



St. Alban's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annual Parish Meeting

January 28, 2024

The Gathering

Welcome from the Rector
Hymn 488, Be Thou My Vision
Prayers: "For the Parish" *BCP p. 817*, "For a Church Meeting" *BCP p. 818*
Approval of 2023 Minutes

The Vestry

Appreciation to the Class of 2023

We gratefully acknowledge the service of these members who are departing the vestry:
Jean Bonnyman, Jennifer Lober, Leslie Urban, Danny Wiles

Recognition of Current Members

We recognize these current members who will continue vestry service in 2023:
Connor Fulton '25, Matthew Goodson '25, James Kennedy '25, Annamarie Klemm '25, Allison Kratt '24, Cheryl Nealy '24, Mike Sass '24, Joseph Torok '24

Vestry Election

We present the slate of vestry candidates nominated to serve on the vestry:
Martha Hartle, Sarah Hicks, Mike McDonnell, Dave Pylipow

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 The Rev. Valerie Davis, Deacon
Report from Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry (written)
Report from John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster (written)
Report from Patti Rossini, St. Alban's Weekday Preschool Director (written)

The Task Groups

Report from Jean Bonnyman, Senior Warden
Report from Mike Sass, Junior Warden
Report from Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chair
Report from Michael Kingsley, Outreach Committee Chair (written)
Report from Richard Colven and James Wally, Parish Hall Committee Co-chairs (written)

The New Business

The Scattering

Benediction: The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ON
JANUARY 29, 2023
9:10 AM

THE GATHERING

Welcome from the Rector

Reverend Carmen Germino called the Annual Parish Meeting to order at 9:11 A.M. and welcomed the Church members in attendance.

Prayer

Reverend Carmen Germino led the Church members in *Prayer for the Parish*, *Prayer for a Church Meeting*, and *Prayer for the Human Family* from the Book of Common Prayer.

Approval of 2022 Minutes

Reverend Carmen Germino directed the Church members to refer to the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2022 that were incorporated into the 2023 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda. She asked if there were any changes or corrections to these minutes. Not hearing any changes or corrections, she declared that the minutes were approved as distributed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF VESTRY MEMBERS

Reverend Carmen Germino acknowledged the service of those members departing the vestry: *Bob Beckham, Tom Fischer, Greg Knudson, Jenny Myers, and Alex Slawson*. Specifically, she thanked Tom Fischer, a long-time member with deep roots in our parish, valuable in seasons of change, as he is steadfast, insightful, and voices the questions on everyone's mind. She noted that Bob Beckham serves whenever the doors are open. He also served as a crucifier, led poetry meetings, and ushered. She appreciated Greg Knudson who is the proactive and sociable leader of the Newcomer's group and Men's Group, and is personally responsible for much of the parish family's growth. She celebrated Jenny Myers as a tireless champion of both the Church and weekday Preschool. As a church mom, Preschool Board member, and preschool liaison, her experience, generosity, and peaceful presence inspires everyone. Finally, she was grateful that Alex Slawson served as our organized, empathetic, and intuitive senior warden who looked out overlooked perspectives, and knew when to pause for topics that need further reflection.

Next, Reverend Germino recognized these current members who may continue their vestry service in 2023: *Jean Bonnyman '23, Allison Kratt '24, Jennifer Loher '23, Cheryl Nealy '24, Mike Sass '24, Joseph Torok '24 and Danny Wiles '23*.

THE ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS

Reverend Carmen Germino presented the slate of vestry candidates nominated to serve on the vestry for a three-year term, including *Connor Fulton, Matthew Goodson, Annamarie Klemm, and James Kennedy*; as well as *Leslie Urban* nominated for one year of an unexpired term. The nominees biographies were included with the meeting agenda.

Next, Reverend Germino asked whether there were any nominations of candidates from the floor. Hearing none, she declared that nominations were closed, making this an uncontested election not requiring ballots. Alex Slawson, Senior Warden, moved that the proposed slate of candidates be elected by acclamation. No second was necessary because the candidate nominations were from the nominating committee. With no opposition, the candidates were approved by unanimous consent.

REPORTS FROM THE CLERGY AND STAFF

Reverend Carmen Germino provided the Rector's Annual Report for 2022, incorporated into the meeting agenda.

Reverend Kevin Lloyd provided the Annual Report from the Associate Rector and Davidson College Campus Minister incorporated into the agenda. Verbally, he noted that in his fifth year at St. Alban's he is grateful for the unexpected gift to serve two communities – an incredible parish and Davidson College. Connections between the communities include home-cooked meals provided by Susan and Guy Beaumont with coordination by Elaine Carmann, a pilgrimage to France as a joint effort by the college Chaplain's Office and Presbyterian campus ministry, supported by St. Alban's and the Diocese.

Deacon Valerie Colbert provided the Annual Report from the Deacon noting her participation in various councils and conventions and a litany of service ministries, including Galilee Ministries, the Pines, Galilee Ministries, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART), Gethsemane Baptist Church Back-to-School Blast. Following her Ordination, she delivered multiple homilies, provided logistics on a variety of service-oriented events, and led book discussions and educational courses.

Also attached to the agenda were additional written annual reports provided by: Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry; John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster; and Patti Rossini, Preschool Director, for their respective ministries.

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS

Alex Slawson, Senior Warden, delivered the Annual Report from the Vestry, which concentrated on four focus areas: creation care, faith formation, congregational vitality, and collaboration. The diocesan goal of racial reconciliation and healing was emphasized throughout the year. Masks became optional as St. Alban's approached pre-pandemic levels of attendance. Newcomers benefited from Dave Pylipow's charge of the newcomer ministry. Women's and Men's groups were active, StAART established a library, the an energy audit was performed, and a stewardship campaign completed. The Parish Hall Committee also executed a successful capital campaign and announced it will break ground in 2023.

Mike Kingsley submitted a written report for Outreach, with highlights including 211 volunteer hours to Feed NC, and 1,722 pounds of donations to Loaves and Fishes food pantry. The Angel Tree provided 34 holiday gift bags of clothing and toys to families of school-aged children, and 182 pounds of toys were provided to Feed NC's holiday toy drive.

Also attached to the agenda were additional written annual reports provided by: Jean Bonnyman, Junior Warden, on the Building and Grounds; and Danny Wiles, Chair of the Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Hearing no new business that requires voting, the floor was opened for general questions. In response to parishioner's questions regarding the capacity to serve homeless, restroom capacity, and quality of facilities for youth groups, representatives noted that during the past year they gathered feedback on the facility needs and the Parish Hall Committee is continuing to take into account additional requests in consideration of the budget. Also, parishioner comments noted a continuing commitment by the Preschool Board to keeping the preschool growing and financially stable.

THE SCATTERING

Reverend Kevin Lloyd delivered a benediction to close the annual parish meeting. Reverend Carmen Germino adjourned the meeting at 9:58 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Torok
Clerk of the Vestry

Meet Our Vestry Nominees

Martha Hartle

Over my less-than-two years at St. Alban's, I have grown to love, honor, and respect the Episcopal faith tradition in general and St. Alban's Church in particular. The Clergy and parishioners welcomed and supported me with open arms as I began to understand the spiritual and corporal aspects of this faith.

I have been actively involved in StARRT and Outreach Committees and assist with Greeter responsibilities. I enjoy the women's monthly social event, and I volunteer monthly at FeedNC representing St. Alban's. In addition, I lector during Sunday Holy Eucharist Services and participate in weekly Adult Formation. I pray the morning office on Tuesdays/Thursdays via Zoom, and I participate in our Wednesday Bible Study.

I am a caring and compassionate person and have been honored to journey with friends and loved ones as they return to their God. I am organized and have been on several civic and church boards over the years. Professionally, I was an executive assistant to four university presidents and to a faith-based hospital president, as well as serving as their elected board secretary. I managed staff in these positions and million dollar budgets, reporting to the CFO.

I pray for God's grace as I offer my experience and expertise to St. Alban's through service on the Church Vestry.

Sarah Hicks

My family, Greg Hicks and Finnick Hicks, and I began attending St. Alban's in 2017. Embracing my new community, I was received into the church in 2020 and have become more actively involved ever since.

I play a crucial role in organizing the annual Oktoberfest, plan and participate in Moms Connect monthly activities, and lend my support to the children's choir as needed.

I spend as much time outdoors as possible, mostly exploring both new and familiar trails with my family and sweet pup. In any additional spare time, I enjoy leisurely activities like reading, puzzling, making music, and relaxing with a great show or movie.

Mike McDonnell

My wife Lisa and I arrived in North Carolina in October of 2022 from Wayne, Pennsylvania. St. Alban's was our first stop on our church shopping expedition and we immediately knew we had found our church home. The welcome we received was warm and wonderful and we are so happy to have found this parish. This past year I have enjoyed getting to know many of you at the Men's Group dinners, participating in the Supper Club groups, and as a Greeter for the 10:30 service. Lisa and I enjoy cooking dinner for the Davidson College Episcopal Student Fellowship group, and getting our hands dirty in our SEEDS garden bed.

I grew up in Columbus, Ohio, attended Kenyon College and received my Masters in History of Art from Ohio State University. I have spent the last 22 years with Merck & Co. working in sales and marketing and am currently in the Oncology division. I enjoy skiing, fly-fishing in northern Michigan, sporting clays, playing my guitar at home, cooking, roasting coffee and riding our eBikes around Huntersville and Davidson.

Lisa and I met in Columbus, Ohio. We attended St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Bexley where I was baptized and confirmed. Our son Max was born in Columbus and our daughter Lilly was born in Naples, Florida where we spent 17 years. Max is currently a 2nd grade Social Studies/ Science teacher at Sacred Heart Academy in Chicago and Lilly attends Elon University as a Sophomore.

We were active members of Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church in Naples. I served on the Vestry as Junior and Senior Warden, was the Relay-for-Life Chair, a youth group leader, led Acolyte Training, cooked many pancake suppers, led a Youth Mission trip to Northern England and completed the 4 year Education for Ministry program.

We've spent the last 7 years in the Philadelphia area where we attended St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, PA before finding our way to the Charlotte area. I co-chaired the New Comers dinners, cooked for families of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and volunteered at the annual St. David's Fair.

I am excited to serve this wonderful St. Alban's community and help to lead and continue to grow this parish as a welcoming place to worship.

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, parish hall committee member, 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.

Six 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 large retail companies. I currently do some occasional, part time consulting projects.

My wife of 38 years, Mary, and I have four children and seven 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 is also retired and we enjoy traveling to see new places as well as visiting family and friends.

I look forward to returning to the vestry to serve our vibrant and growing parish during this exciting time.

Annual Report from the Rector The Rev. Carmen Germino

As we reflect on the year 2023, the essence of our journey together at St. Alban's can be encapsulated in one word: depth. We delved deeper spiritually, strengthened relationships, and solidified our commitment to this vibrant community. I want to use my report to acknowledge and express gratitude to those who have played pivotal roles in helping us to go deeper together this past year.

Outgoing Vestry Members:

I extend heartfelt appreciation to our outgoing vestry members who have served with dedication and passion:

Jean Bonnyman (Senior Warden): Her enthusiasm, green thumb, and generous spirit have nourished both our bodies and souls. Her unwavering support for the staff and your prayers in our meetings have made a significant impact.

Jennifer Loher: Serving as the spiritual heartbeat of our vestry, her deep faith has kept us focused on seeking and serving Christ. Her vulnerability has set an open tone for our meetings, grounding our work in important ways.

Leslie Urban (Treasurer): Returning to the vestry for one year to fill an unexpired term, her calm presence and pragmatic leadership have been such a gift. Her experience and historical context have guided us with confidence and excitement.

Danny Wiles: His indispensable role in shaping St. Alban's into a thriving parish is commendable. I am grateful for his exceptional service to the Finance Committee and his ability to balance the big picture with thoughtful attention to detail.

Continuing Vestry Members:

Mike Sass (Junior Warden): His diligent and patient leadership in overseeing Buildings and Grounds has been exceptional. His generosity in caring for both the physical space and the people of this parish is truly appreciated. Special thanks also to **Pam Sass** for her many invaluable contributions!

Joseph Torok (Clerk): Joseph's dedication and precision as our Clerk is a tremendous blessing.

Allison Kratt, Cheryl Nealy, Mike Sass, Connor Fulton, Matthew Goodson, James Kennedy, and Annamarie Klemm: This team is superb. Our vestry retreat in March set the tone for a year of going deeper in every way. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the goals of our community.

Parish Hall Committee:

Our Parish Hall Committee worked tirelessly throughout 2023. Thanks to **Jean Bonnyman, Eileen Keeley, Allison Kratt, Kevin Lloyd, Rhett Mabry, Hank Patch, Dave Pylipow, Mike Sass, Alex Slawson, Leslie Urban, Danny Wiles**, and co-chairs **Richard Colven and James Wally**. The Groundbreaking ceremony on December 3 was a testament to their hard work and commitment. Thanks to all who have pledged or given to support the Parish Hall project.

Annual Giving:

Our Stewardship Committee members worked to build on the success of recent years, and their efforts have made a significant impact on our community and beyond. Thank you to our leaders, and to all who support the mission and ministries of our parish through an annual pledge.

Fellowship:

A big thank you to all involved in fostering fellowship, including the Greeters, Oktoberfest Team, Men's and Women's Fellowship groups, and the Ministry of Fun. Your events and gatherings have deepened the joy and the sense of community within St. Alban's.

Outreach:

Our Outreach Team welcomed a number of new faces this year, and the energy is palpable! In addition to continuing many long-standing ministries, a new partnership with Lifeline meal packing in Concord was a highlight, and another meal packing event has already been planned for February 22, 2024.

St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART):

Thank you to **Laurie Harrison**, who has led StAART since the beginning, and who has now handed the reigns over to **Cynthia Clemons**. In 2023, StAART laid the foundation for a number of exciting offerings in 2024, including the Hues of You intergenerational event and our upcoming Lenten series on saints of color. Also in 2024, StAART plans to strengthen our engagement with the ongoing work our Diocese is doing around dismantling racism.

Appreciation for Staff and Clergy:

All of our ministries are possible because of the hard work and support of our excellent lay staff: **Jessica Ewell, Erin Garrett, Courtney Fossett, John Bailey, and Patti Rossini** have been the backbone of our vitality. Each of them plays a crucial role, and we are blessed to have such a dedicated staff.

Our clergy **The Rev. Kevin Lloyd, The Rev. Deacon Valerie Davis**, and the newly welcomed part-time addition, **The Rev. Leslie Nuñez Steffensen** are phenomenal. Each of them bring wisdom, enthusiasm, and skill to our team.

Highlighting Spiritual Depth:

Other than the Parish Hall project, which dominated 2023, I want to mention a couple of key moments of going deeper. Our Lenten series engaged our minds, hearts, and even our feet, as we explored together what it means to be in the wilderness through parishioner artwork, written reflections, and hikes. Another opportunity for going deeper was our pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For the fifteen of us who went, the experience enriched our faith and opened our eyes to the complicated tapestry of faith and politics there. We came home feeling closer to Jesus and praying urgently for peace.

Celebrating Growth:

In 2023, we celebrated seven baptisms and nineteen youth and adults were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. Each represents a step forward in their journey with Christ, and we rejoice in their commitment. As we look ahead to 2024, let us build on the momentum of the past year, always to the glory of God. Together, we will continue to deepen our spiritual roots, strengthen our community bonds, and serve with generosity and love.

Yours in Christ,
Carmen+

Annual Report from the Associate Rector & Davidson College Campus Minister

The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

Dear Saint Alban's Family,

My office currently has a birds-eye view of the parish hall construction site. As I have watched the work get underway this month, I have been reflecting on the journey that has gotten us to this point; a journey that goes back decades and has culminated this past year in the beginning of an exciting new chapter in the life of Saint Alban's. It is the fruit of years of dedication, prayerful discernment, planning, hard work, and the remarkable generosity of so many.

As we embark on this new chapter, I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving at Saint Alban's and the college. Most days it feels like a "best-of-both-worlds" scenario for me. I do not take for granted the gift that it is to do ministry in these two exceptional communities. Even on those occasions where I have felt the pinch of competing demands between parish and campus, I have received nothing but support and understanding from the people of Saint Alban's and my staff colleagues. Thanks to all, and especially to Carmen, Valerie, Jessica, John, Courtney, Leslie, Erin, and Patti. What an amazing team we have!

In addition to the parish hall, here are some other highlights of 2023 from my perspective:

- I continued to provide Morning Prayer opportunities both at Saint Alban's (via Zoom on Mondays and Wednesdays) and at the college (in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays).
- I also continued to enjoy the great privilege of alternating with Carmen in the facilitation of Saint Alban's Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. I am very grateful to the members of this group for their faithful inquisitiveness and their willingness to go deep. My sermons are better because of them. We always welcome new participants to this group!
- Episcopal Student Fellowship met regularly on Sunday evenings during the academic year with Eucharist at 4:30 and dinner at 5:30. I am ever grateful to the members of Saint Alban's who have provided the wonderful home-cooked meals for the group on a weekly basis. I am especially grateful to Elaine Carmann who coordinates this process and to all those who have provided meals. This is an essential part of our ministry to these young adults, and it is deeply appreciated by them and by me.
- In March, College Chaplain Rob Spach, Presbyterian Campus Minister Caitlyn Zold, and I took a group of eighteen students on pilgrimage to the Taize Community in France; a profound experience for all involved.
- In May, ESF bid farewell to five graduating seniors, celebrating them at a cookout at the Davidson Lake Campus.
- In August, we bid farewell to Rob Spach who retired after 30 years of faithful and transformative ministry at College Chaplain. We welcomed his successor, Julia Watkins.
- Julia Watkins, Caitlyn Zold (Presbyterian Campus Minister) and I continued to co-lead an interdenominational bible study at the college.
- Courtney Fossett and I had the joy of facilitating another Confirmation Class for some of our youth. They were confirmed by our new Assisting Bishop, Jennifer Brooke-Davidson in October.
- Episcopal Student Fellowship had a fabulous fall retreat at Lake Logan Episcopal Conference Center in November, helping set the tone for the 2023-24 academic year.
- Our Vestry provided ongoing support to Davidson and ESF alum Liam Barr during his time in seminary and journey towards ordained ministry. Liam recently completed his General Ordination Exams will be graduating from Seminary of the Southwest this coming Spring. As his sponsoring priest, I am grateful for the tremendous support Saint Alban's has provided him.

I look back on the past year with gratitude for the remarkable ways that this parish community has come together to support one another and to bear witness to God's love and mercy as revealed in and through Christ. Even as we devote significant time, energy, and resources to building a parish hall, our clear commitment to loving and serving our neighbors in the wider world remains constant. I thank God every day for being called to serve in this place.

Yours in Christ,

Kevin+

Annual Report from the Deacon

The Rev. Valerie Colbert

Highlights from 2023:

- Serving as Deacon at St. Albans for 1 year on (5/21/23).
- Traveled to the Holy Land and Petra with 15 St. Alban's pilgrims.
- Liaison and coordinator for St. Albans for the Gethsemane Baptist Church Back-to-School Backpack Blast; collecting items and funding and participation with the logistics team on the date of the event, directing traffic for backpack pick-up.
- Co-facilitated Children's Chapel with Derek Riccelli and Courtney Fossett.
- Attended the NC Diocese Clergy Conference in Greensboro, NC.
- Attended the 208th NC Diocese Annual Convention in Winston-Salem, NC.
- Serving on the Episcopal Diocesan Council of NC (2023-26) for Outreach & Justice ministries as the liaison for Refugee Ministries/ Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Costa Rica and the Augustine Literary Project
 - Attended 8 Diocesan Council sessions at various churches around and in the Dioceses of NC.
 - Hosted the Diocesan Council at St. Albans.
- Facilitator for 4 virtual sessions for the NC Diocese course - Dismantling Racism
- Monthly participation St. Alban's Outreach Ministries meetings
 - Introduced "Lifeline" – Outreach team's meal packing event in Concord, NC
 - Attended Outreach Ministries team's tour of Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte
- Completing the 11-week course and training for "Scared Ground for Clergy."
- Regularly attend Adult Formation – Journeys, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART) sessions and discussions, and Women's Group

Annual Report from Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

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

I am proud to be the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry for 4 ½ years and I am blessed to lead an amazing group of volunteers that my job could not be done without and the children, youth, and families bless me in so many ways. In 2023, we got back to normal, or at least as close as it has been in a few years. The children and youth engaged in Sunday School and we had such large numbers, we split our younger class into two, age 4 – 1st grade and 2nd -4th grade. Initially in the Spring, age 4 – 1st was still crowded with at least 14 – 16 each Sunday, while 2nd – 4th remained about 4. However, in the Fall we saw 12 – 14 in the youngest class and 6-8 in 2nd – 4th. Our curriculum for the younger classes went from Illustrated Ministries (Mini Revolutions) children's curriculum in the Spring to A Joyful Path in the Fall. Our Youth (Middle and High) Sunday School class continues to use (Teen Text) youth curriculum. All are engaging and interactive, although all our Sunday School teachers are also encouraged to be creative and teach to their passions like Godly Play. Summer meant VBS, again creatively held outside under tents in August, with smiles and amazing participation. Although I had to miss VBS due to Covid, our fantastic staff and wonderful volunteers stepped in my absence. We were thrilled to have a great children's Christmas pageant this year on Christmas Eve.

The Youth Group got a running start to 2023 with service projects including making tie-knot blankets for children without homes, Valentine's Day treat bags for Pines residents, and distributing mulch to the Prayer Trail. Spring Youth outings to an Escape Room, to SpareTime for bowling and games, Ninja Nation, and Putt Putt were so much fun. We also played fun indoor/outdoor games at church with dinner and fellowship which created a wonderful, inclusive atmosphere to build a church

youth community. The summer brought back the Youth favorite Water Fun Day with homemade giant slip and slide, water balloons, and cookout. We kicked off again in September, with a long-awaited Luau at the Lake at the Davidson Lake Campus. The remainder of the Fall included making dog toys for shelters, hosting an ice cream sundae bar for children, pumpkin carving, stuffing Turkey boxes, distributing Greenery flyers, a Christmas party, and our annual collection of Teddy Bears to name a few.

Our Family Ministry Support Team (FMST), started by our Ministry Architects work and comprised of parishioners and parents with a passion for youth, continued to work together to support and plan these inspiring events. We continue making connections, developing friendships, and having fun and fellowship. There is so much to be thankful for and celebrate as you can see below. Thank you so much for this opportunity to work with an amazing staff and wonderful church family who continue to help, support, and grow this program!

Accomplishments & Upcoming:

- Hosted a very successful Ice Cream Sundae Bar for St. Alban's Children and their parents after Sunday services. We hope for this to become a new ongoing intergenerational event.
- Held an Easter Egg Hunt for our families and their children's enjoyment.
- Continued the work of a dedicated group of volunteers known as the Family Ministry Support Team, born out of our extremely beneficial work with Ministry Architects, to help plan, track, and execute Youth and Family events.
- In-person VBS held outside in August under tents with a total of 40 children, with at least 15 staff/volunteers, who cheerfully made it happen.
- A total of 45 registered children for Fall 2023 Sunday School, averaging per week about 14 for Age 4-1st grade, 2nd-5th and 8 for Middle/High.
- With the start of the new Sunday School Year in September, Sunday School for Age 4-1st grade and 2nd-5th grade returned to the Preschool area in classrooms and Middle/High met inside in the Youth room.
- Youth held their fourth annual drive for Teddy Bears for Bridge of Hearts (formerly Bright Blessings).
- In November, our Youth packed over 25 Thanksgiving Dinner boxes for Ada Jenkins.
- Nursery was successfully relocated back downstairs to the Preschool area. Two paid workers, usually college students, continue to work out great.
- Lots of cleaning out, reorganizing, and redistributing space took place to prepare for the beginning of the Parish Hall construction.
- Monthly planned and executed High School/Middle School Youth Event Highlights include:
 - January – tie-knot blankets made for Bridge of Hearts
 - February – Valentine Bags for The Pines
 - March – Refurbish Trail with mulch
 - April – Toy Drive for Bridge of Hearts
 - May – Putt Putt
 - August – Water Fun Day and Cookout
 - September – Luau at the Lake kickoff
 - October – Pumpkin Carving, distribute Greenery flyers
 - November – Thanksgiving Box service project
 - December – Christmas Party, Teddy Bear drive
- First Family Palm Cross making event held with at least 12 families in attendance.
- Family Advent Wreath event held with over 10 families in attendance.
- Started a Youth Leadership Team to help take more ownership in events they want.
- Our Christmas pageant finally took place again in person with about 18 children participating and 2 youth narrating. We even had animal masks, halos, and crowns for those who wanted to join in the day of.

Goals:

- Sunday School continue to grow, striving to maintain and increase children and youth attendance and registrations.
- Continue our younger Sunday School into 2 classes, Age 4 – 1st grade and 2nd – 5th due to large attendance, and hopefully back to 3 eventually.

- Further develop Youth Leadership Team to be an integral part of event planning.
- Continue valuable work with Family Ministry Support Team to support initiatives from our beneficial work with Ministry Architects.
- Execute a full Winter/Spring Youth Group schedule with continued increase in attendance and scope of events.
- Bring back our annual Youth Group Ski Trip.
- Encourage and promote interest and participation in Episcopal summer camps, retreats, and Diocesan Youth events.
- Incorporate youth into more volunteer opportunities within the church.
- Recruit more adult volunteers to help with Sunday School and Youth Group.
- Youth group continue to thrive and grow, having fun, and giving back.
- Provide opportunities for children, youth, and families to connect and form meaningful friendships and relationships within our church family.
- Expand options for more fun, interactive, intergenerational family activities.

Annual Report from the Music Ministry

John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster

Psalm 100 instructs us to “Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.” I am grateful that this congregation is so willing to come before his presence with singing. I believe that a willingness to learn and offer our praise to God freely is one sign of good spiritual health in a parish, and you do, indeed, do that.

Giving thanks is another instruction found often in scripture. It is a task that not only honors the person receiving thanks, but also benefits and shapes the mind-set of the one who gives thanks. We remain grateful to Matt Presson and those who help him for their work with the children’s choir and the live-streaming of our worship services. Likewise, I am ever-grateful to the members of the parish choir for their faithful service to this parish through the music ministry and other areas of service. I believe their leadership in teaching and encouraging others to sing out in worship is why this congregation is willing to offer our praise to God more freely. Most of the parish choir members have served in choirs for decades. They remain faithful to that call to serve, and await some younger members willing to take on the mantle of leadership.

Update on our musical instruments:

The piano in the nave: In keeping with the theme of gratitude, we are thankful for the work and generosity of those who have come before us. In November, a new grand piano was purchased for the nave. The Mason & Hamlin piano given to us by Mary (“Mina”) Price served us to the best of its abilities, but continuing to repair an older piano can be a losing venture. So, after discussions with the piano technician, the rector, the vestry and the Steinway Piano Gallery owner, it was decided to take the remaining funds from Mrs. Price’s generous bequest to get the best NEW piano that we could afford. The new Essex grand is a Steinway-Designed piano, but unlike a Steinway & Sons piano, is massed-produced and not hand-crafted. To meet our needs and those of the M@SA (Music at St. Alban’s) series, I felt it was best to make this move while the remaining funds in Mrs. Price’s bequest would allow us to do so without funds from the church’s reserves.

The piano in the choir room: With the capital campaign for the new parish hall underway and other priority needs of the parish, my goal was to get a dependable piano in the choir room with minimal cost to the church. So, the vestry approved paying for moving my upright piano from my home to the church. The former piano that was given to the church by a choir member is being stored in the choir room, and the plan is to move it to the new parish hall when it is completed.

The pipe organ: Again, in keeping with the theme of gratitude, we offer thanks to the parishioners whose generosity provided us this musical instrument that helps lead our worship. Our organ has an interesting history, and spent its earlier life in the Northeast, specifically Rhode Island. It was moved, re-furbished and installed at St. Alban’s approximately twenty years ago. It is a type of organ known as a tracker organ, meaning that it has rods (trackers) connected to each key of the keyboards and pedalboard (played by the feet) that move to open and close the openings of the organ pipes. This allows the air (wind) to enter the pipe to make it sound and to close that opening to stop it from sounding. In short, there are a lot of moving parts that are quite delicate in nature, and the playing of an older tracker organ can be a bit challenging for the organist. Someday, the needs for dependability, musical flexibility and less wear-and-tear on the player will require a different organ, but for now, the instrument continues its faithful life of service.

Outreach: One of our choir members was asked to take on the task of leading the choral group at The Pines and he graciously agreed to do so. I had the privilege of working with him and the group last September, and may be playing for them this Spring, if the need arises. They are a hearty and dedicated group of singers, which includes some of our choir members and parishioners. Another community event in which our parish choir has agreed to participate is the **Davidson Sings** concert that will take place on **February 25, 2024 at 5 pm** at Davidson College Presbyterian Church. It has required much extra time for the choir and myself, but we believe that it will be worthwhile to be a part of this beautiful musical offering. We will join forces with students from the Davidson College Chorale, The Choral Arts Society of Davidson, Davidson College Presbyterian Church and Davidson United Methodist Church in presenting a joint choral concert of truly wonderful music. It will be a great opportunity to bring together many members of the local community. The financial support given by several in our parish is greatly appreciated. There will be more reminders of this upcoming event in February.

Respectfully submitted on January 23, 2024,
John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster

Annual Report from the St. Alban's Weekday Preschool Ministry

Patti Rossini, Preschool Director

The Preschool continues to offer a joyful, play-based, half day program with the generous assistance of the church. The 2023 calendar year encompasses two school years for us. Here are some highlights:

January-June 2023 (22/23 School Year)

- Registration for the 23/24 school year began in January 2023. We hosted several small group sessions and tours for families unfamiliar with St. Alban's.
- The preschool was gifted TWO SEEDS garden plots where the children had the most wonderful experience planting, exploring, and harvesting a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers during the Spring of 2023.
- 21 students graduated from the Fours classes in May 2023.
- In June we offered 3 weeks of summer camp that included some of our friends from La Escuelita.
- The preschool was able to scholarship 20 one-week slots of summer camp.

August-December 2023 (23/24 School Year)

- We welcomed 12 staff members in August 2023.
- We welcomed 57 families (filling 68 classroom spots).
- We invited families to Popsicles on the Playground prior to the start of school so that families could begin to get acquainted with their new classmates, teachers, and program.
- We had individual visits with families and an Open House to continue with the "getting acquainted" process in early September.
- We welcomed Ann Todd as our new Preschool Board Chair and added additional members from the church and preschool in August.
- Our enrichment providers began in September 2023. The children participated in Stretch-n-Grow, Math and Science Nucleus, and Children's Theater.
- Wiggle Worship started in October. We gathered in the Nave with Rev. Carmen and Father Kevin and enjoyed sharing Bible stories with our preschoolers. We learned new songs, danced, and prayed together.
- We enjoyed wonderful holiday celebrations with our preschool families for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.
- We participated in several mission projects – The Odd Sock, Baby Bundles of Charlotte and encouraged families to participate in mission projects sponsored by the church.
- The preschool was able to provide four full scholarships and one partial scholarship for the 23/24 school year.

We are so thankful for the church's support during this past year and can't wait to see what God has in store for the preschool in 2024!

Annual Report from the Vestry

Jean Bonnyman, Senior Warden

2023 has been an amazing year at St Alban's. In part it is because of an amazing vestry. But there are many other parts, Carmen and Kevin, of course, our wonderful staff, and all the parishioners like you contributed in so many ways. It is no surprise that we have seen tremendous growth this year.

Of course, what will mark this year forever is our Parish Hall, now in the construction phase! 2023 in large part has been all about getting the Parish Hall launched and this would not have happened without James Wally's leadership, the Parish Hall committee and the Vestry's thoughtful considerations. Countless hours have been put in by James and so many other people to get our Parish Hall to the stage of fruition.

As for the vestry, I can't imagine any better. I have been humbled by their dedication, thoughtfulness, commitment and camaraderie. Although I can't take the time to extol on how wonderful each vestry member has been in their roles this year, I really want to highlight Mike Sass, who has been the junior warden extraordinaire. We could not be more fortunate to have the efforts and expertise of Mike at this time.

Although the huge efforts that went into the Parish Hall this year took center stage, the Vestry was hard at work at the many other components that make our church so extraordinary. St Alban's has experienced impressive growth this year which is due in large part to the goals we set at the beginning of 2023: Grow, Gather, Serve. Being so grateful for what we have at St Albans, we spread the word and the joy to others to share in our blessings and fellowship. As characterized by our many ministries, bible studies, activities for all ages, to the happy chatter after worship, we have exceeded all our goals. We are present for each other: to celebrate, to grieve, to learn, to help others, to have fun and to give thanks.

It has been a most humbling but energizing experience to be the senior warden in 2023. 2024 will be another year of challenges and celebrations, but I have no doubt we will continue to thrive. Thanks be to God.

Annual Report from the Vestry: Buildings and Grounds

Mike Sass, Junior Warden

The theme of 2023 regarding the upkeep of the church and property was "Repair, Refresh, and Relocate".

At the Preschool, many things were done to the exterior and entrance to create a welcoming environment for the parents and children including:

- Strip and refinish the benches
- New hoses purchased and attached
- New mulch was put around all the beds
- A power washer was purchased and the sidewalks were completely cleaned
- New playground mulch was delivered and installed by volunteers
- Temporary solar lighting was placed around the playground for navigation assistance during construction

In the Memorial Garden, many volunteers helped to create a vision for a refresh of the entire area, and the following work was completed:

- Repaint two exterior doors near the garden
- Strip and refinish three sets of visitor benches
- Trim all bushes and trees
- Power wash the sidewalks and pathways in the garden
- Add an arbor at the garden entrance and plant climbing vines on it
- Bring out the angel statue and affix it to its base

Once we saw what a difference the power washing of the Memorial Garden made, we continued onto the main entry to the church to create a clean, welcoming view:

- Power wash all walkways and sidewalks at the front and side entry to the church
- Power wash sidewalks, pillars, Homeless Jesus, and fences along the front of church property
- Hired a company with a lift to power wash the steeple

Continuing the refresh of the front of the church, we determined the areas that needed new mulch and it was purchased and installed here:

- All front and side entrances of the church
- The area under the trees with the picnic tables in front of the church

As construction approached, a plan was made to relocate the chorus room and move the groups' supplies from one closet to another downstairs of the church. This involved getting each group (Flower Guild, MOF, Youth Group and Sunday School, Chorus) to clean out their closets and save what was only truly needed. This involved:

- Discarding, donating, and recycling items
- Final moving of groups to new storage locations
- Completely vacate the chorus room and move it to its current location
- Clear out the anteroom to the old chorus room so construction was ready to begin

General repairing of issues was done all year to keep the building running and looking good:

- New hoses were purchased for the front and back of the church
- Shampooed the carpeting in the Reflection Room
- Paint touch-ups were done in the Reflection Room
- Replaced non-working LED bulbs in the Narthex, office area, and downstairs
- Faucet and toilet repairs
- A new water fountain was purchased and will be installed in the Narthex soon

Although our Spring Workday was canceled due to tornado warnings, many great people volunteered to get our To-do list taken care of in the following weeks. Without the generous offer of their time and talents, many of these projects could not have been finished.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Sass
2023 Junior Warden

Annual Report from the Finance Committee

Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chair

The Budget Process:

Priorities are set jointly by the Vestry and the Rector.

The budget for 2024 was approved by the vestry at its meeting earlier this month.

2024 Budget Goals include:

1. Continue to preserve St. Alban's financial position in light of the construction of the parish hall and lingering economic uncertainties. Specifically, we need to continue to ensure that our budgeted expenses and other cash outflows are appropriate based on expected cash inflows, and that we maintain sufficient cash reserves to allow us to deal with any surprises that may arise. Additionally, we must begin to provide for the mortgage payments and operating expenses (utilities, insurance, supplies, etc.) that will be incurred following completion of the parish hall later this year, and \$30,000 was included in the 2024 operating budget for these pending expenses. The budget approved by the vestry for 2024 is balanced except for a small deficit (\$4,300) related to nonrecurring preschool transition costs (discussed below) which will be comfortably covered from existing cash reserves.

2. Increase annual pledge offerings – for Stewardship 2024, we have received 182 pledges totaling \$766,798, which exceeded our goal and is a 6% increase over 2023. If you haven't yet pledged, but would like to, please contact Erin Garrett (erin@saintalbansdavidson.org).
3. Maintain the amount of the Outreach budget. The needs of our community and others for our support continue. The Outreach Committee, with Vestry's approval, determines and schedules outreach events. Our desire is for the outreach budget to be greater or equal to 10% of the total church operating budget, as this is analogous to a tithe to our greater community. Including the St. Alban's preschool, which is discussed below, the Outreach budget for 2023 is \$78,000, which is \$11,500 higher than the amount for 2022 and is related to the preschool as discussed below
4. Continue to support St. Alban's preschool, as a mission of our church, as it continues to navigate a "post-pandemic" environment. The preschool has an independent budget that, prior to the pandemic, was self-balancing. However, the needs and desires for preschool and childcare services for many families are now different than before the pandemic, such that the preschool continues to look to the church for a relatively small portion of its funding needs. In the church's 2024 budget, the vestry has approved funding of up to \$34,500, which includes approximately \$17,000 of nonrecurring costs related to the retirement and replacement of our current preschool director. For 2023, the funding provided to the preschool was \$16,500 (for 2023, the vestry had approved a budgeted amount of up to \$23,000, but the preschool worked hard to not need the full budgeted amount). The preschool board continues to work diligently towards minimizing the level of support that might be needed going forward while still providing the high-quality experience that our preschool is known for.

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 verification occur annually (the results for 2022 were excellent).

2023 Financial Results:

Of note:

- For 2023 overall, our financial position remains solid. Despite the economic factors in 2023, our revenues exceeded budgeted amounts while our expenses remained in check.
- For 2023, Saint Alban's collected 97% of pledges, and non-pledge offerings were strong.
- The church's cash and liquidity position remains strong.

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

Thank you for your ongoing support!!

Respectfully submitted by:

Danny Wiles,

Finance Committee Chairperson

Annual Report from the Outreach Team

Michael Kingsley, Chairperson

As the chairperson of the Outreach committee, I am so blessed to be working alongside such compassionate and giving teammates who inspire everyone to help where they can to support those in need. Your Outreach Team is dedicated to serving others and carrying on with the mission of St. Alban's church. This year Outreach was fully engaged with the ongoing ministries, and we took on even more projects that we plan to incorporate into our normal yearly schedule. We are also blessed that our committee has grown this year, but we are always happy to include even more volunteers. The generosity and faithfulness of everyone in Outreach is truly a blessing. Our Team is very appreciative to the congregation, the Finance Committee and Vestry for your constant support.

A summary of St. Alban's Outreach activities for 2023:

"Kindness" (or gap-filling) projects:

St. Alban's Outreach Ministry

- 1) FeedNC – St. Alban's provides cooking and serving volunteers monthly as well as budgeted funds. Mary Emerich and other faithful volunteers keep our parishioners informed and involved. With the expansion of FeedNC facilities we have increased our participation to over 12 hours/month average last year, but we're always willing to take more.
- 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. Mary Emerich has also been keeping the parish informed on this effort. This year the need remained very high as families were stressed from the economic situation. St. Alban's answered the call and donated over 1440 pounds of food and supplies.
- 3) Turkey and Angel Tree drives to provide children and their families with the joy of the holiday season. This year Cheryl Nealy, again, headed the Turkey drive effort for St. Alban's that provided 25 Thanksgiving boxes, decorated and filled by the youth, to Ada Jenkins. We also collected 35 gift certificates to be distributed. Also, this year Outreach worked with La Escuelita to provide unwrapped toys for their families during the Angel tree event. Both events were a complete success.
- 4) Lifeline Christian Ministries—This past year, the Outreach team of 15 people participated in meal-packing of 2,250 meals during a trial event in August. Our plan to conduct an expanded event (up to 60 volunteers) in February of this year as well as contribute 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. This year St. Alban's distributed over 500 backpacks along with \$2,500 worth of gift cards for shoes.
- 2) Coat Drive – This past year Elaine led the annual coat drive along with Gethsemane Baptist Church and Outreach volunteers during the fall.
- 3) Room In The Inn partnership with DCPC to meet emergency housing needs is underway again this year with smaller numbers to account for the lingering COVID risk. The program will continue through March of this year.
- 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.
- 6) La Posada – This traditional event of serving meals to the families of La Escuelita preschool was headed up by Ginger Knudson and it was a complete success. We had over 200 people enjoying the event.
- 7) World Hunger Day project in coordination with First Baptist Church in Huntersville – Cheryl Neely led an event with volunteers to sort and raise funds for families in need.

"Justice" (or more permanent solutions) projects that Outreach supports:

- 1) Our Town Habitat for Humanity – permanent housing for client-families. This year St. Alban's provided budgeted funds and organized one build day with St. Alban's volunteers for a house in Mooresville. Alf Badgett also led the St. Alban's participation in the "Jimmy Carter" build in Charlotte.
- 2) La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool –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) Davidson Housing Coalition – support to at-risk families. We contribute budgeted funds to this cause.
- 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. This year Outreach budgeted funds for this cause.

International Involvement:

- 1) Galilee Ministries—Volunteers from St. Alban's participated to help refugees to assimilate in our country.
- 2) Hogar Escuela in Costa Rica
- 3) Marion Medical Mission — Building of shallow wells in Malawi. We had volunteers and budgeted funds for this important mission.
- 4) Episcopal Relief and Development – Kathy Miller led an ERD Sunday in March to raise awareness and funds to support international crises.

Potential New Ministries for Outreach:

- 1) Absalom Jones Fund - for Episcopal HBCUs supports two institutions affiliated with The Episcopal Church since the 1800s: Saint Augustine's University in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Voorhees University in Denmark, South Carolina.
- 2) Episcopal Relief and Development – International crisis relief – annual budgeted funds
- 3) Access2Success – Support to education in Nigeria – annual budgeted funds
- 4) Lifeline Christian Ministries – Annual volunteer meal-packing event and budgeted funds
- 5) World Hunger Day project in coordination with First Baptist Church in Huntersville – volunteer to sort donations

Our team is extremely appreciative of the time and effort provided by volunteers at St. Alban's. This has especially been important during the hardships of the economic crisis and of the lingering effects of Covid. We are continuing to evolve and adapt so we can continue to serve.

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

Annual Report from the Parish Hall Committee

Richard Colven and James Wally, Parish Hall Committee Co-chairs

In 2023 significant progress was achieved with the Parish Hall Program. Milestones included: completion of the playground relocation project, unveiling of the conceptual parish hall design, design and permitting of the building project, bidding of the building project, securing of construction financing, Diocesan approval, and finally a ceremonial groundbreaking of the parish hall on December 3rd 2023. As the Parish Hall Committee enters its final year of work, we note that physical construction of the building began on 1/2/2024. The parish hall is on schedule to be completed in fall of 2024 which will culminate with a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate completion of the program. The Parish Hall Committee's work will conclude in calendar year 2024, and as such the committee will then disband. Below please find a high level summary of the phases of construction that will occur throughout the year.

Please note that all of the following are summary descriptions of the work that will be happening and estimates and depend on numerous factors that can cause delays.

PHASE ONE: Preparation and Foundations – January - March

Alas, before we build we must take down. The first steps include clearing the site of 6 trees and some bushes as well as preparing things for the build. This includes installation of both a silt fence and a fence cordoning off a safety zone for construction, which will happen in the first week. After that, the ground will be tested and prepared and the concrete foundation will be poured and finished.

Safety note: No one other than authorized construction personnel is allowed inside the fence of the worksite. Please see our earlier memo about parking and how to enter the church. During this phase we will likely encounter large cement trucks and grading machinery as the ground is prepped and the foundation is poured.

PHASE TWO: Exterior Shell and Roof – March – May

After the foundations cure, erection of the major load bearing elements, exterior walls, and roof will begin, including the windows and brick façade. We should also expect the beginning of the “integration” of the Parish Hall with the existing building, so expect to see construction impact some areas of our current facility.

Safety note: No one other than authorized construction personnel is allowed inside the fence of the worksite. Please see our earlier memo about parking and how to enter the church. This phase will be time when medium cranes are needed to lift the major structural elements into place and materials such as bricks and large lumber pieces will be moving into and around the staging area. Please use extra caution around the construction area.

PHASE THREE: Interior Construction – May – August

At this point, we won't have to imagine what our Parish Hall will look like from the outside since the shell will be complete, although it won't be time to gather inside. Construction will largely move indoors for the hanging of drywall and doors and myriad installation and finishing for utilities such as plumbing, electrical, and the like.

Safety note: No one other than authorized construction personnel is allowed inside the worksite. Hopefully at this point we be able to open the sidewalk to enter the church from the lower level, but please remain vigilant about the staging and construction areas. We will send out updated communications about approved means of entry and exit to the church. Expect regular deliveries of materials, but much of the large construction machinery will no longer be needed.

PHASE FOUR: Fixture Installation and Finishing – August - September

During this phase lighting fixtures, various hardware, and our kitchen appliances will be delivered and installed. Finally, the Parish Hall will be painted, cleaned, and most importantly, subjected to final inspection.

Safety note: No one other than authorized construction personnel is allowed inside the worksite. Please resist the temptation to “take a peek” as the hall will still be an active and hazardous construction site. Delivery trucks and a wide variety of specialty contractors will add to the traffic during this phase as we near completion.

Thank you for your patience and support. Please do not ask questions of on-site workers except in emergency situations. All questions and concerns should be directed to Richard Colven at richard@colven.org.