



March 19, 2020

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David

Evelyn Tew

Florence Trotter

James Bateman

Jennifer Lang

Rev. Jim Croom

Jim Hartman

Joe Havens

Jordan Anthony

Hilary Hamilton

The Lord Family

Melba Lichte

Rebecca Yarbrough

Robyn Boyd

Timothy Fowler

Sid Linker Sr.

In our **Parish Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for all the

An Update from the Rector

Dear St. Alban's,

How are you? How are your spirits today? I know we are all carrying an enormous amount of grief and anxiety right now, while also trying to muster all the joy and silver linings we can. It's bizarre to think back to this time last week when we were still trying to figure out how to safely worship together in person. Now, we know that won't be possible for some time. **This week, the [Bishops of the Diocese of North Carolina](#) confirmed that, in accordance with guidelines from the CDC and government, all in-person worship, gatherings, and non-essential meetings are suspended through at least May 17.** It's quite surreal to think about not being together in the flesh for that length of time, not gathering in person for Holy Week and Easter, and abstaining from Holy Eucharist for that long, but that is what we must do for the health and safety of our wider community.

Right now, my family and I are trying to adjust to our new routine. I imagine many of you are doing the same. We are all figuring this out together, and things will be very different for a while. This week, Kevin and I have begun making pastoral contacts by phone with individuals and families, and this task will continue in the days and weeks to come. There is much we could do, and may do in the weeks to come, but right now, the pastoral care of our parish family is my top priority. I ask for your grace and patience with your clergy and staff as we juggle the demands of our families and our ministries. I also urge you to extend the same grace and patience to yourself and

volunteers and incarcerated juveniles involved in Epiphany Ministry, Inc. at Stonewall Jackson Youth Development Center in Concord.

In our **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer** we pray for St. Stephen's in Erwin, Trinity Church in Fuquay-Varina & St. Christopher's in Garner, NC.

In our **Anglican Cycle of Prayer** we pray for the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui & The Most Revd. Paul Kwong, Archbishop of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui.

Military Prayer List:
Ryan Leinberger
Christopher Stonehouse
Amy Stonehouse

your loved ones. None of us were expecting this reality. None of us are totally prepared. But God is with us, and the love of Jesus Christ will accompany us through "many dangers, toils, and snares" as it always has. I love you, I miss you, and I am praying for you.

Yours in Christ,
Carmen

A Message from Rev. Kevin

Connection. I think if there's one word that speaks to the spiritual realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, it's connection. In these days of forced "social distancing" we are all being reminded of how deeply connected we all are, in ways that are both beautiful and, at times, frightening. We are also discovering anew how important relational connections are to our emotional and spiritual health. We are being confronted with a profoundly important existential question: as we seek to keep a safe distance from one another, how do we maintain and even strengthen those life-giving connections that are so essential to Christian community and to our well-being?

This question has relevance beyond the current crisis. In our 21st century context, we have an incredible capacity for connection. Social media in the internet age allows us to connect and re-connect with friends and family across the distances of both space and time. We can make very good use of these tools during the current crisis, as we seek to continue to be with each other, even as our in-person contact is becoming more limited. I'm watching with amazement and gratitude as churches, schools, and other service organizations are so adeptly using social media to reach out and maintain connections, and even establish new connections. Many of us are being forced out of our comfort zones, some of which are isolating and unhealthy. I see all of this as evidence of God's Spirit at work in and through these challenging days. And I see much potential for some enduring and life-giving changes as a result.

That being said, I think this moment is also calling us to reevaluate the ways in which we establish and maintain connections. As helpful as communication technology can be in these efforts, it can also be quite detrimental if used wrongly. We see all too often how email and social media can be used in counterproductive ways: as tools of prejudice and hatred, rather than compassion and mercy; to create discord instead of unity. As someone who is an introvert and conflict-averse by nature, I know the temptation to hide behind electronic communication and to use it in passive-aggressive and destructive ways. Many of us know the temptation to present ourselves and our lives inauthentically on Facebook and other social media. There are indeed ways in which we

misuse these tools of connection to create barriers and unnecessary boundaries that are death-dealing instead of life-giving.

As always, we do well to look to the life and teachings of Jesus. Jesus never allowed societal boundaries or barriers to prevent him from reaching out and showing compassion, especially to those who most needed it, to those who had been relegated to the margins by societal and even religious norms. He very intentionally crossed those boundaries to extend God's unconditional and limitless love to all. He went out of his way to spend time with the tax collectors, the prostitutes, and the lepers; those who were considered by their society to be untouchable and unworthy of love and compassion. His public ministry was one of constantly ignoring and breaking down these barriers of prejudice, fear, and hatred.

Don't misunderstand me here. I'm not at all suggesting that we should stop practicing the necessary "social distancing" during this time of pandemic. What I am saying is that we need to find new ways to maintain and strengthen our connections with each other, even as we are forced to limit our in-person contact. Instead of using them as tools of division, use social media and other electronic communications to intentionally reach out and show love and compassion to others, especially those who may be feeling marginalized and isolated at this time. Don't forget the good old-fashioned phone call: pick up your phone and call that person that you know is living alone and may be feeling isolated, even the neighbor or relative that you're not crazy about or don't talk too that often (maybe especially these folks). Call those folks you know that may not have access to email and social media, so are feeling particularly disconnected. Even while maintaining the safe distance that is being called for in this moment, be on the lookout for new ways to cross the boundaries of prejudice and fear to show love and compassion. In other words, do what Jesus would do.

These are indeed challenging days for all of us, but in them there is also tremendous potential for the strengthening and deepening of those connections that are so vital to Christian community. By God's grace and through our intentional openness to one another, I have little doubt that this will ultimately be a time of spiritual growth for all of us. God be with you, Kevin

Sunday Worship

Were you able to watch our first Morning Prayer service this past Sunday? Our video from Sunday morning has already had approximately 500 views! We will continue to broadcast Morning Prayer, Rite II via Facebook Live on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for as long as we have to and are able to.



When you tune in, please feel free to participate in the comment section with words of greeting, prayer requests, etc.

The more active and engaged our Facebook Live sessions are, the more it will feel like we are worshipping together, even as we are separated by distance. After the weekly live broadcast, the recording will be archived for viewing both on our [Facebook page](#) and on our new [Youtube Channel](#).

This week, we are going to begin sending out a separate weekly email with resources for our weekly online worship, so be on the lookout for that later this weekend.

Children & Youth Corner

Hello St. Alban's Parents! For now and the near future, please refer to this article for all your **Children, Youth and Family Resources!** We know this is such a strange and foreign time to us all, but we are still here missing and thinking of all of you! You are in our thoughts and prayers and I will be reaching out to all of you in some way in the



coming weeks to see how things are going.

For our **families of younger children**, I will be emailing out our curriculum each week to review with your child. Yesterday, curriculums were sent out to PreK-K, 1st-2nd and 3rd-5th. Please know you are missed, loved and thought of by your teachers, myself and the church! If

there is anything I can do or other resources I can provide, please let me know. During this time, I will be researching other sources for us to utilize for activities.

For our **Middle and High School Youth**, please make sure to register for Remind (all the details are below). Brigid, from St. Patrick's, and I are working to set up a Zoom call on Sunday evenings for youth to call in and be able to at least see each other virtually, laugh and have some fellowship. We will send out the Zoom details via Remind and email. We will also continue to look at other online interactive opportunities, but for now we think it would be good just to see each other, talk and laugh! Sunday School curriculums will be sent out via email for each class.

Visit: [Click to sign up for Remind!](#) OR Please Text #: 81010
Message: @lknyouth (High School) or @19middle (Middle School)

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!

Serving One Another

With so much of our usual business grinding to a halt, there will be many needs in our community in the coming weeks. If you or someone you know is in need of groceries, pet supplies, lawnmowing, a roll of toilet paper, or other essentials, or if you are able to offer assistance to others in need in these areas, please reach out to our Wardens, Kelly Ross and Alf Badgett. For the time being, they will be working with the clergy, staff, the Pastoral Care ministry, and the Outreach Team to coordinate volunteers and needs. Please contact Kelly at kelly.ross.62@gmail.com and Alf at (704) 905-8166 to share a need or to volunteer.

Centering Prayer

Rev. Kevin is offering virtual Centering Prayer sessions via Zoom Monday-Thursday at 9am and 4pm. Here's the link to join us: <https://zoom.us/j/9497600098>. You should be able to use this same link for both times. Let me know if you have any problems doing so.



For those who haven't tried it or those who have and want to read more about it, [click here](#) for a printable flier that provides great information about Centering Prayer.

Financial Offerings

While services are suspended and the church office is closed due to COVID-19, please consider giving via your bank's online bill pay or via Saint Alban's online giving. Both of these methods allow the church to continue to pay its expenses and limit the exposure of the vestry and staff processing the offering.

Bill Pay - The mailing address for Saint Alban's (the payee) is 301 Caldwell Lane,

Davidson, NC 28036. If your bank asks for an account number, please use your last name.

Online - Text ALBANS to 73256 to give via text or visit our online giving [webpage](#) at <https://abundant.co/saintalbansdavidson/give>

Thank you for your continued support of Saint Alban's!

A word from St. Alban's Preschool Ministry



Preschool families should check emails regularly for information, updates, and resources as we prepare to support each other in a new virtual format and teach at home.

All families of young children are invited to follow our [Facebook](#) page as we share resources, tips, and ideas.

For questions or assistance please contact us at info@saintalbanspreschool.org.

Resources for Prayer and Study at Home

Each week in the newsletter, we'll feature a couple of different resources for spiritual growth while practicing social distancing. See below for this week's selections:



Habits of Grace: [Monday Meditations from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry](#)

Family Devotional for Life During COVID-19: [Click HERE](#)

Journeys with Jesus: A [website with weekly reflections](#) on the Lectionary Gospel text, plus poetry, book reviews, and more.

The Book of Common Prayer as a PDF: [Click HERE](#)

SEEDS Community Garden



Delicious all you can eat organic lettuces and tomatoes grow themselves. There's nothing like a homegrown cucumber, fresh and crunchy! Throw seeds in the ground and up come colorful cutting flowers. Gardening is easy in a raised bed! SEEDS Community Gardens is accepting reservations for this year. SEEDS gardeners are fun and helpful, our space is gorgeous. To reserve your bed contact Jean Bonnyman, Jsbonnyman@fastmail.com or 706-766-1384.



Upcoming Birthdays

March 22: Rev. Kevin Lloyd, Wilson Brockway
March 23: Ryan Meeks, Grace Myers, Walter Clausen
March 24: Missy Miller, Emily Tignor
March 25: Sandy Karn, Alex Slawson
March 27: Robert Lloyd
March 28: Rev. Rachel Haynes, Dave Pylipow, Amy Gollinger, Alexi Asano



Upcoming Anniversaries

March 28: Dutch & Alice Mietz

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](#).

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](#)

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.

[Website](#) | [St. Alban's Preschool](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) |

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