

Weekly Newsletter

January 7, 2021



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Who is celebrating this upcoming week?

IN OUR PRAYERS

We pray for these people.

A Message from

Rev. Carmen

*Peace be to this house, and to all
who dwell in it.*

Yesterday was the Feast of the Epiphany. An epiphany is an “A-ha!” moment, and throughout the season of Epiphany, we will examine various “A-ha!” moments about Jesus that occur throughout the Gospels, starting with his baptism this coming Sunday.

The Church has an old tradition of blessing homes on the Feast of the Epiphany and the week following. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys and sorrows. In this time when many of us are spending a great deal of time at home, don't you think

[Read more](#)

Youth Confirmation

For those who plan to participate in the diocesan youth Confirmation program: [the on-line registration form](#) for the program goes only to the diocese, so please let [Courtney](#) or [Fr. Kevin](#) know that you have registered. This class starts on **March 1**. We will not be adding any additional commitments beyond the diocesan program, but want to be able to offer support and have an occasional Zoom gathering for just the St. Alban's participants. Don't hesitate to be in touch with one of us with any questions you may have.





Bible Study Opportunities in the New Year

A **NEW** lay-led group is forming to offer additional opportunities for scripture reflection and discussion. We are planning our first meeting for **Sunday, January 17 at 5:30 PM on Zoom**. We will begin by reading and discussing [The Path: A Journey Through the Bible](#). The Path is the story of the Bible, excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. With informative trail signs to help you see how each piece of the narrative fits together, The Path is an experience unlike any other: an amazing 360-degree overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's extraordinary love for ordinary people. Join us on this epic adventure, a journey through the Bible to grow closer to God. It is a great option for those who want to know the bible better, but are intimidated by the size and complexity of it. Please contact [**Kim Mork \(hmork@carolina.rr.com\)**](mailto:hmork@carolina.rr.com) if you are interested in joining this new group.

FeedNC Volunteers Needed

FeedNC's mission is more crucial than ever in support of families currently experiencing food insecurity. As part of St. Alban's community outreach, we offer a volunteer lunch prep team each month at FeedNC. Our team is scheduled to help on **Friday, January 15th, 9:00- 1:30**. Although responses have been lower than usual this past year, we hope to supply a few volunteers each month in 2021. If you are willing to help on the 15th--or for further information--please contact [**emerichm@gmail.com**](mailto:emerichm@gmail.com). Be reassured that FeedNC continues to observe recommended safety and sanitation precautions.



Clergy Lectionary Bible Study

Our weekly Lectionary Bible Study led by the clergy will resume on **Wednesday, January 13**. This group meets **on Zoom** weekly at **2:30 PM** for an hour of conversation related to the scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday. Please contact [**Jessica Ewell**](#) if you

would like to be added to the email list for this group.

Consider making 2021 the year you take a deeper dive into the Word of God by joining one of our parish bible studies!

Financial Update

Contributions Via Online Bill Pay and Abundant - A friendly reminder - If you use your bank's online bill pay or Abundant to send automated contributions, after your December 2020 payment, please remember to adjust your 2021 automated payment amount if your annual pledge changed. **Also, for those contributing via Abundant, please remember to change the fund to the 2021 General Fund.** Happy New Year!



Morning Prayer & Centering Prayer

As we transition from one of the most challenging years that many of us have seen in our lifetimes, none of us can be blamed for feeling disoriented and mentally exhausted. Unfortunately, the change from 2020 to 2021 will not immediately bring us a return to any sense of normalcy. In times such as these we naturally look for something to anchor us, while the storm rages around us.

As people of faith, one of our primary anchoring points is the spiritual practice of prayer. Prayer takes various forms. Two particular forms that have stood the test of time are daily liturgical prayer and contemplative prayer. I would like to offer a friendly reminder that I continue to offer opportunities for both of these forms of prayer on a daily basis, Monday through Thursday. All are invited and welcome to join me and others for Morning Prayer (8:30) and/or Centering Prayer (4:30) whenever your schedule allows. I and those who have been joining me have found consistent prayer together to be extremely helpful in these challenging times.

The Zoom link is the same for both: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9497600098> Feel free to contact me with any questions you might have.

Yours in Christ, Kevin

Any contributions for Loaves and Fishes and FeedNC may be placed in the red wagon, now located at St. Alban's side entrance. Especially needed are pantry stable foods, including canned tuna, Spam, vegetables, and fruit, as well as cereals, pasta, rice, and beans. Paper products, hygiene items, and pet supplies are also gratefully received. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach project!



Children's Ministry



Children's News

Calling all our little Fishers! Sunday School lessons are available in age level packets, PreK-K and 1st-5th, and contain goodies and lessons for the month to be enjoyed at your leisure. We hope you will enjoy the January packets, **PLEASE email [Courtney](#) with PICTURES of your kids enjoying the packets!**

We will resume DELIVERY for the February Sunday School packets. If you did not receive one in Nov. and Dec., please email [Courtney](#) to be added to the list. Thank you so much for your support!

Youth News

We have two youth opportunities from the Diocese:

First is **Youth Speak the Truth: Youth Conversations About Self-Care In A Pandemic** and will be held today, Thursday, Jan. 7 at 7pm. Molly Reitz, Wellness Director at Christ Church Charlotte, will lead a discussion about various aspects of self-care pertaining to isolation, depression and anxiety. Adults are welcome to join and listen, allowing youth space to discuss and ask questions. To register for this webinar, please use this [link](#).

The second youth opportunity is **Bishops' Ball 2021: 1000 Days of Love on February 13**. The entire event will be online, so save the date and visit this [link](#) to register. More information on this fun event to come!



Youth Sunday School is now wrapped into our Sunday evening Zoom calls! It is a short lesson, followed by some fun online games. Please have your Middle or High School Youth Zoom in on **Sundays at 7pm**. There are PRIZES!!

Join Zoom Meeting [HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 817 5190 4445

Password: 725556

Please sign up for Remind notices by downloading the Remind app on your phone and enter code @lkn youth for High School or @19middle for Middle School. I will send out Reminder emails for our meetings.

If you have ideas, needs, concerns, questions, please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing [Courtney](#). We miss you and look forward to hearing from and hopefully seeing you soon!

Parents' News

WHOLEHEARTED PARENTING: RAISING COMPASSIONATE, RESILIENT CHILDREN IN BELOVED COMMUNITY

The children's, youth and family ministry department will offer a four-session parenting offering beginning in Epiphany. This curriculum has been prepared especially for the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and is based upon the research of Brené Brown. This Zoom offering will be led by Amy Campbell, children's and family missionary, and Leah Dail, assistant youth missionary.

Parents, lay leaders, and clergy are invited. Depending on the number of people who register, and the congregations they represent we will be tailoring it to the needs of those who are interested. Please use this [link](#) to register for the classes. Dates/Time: 1/12, 1/19, 1/26 and 2/2, 7:30 to 8:30 pm



Sunday Worship

We offer online Morning Prayer with music at 10:30 a.m. on our [Facebook page](#), followed by virtual Coffee Hour on [Zoom](#) at 11:30 a.m.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Last Sunday's online worship can be found on [Facebook](#) and [Youtube](#).

ONGOING EVENTS

PRAYER SHAWLS

If you or someone you know is sick or grieving, support might come from a "hug" in the form of a prayer shawl that has been blessed by our clergy. The shawls are knitted or crocheted or woven by our prayer shawl ministry members who give of their time, talent, resources, and prayers. If you would like to receive a prayer shawl for yourself or someone you know, please contact [Jessica Ewell](#).

PASTORAL CARE

Are you or someone you know in need of pastoral care? Please contact [Becky Mohlere](#) or [Mary Helms](#).

PRAYER LIST

Would you like to add your family or friend to our prayer list? Please email [Jessica](#) the name. When emailing Jessica a name, please state whether you would like first and last name or just first name on the prayer list. The name will remain on the prayer list for 2 weeks, or you can "renew" the name for another two weeks, please email Jessica this request too.

MEMBER DATABASE

Need to update personal info with St. Alban's? Check your pledge balance? Maybe look up another church member? ACS is our church database and it allows you to do all of this and more. Login with your church email and then follow this link for more info. [Read More](#)

St. Alban's Episcopal Church |
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