is to look into the eyes and smiles of others, drawing from their wells of good cheer and, in turn, pouring good cheer into their inner wells. We function like battery chargers for one another in this way.

I am so thankful for the cheerful, smiling hearts that I am experiencing here at St. Alban's. Your warm welcome for the Swanns and your acceptance of my pastoral ministry are a great boost. I especially enjoy the privilege of visiting in the homes of those who have difficulty in coming to gathered worship. In those quieter talks and prayers I find smiles of many sorts, and a warm welcome that goes beyond words. In the months ahead, I look forward to seeing many more of our parish members and guests in your homes to get better acquainted. I realize that not all situations are easy smiles – there are many sad and challenging realities faced by our families. Still, when we gather, whether in the church, or in homes, or nursing facilities, or hospitals, there is almost always an occasion for a genuine smile.

a cheerful heart = "good medicine"

That's a remedy that has been field tested through the centuries and endless human predicaments. I will always remember 10 year old Sera's timeless admonition to me, "*You are a happy person, but you need to smile more.*" "Yes," Sera, "*I do. Thank you.*"

Together, let us smile through the miles ahead ...

Spotlight on Stewardship



There are ANGELS among us...Here are some of the gifts of time, talent and treasure St. Alban's has received recently.....

An anonymous donor paid for the gift card for Fr. Don Nicholson.

An anonymous donor underwrote the goodies for Fr. Don's goodbye.

Two anonymous volunteers cleaned out the Priest in Charge office, one of them painted.

Berry & Charlie Ludwig traded two doors for a new glass door and donated time and talent to install the new door on Fr. Stuart's office.

Charlie Ludwig hung all of the artwork and degrees in Fr. Stuart's office.

An anonymous helper purchased some plants and planted them in front of the Welcome Center and the Office.

Anonymous donors paid for the two advertisements welcoming Fr. Stuart Swann in The Gabber magazine.

An anonymous donor provided a working AC for the Parish Hall.

Planned Giving - You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference in the world

We were saddened recently to learn of the death of Constance "June" or "Connie" Knox. June passed away in March 2010 at Westminster Suncoast in St. Petersburg. Many of you remember June working at the Attic Shoppe and famous for her hats. June left the beach and "retired" with her little dog to Westminster in 2000. We recently learned of her passing when a package from a local legal firm arrived in the Church office. What a wonderful testimony that June, being the steward of her estate was thoughtful enough to name St. Alban's Episcopal Church as one of her beneficiaries.

As some of you may remember, Elizabeth Griffith, who died in 1998, honored St. Alban's with two annuities which have given the church a monthly income of just over \$2,000.00 since her death and will continue into 2014.

Bequests are for everyone and anyone. There are many kinds of bequests. You can use your will to give a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or a specific item, such as real estate or investments. Some are unrestricted, given for general purposes. The Vestry can put these gifts to use where they are most needed. Some bequests are restricted, given for very specific purposes, such as a permanent endowment, building maintenance or a long term project.

Anyone can make a meaningful gift to St. Alban's. And when you demonstrate that you care enough to support its future, others will follow your generous example.

Please contact Fr. Swann or Beth Gordon, Acting Treasurer with any questions. God Bless!

A Word from the Day School

Bright shining faces. New shoes and lunch boxes. Some tears and lots of giggles. Our school year began on Monday, October 23, 2010. At this writing, we have 15 children in the VPK (4 & 5year olds) classroom with Miss Kathy, 12 in the 3 year old classroom with Miss Minerva, and 4 little ones in the 2 years old classroom. Every year the 2's class starts slowly and fills as children turn 2! The children were visited by Fr. Swann on Tuesday for their first Chapel time of the year.

We all look forward to a fun and productive school year. We will do our best to keep you all informed as to our programs and parties. We'd love to have you join us—just as we will encourage the children's families to attend the Church's fellowship events.

Thank you for your continued support for the Day School in our ministry of building little Christians one at a time!!!

God Bless! Beth Gregory, Director

INSPIRATIONS

Words of Wisdom From parishioner, Phyllis Theodore

A remembrance from her mother,

Mary Ann Edmonds

*"This is a world that runs on wheels.
Death is the thing that every man feels.
If life were a thing that money could buy,
The rich would live and the poor would die."*

I AM MY CHURCH

My church is composed of people like me. We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who makes it what it is, am filled with these traits.

Therefore, with the help of God,

I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things I want my church to be.

Submitted by Anne Carter, St. Dunstan's

From the Senior Warden—Glenda Rice

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go into the house of the Lord". Psalm 122:1

I try to remember to say this verse to myself every time I enter the Lord's house, whether I am entering the church proper or just the grounds. God doesn't end at the doors of the sanctuary. He is in the Parish Hall, the Day School, the Welcome Center, the Memorial Gardens, the office and even in the playground's bunny hatch where Marshmallow and Carmel live. I was reminded of this as I toured the grounds with Berry and Fr. Stuart last week.

We are so blessed to have such a great facility. On Sunday mornings, it is wonderful to slide into the pews of St. Alban's and feel the presence of God. It is equally comforting to be in the Parish Hall kitchen preparing for the next event when all of us gather together for fellowship. God has told us that when two or three are gathered he is in our midst, so fellowship should also be a part of our worship. This summer we met for Bible study with the strong standing people of St. Dunstan's, our partners in ministry. God's presence was truly in the hand print room for those meetings. God's presence will be felt in the Memorial Garden on October 2nd, when we gather the Blessing of the Animals. God's presence is definitely heard in the laughter and giggles that come from the Day School.

Berry and her band of handy people are doing an outstanding job of making sure our campus stays in the shape and condition that would honor this gift that God has given us. It is up to us to continually do all we can to treat it with respect, but to also use it to its fullest. In order to do so, please consider giving of your time to the handy man group. Plan to attend the opportunities for fellowship and study. Do you like to scrapbook? We have albums of treasured memories that need to be organized. Have you recognized a need on the grounds and have a solution for it? Contact the office, Berry, Fr. Stuart or me.

St. Alban's is more than a service on Sunday morning. God is everywhere at St. Alban's. Have we done all we can to make God's gathering place a community that would make him proud? What can you do?

Glenda

Shared Ministry Update

We rejoice in the partnership shared with St. Dunstan's, Largo. It is an enterprise under development, for sure, but so far, it is a blessing for both parish families.

Typically, this fall Fr. Stuart will be at St. Dunstan's on the 3rd Sundays:

September 19th, October 17th, November 21st, December 19th

This is subject to review and modification as we continually assess how to best manage the shared ministry for both church's health and growth.

Early in September Fr. Stuart will be writing a piece on the shared ministry undertaking to be mailed to all St. Alban's member households. This will be followed by opportunities on Sunday mornings in September for Q&A after the services.

SEPTEMBER 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am	2 <u>Deanery Convocations</u> 7pm St. Mark's Tampa	3	4 Altar Guild I
5 Pentecost 15 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30am 9am Shared Ministry Forum	06 <u>ECW Board Meets 9:30am Guild Room</u> <u>Care Team Meets</u> 10am Fr. Stuart Day Off	7	8 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am	9 <u>Vestry Meets</u> 7pm Handprint Room	10 <u>Handyperson Meeting</u> 12noon Parish Hall	11 Altar Guild II
12 Pentecost 16 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30am 9am Shared Ministry Forum 12noon <u>Cinco mas Siete de Septiembre</u> <u>All you can eat Taco Bar & Ice Cream Sundaes</u>	13 <u>St. Cecilia's Guild Meets</u> 10:00am Home of Nancy Waits Fr. Stuart Day Off	14	15 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am	16	17	18 <u>Fresh Start</u> 9:30am to 3:30 Church of the Good Samaritan, Clearwater <u>Triangles Meet</u> 12:30pm GiGi's in S. Pasadena Altar Guild III
19 Pentecost 17 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30 am	20 Fr. Stuart Day Off	21	22 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am	23	24	25 <u>Safeguarding All God's Children Workshop</u> 9am-12pm St. Thomas' St. Petersburg Altar Guild I
26 Pentecost 18 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30 am 9am Shared Ministry Forum	27 <u>Lifeline Screening</u> 8:30am to 5:30pm Parish Hall, call 1-800-324-1851 See page 6 Fr. Stuart Day Off	28	29 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am	30		

GOINGS ON AT ST. ALBAN'S—September

Each Wednesday Holy Eucharist with Prayers for Healing in the Church Chapel, 10am.

Thursday, 2nd The Tampa, St. Petersburg and Clearwater Deaneries Convocation will take place at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Tampa at 7pm. All Clergy, Diocesan Convention Delegates and Alternates, as well as other lay leadership are encouraged to attend.

Monday, 6th The church office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Thursday, 9th St. Alban's Vestry will meet in the Handprint Room.

Sunday, 12th Cinco mas Siete de Septiembre, Taco & Sundae Bars—see page 6

Monday, 13th ECW Board meets in the Guild Room at 9:30am
Care Team meets in the Handprint Room at 10am

Saturday, 18th Fresh Start Meets at the Church of the Good Samaritan in Clearwater 9:30am until 3:30pm. All Clergy and Vestry, as well as other lay leadership are encouraged to register at the Diocesan website and attend.

Sunday, 20th St. Cecelia's Guild meets at 10am at the home of Nancy Waits.

Saturday, 18th Safeguarding all God's Children Workshop at St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church 10888 126th Ave, Largo, FL 9:00am

Monday, 27th Lifeline Screening in our Parish Hall from 8:30am until 5:30pm.
Call 1-800-324-1851 to register.

**The Blessing of the Animals
in honor of St. Francis' Day
Saturday, October 2, 2010 5pm
In the Garden of the Resurrection**

Bring your pets (or a photograph) for a blessing. Treats for all—pets & the humans they own!

Donations for the SPCA of Tampa Bay will be appreciated. Money, food, litter, treats, blankets, towels, shoeboxes.

**Autumn Celebration
Sunday, October 31, 2010
12noon Parish Hall**

Let us gather following the 10:30 service for a sumptuous potluck luncheon.

Fun activities for all!

More details to follow!

GOINGS ON AT ST. ALBAN'S



CINCO MAS SIETE de SEPTEMBER

OLE!!!!!!

(Translation ~ September 12th)

(Translation ~ Yippee!)

12:00 Noon

All U Can Eat Taco Bar

(or until we tell you that you have had all you can eat!)



All U Can Scoop Ice Cream Bar

(see above side note)



TACOS, TRIMMINGS, BEANS, & Rice

Ice Tea, Lemonade & Coffee

\$5.00 Per Person Suggested Donation

Amor Offering for  & Sangria



Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



1	Joan Vernotzy
1	Ginny McCutcheon
2	Bob King
6	Glenda Rice
6	Dara Wilkerson
6	Bobbie MacMinn
12	Sharon McClellan
14	Jim Knox
14	R.B. Harris

16	Jessica Yoder
17	Joe MacConnell
19	Evelyn Cone
25	Ken Deacon
27	Adria Thomas
28	Beth Gregory
29	Amy Ploughman
30	Eljeane Gibson
31	Tracy Carhart

5	Bea & Al Mitchell
20	Ginny & Tom McCutcheon
21	Marianne & David Coleman
23	Connie & Bob Sinclair
24	Franci & Bill Cross

A Note of Thanks.....

August 9, 2010

Dear Glenda and all you wonderful folks at St. Alban's, Thanks so much for including St. Dunstan's in your Pizza-Sundae celebration of Fr. Swann's initial service at St. Alban's. Nancy, Vern and I had a wonderful time.

We look forward to worship, Bible study and social activities with you— both here and there.

Affectionately & with God's love,
Barbara Sherman

Barbara is a member of the Bishop's Committee (Vestry) at St. Dunstan's in Largo

Please note the following CHANGES IN WORSHIP as of September 12th.....

Prayers for our People



One of the most important things we do in gathered worship is to offer prayers for those who are on our hearts and minds. However, as time goes by "the list" needs regular maintenance. The Care Team and Fr. Stuart would like for us to try the following for a season.

To have someone added to the Sunday morning list, please notify either:

- A Care Team member (Joel Taliaferro, John Kiley, Evelyn Frost, Brooke Taliaferro, Susan Wright, Millie Dubinski, Sally DeRosa, Bill Carpenter, Yvonne Jones, Muriel deBussy, Bea Mitchell, Millie Stafford)
- Beth Gordon, Parish Administrator
- Fr. Stuart

Maintaining the list:

The Sunday morning list is primarily for acute needs, i.e., immediate, short-term. First names only will be lifted up in prayer by the assigned Lay Eucharist Minister with the familiar repetition of each name by the congregation. These names will also be remembered in the Wednesday Healing Eucharists. After two weeks on the Sunday list a name will be dropped but retained in Wednesday services as long as, "to our knowledge", the prayer need remains. If you feel that a name should be refreshed on the Sunday list, just inform the Parish Administrator, Beth Gordon, and the name will return for another two weeks.

We hope you will come to appreciate the commitment of the Wednesday service participants to dwell in prayer for periods that are longer and more personal than Sunday morning services allow.

Holy Communion



The manner in which the Eucharistic sacrament is conveyed will change to emphasize the importance of the "community" and the shared experience of Holy Communion. Rather than dual, single-file lines coming down the center aisle to receive from the priest front-and-center, service hosts will now assist us to assemble around the "rail" (invisible though it may be) that forms the semi-circle in front of the altar. The priest(s) will distribute the bread, walking the rail while the people remain standing and still. Lay Eucharistic Ministers will follow to administer the chalice. After receiving the sacrament, communicants dismiss to their pews using the side aisles to exit from the communion rail. Please bear with us for the first couple of weeks while we gain familiarity with this change in practice.

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

Altar Guild:

Brooke Taliaferro is now serving as Directress of the Altar Guild. We thank Glenda Rice for her years of enthusiastic service in this capacity. Altar Guild training meetings are in the works for October and February. Current and potential guild members, stay tuned.

ECW:

Jane Gaugh was serving as vice president and Carol Conrad was president of The ECW. Due to Carol's current health rehabilitation which keeps her in Delaware for an undetermined time, Jane will be functioning as president. This is a move fully supported by Carol and Fr. Stuart.

Office:

Beth Gordon has been re-titled! At the August vestry meeting Beth's title was changed from Parish Coordinator to Parish Administrator – a move initiated by Fr. Stuart and unanimously supported by the vestry to better indicate the depth and breadth of her responsibilities at St. Alban's.

A Holy Space for Faith to Grow: "Noah's Ark"

Work is underway to begin the transformation of the "Noah's Ark" room to be used as a welcoming chapel and faith space for young children, particularly from the St. Alban's Day School. Currently, Fr. Stuart meets with the children and teachers on Tuesday mornings in their classrooms.

Some of the actions already underway:



- A window type of A/C unit has been installed (similar to the current A/C installation in the parish office). The old, rusted out A/C unit will need to be removed from the rooftop.
- Search is on for a replacement entrance door to provide a see-through window, similar to the doors already in use at the Day School classrooms.
- Disposal of items that have collected in the room, but with no historic or functional value. Moving and saving items of historic or functional worth.

Once the initial clean-up is complete and A/C and door installed, we will turn attention to creating an imagination-filled children's chapel and learning area. The Day School children, and other children who come our way, will enjoy gatherings in this space. Watch for ways you might help in the days ahead!