

N ews from **St. Alban's Episcopal Church**

1675 Chester Avenue, Arcata, CA 95521,
The Rev. W. Douglas Thompson, Interim Pastor

707-822-4102
FAX 707-822-4182
stalban@tidepool.com

Dear St. Alban's Family,

George Gershwin said it very well. Summertime, when the livin' is easy. Fish are jumpin. ...and you know the rest. I hope that everyone has adjusted to the change in service time for the summer. By the time we get used to it, it will be time to change back, in September. Oh! Another song. But I'll spare you that one. I hope that your summer has been a good one thus far, with time for rest and re-creation. One thing that Nellie and I have to deal with (yet again) is a child leaving home. Our daughter Suzanna and her husband Bob will be moving to a small town near Couer D'Alene, Idaho, next week. It's not as though we are unique in this experience. Those of you with children leaving for college, or a new career, or just to spread their wings have done this, and we have done it a number of times with all of our children. We have already made plans for travel in September, to go to Klamath Falls for my high school class's 50th Reunion and then on to northern Idaho, a distance of about 800 miles from the Humboldt Bay Area.

As I write this, it is Monday, July 23. I know - the deadline for the newsletter was Friday, July 20th. What can I say? We spent worship time yesterday with the people of St. Martha and St. Mary Mission, Trinidad, which is always a joy. I am usually their celebrant on fifth Sundays of the month, when those occur, but Fr. Leo Joseph, who is officially their pastor, will be there next Sunday for their Matronal Feast of SS. Martha and Mary and we will be at Christ Church, Eureka. It's always a reunion when we go to Christ Church, since we had eighteen years of history with that congregation, and it's fun to catch up with people there.

I'm looking forward to September, getting back to our usual schedule, even though it does mean getting up an hour earlier on Sunday mornings on the two

Sundays of the month when I am at St. Alban's. You fill me with joy, and I thank you for that. May the rest of your summer be filled with what you hope for.

Peace and love

Doug+

Health Ministry at St. Alban's

Yes, I'm cheating a little - part of this is the Health Ministry piece from June that didn't make it into the newsletter. It's important enough to repeat. First of all, I've just read over some of last year's Health Ministry newsletters and notice I need to remind everyone--there are 2 First Aid kits:

- One is in the office, underneath the bulletin board.
- The other is in the kitchen up high above the coffee cups.

Also, please let me know if you use something from the kit that needs replacing. I don't check it often enough and would appreciate your help.

Finally, it's "high" summer now - so remember the Aussie saying:

- SLIP on a T-shirt
- SLAP on a hat
- SLOP on sunscreen - often, after swimming, after sweating, etc. !

Now you're ready for the great Outdoors - even on a foggy/hazy day. Also, don't forget your sunglasses, being sure they are certified to protect your eyes from UV damage. Everyone, kids included, needs to pay attention to this.

Have a great rest of the summer everyone!

Blessings,

Emily Arents, RN, Parish Nurse

Outreach News

Arcata Endeavor Meals

Thanks go to all who signed up to cook in June and July. If you are going to be in town in mid-August, please consider signing up to cook (chilly over spaghetti, recipe will be provided) or prepare a salad for Wednesday, August 15, 2007. Thank you!!

- Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the parish hall.
- Questions? Need help delivering food? Need directions? Please call Brenda Wood (476-9221) or Debbie Eiers (498-8889).

MANY THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO COOKED FOR THE ARCATA ENDEAVOR IN JUNE: ALICE HACKETT, MERRY SCHELLINGER, CONNIE WEBB AND BRENDA WOOD.

The "Bookmark Prayer" of Teresa of Avila

Let nothing upset you,
Let nothing frighten you.

Everything is changing;
God alone is changeless.

Patience attains the goal.

Who has God lacks nothing;
God alone fills all our needs.

From the Other Side of the Mountain

By Heather Hobson

One task I assigned myself this year is to read Lives of the Saints by the Rev. Alban Butler. The edition in my hand was abridged by the Rev. Dr. James Bentley. This means that of the 535 saints originally included in the 19th century edition, I only have to read 235. Hallelujah!

At this juncture, I have now scrutinized over half the book and have found myself grateful not to be called upon by God to be a saint, especially a martyred one. The joy and ecstasy many of the early martyrs are reputed to have expressed under torture I find difficult to understand. Only by combining my deepest spiritual convictions with my academic training as a historian am I able to garner any reason for some of their actions.

One such saint, who I struggle to understand, is joined as a martyr with her son, yet she is afforded the lesser status. She is St. Julitta, and her son is known as St. Quiricus or St. Cyr. They are honored on June 16th and are said to have perished in 304 A.D.

St. Julitta and her son moved from city to city avoiding Diocletian's persecution of the Christians. In Tarsus they were apprehended. When asked her origin, Julitta simply said, "I am a Christian," omitting the fact that she was of wealth and the granddaughter of kings. The governor then took away her three-year-old son, Cyr, and Julitta was "extended and cruelly whipped with thongs." The account then speaks of Cyr's "sweetness and innocence," and how he reached for his mother, despite the governor's attempts to pacify him.

As I read these words, I thought, *Okay, nothing really saintly here. Isn't that what a three-year-old would do?*

Cyr then scratches the governor's face and repeats the words his mother is continuing to scream while being tortured: "I am a Christian."

Still my mind says to this, *Nothing a normal child wouldn't do. Children often repeat what their parents say.*

Cyr's actions and Julitta's words anger the governor. Enraged, he throws Cyr and "dashed out his brains against the edge of the steps."

I winced as these words met my eyes. *Gruesome, but typical of the persecution of the Christians by the Romans.*

It was the next paragraph that chilled me, and even a month after reading it, I still struggle to digest it: "Julitta, seeing him thus expire, rejoiced at his happy martyrdom and gave thanks to God. Her joy increased. . . "

What did that just say?

And there my mind has remained, contemplating a woman who refused to use her wealth and status to save herself and her son, even though she journeyed from city to city to do so previously; a woman who grew joyful after her child was brutally killed, while she was tortured.

What mother would do that?

After a month's time, all I have been able to derive is that Julitta was either touched with madness or touched by God beyond my understanding. Perhaps that is what makes her a saint.

God doesn't call the qualified,

He qualifies the called.

World Shelters Youth Event

On Saturday, June 30, 16 high school- and middle school- aged youth and five adults participated in a significant Ecumenical Youth Group event. Assisted by a \$600 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, participants gathered at Round Table Pizza in Arcata for food and fellowship, then traveled to the office of World Shelters, Inc., for inspiring hands-on activities, snacks and a free World Shelters T-shirt.

Three teams took on such diverse activities as assembling "clip kits" to secure the laminated sheeting which creates flexible temporary shelters, cutting the sheeting, and painting a new, corrugated plastic geodesic dome. The World Shelters staff was appreciative, and youth had a great community service experience while becoming acquainted with kids from other local churches. Many thanks to the local Thrivent branch!

More Ecumenical Youth Group activities will be planned for next year; suggestions would be gratefully received by Jeri Gray-Reneberg, by phone: 825-8613, or e-mail: jeraynegr@gmail.com.

Sock Sundays

August 5 and August 12 will be "Sock Sundays." We will be collecting new or "gently used" socks for the Arcata Endeavor. Socks don't have to match, but should be clean and without holes. Please bring socks to

church and leave them in the basket in the Narthex.

Wrestling with the Word

Wrestling with the Word will begin September 15th, at St. Michael and All Angels, in Fort Bragg, and will meet monthly at different churches in the Deanery. This is a golden opportunity to broaden your horizons and help your parish. The course of workshops ends in February with a retreat at St. Paul's in Crescent City. This training is for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Preachers, Catechists, and Worship Leaders.

Please see Mtr. Susan if you have any questions.

From the "Archives"

by Merry Schellinger

One of my favorite church memories is of the annual holiday bazaar held by the First Congregational Church that I grew up in. My mother was an active participant in the event, so I remember the planning and preparation, as well as the event itself, and the aftermath (also called "cleanup"). Our church had a huge basement – one side for the many tables of hand-made crafts, food items and "white elephants" and the other side for a spacious kitchen and dining area. As children, we spent the day roaming the tables, unsupervised (or so we thought) as our mothers were busy with work involved in putting on such an event. It was perfectly timed for Christmas shopping and always well-attended.

I came upon some pictures from the annual “Holly Faire” held at St. Alban’s for many years – an event “featuring hand-made items and tasty goodies!” It was held in early December, on a Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Is anyone interested in reviving this annual tradition? I think it could be a wonderful event, both for St. Alban’s church and for the community. We have many talented craftspeople and cooks in our congregation, and we all probably have a few “white elephant” items we could donate. A quilt raffle would be fun too. And perhaps we could include a some music to celebrate the beginning of Advent? I would be happy to help organize an event (with help!) if enough people express interest and the Vestry and Father Doug support the endeavor. Let me know on a Sunday or feel free to email me at: merryschellinger@suddenlink.net or call me at home at (707-445-0940).

Farewells. . .

A fond farewell, at least for now, to Shannon McColl, who will be going down south to take care of her mother. We ask for prayers for her, and for her mother, Denise who is suffering from a serious illness. We will miss you, Shannon. Be sure to keep in touch.

Serena Zelezny, who has left us at least twice before, will be moving away soon to work on her graduate degree. We’ll miss her sweet voice and cheerful personality. Be sure to come back and visit, Serena!

The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.

From the Past ...
by Merry Schellinger

The June newsletter provided some information on Saint Alban and during our celebration of St. Alban’s Feast Day in June, Father Doug raised the question of how our parish came to be named St. Alban’s. Fortunately, we have a wealth of historical information, some already gathered (papers, photos, etc.) and some “uncollected” as yet, in the memories of parishioners who have been part of St. Alban’s as it has grown and changed over the years.

When I asked Junior Warden Bill Hover the question of how St. Alban’s came to be so-named, we had a delightful conversation from which I learned something both about the history of St. Alban’s and about Bill! According to Bill, the name was suggested by Rev. Kenneth Samuelson and chosen because there was no other parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California named St. Alban’s. The original By-Laws, adopted April 21, 1954, name the corporation as “St. Alban’s Episcopal Church of Arcata” and the business address as 630 Ninth Street, Arcata.

Before St. Alban’s was formally organized and named, services were held in the Chapel of the Redwoods Mortuary, the Women’s Club, and the Adventist Church. The faith community that formed what we call St. Alban’s today began in the early 1950’s. The Speirings, who were members, donated the land in Sunny Brae upon which the church is built. Ground breaking was held in January 1954 and the dedication was held in 1957. We have a wonderful collection of written “memories”, gathered on the occasion of St. Alban’s 50th anniversary, celebrated in 2004.

So, back to my conversation with Bill ... I not only learned how St. Alban’s was named, I learned when and where Bill proposed to Marlene! I won’t give it away here ... you can ask them yourself!

Talking with Bill made me realize how many more valuable stories and memories there are out there to be gathered. I hope to meet and talk with Father Kenneth Samuelson sometime in the near future. Is anyone interested in helping gather some of these stories and/or sharing memories? I would love to hear from you, and gather them up to add to our church archives. As always, our history not only teaches us about the past, but helps us learn, grow, and plan for the future.

The Calling Process Moves Into High Gear

By Nancy Dye Leer

In late June, thanks to the work of the Profile Committee chaired by Bob Webb, St. Alban's position opening was posted on a nationwide web site (www.episcopalchurch.org/cdo). Already several applicants have communicated their interest to Rev. Britt Olson, Church Deployment Officer and Canon to the Ordinary.

On July 18th, Roger Cutler, met with 12 parishioners to provide the Applicant Review Committee with its charter from the vestry and to conduct Phase One of our training. The committee is comprised of Becky Price-Hall, Connie Webb, Carolyn Hunt, Ellen Robnett, Evaonne Hendricks, Marlene Hover, Mary Bockover, Mary Wheatley, Nancy Dye, Patrick Brown and Shirley Armstrong. Colleen Reed continues to serve as Chaplain to the Calling Process.

Wednesday's three hour meeting began with members offering their impressions of St. Alban's and hopes for St. Alban's new rector. Roger then explained the steps through which the committee will 1) sift through applicants whose dossiers' are forwarded by Bishop Beisner's office, 2) identify five or six candidates to be visited in their home communities, 3) choose three final candidates

as most qualified based on their training and experience, 4) submit their names to the Bishop and to St. Alban's Vestry. The Vestry will invite the candidates to Arcata and will endeavor to discern whom it is that God is calling to be St. Alban's new rector.

So, we are launched! Parishioners are welcome to ask committee members about the process and our progress --- but we hope you'll understand that any discussion of candidates by name or location is prohibited, in order to respect candidates' privacy.

My Two Bits

by Evaonne Hendricks

If you paid attention to your bulletin this last week, you will note that there are envelopes in the narthex for the support of the wonderful people, like Amanda, who rescue animals. The mother raccoon was captured and relocated, but the babies remained elusive until after she was gone. The babies were finally captured Sunday, July 9th, by Amanda, from the Wildlife Rescue Center. Many thanks to her, and to Jenni Ackerman-Simpson and Connie Williams, who pursued the matter and made sure the babies were not left under the church to die. They were *very* cute!!! Some of us had the wonderful opportunity of petting them. (Yes, I'm an old softy.)

I would like to thank Connie Williams for all her hard work in taking over the newsletter when it was needed, especially given the overwhelming amount of work she was doing *before* she started. When she announced that someone needed to step forward and take the reins, I was hesitant, but willing. I'm still not sure whether or not I'm asking for trouble here. I am hoping for interesting articles to publish. Right

now it is a bit of a learning curve, but I will do my best to keep things running

smoothly in future.

Fellowship and Fun at St. Alban's

<u>Weekly Gatherings</u>		<u>Contact</u>
Journey to Adulthood	Sundays 12:00-2:00 p.m.	Jenni Simpson-Ackerman
Rite 13	Sundays 12:00-2:00 p.m.	Dan Scofield & Nan Voss-Herlihy
Choir	Sundays after church	Nanette Voss-Herlihy

Monthly Gathering

Vestry	1 st Monday 6:00 pm	
Book Club	2nd Monday 6:00 p.m. - Potluck	Betty Price or
	7:00 -pm Discussion	The Rev. Frederick A. Moore
Craft Group	3rd Monday 7:00 p.m.	Betty Price

News from St. Alban's Episcopal Church

is printed monthly. Please send your newsletter request via email to starfire@humboldt1.com, or stalban@tidepool.com, subject line: "Newsletter;" via regular mail, FAX, or leave your request in the "Newsletter" mail box in the office on or before the 20th of each month..

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ST ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
1675 Chester Avenue
Arcata, CA 95521

