



St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Annual Report to the Parish 2020

### The Vestry

We gratefully acknowledge the service of these members who are departing the vestry in 2020:  
*Joanna Clausen, Mary Kennedy, Michael Kingsley, Martin McCoy, Skip Notte, Kelly Ross*

We recognize these current members who will continue vestry service in 2021:  
*Stephanie Amadio '21, Alf Badgett '21, Bob Beckham '22, Greg Knudson '22, Jenny Myers '22, Alex Slawson '22*

We welcome these new members who will begin vestry service in 2021:  
*Jean Bonnyman '23, Tom Fischer '23, Jennifer Lober '23, Dave Pylipow '21, Joseph Torok '21, Danny Wiles '23*

### The Clergy and Staff

Report from The Rev. Carmen Germino, Rector  
Report from The Rev. Kevin Lloyd, Associate Rector/Davidson College Campus Minister  
Report from Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry  
Report from John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster  
Report from Patti Rossini, Weekday Preschool Director  
Report from Pat Shaw, La Escuelita Coordinator

### The Task Groups

Report from Kelly Ross, Senior Warden  
Report from Danny Wiles: Finance Committee Chairperson  
Report from Vivian Rogers-Cannon and Elaine Carmann: Outreach Committee Chairpersons

## Meet Our New Vestry Members

### Jean Bonnyman

The Episcopal Church has always been a constant in Jean Bonnyman's life, no matter where she lived at the time. She was baptized at Saint George's Anglican Cathedral in Perth, Australia, confirmed at Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and married Al Bonnyman at St Paul's Memorial Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. Edward, Norman and Isabel Bonnyman were all baptized at St Alban's Church in Hickory, NC, confirmed at St John's Cathedral in Knoxville, Tennessee and or at St Peter's Episcopal Church in Rome, Georgia. Jean also completed Education for Ministry (EFM) at St Peter's, taught Sunday School and assisted in the Youth Fellowship.

Professionally Jean has always been an educator and/or counselor, very much dedicated to her students. In her current "working retirement" Jean is a college counselor at The Davidson Center of Learning in Davidson because she wants to help teens in the public school system. Her favorite hobbies are her involvement with SEEDS Community Gardens and the Flower Guild.

## **Tom Fischer**

My wife Shirley and I joined St Albans in October of 2002. We came here from Savannah Georgia where we were members of Christ Church on Johnson Square the church founded by General Oglethorpe in 1733.

In the early years Shirley and I were continually active with the newcomers committee at St Albans. We have one daughter and family who live on the southside of Charlotte. In addition we have 5 other children scattered around the southeast.

I have been active in the neighborhood Council of Stewards (HOA) for the past fifteen years serving as President or Treasurer until I retired from the Council in 2018.

Over the years I have been involved in preparing and building various woodworking projects around the church. One of my favorites has been the portable altar that we use for outdoor services. It is also used at Davidson College.

## **Jennifer Loher**

I graduated from UCONN with a BA in Psychology and a minor in Women's Studies and Fine Arts. I worked for years in Human Resources management in luxury hotels in Boston and with the non-profit Project H.O.M.E. in Philadelphia. I met Phillippe, my husband, right out of college and we moved around and traveled before moving to Davidson with our children, Lipe and Grace and dog Desi in 2015. I am a certified yoga teacher and when I found yoga in college, I was seeking God and community and later realized as I was re-introduced to the Gospel as a young mom, that Jesus was the missing part of my life. I grew up going to a Catholic church and found the Episcopal Church while my mom's group met at one soon after my son was born. I have found a home in the Episcopal community and have been blessed by the St. Albans community in Sunday worship, preschool, children's ministry, bible study and Moms Connect.

## **Dave Pylipow**

My family joined St. Alban's in 2013 when we relocated to Mooresville from Minnesota. During our time here I have served as a lector, eucharistic minister, acolyte coordinator, vestry member, and senior warden. I had the privilege of serving on the vestry when our parish called Rev. Carmen Germino to be our rector, and also served on the committees that led to our calling of Rev. Kevin Lloyd to be our associate rector and chaplain to Davidson College, and John Bailey to be our organist and choirmaster. I have served in similar roles in prior parishes in the various communities in which we have lived.

Two years ago, I retired from Ahold Delhaize, the parent company of Food Lion, where I served as Chief People Officer. My career was predominately in human resources with several retail companies.

My wife of 35 years, Mary, and I have four children and six grandchildren who are a source of great joy and with whom we enjoy spending our time. I am also an avid, but not highly skilled, golfer. Mary has recently joined me in retirement and we look forward to opportunities to travel once we are through the current pandemic.

I am excited to return to the vestry for the coming year to serve our vibrant and growing parish during this unique time.

## **Joseph Torok**

Joseph Torok, with his wife Laura Theobald, and their children, Christopher, 4, and Julianna, 1, came to St. Alban's in 2016. Joseph served on the board of La Escuelita San Alban for two years, providing technical and website assistance and his wife, a local veterinarian, participates in St. Alban's mom's group.

Born to two teachers in Youngstown, Ohio and raised in Largo, Fla., Joe attended Roman Catholic schools and graduated from Eckerd College, a Presbyterian-affiliated liberal arts college in St. Petersburg with a bachelors in Environmental Studies. He worked for ten years as a county restoration biologist and a state enforcement scientist. While working, he earned his masters in Political Science: Comparative Government & Int'l Relations from Univ. of South Fla.-Tampa. Joe researched socioeconomic impacts of agroecological cooperatives, including faith-based groups, in Brazil and Mexico. He earned a Juris Doctor from Charlotte School of Law with pro-bono honors and an academic award for insurance law, with clinical experience organizing nonprofits in its Community Economic Development clinic. Now, he conducts governance and oversight for Wells Fargo Regulatory Relations. As environmental stewards of Long and Clarks Creeks, with an affinity for lifelong education and faith development, Joe and his family believe that we grow through new interactions and thinking outside. Joe hopes to continue serving our St. Alban's family just as he found that it welcomed his.

## Danny Wiles

My family has attended St. Alban's for some 20 years. My wife (Sandi) and I attended for a short period in the late 1990s before moving to Chicago in late 1999, and we have attended since returning to Davidson in mid-2002.

Professionally, I am a certified public accountant and work in the finance department at Duke Energy, where I have been since 2002. Personally, I enjoy spending time with family and doing most things outdoors – specifically gardening/yardwork, fishing, and relaxing on the deck watching the birds.

At St. Alban's, I have served as an usher at the 8:00 service for the past few years. I have been on the church's Finance Committee since 2017, serving as the chair of the Committee for the past two years. My interest in becoming a member of the vestry reflects my desire to continue to become more involved in the activities of the church and to have a more active role in helping achieve St. Alban's mission and goals.

## Annual Report from the Rector

The Rev. Carmen Germino

The big green banners that grace the walls of our nave in Ordinary Time proudly proclaim that at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, **“We Gather to Worship”** and **“We Scatter to Serve.”** I've always loved these banners, but I will admit that 2020 has forever changed the way I understand them. Before this year, I thought of gathering and scattering as actions that happen one after the other. We gathered on Sunday to worship as a church family, but then we were scattered, each to our different neighborhoods, offices, schools, and stomping grounds to live out God's mission in the community. A beautiful rhythm: first gather, then scatter, and repeat...week in, week out.

Then, in March, we suddenly had to learn to gather *while remaining scattered*. As we sought to figure out how to do this well, I often looked to scripture for inspiration. In the Hebrew Bible, the writings from the time of the Babylonian exile resonated deeply. The people of Israel had to learn how to hold fast to what mattered most when they lost everything familiar. They had to learn to put down roots and adapt to their new landscape, even as they longed for home. Then in the New Testament, both Jesus and Paul encouraged me. Jesus, I realized, scattered people just as often as he gathered them. And in Paul's letters, we see a pastor and theologian pour tenderness and zeal into the various communities from whom he was separated by great distances. Through his writings, he helped the young churches establish themselves as communities of both gathering and scattering.

We've not always done it perfectly, and if I could go back in time with the benefit of hindsight, there are things I might do differently, but overall, I am incredibly proud of how our church family has nimbly and cheerfully adapted to being simultaneously gathered and scattered. So with that said at the outset, I offer this report, to look back on the past year...the joys, the challenges, and the opportunities, beginning with Advent 2019. To structure this year's report, my mind immediately went to the categories of lament and celebration. In order to end on a more positive note, I'll begin with the things about this past year for which I grieve:

I grieve the extended suspension of our holy gatherings—the sharing of our full liturgical and sacramental life, belting out hymns, the hugs and handshakes and high fives. I miss leading chapel for the preschools and visiting the Pines for Eucharist.

I grieve the quietness of our building. I miss the buzz of energy that regularly flowed in and out of our doors from worship, Sunday School, the Preschool, bible study, Sit-n-Stitch, Tai Chi, committee meetings, choir rehearsals, AA, Scouts, and on and on.

I grieve the traditions we've missed out on this year: Confirmation, Rise Against Hunger food packing with Gethsemane Baptist Church, the Eucharist at the Lake, the Ministry Fair, and Oktoberfest. I grieve that the pandemic has even affected our normal parish governance, so that we cannot hold an annual parish meeting and elect new vestry members in the usual way.

I grieve that life has been difficult for many of you in recent months. There have been painful losses in our community this year, some particular and some universal. As your pastor, my heart is with you in the burdens, worries, and sorrows you've each carried. And yet, pastoral care has had to happen in different ways, and that has been hard.

But while there have been changes and losses, there have also been numerous signs of God's presence among us. These signs have sustained me and given me hope. We have so much to celebrate.

I celebrate that we have found new ways of gathering safely to worship God and be in community, both online and in person. These new methods will never fully replace our beloved ways of gathering, but I believe the experiences of this year will serve us well as we continue to discern how to adapt our ministries for the future.

I celebrate our amazing staff. Each one of them has adjusted to the changes of this year with grace and flexibility, all while maintaining a high level of professionalism. The Rev. Kevin Lloyd's wise, steady, and good-humored camaraderie has been an invaluable gift to me, and his faithful leadership of the campus ministry program at Davidson College enriches all of us directly and indirectly. John Bailey's musical gifts and generosity of spirit have breathed life into our online worship offerings month after month. Courtney Fossett has shepherded our children and youth ministries with enthusiasm and creativity and done a great job of utilizing the resource of our Ministry Architects partnership to build a sustainable framework for the programs. Lisa Givens has continued her terrific work as our Communications Director. Among Lisa's projects this year was a refresh of the weekly email newsletter design to go along with last year's refresh of our website. Erin Garrett's skillfulness continues to make the business aspects of the parish run like a well-oiled machine, and her proactive work on the CARES Act opportunity was a great blessing to us all. Patti Rossini's expert management of our Preschool is evident whether school is in session or not. Because of Patti's dedication, so many of our Preschool families have stayed connected to this community even as the school has been closed. Pat Shaw's tenacity, compassion, and vision have caused La Escuelita to soar to new heights, so much so that they are now ready and equipped to forge ahead independently. And last but not least, Jessica Ewell's excellence in administration combined with the warmth and kindness of her heart cause me to offer daily fervent prayers of gratitude to God for her presence among us. We are so very blessed to have this small but mighty team serving our parish. Every one of them is a jewel.

I celebrate our wonderful Wardens Kelly Ross and Alf Badgett, our Treasurer Leslie Urban, Clerk Mike Anderson, and our Vestry. I give great thanks for all of our parish's leaders, but want to mention by name those who are ending their time on Vestry this year. Mary Kennedy, Martin McCoy, and Mike Kingsley are the last of the original crew who led the rector search process, and it is hard for me to imagine the Vestry without them! I am also grateful to Skip Notte and Joanna Clausen, who served partial terms, and each brought so much joy and energy to the Vestry. And finally, I offer my profound gratitude to Kelly Ross. His thoughtfulness, deep faith, and support have been essential to me in navigating the many challenges of this year. Every time a need arose, Kelly stepped in to collaborate on a solution. And even after he and Pam relocated to Austin, TX in early fall, he has graciously continued to serve as Senior Warden and has not missed a beat. Thank you, Kelly!

I celebrate that this year has not been without important milestones and accomplishments:

- Our parish celebrated a number of our annual events before the pandemic began. We got to enjoy an Advent Fair, Las Posadas, the Christmas Pageant, a youth ski trip, Cards for Kids, a youth ministry Vision Summit, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, and Ash Wednesday. In a year when so many of our beloved traditions have been taken from us, remembering the moments we did get to enjoy together really matters.
- We adapted with a good amount of nimbleness to the ever-changing requirements for worship, offering a high-quality worship experience each week, thanks in large part to the time and talents of Matt Presson. Extra effort went into planning new ways of observing our big holy days, including Palm Sunday, the Triduum, Easter, Pentecost, the Feast of St. Alban, the Feast of St. Francis, and All Saints' Day. Our lectors, Altar Guild, and Flower Guild have helped tremendously along the way. Coffee Hour via Zoom has provided a relaxed time of fellowship following worship.
- In January, we introduced a new endeavor, the Parish Cycle of Prayer, to lift up the myriad of amazing ministries that are part of St. Alban's.
- Also in January, our building got a new roof, covered by insurance! Thanks to Junior Wardens past and present Hank Patch and Alf Badgett for their efforts to make this go smoothly.
- We held our first Preschool Sunday in February. The nave was packed with the families from the Weekday Preschool and La Escuelita, and it was a joy-filled morning. While La Escuelita has now charted a new path as an independent preschool, we remain in partnership with them and the families they serve in so many ways.
- Our Outreach Team led us in sharing God's love through service to a number of important local ministries, both pre and post-COVID: Room in the Inn, Angel Tree, FeedNC, the Back-to-School drive-through, and the Red Wagon collection, among many others. Because of their efforts, many people in our wider community were blessed.
- A subset of the Vestry mobilized as the Evangelism Think Tank. They brainstormed creative ways to keep our parish active, connected, and visible in the community during the pandemic. We have this group to thank for our joyful St. Alban's Day Car Parade and our fall drive-in Movie Night!

- While some ministries have had to press pause, other ministries have flourished, some quite literally, like the SEEDS community garden, which offered a respite to community members during the lockdown. I give special thanks to two of our neighbors, David Beall and Gwen Miles, who lovingly restored the Caldera Garden to glory and beauty.
- We began the process of making improvements to the landscaping in the Memorial Garden. I am thankful to Junior Warden Alf Badgett and to Suzanne Sadler and Tom Fischer for overseeing this project.
- We brought new and diverse voices into our pulpit this year, both in person and remotely. I thank all of our supply preachers, each of whom enriched our worship experience: our own Rev. Marcus Miller in March, The Rev. Yejide Peters Pietersen of the Diocese of Lichfield, UK in September, and Pastor Michael Flowers from Gethsemane Baptist Church in October. In June, we also had the unique opportunity to worship virtually with St Albans Cathedral in the UK as part of our annual commemoration of our patron saint, Alban the Martyr. I offer thanks also to our Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Sam Rodman, who preached and visited us virtually in August.
- In September, we were able to resume in-person worship with outdoor Eucharist and outdoor Wiggle Worship. While these gatherings have limitations, they have provided safe opportunities for praising God.
- Following a conversation on our summer reading book, *Living into God's Dream: Dismantling Racism in America*, a new group emerged. This yet-to-be-named group has already held one organizational meeting and a virtual retreat. I am deeply committed these efforts and feel inspired at the energy and passion of those involved.
- In the spring and again in the fall, our Vestry and Outreach Team joined forces to make calls to everyone in the parish, to check in and find out how people are doing. Those making calls reported that connecting with new and longtime parish families was a very rewarding experience.
- Allison Kratt led an extraordinarily innovative and resourceful 2021 Annual Giving campaign this fall, with help from vestry liaison for Stewardship Bob Beckham. Melissa McClure designed the beautifully evocative logo for the campaign theme, *"And Also With You!"* We knew going into it that this would be a tough year for pledging, given all of the economic uncertainty people are facing, and that has proven true. Yet, even though we are not yet where we hoped to be with our pledge campaign, there is still much to celebrate. This year, 55 of the pledges that came in were increases over last year – what generosity! And in a year when we've not been able to welcome many newcomers, we have received 12 brand new pledges for 2021 – a truly astonishing blessing!

Well, it turns out that the list of things we can celebrate about this year is much longer than the list of things we grieve. I attribute this to our loving God who carries us through every trial. And I attribute this to you, St. Alban's. Your faithfulness inspires my ministry as your Rector. *You* are the Church, whether gathered, scattered, or both at the same time. I am so grateful for you.

Yours in Christ,  
Carmen+

## **Annual Report from the Associate Rector / Davidson College Campus Minister** The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

Dear Friends in Christ,

This will obviously be a year we will never forget. I know that we are all looking forward to that day when we can come back together for worship and fellowship in our wonderful space. I know that this has been an incredibly challenging time for all of us and that many of us have dealt with loss at various levels. That being said, this year at Saint Alban's and the College has also brought much to celebrate.

Even in the midst of a pandemic and societal/political turmoil, I have been reminded over and over how fortunate I am to have been called to serve here. The ways in which we have continued to "be the Church" for each other and the wider world has been quite remarkable. We have found innovative and life-giving ways to stay connected as members of the Body of Christ, even in this time of forced separation. I am deeply grateful to so many, but especially to Carmen for her steady and inspirational leadership and to our incredible staff and vestry members for their adaptability and creativity.

Here are a few highlights from the past year:

- The year began with great excitement with planning for the pilgrimage to Taize, France with Davidson students. In the very early days of the pandemic, we decided to forge ahead, leaving on February 29<sup>th</sup> and returning on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

It was an unforgettable spiritual experience for all 22 of us who made the trip. Every day had a wonderful rhythm of prayerful worship, communal meals, bible study, small group discussions, and joy-filled fellowship – all in a beautiful and sacred French countryside setting.

- Soon after returning from the pilgrimage, the students were informed of the decision to close the campus and send everyone home. The college community spent the next few weeks transitioning to a remote virtual “campus”. As part of that, I began meeting with the Canterbury students on-line via Zoom.
- While Saint Alban’s was transitioning to our new normal of virtual worship, I also continued to meet with the college students on a regular basis. I continued to offer both Morning and Centering Prayer opportunities via Zoom for college students and Saint Alban’s members, daily Monday through Thursday. I continued to meet with the Canterbury students every Sunday evening via Zoom, sharing a time of checking-in, conversation, and evening prayers.
- We found ways to celebrate and congratulate the five Canterbury students who graduated (virtually) in May.
- Over the course of the winter and spring I worked with Davidson student Liam Barr as he officially entered the process for discerning a call to ordained ministry. We convened a discernment committee for Liam who met with him over the course of several weeks and ultimately recommended him to the diocese for continuing discernment. I’m very grateful for committee members Karl Plank (chair), Guy Beaumont, Susan Beaumont, Clarence Fox, and Allison Kratt.
- When the Davidson students returned to campus in August, I began meeting with them virtually again via Zoom. In addition to the daily prayer offerings and the weekly Sunday evening gatherings, we also added a monthly “Divinity on Draft” opportunity for topical conversation. We also continued with our weekly inter-denominational “Bread for the Journey” bible study.
- When it was clear that we would not be able to offer the weekly Sunday evening homecooked meal for the Canterbury students, I invited members of Saint Alban’s to provide homemade goodies and study snacks, which I took to campus every Monday to distribute to the students. The sign-up slots were filled within days of sending it out! The students were deeply grateful for this weekly and delicious show of support for Saint Alban’s. Thanks to all of our goody providers: Sandra, Johnson, Sharon Kingsley, Pat Shaw, Mary Emerich, Norm & Marcy Reid, Julia Lloyd, Jane Shoemaker, Rachel Haynes, Susan Beaumont, Eileen Keeley, Sally Trask, and Jenny Myers.

These are just some of the highlights from an unforgettable year. I continue to be deeply grateful to be serving in this remarkable community of faith. I am confident that regardless of what 2021 brings, Saint Alban’s will continue to be a community in which the love of God and neighbor is exemplified in countless and amazing ways.

God’s peace be with you all,  
Kevin

## **Annual Report for the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry**

Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

My first year as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry complete in August has come and gone in this unprecedented time in our history. We began 2020 with our Sunday School fully functioning and our combined Youth Group with St. Patrick’s alive and well attended. Flash forward to March and everything changed as we knew it. We have worked very hard to still reach our children, youth and families in the most creative ways we know of and I am proud to say the reception has been great. I am blessed to be a part of such an amazing staff and this job continues to be such a blessing giving back twice as much to me as I put into it. Our innovative and productive work with Ministry Architects continues in an albeit different capacity factoring in challenges during this difficult time. The plan currently is to continue our youth group partnership with St. Patrick’s as they have just hired a new Youth Coordinator, a couple of their kids have still participated with us in the interim. There is still so much to be thankful for and celebrate as you can see below. Thank you so much for this opportunity to help support and grow this program!

## Accomplishments & Upcoming:

- Maintained 25 Sunday school volunteers at the beginning of this year.
- Launched a successful High School Sunday School class in our beautiful new space.
- Have a total of 40 registered children for Fall 2020, although that does not include everyone due to our current environment.
- Sunday School began the year coordinating monthly donation drives with St. Alban's Preschool and will continue when in person again.
- Elementary Sunday School continued in March with email driven curriculum, activities and my personal videos for additional learning.
- An Easter virtual egg hunt video was sent out for our children's enjoyment.
- We launched and executed a virtual VBS during the summer with distributed packets and my learning videos each week.
- With the start of the new Sunday School Year in September, we began to distribute Sunday School packets with a PreK-K curriculum and a 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Curriculum and of course lots of extra crafts, activities and goodies included.
- In November and December, these packets are being delivered by volunteers to all of our families of young children. The feedback has been wonderful and encouraging.
- Monthly planned and executed High School/Middle School Youth Events:
  - January – Bowling/Laser Tag night and Winter Ski Retreat at Valle Crucis
  - February – Napoleon Dynamite viewing and discussion, EYC St. Patrick's
  - March – December – Zoom Youth Group meetings on Sunday evenings, games and prizes, started integrating short Sunday School lesson in September
  - November – Finally hosted our first in person bonfire event with pizza, s'mores, games and fellowship, 10 Youth in attendance
- Although an Intergenerational Advent Wreath Fair is not an option this year, purple and pink votives were purchased for families and will be included in the December Sunday School packets. We will have extras for others interested.
- A Zoom Christmas pageant planning is underway and will be shown during the Christmas Eve service.

## Goals:

- Meet in person again eventually with a renewed sense of purpose and energy.
- Continue valuable work with Ministry Architects and the Renovation Team.
- Maintain and increase overall children and youth attendance and registrations.
- Incorporate youth into more volunteer positions of the church.
- Recruit more adult volunteers to help with Sunday School and Youth Group.
- Youth group combine again with St. Patrick's to strengthen both our programs.

## Annual Report for the Music Ministry

John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster

In October of this year I completed my second year at St. Alban's. Like everyone else, I have found 2020 to be a year of many changes and challenges. I give thanks for the leadership of Mother Carmen, Father Kevin and the vestry. They all have provided faithful, steady and compassionate leadership during a most unusual and challenging time. Again, like everyone else, I long for the time when we can all be together again safely. Of course, as the music director for the parish I found it especially disheartening that group singing became something that must be put away for a time for the safety of all. The parish choir has been such a faithful part of worship leading here and I miss seeing and hearing them every week. In addition to missing them and YOU personally, I have missed your voices. I do not consider myself a soloist but it has been a necessity this year. We have endeavored to offer meaningful worship during the pandemic but doing so has come with challenges. I am extremely grateful for the musical gifts and technology skills of Matt Presson. Indeed, the entire parish gives thanks for these gifts. He is the one to whom credit is due for our wonderful online worship service and many other things. These skills are not ones I possess and we are grateful that, again, God provided what was needed when it was needed. Thank you, Matt!

With none of us knowing what the financial challenges for the year might be, the music ministry has spent very frugally this year. I decided to skip the summer organ tuning and maintenance visit to conserve budget funds but am trying to get the fall/winter visit set up soon. The only other expenditures were tunings for the pianos.

The choir has two members who will be moving out of the area this year: Phyllis Grayson and Ray Higgins. I offer my thanks for their years of faithful service to the parish choir and pray for God's blessing on this next chapter of their lives. I hope that you will offer your thanks as well. May God continue to bless the ministries of St. Alban's.

Respectfully submitted on November 12, 2020  
John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster

## **Annual Report for the Weekday Preschool**

Patti Rossini, Preschool Director

Due to the unusual events of this year, this report is divided into three sections (prior to Covid 19, the initial closure of the preschool, and where we are currently).

### **Jan 1st-March 13th**

#### **Preschool Enrollment**

- M/W Twos-10 students
- T/TH Twos- 10 students
- M/W/F Threes-12 students
- T/TH/F Threes- 12 students
- M-TH Fours-12 students
- M-TH Fours with Optional Friday-12 students

#### **Staffing**

- 12 regular staff (10 teachers, director, assistant director) plus part time book keeper
- All staff CPR and First Aid certified
- Staff members continued to complete the annual requirement of 10 Continuing Education Units per year.

#### **Curriculum**

- The preschool used The Creative Curriculum which guides how we set up our classrooms (centers), how we approach our day/set up our schedule, and how we work with each child (building on their interests and skills).
- All children had opportunities to participate in fine motor, gross motor, open-ended art, music and movement, cooking activities, science activities as well as age appropriate literacy and math activities.
- The schedule was built upon the developmental characteristics of children and included active and quiet activities, large group and small group activities, as well as teacher directed and child directed activities.
- We used the Wesley Curriculum for Christian education. This curriculum outlined our themes and Bible stories for each month and gave teachers ideas for classroom activities related to each Bible story. This curriculum was used in Pk/K Sunday School as well to provide continuity among church and preschool families.
- Our four-year-old classes used Handwriting without Tears.
- The preschool voluntarily followed the standards of Developmentally Appropriate Practice as set forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).
- Regularly scheduled enrichment activities such as Chapel, Children's Theater, The Math/Science Nucleus and Stretch-n-Grow were offered outside of the classroom for all students. Soccer Shots was offered after school for interested families.



### March 15-May 21st

- The last day of in-person preschool was Friday March 13<sup>th</sup>.
- To facilitate some at-home learning, the preschool established Facebook groups by class where teachers posted weekly activities and families were able to communicate with each other. Teachers read stories, sang songs, and conducted science experiments.
- Our Drama teacher, Ms. Marie, sent special stories that we posted on the Preschool's You Tube page.
- Teachers met weekly with their classes on Zoom. Children participated in live stories, Circle Time, Show and Tell, etc.
- The preschool had a socially distant, outdoor graduation ceremony, one family at a time at the end of May. Teachers presented children with their certificates and as is the annual tradition, their beautifully painted attribute rocks. Rev. Carmen prayed over each child, giving God thanks for each child's special attribute.
- The preschool was able to continue to pay teachers during the last two months of the school year through the donations of preschool families and receipt of PPP funds through the church.
- Summer Camp was cancelled and all fees were refunded at the beginning of the summer.

### September 1<sup>st</sup>-Present

- St. Alban's Weekday Preschool is currently closed due to Covid-19 and Diocese guidelines.
- In an effort to minister to preschool families and the church community, the preschool is currently offering outdoor Wiggle Worship every Thursday. Families listen to Bible stories, participate in music and movement activities, make story related crafts, and play games.
- The preschool has offered two Bike Days in the parking lot and an outdoor Halloween Celebration.
- The preschool has plans for an outdoor Thanksgiving Celebration this month and a Christmas Celebration in December.
- Preschool families have been invited to participate in Sunday School activities and other church activities like Moms Connect, the outdoor movie night, etc.
- The preschool has tried to offer some of the special activities we would normally offer during the school year such as fall portraits and developmental screenings.
- The Preschool Board will meet in December to determine the path forward regarding reopening for Spring camps and a regular fall session.

## **Annual Report for La Escuelita**

Pat Shaw, Coordinator

### **PLEASE SEE MID-MARCH COVID UPDATE AT END OF REPORT**

#### **Program**

- 26 students enrolled (full capacity with waiting list)
- We offer a five-day 9:00-12:00 hands-on science program for 3- and 4-year-old children
- The preschool strives to follow the standards of Developmentally Appropriate Practice as set forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
- Staff meetings are held one time per month; teacher planning sessions are weekly
- Enrichment opportunities are offered weekly for all preschoolers: Chapel, cooking!, woodworking, Music Together®, process art, bilingual librarian, hands-on Science, math manipulative sessions and gardening.
- We use Handwriting Without Tears in the fours, a workbook-based curriculum purchased through a Davidson College grant.
- *We survey our graduate families and kindergarten teachers and track their progress and needs. We hone our program based on these annual findings.*

#### **Staffing**

- 5 teachers, coordinator, part time bookkeeper, one weekly music teacher session
- All staff up-to-date on CPR and First Aid training and SafeChurch
- Staff members complete 8-10 Continuing Education Units annually

## **Inclusion of Children with Special Needs**

- La Escuelita San Alban Bilingual Preschool strives to meet the needs of all children. We currently have two children who are being evaluated for Exceptional Children services. One is already assigned a case manager.
- We screen for speech and developmental delays and assist in placement of services.

## **Communication**

- The preschool uses a wide variety of methods to communicate with the preschool families: a weekly preschool newsletter, classroom calendars, weekly classroom emails, phone conversations, conferences, the website, the preschool Facebook page, the bulletin boards outside the classrooms, the church E-news, and special mailings. Our primary form of communication is WHATSAPP since most of our families are accustomed to it. We also send monthly letters to our donors. We are active on Facebook.
- We do phone conferences in the fall and full conferences in the spring.

## **Family Involvement**

- We have monthly parent workshops led by our family liaison in conjunction with local professionals who volunteer their time and knowledge: “the Importance of Preschool,” “Development, Health and Nutrition,” “Kindergarten Preparedness.”
- We have parents assisting with occasional special events to include our annual POSADA and graduation; our room parents also help with the garden.
- We have volunteer opportunities dedicated to each classroom (ie. making play-doh for the month, mystery readers, center helpers, etc.). We are volunteer-dependent and benefit from Bonner Scholars from Davidson College.
- We guide parents through the enrollment process for CMS and special services.
- We send books home bi-monthly to build home libraries. We support a Little Library.
- We do a mom’s tea and a dazzle dads day
- Petco grant allowed us to get a tree frog habitat for each classroom

## **Summer Camp**

- Our first two years we offered six weeks of summer camp and now enjoy integration with area churches for three weeks of VBS during the summer.

## **Please see Financial Report**

- We estimate the cost per child at \$2500 a year (most pay \$50 a month)
- We take in through tuition and donations about \$70,000 a year
- Part of our strategic development is offering enrollment to two English-speaking children in each class for language benefits and full tuition
- Fundraising includes St A Outreach, grants, book sales, private donors, luncheons, and four scholarships.

## **Our assisted tuition rates fall very short of covering expenses.**

- Teachers, administration, substitutes, staff development, other staffing costs
- Building supplies (AJ Phone, audit, rent to Ada, garden supplies, shelving, repairs)
- Classroom Supplies (art, classroom materials, cleaning supplies, office supplies, paper products, health and safety items such as rubber gloves, soap, first-aid, thermometers)
- Special Events (Thanksgiving Feast, Graduation Lunch) and Teacher Appreciation

## **Upcoming 2020-2021 Registration and Enrollment**

- Registration for the 2020-2021 School Year begins in January and will continue throughout. A lottery will be conducted if there are more applicants than available seats.
- Open House dates are scheduled for two days in January
- We have several enrollment events (backpack at Gethsemane, area school welcome days) and we go into the neighborhoods to spread the word.
- Our families have started to promote our school and are an active school community

## **Preschool Board**

- The preschool has a very active preschool board that meets monthly to:  
A) strengthen the ministry of this preschool in our church.

- B) support and advise the Director of the program.
  - C) act as a forum for policy guidelines; planning and evaluation of the school.
  - D) provide support and assistance in the implementation of ideas that support the philosophy of the school and help maintain and improve all operations of the school to include fundraising and promotion.
  - E) encourage general involvement and communication of the congregation and the families of those who attend the school.
- Board members:  
James Wyatt, Chair  
Edna Wyatt, Family Liaison  
Martin McCoy, Founder  
Ginger Knudson, Fundraising/Donor  
Joseph Torok, Webmaster, Secretary  
Mary Kennedy, Vestry liaison (replaced by Martin McCoy)  
Mary Shook, Finances  
Rev. Carmen Germino, Ex-officio  
Pat Shaw, Ex-officio

### **COVID-19 report beginning in mid-March:**

Starting March 16th, we offered remote preschool for our families. We concentrated primarily on preparing the four-year olds for kindergarten. We organized bags for the families to pick up containing school supplies. Teachers finished the “handwriting without tears” workbooks. We also continued music together weekly. For the most part we followed our hands-on science curriculum and parents seemed pleased and the children were engaged. We even had a virtual graduation and sent “diplomas” home. We made end-of-year memento videos for each class.

At the start of the fall semester, enrollment was at capacity in both class (14 in the fours and 12 in the threes). We are considered “essential” due to our ESL population. When we announced the Diocesan guidelines, many parents did not want their children wearing masks to school. A few parents have opted for Zoom sessions. During the delay, we helped organize homeschool pods.

We settled on live classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with 13 children in two classrooms. We are fortunate to have VERY large classrooms, use of the gym, and multiple outdoor spaces.

- daily health screenings of staff and all persons entering the building
- face covering always required by all staff in classrooms and outdoors
- children not enrolled in the program may not enter
- 54 square feet for each child/adult in classrooms to maintain healthy distancing
- only assigned teachers will be with the children.
- children will be only in their classroom or outside. No use of public restrooms
- outdoor space will be used as much as possible
- guardians will not enter the building; children will be dropped off at the glass doors
- each child’s temperature will be checked with touchless thermometers.
- all health screening questions will be asked of the child’s guardian.
- a designated staff person takes the child to the classroom
- hands are washed immediately after entering the classroom
- floor markers will indicate where children should sit.
- indoor water toys, sand play, or other sensory play (rice, beans, play-doh) items that are generally shared will be removed.
- scissors and other frequently used materials will be assigned to children
- windows and doors will be open when possible and not dangerous for children.
- all touched surfaces will be sanitized hourly.
- singing will be an outdoor activity.
- all toys will be cleaned/sanitized at the end of each day

- all tables and surfaces will be disinfected after each group
- floors will be mopped with bleach solution every evening
- proper handwashing will be enforced: when entering a room, after use of toilet, before eating, after eating, before going home, when hands are visibly dirty, after sneezing.
- teach/ model to cough/ sneeze into the elbow or into the shirt, or cover with tissue.
- routinely refill hand soap, paper towel, hand sanitizer
- if anyone directly involved with a La Escuelita San Alban Bilingual Preschool class should test positive for COVID-19, the class will close for 14 days and revert to the on-going remote classes in the interim

## Annual Report from the Vestry

Kelly Ross, Senior Warden

Well, this year was interesting. Where does one start to talk about the year 2020? At the beginning, I suppose. Remember parish life before the pandemic? Children skipping downstairs to Sunday School, the voices of the choir as they walk in procession through the aisles, the warmth of handshakes during the sharing of the Peace, and those same hands held open to share in the Blessed Meal? It's hard to imagine that was only nine months ago.

For the Vestry in the early part of the year, the carryover of the goals established in the prior year made perfect sense. Those goals were:

1. A Home for Fellowship: We will create a plan for building a Parish Hall and a plan for funding it
2. A Community for our Youth: We will establish a framework for building a youth ministry program that is sustainable and equips families with the tools they need to grow their faith together.
3. A Renewal of Evangelism: We will expand our reach into the community, deepen engagement of our membership, and improve our hospitality to all through enhanced communications.

Real progress was made on each goal. The parish hall committee returned to the vestry in March with parameters and a recommended path forward for building a parish hall. With high level plans in place, the vestry chartered the committee to quietly begin canvassing the broader parish to gauge financial capacity of the parish. Our second goal of strengthening our youth ministries developed real traction; detailed and specific youth ministry goals and tasks were established, and Courtney and the youth ministry team were effectively completing those tasks and milestones. For the renewal of evangelism, vestry had organized within itself a new 'swat' team to create and implement tangible actions for more visible engagement in the community.

Since that early March vestry meeting, there's no need to mention the challenges this year has dealt the world, our county, our communities and our parish. Helping the rectors and parish staff establish and implement parish goals is one of the primary functions of the Vestry. This year the vestry were more witnesses to the creativity and adaptability of the rectors and parish staff than catalysts themselves for adapting to the new normal.

How do we gather as a community for worship now? We have become accustomed to the 'new normal' of Sunday worship on Facebook live, where we hear the familiar and comforting lectionary readings, the rector's sermons, John's wonderful music worship, and our collective prayers in need; but we now do so while sitting at our kitchen tables with a warm cup of coffee in our hands. Worship is by definition a collective effort, with each participant bringing their unique talents and gifts. A special thank you to Carmen, Kevin, John, the lectors and others who have adapted to challenging circumstances and helped to transition our Sunday worship to an online experience.

Additionally, special recognition goes to Matt Presson, without whom our 'new normal' parish worship life would not be possible. Please join me in gratitude and thanks for his behind the scenes efforts (and sometimes in front of the screen too!). Matt has been the lynchpin week-in and week-out pulling together a seamless and cohesive service each Sunday. Matt's technical expertise, his video and sound editing skills and his creativity is easy to see every Sunday; he makes it look so polished and effortless. But like in all great performances, the apparent ease and effortlessness in the delivery is an illusion. There is time, dedication, and perseverance behind the broadcast each and every week. So, while we should still share Facebook messages of thanks to Kevin and Carmen for a wonderful sermon, and John for his music each Sunday, please also

give a thank you and thumbs-up in appreciation for Matt's pulling it all together each week into a unified and cohesive worship service. Thanks, Matt!

Behind the scenes as well, parish staff have also been heroic in helping Saint Alban's in its larger mission and goals. I'd like to highlight two examples for you. First, Erin Garrett, our Financial Director, worked tirelessly with Danny Wiles (Finance Chair) and Leslie Urban (Treasurer) in obtaining a business continuation loan as part of the Cares Act passed by Congress. These funds helped provide the parish, the preschool and La Escuelita with the funding needed to continue their operations and maintain payroll and other necessary expenses. While the parish itself is, and remains, on a solid financial footing, the loan has helped the parish help those suffering in our larger parish community. Specifically, Pat Shaw, Director of La Escuelita, did not let the shutdown impact her dedication to the families that entrust their children to the preschool. As we know, the shutdown has impacted families in disparate, uneven ways. For several La Escuelita families, their livelihoods have been impacted disproportionately. Pat identified specific needs within families and raised awareness of these financial challenges to the parish. Due to Pat and Erin's behind the scenes efforts, the Vestry was able to dedicate \$18,500 towards helping our larger community through these challenging times. The vestry is proud of the efforts of our staff; the parish should be too.

As 2020 comes to a close, I also want to acknowledge the efforts of the 'Class of 2020' that is rolling off of the vestry: Mary Kennedy, Michael Kingsley, Skip Notte, and Martin McCoy. Their efforts are greatly appreciated these past three years, including their greatest contribution to the parish: helping to recruit and bring Carmen and Kevin on board in 2018. Many thanks!

Finally, as we roll into 2021, parish leadership will continue to thrive. Please join me in welcoming our new vestry members: Jean Bonnyman, Tom Fischer, Jennifer Loher, Dave Pylipow, Joe Torok and Danny Wiles. Given parish and vestry bylaws, the normal process to nominate and elect new vestry members at an open, in-person annual parish meeting could not be carried out this year. So, the vestry itself has canvassed, nominated and elected new members to replace those members whose terms have expired. Please join me in congratulating these new vestry members!

Yes, 2020 was indeed 'interesting'. While sickness, tragedies, and social disruptions will be the legacy for this year, we have also witnessed grace and resiliency in ourselves and each other throughout this parish. We still have much to be grateful for as we head into next year.

## **Addendum**

### **Annual Report from the Vestry: Buildings and Grounds**

Alf Badgett, Junior Warden

This year the Building and Grounds Committee has been anything but normal. We have been looking at improvements to our HVAC system due to the pandemic.

Our spring workday was canceled due to the pandemic. We had a highly successful workday in November that completed all of our to do list. This year we had a infestation of kudzu requiring close coordination with the SEEDS garden and the neighborhood. We have removed a lot of it but it has not gone dormant for the winter. We are still working on a permanent solution.

We began this fall to improve the Memorial Gardens to address some aging bushes, need for some space for memorial plaques and a decorative wood retaining wall. We want to improve the feeling of a sacred contemplative space. We are working through some ideas before we present them to the congregation.

## **Finance Committee Annual Report 2020**

Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chairperson

### The Budget Process:

Priorities are set jointly by the Vestry and the Rector.

The preliminary budget for 2021 will be finalized /revised as needed at the end of the year once all of the Stewardship pledges are in.

2021 Budget Goals include:

1. Preserve St. Alban's financial position in light of the continuing uncertainties associated with the pandemic. Specifically, we need to ensure that our budgeted expenses and other cash outflows are appropriate based on expected cash inflows, and we are expecting to continue to see lower expenses in certain areas while we are not having our normal in-person gatherings.
2. Maintain pledge offerings – in light of the impacts of the pandemic on our community, our normal goal of increasing pledges annually is not realistic this year. Rather, we are striving to maintain pledge offerings as close as possible to the same level as 2020. We are also focused on reasonable assumptions for the non-pledge (e.g., plate) offerings in 2021 in light of the continuing limitations on in-person gatherings.
3. Maintain the amount of the Outreach budget. The needs of our community and others for our continuing support are very high. Outreach budget is ideally greater or equal to 10% of the total church operating budget, as this is analogous to a tithe to our greater community, and our goal is to get there over time. [Outreach was approximately 7.5% of revenues in the 2020 budget and we're striving for approximately this same level for the 2021 budget if possible.
4. Increase in funding for our technology and online programming capabilities – we anticipate continuing our online services into 2021. Accordingly, we need to invest in infrastructure to enhance our online capabilities. Accordingly, we are allocating approximately \$9,000 in the 2021 budget to for technology enhancements to improve our wireless and streaming capabilities.
5. Note:
  - a. the Outreach committee, with Vestry's approval, determines and schedules outreach events.
  - b. St Alban's Preschool has an independent operating budget that is balanced, self-funding and reviewed by the vestry and St. Alban's Finance Committee. The facility and its care are provided as an outreach mission of our church.

#### The Accounting Process:

Income and expenses, along with variances, are reported monthly by Erin Garrett, our Finance Director, to the Vestry and Finance Committee.

- Once a balanced budget is set, it is not modified during the year.
- Any changes approved by the Vestry are reported as variances to the Revenue and Expense report.
- Both the change and the source of funds are accounted for.
- Independent accounting audits occur annually (2019 was excellent)

#### 2020 Revenue & Expense Statement and Variance Analysis (based primarily on the financial results through October 2020):

Of note:

- For 2020 overall, our financial position is solid. Due to COVID-related impacts, our revenues are running a little lower than budgeted but our expenses are also running less than budgeted. In addition, the Church obtained a Paycheck Protection Loan for \$81,600 in 2020 under the Federal government's COVID relief programs. The loan proceeds were primarily used for payroll costs, and we anticipate we will qualify for full forgiveness of the loan as was intended under the program as long as loan proceeds are used for specified qualifying purposes.
- As of October 31, Saint Alban's has collected \$479,837 (84%) of its budgeted 2020 pledges.
- For Stewardship 2021, as of Nov 12, we have 139 pledges totaling \$493,240 (81 %) of our \$611,000 Stewardship goal.

For a detailed comparison of the church revenue and expense operating fund, contact the church office.

Thank you for your pledges!!!

It is not too late to turn yours in and help us more accurately budget our resources.

Respectfully submitted by:

Danny Wiles,

Finance Committee Chairperson

# Outreach Report

Vivian Rogers-Cannon and Elaine Carmann, Chairpersons

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in,<sup>36</sup> I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”*

As I begin this report, I include again the above selection of scripture from the Book of Matthew to remind all of us of what Jesus asked of us, his disciples. Your Outreach Team has this mission statement before us when we prepare for each event and project. Outreach has had major challenges during this year. Amazingly, with the faithfulness of the rest of the entire Outreach Team, all projects, ministries and events continue just differently.

Our Team is very appreciative to the congregation, the Finance Committee and Vestry for your constant support.

To review all that St. Alban's is involved in, let me share again:

## **“Kindness”** (or gap-filling) projects:

### St. Alban's Outreach Ministry

- 1) Mooresville Soup Kitchen is now Feed NC –St. Alban's provides cooking and serving volunteers monthly as well as budgeted funds. Mary Emerich faithfully keeps our parishioners informed and involved.
- 2) Red Wagon Sunday –Ingathering on the first Sunday of each month by the congregation to provide food, hygiene, cleaning and pet supplies to the Loaves and Fishes pantry at Ada Jenkins
- 3) Turkey and Angel Tree drives to provide children and their families with the joy of the holiday season. This year will be handled with more Outreach funds due to the limits of COVID on the church.
- 4) Rise Against Hunger (formerly Stop Hunger Now)—packing of 10,000 meals during a multi-generational event during Lent had to be canceled due to COVID. We still contributed the budgeted funds.

### Community partnerships:

- 1) Back2School Blast – St. Alban's joins other congregations as we provide new shoes and socks for approximating 250 students. Event is held at Gethsemane Baptist Church in Davidson. Jenny Langford worked with Gethsemane to adapt for the safety of all involved.
- 2) Blanket, coat, hat, gloves, socks in-gatherings with Gethsemane Baptist during the fall and winter.
- 3) Room In The Inn partnership with DCPC to meet emergency housing needs was canceled due to COVID.
- 4) Emerald School in Charlotte has 12 students meeting in person. We contribute to the schools' general fund.
- 5) Davidson Cornelius Day Care center continues to be supported with budgeted funds.

## **“Justice”** (or more permanent solutions) projects that Outreach supports:

- 1) Our Town Habitat for Humanity – permanent housing for client-families.
- 2) La Escuelita San Alban –St. Alban's established this preschool for non-English speaking 3 and 4-year-olds to prepare them with language skills for kindergarten. We are so grateful to the dedicated staff and board who serve these wonderful children
- 3) In-person meetings of the Homeless Task Force with the Davidson Housing Coalition has been halted. We still contribute budgeted funds to this cause. The transitional house, which St. Alban's contributed to with funds from the Liz Slater memorial, is sheltering a family now.
- 4) Domestic Violence Coalition – St. Alban's was actively involved with the Safe Alliance Coalition of Lake Norman helping those in danger because of domestic violence.

### International Involvement:

- 1) Galilee Ministries—Volunteers from St. Alban's participate to help refugees to assimilate in our country.
- 2) Hogar Escuela in Costa Rica
- 3) Malawi – building of shallow wells
- 4) Placement of Homeless Jesus sculptures on all Continents

Our team has been adapting and will continue to come up with ways to serve those in our community and abroad. Our involvement is very different as we work within the parameters of living with COVID.

May God continue to bless our efforts as we “scatter to serve” in His name.