

January 2024



Epiphany



Celebrating and Sharing God's Love

The Almanac



490 Farragut Circle

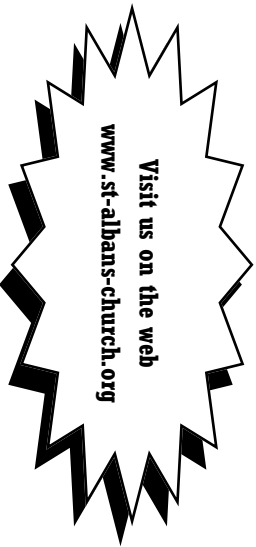
El Cajon, CA 92020

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St. ALBAN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Greetings from Fr Willy

I never thought I would live to the year 2024. I never thought I would be as old as I am; yet here I am. It seems a good idea to plan things for the future since it really comes faster as you age. What would I like to do this year? Well, I want to study great thinkers and learn from them.

I want to understand the world better and I want to learn better ways I can be of help to the world and to those around me. You see, I am in what is called the second half of life. This is a period in life, since I have already raised my children, completed formal schooling, worked for many years, and have a small measure of satisfaction, I can look to those areas of my life I postponed for another time. You must have had the same experience: you are working and raising your children when one weekend, you attend theatre to listen to music and see a very young piano player who plays like a demon! Such passion, such beauty and with no music notes to follow. Your heart is stirred, you feel a longing to play music. Sure, you do not have the time to do so but it sticks inside like an unrealized dream. “Someday”, you say to yourself. But you keep on working. The years go by, and you have both more and less time than you have ever had. What do you?

I imagine many of you have dreamed of spending hours reading and contemplating big, wonderful ideas. Ideas that will catapult you into the wide expanse of truth and beauty, nearer to God. But no time. No time. So, when will these dreams be enacted? When will you stop for a moment and think your life is more than work, more than earning a living, staying ahead of taxes? When will you open your eyes to the wonders that burn in every bush? When will you wake up to your life that is here and now?

Let this year, 2024, be the year you step out of your customed living habits and open your lives wide to the Spirit hovering over you, giving you hints, enticing your heart towards what it has longed for so long. Let this be the year you spread, your never used wings and go for a fly. God bless you in this New Year.

Father Willy +



St Alban's Leadership

Staff

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Caroline Mahon-Hurd ~ Sunday School Dir
Hsa Blu Moo ~ Dir of Communications

Victoria Mayor ~ Social Media Director

Judy Brown ~ Treasurer

Lisa Hilliker ~ Altar Guild

Wardens & Vestry

Ibtisam Bashee ~ Senior Warden

Evan Smith ~ Junior Warden

Judy Brown ~ Secretary

Mary Zori ~ Vestry Member

Angelynn Than ~ Vestry Member

Hsa Blu Moo ~ Vestry Member

Judy Brown ~ Vestry Member

Laurie Ibanez ~ Vestry Member

Carly Montagne ~ Vestry Member

Worship & Learn With Us: Worship Services

Sunday 9:30 am in person OR watch live streamed on the
St Alban's Facebook page

**Tuesday Bilingual Mass (English & Arabic), with
Eucharist is at 8:30 am on 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, all are
welcome! This service is now available in person, or view
online on the St Alban's Facebook page.**



I invite you to consider and discuss the resolution being proposed in Congress for the care of our U.S. deported military veterans that addresses two vital areas:

The Veteran Service Recognition Act. H.R. 4569 will:
Facilitate and expedite the citizenship process for our non-citizen military members, veterans, and their families.
Create a committee to review cases of those veterans who are currently in removal proceedings or have already been deported. It allows this committee to make considerations for those who have been unjustly deported or for those whose character flaws that arose as a result of their military service put them in legal jeopardy.

I encourage local faith communities to consider these injustices and review courses of action we, as Episcopalians, can take to care for these deported U.S. Veterans. Following are some recommended actions and points of discussion that may lead to further action:

Pray for those serving, those injured, for veterans, and those deported.

To whom can you communicate your concerns in your community?

Reach out to our Border Missioner Robert Vivar and visit veterans who have been deported. Listen to their stories, and offer a helping hand.

Visit our military ministries page on our website and learn how to become a Military and Veteran-Friendly Parish.

When a U.S. military recruit raises their right hand and recites the Oath of Allegiance, they are swearing to demonstrate their willingness to give their life to defend the citizens of the United States. What greater proof of loyalty and allegiance can we ask of our service members than this?



FROM THE TREASURER'S VAULT

Treasurer's Report - November 30, 2023



GENERAL FUND

Checking Balance as of

- Checking Balance as of October 31, 2023: \$6,501.67
- TOTAL INCOME/EXPENSES:

Offerings: \$ 3,995.35
Other Income: \$15,301.92
TOTAL Income: \$19,297.27

TOTAL Expenses \$15,668.27

- Checking Balance as of November 30, 2023: \$9,772.67
- Average attendance for 4 Sundays in November = 35

November Weekly Offering

- November 5, 2023
 - Attendance: 33 & Online
 - Pledge: \$1,561.00
 - Plate: \$ 465.77
- November 12, 2023
 - Attendance: 32 & Online
 - Pledge: \$825.00
 - Plate: \$113.61
- November 19, 2023
 - Attendance: 40 & Online
 - Pledge: \$300.00
 - Plate: \$121.00
 - 286.00
- November 26, 2023
 - Attendance: 34 & Online
 - Pledge: \$286.00
 - Plate: \$322.97

Where to Find St Alban's Weekly Meetings in person or on Facebook

The Monthly Vestry meeting -
The Vestry meeting is now meeting in person on the **3rd SUNDAY** of each month following the worship service in the Sunday School Room.

Sunday In-Person Worship Service at 9:30am. This meeting can also be found on the St Alban's Facebook page each Sunday morning.

See our Calendar on page 4 for other group meetings and events unique to this month.



January 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----|---|
| Sunday School 9:30am Every Sun. in person (see page 5 for opt ZOOM) info) | | | Weekly Book Study with Fr Willy, Wednesdays from 6-7pm, on Zoom. | Call office for Zoom link to book study. | | |
| | 1 <i>The Holy</i> <i>Name of our</i> <i>Lord Jesus</i> <i>Christ</i> New Year's Day | 2 Bilingual Mass in person and on Face- book 8:30AM Refugee Food Distribution 9-11 AM | 3 Tabletalk meeting in person at St Albans 10 am. <i>Scout Troop</i> <i>308 meeting</i> <i>6:30pm</i> | 4 | 5 | 6 <i>The Epiphany</i> <i>of our Lord</i> <i>Jesus Christ</i> |
| 7 9:30am in person OR View on St Alban's Facebook page <i>Epiphany 1</i> | 8 | 9 | 10 Tabletalk meeting in person at St Albans 10 am. <i>Scout Troop</i> <i>308 meeting</i> <i>6:30pm</i> | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 9:30am in person OR View on St Alban's Facebook page <i>Martin Luther</i> <i>King Day</i> | 15 | 16 Bilingual Mass in person and on Face- book 8:30AM Refugee Food Distribution 9-11 AM | 17 Tabletalk meeting in person at St Albans 10 am. <i>Scout Troop</i> <i>308 meeting</i> <i>6:30pm</i> | 18 <i>The</i> <i>Confession of</i> <i>St Peter the</i> <i>Apostle</i> | 19 | 20 |
| 21 9:30am in person OR View on St Alban's Facebook page Vestry Meeting after service | 22 | 23 | 24 Tabletalk meeting in person at St Albans 10 am. <i>Scout Troop</i> <i>308 meeting</i> <i>6:30pm</i> | 25 <i>The</i> <i>Conversion of</i> <i>St Paul</i> | 26 | 27 |
| 28 9:30am in person OR View on St Alban's Facebook page | 29 | 30 | 31 Tabletalk meeting in person at St Albans 10 am. <i>Scout Troop</i> <i>308 meeting</i> <i>6:30pm</i> | | | |



Helping Deported Veterans
written by Susan Brown Snook
December 12, 2023



At our 50th diocesan convention, we honored veterans and highlighted the military ministries of our diocese. We prepared 200 care packages for Marines and Sailors about to be deployed. And we know there is yet more work to be done in service to our veterans, as our Military Missioner, T. Randy Cash, recently outlined for us.

Military ministry in our diocese has a unique confluence with our border ministries, as we all too often meet U.S. military veterans deported to Tijuana. These veterans are not citizens but green card-holding American residents who have served America with honor, some in the most challenging wars for generations.

As Randy wrote, “Military service is not for the faint of heart. Transitional challenges, the stress of military life, and feelings of isolation all factor into a suicide rate among veterans that is more than 50 percent higher than that of nonveteran adults.” He continues, *Homelessness is another tragic outcome that is too often connected to military service. It is estimated that America has 60,000 veterans who are homeless. That is greater than the entire population of Carson City, Nevada. Though veterans comprise approximately 7 percent of the U.S. population, they are 11 percent of our nation’s homeless.*

Upon their return from military deployments, veterans often suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. Health issues that cause them to struggle mentally, spiritually, and emotionally sometimes lead them to law violations. Veterans who are U.S. citizens have the opportunity for Veterans’ Court, which is run by the County Superior Court, to hear their cases and to receive mental health treatment from the VA. However, green card-holding veterans who have violated our laws are immediately deported upon completion of their incarceration. They cannot receive critical health care from the VA, services offered to U.S. citizen soldiers.

There are over 45,000 non-citizens serving in the U.S. armed forces around the world today and hundreds of deported veterans who have honorably served our nation. As a daughter of an Army veteran and a bishop in the Episcopal Church, serving a diocese along an international border with an active-duty military personnel population of well over 100,000, I am raising my voice to support all military service members having the right to become citizens at the time of initial military service. And I encourage others to do the same.

It is a great sadness that these veterans have been willing to give their lives for us and that we are not willing to consider them as our own. This is a vital opportunity to seek justice, to act with compassion and mercy, to rescue the oppressed by caring for some of our most vulnerable veterans, and to do what is right.

~ continued on page 10 ~



Scout Troop 308 is an all girl BSA scout troop for girls between the ages of 11 and 18 who are looking for adventure. They are welcome to join us on Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm at St. Alban's parish in El Cajon. Contact Joanne Bishop at bishopfamily1@cox.net or the scoutmaster Tina Ninteman, tninteman@yahoo.com for more information.



Sunday School News

By Caroline Mahon-Hurd



Hello Sunday School families,
Sunday School starts **each Sunday at 9:30 am**. The children are now all meeting in person in the St Alban's Education Room.
Children who attend the Sunday School can join their families for communion during the church service.

Sunday School Lessons via ZOOM :

If your child has special needs and attendance via Zoom is the way you would want your child to attend, please contact:
Caroline Mahon-Hurd for details.

Sunday School email: stalbansundayschool@gmail.com please use this email with any questions about Sunday School or if your child has special needs and cannot attend in person.

Please enjoy the pictures from this year's Sunday School Christmas Pageant—pages 6 & 7



