



# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Davidson, NC

## MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING ON MAY 9, 2022

### ATTENDANCE

<i>Vestry Members in Attendance</i>	<i>Also in Attendance</i>
Alex Slawson, Senior Warden	<i>Clergy</i>
Jean Bonnyman, Junior Warden	Rev. Carmen Germino <i>Rector</i>
Bob Beckham	Rev. Kevin Lloyd <i>Assoc. Rector &amp; Davidson College Episcopal Campus Minister</i>
Tom Fischer	Leslie Urban, Treasurer
Greg Knudson	<i>Unable to Attend</i>
Allison Kratt	
Jenny Meyers	
Cheryl Nealy	
Jennifer Nelson Loher	
Mike Sass	None
Alex Slawson	
Joseph Torok	
Danny Wiles	

### CALL TO ORDER

Rev. Germino called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

### PRAYER/REFLECTION

Rev. Lloyd began the in-person meeting with Evening Prayer II.



Rev. Germino discussed Psalm 23 incorporating Sunday's scripture lesson. She noted that due to the familiarity of the psalm, readers may miss the power of it. She presented three different interpretations relevant to various circumstances.

Greg Knudson read the goals of the Vestry:

As the vestry of St. Alban's, we...

- ...pray for each other and our church
- ...participate fully
- ...commit to being a learning community
- ...welcome a variety of opinions
- ...notice and share the joy of this community
- ...are open to change and the work of the Holy Spirit
- ...do business to further our purpose (mission and ministry)
- ...are in an ongoing state of discernment
- ...take faithful risks when appropriate
- ...collaborate to avoid ministry silos and empower the various ministries we support
- ...communicate thoroughly
- ...support our church staff and clergy
- ...gather informally to strengthen our relationships

As we do these, we will serve as role models of faith and service.

### INFORMATION

- + Sunday, May 15, 2022, Holy Happy Hour will be a collaboration between SEEDS, Ministry of Fun, and neighbors. Vestry members are invited to participate as a way to invite new attendees.
- + Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 11:00 A.M., the Right Reverend Samuel S. Rodman, Bishop of North Carolina, will ordain Valerie Davis Colbert to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. The ordination will be held at St. Alban's and broadcast via [www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC/](http://www.facebook.com/EpiscopalDioceseNC/). A reception will immediately follow the service in the narthex. RSVP is requested by May 12, 2022 to [valeriecolbert@ymail.com](mailto:valeriecolbert@ymail.com) or 704-654-7303.
- + Sunday, May 22 at 9:10 a.m., the St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART) will have a book discussion of *The Color of Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's complicity in Racism* by Jemar Tisby. Following that, a potluck lunch will be held and two speakers will discuss Davidson history: Jan Blogget, the former Head of Archives at Davidson College, co-author of *One Town, Many Voices: A History of Davidson, North Carolina*, and bookseller at Main Street books; and Marvin Brandon, a Davidson native, chairman of the Board of Trustees at Gethsemane Baptist Church and a member of the Board of Directors for the Ada Jenkins Center.
- + Sunday, June 5, 2022, Pentecost and a Newcomer Social are planned.
- + Wednesday, June 22, 2022: Parish Hall Pledge Deadline.



- + Sunday, June 26, 2022: Feast of St. Alban's Celebration and Parish Picnic.
- + Sundays, June 5, July 3, August 14, September 4, and November 6 are the tentative dates for Holy Baptism for the remainder of 2022.

## DISCUSSION

### MINUTES

The minutes of the March 14, 2022 meeting of the vestry were submitted for review and were approved, by unanimous consent.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- + Danny Wiles noted that St. Alban's continues to be in a good financial position and Alex Slawson has also examined the most recent financials. If anyone has questions regarding finances, please contact Danny Wiles, Leslie Urban, or Erin Garrett.

### PARISH HALL UPDATE

- + Allison Kratt requested updated information regarding the number of gifts and pledges received.
- + Pledges are included on the annual giving statement. Along with pledges, a vestry honor roll is provided to express appreciation to those who pledged. Pledges can be made for up to a 36 month period.

### GROUNDS AND MEMORIAL GARDEN UPDATE

- + Jean Bonnyman noted that repairs were made to the storage shed and it will be painted green. For the front of the church, quotes are being received to mulch and change the grass footprint around the picnic tables. The Memorial Gardens will be mulched and shrubs will also be pruned. The Caldera gardens will be planted with perennials and soaker hoses will be installed. Finally, soaker hoses will also be provided for hydrangeas elsewhere on the grounds. A two-pronged goal of all these improvements is to provide sustainability and lower maintenance.
- + Jean Bonnyman also noted that an estimate will be provided by Michael McMillan for engineering to repair slopes and a retaining wall causing erosion and sinking sidewalks.
- + Greg Knudson has suggested a pop-up social with approximately fifteen attendees to see the irises, with refreshments.

### VESTRY RETREAT GOALS DISCUSSION



Alex Slawson provided a review of the vestry retreat goals.

### **I. Creation Care (Jean Bonnyman, Joseph Torok, and Danny Wiles)**

At the retreat, we discussed SEEDS & Caldera gardens, the Prayer Trail, composting, the Memorial Garden, the front lawn, the shed, recycling, and building the new parish hall as sustainably as possible.

#### Celebrate:

1. The Prayer Trail is done and walkable. Now simply a matter of optional enhancements such as plantings at each station, benches, etc.
2. SEEDS Ministry/Caldera is thriving. Maintain Caldera with soaker hoses and clover patch
3. Collaboration with Flower Guild – Many Easter flowers repurposed as new plantings.

#### Underway:

1. Getting a quote on composting for garden waste, etc.
2. Lots of improvements are underway for landscaping/grounds. Continue to put energy into new landscaping around the grounds (front lawn/Memorial Garden/prayer trail, back entrance, etc.) using native and pollinator-friendly plants whenever possible.

#### Next up:

1. Energy Audit
2. Plan speakers/book studies/creation care formation opportunities for all ages
3. Reintroduce reusable mugs to coffee hour

#### Looking Beyond 2022:

1. Think about sustainability in/around the new Parish Hall. Green building when possible, composting after parish meals/events/moving butterfly garden/planting shade trees around the new playground, etc. (Work with Crown Town on this)
2. Keep an eye on kudzu

### **II. Congregational Vitality Updates (Allison Kratt, Greg Knudson, Tom Fischer)**

At the retreat, we discussed a men's group, supper clubs, and the need for a re-energized greeter/newcomer ministry.

#### Celebrate:

1. The Grow, Gather, Serve Campaign has begun.
2. The Greeter Ministry has been rebooted. Fourteen people attended the initial meeting, however there is a need to recruit more greeters in order to have three per Sunday 10:30 service.
3. A newcomer event is planned in June. Suzie and June Wiley are points of contact.

#### Underway:

1. A Mens' group is being planned by Greg Knudson monthly on Monday nights, beginning this Fall.

#### Next up:

1. Work with the Ministry of Fun to launch Supper Clubs in the fall with a big progressive dinner event. Claire Allen and Jan Wiley have expressed interest in helping.
2. Formalize a plan for offsite small group hospitality for repeat visitors.
3. Coordinate a plan to welcome new neighbors with an invitation to visit St. Alban's



4. Organize better neighborhood/community outreach for events such as Oktoberfest, etc.

Looking Beyond 2022:

1. Parish Hall fellowship activities, meals, etc. will require volunteer power. Recruit brunch cooking teams, etc.
2. Possibly create a Kitchen Ministry.

**III. Formation Updates (Bob Beckham, Jennifer Nelson-Loher, Mike Sass]**

At the retreat, we discussed Eucharist ministry and acolytes, Sunday School, and potential adult formation topics like Art & Christianity.

Celebrate:

1. Kevin recently recruited and trained several new LEMs.
2. We've nearly completed a full program year of Sunday morning educational programming for children, youth, and adults.

Underway:

1. This summer, we are making worship to be an intergenerational formation opportunity for families, and making the 10:30 service more family-friendly and engaging for all ages.
2. We are celebrating and thanking Children and Youth volunteers on May 15.

Next up:

1. Plan for in-person Bible Study in the fall, with an option to use Zoom.
2. Plan a rich and full adult formation schedule for the fall.

Looking Beyond 2022:

1. Determine how to increase participation, such as adjust times, improve communication, or offer different programming.
2. Consider sending a survey before each event, leveraging SurveyMonkey

**IV. Collaboration Updates: (Alex Slawson, Cheryl Nealy, Rev. Kevin Lloyd)**

At the retreat, we discussed collaborations with various Outreach partners, local churches, Episcopal Student Fellowship,

Celebrate:

1. New leadership is available for the Back-to-School Blast. Thanks to Jenny Langford for all her hard work, and to Ashley Romero for taking the reins.
2. La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool students attending St. Alban's summer camps and Vacation Bible School (VBS).

Underway:

1. A Joint Habitat for Humanity build with Davidson College Presbyterian Church (DCPC), Davidson United Methodist Church (DUMC), and other local churches is in the works for late summer. Mike Kingsley is the point of contact.
2. St. Alban's Square neighborhood engagement now includes pickleball & bocce ball amenities.

Next up:



1. Look for ways to build connections with Episcopal Student Fellowship (ESF) at Davidson College and St. Alban's, possibly including an "Adopt-a-Student" program for St. Alban's families.
2. Consider refugee resettlement and cooperation with Galilee Ministries
3. Plan Safe Families programming.

Looking Beyond 2022:

1. Help recruit more volunteers for FEEDNC.
2. Strengthen connections with St. Patrick's, St. Mark's, All Saints, and other nearby Episcopal parishes.
3. Strengthen connections with nearby churches of all denominations.

## CLERGY UPDATES

### Updates from Rev. Germino

- + Jessica Ewell has assumed the task of producing newsletters and making website updates, which have been incorporated into her position, and St. Alban's is not looking for a communications director. Please thank Jessica Ewell for assuming those responsibilities.
- + Jessica Ewell cannot currently manage social media and livestreaming due to time limitations, so Rev. Germino and Rev. Lloyd have been performing those tasks.
- + The parish office is currently open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- + Watch COVID. St. Alban's has a good policy in place, but if the status changes to yellow, our practices must change in response. However, the diocese has not recently changed its current policies and guidance.

### Updates from Rev. Lloyd

- + Anyone who might enjoy serving as a LEM should be placed in contact with Rev. Lloyd. If St. Alban's may need to change methods of distributing communion, new eucharistic ministers may be needed.
- + Youth confirmation is scheduled for September, with the beginning of the new program year.
- + ESF programming is complete for the year. The ESF cookout at the Davidson College Lake Campus was chilly but good. Four members are graduating next week.
- + This summer will consist of ESF planning and obtaining contact information of first year students, as soon as they apply, in order to connect and engage them.
- + Rev. Lloyd is considering the feasibility of an Adopt-a-Student program in order to facilitate connections between ESF and St. Alban's families.



- + Meals provided to Davidson College students by generous volunteers were wonderful. Jenny contributed the most recent meal and it was fantastic. Depending on visitor guidelines, parishoners may be able to join meals next year.
- + Gifts were provided to ESF students, as well as a dedicated liturgy and special blessing.

#### WARDEN UPDATES

##### Alex Slawson, Senior Warden

- + Vestry person of the day signup is available through January 30, 2023.
- + Gratitude was expressed for the significant improvements in the greeter ministry.

##### Jean Bonnyman, Junior Warden

- + Jean Bonnyman agreed with the significance of greeter improvements and expressed thanks.

#### LIAISON UPDATES

- + Jenny Myers, Preschool Liaison: No updates.
- + Cheryl Nealy, Outreach Liaison: On Thursday, April 21, the committee met to discuss Safe Alliance, FeedNC, the Davidson Housing Coalition, and La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool engagements. Pat Shaw, Director of La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool, needs adult volunteers on May 28, 2022 to move all property from the Ada Jenkins Center to a U-Haul for storage. Patti Rossini requests assistance for the preschool to support students, whether from Outreach or other groups. Finally, the Adult form was held on Sunday and fifty people attended.
- + Jennifer Loher, Children's Ministry Liaison: No updates.
- + Mike Sass, Youth Ministry Liaison: Mary Helms is the committee chair. Courtney Fawcett is looking for activity ideas. The school year ends May 22. The vestry is requested to consider how to use the greenery sale or other ideas to raise funds.
- + Greg Knudson, Ministry of Fun Liaison: Over one-hundred attended a fundraiser. The Concert on the Green also had excellent attendance with 15 adults plus kids. St. Mark's women are preparing food for Valerie Colbert's ordination, which currently has 75 invitees plus the congregation. Jerry is working on assignments. The parish picnic for June 26, 2022 is scheduled and featured food will include Birkdale's Smoke House, sides and dessert.
- + Bob Beckham, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team Liaison (StAART): Bob reminds us to be mindful of May 22 events. The team is also discussing maintenance of its library.
- + Allison Kratt, Stewardship Liaison: No updates.



- + Tom Fischer, Welcome Ministry Liaison: Greeter ministry improvements were highlighted by the Wardens.
- + Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Liaison: The quarterly meeting was held April 26, 2022. The meeting was brief because the finances look good.



CLOSING

Rev. Lloyd closed the meeting with Evening Prayer.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, June 13, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Torok  
Clerk of the Vestry