



February 8, 2026

The Gathering

Welcome from the Rector and Blessing of the Meal

Prayers: "For the Parish" *BCP p. 817*, "For a Church Meeting" *BCP p. 818*

Approval of 2025 Minutes

The Vestry

Appreciation to the Outgoing Members

We gratefully acknowledge the service of these members who are departing the vestry:

Connor Fulton, Matthew Goodson, James Kennedy, Annamarie Klemm

Recognition of Current Members

We recognize these current members who will continue vestry service in 2026:

Sandy Beetner '27, Zee Berl '27, Gordon Garrett '27, Mike Kingsley '27,

Denise Badgett '26, Sarah Hicks '26, Mike McDonnell '26, Dave Pylipow '26

Vestry Election

We present the slate of vestry candidates nominated to serve on the vestry:

Elaine Carmann '28, Michael Spivey '28, Jim Turner '28, Kaitlin Mollenkopf '28

The Clergy, Staff, and Vestry

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 (*written*)

Report from Nadia Rahaim, St. Alban's Weekday Preschool Director (*written*)

Report from Matthew Goodson, Senior Warden

Report from Bob Beckham, Acting Facility Manager and Connor Fulton, Junior Warden (*written*)

The Task Groups

Report from Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chair (*written*)

Report from Mike McDonnell, Green Team Chair (*written*)

Report from Adrienne Bacchus, Outreach Committee Chair (*written*)

Report from Pam Sass, Parish Hall Coordinator (*written*)

Report from Cynthia Clemons, StAART (St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team) Chairperson (*written*)

Q & A

The Scattering

Benediction: The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

**MINUTES OF THE 2025 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
ON
JANUARY 26, 2025
9:10 AM**

THE GATHERING

Welcome from the Rector

Reverend Carmen Germino called the Annual Parish Meeting to order at 9:10 A.M. and welcomed the Church members in attendance.

Prayer

John Bailey, Choir Director, led the blessing to commence the meeting. Reverend Carmen Germino led the Church members in *Prayer for the Parish* and *Prayer for a Church Meeting* from the Book of Common Prayer.

Approval of 2024 Minutes

Reverend Carmen Germino directed the Church members to refer to the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in 2024 that were incorporated into the 2025 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda. She asked if there were any changes or corrections to those 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: *Martha Hartle, Allison Kratt, Cheryl Nealy, Mike Sass, Joseph Torok*.

Next, Reverend Germino recognized these current members who may continue their vestry service in 2025: *Sarah Hicks '26, Mike McDonnell '26, Dave Pylipow '26, Connor Fulton '25, Matthew Goodson '25, James Kennedy '25, Annamarie Klemm '25*.

THE ELECTION OF VESTRY MEMBERS

Reverend Carmen Germino presented the slate of vestry candidates nominated to serve on the vestry including: *Denise Badgett '26, Sandy Beetner '27, Zee Berl '27, Gordon Garrett '27, Mike Kingsley '27*.

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.

The motion to approve the slate from the nominating committee was made by Leslie Urban. No second was required because the candidate nominations were from the nominating committee. With no opposition, the candidates were approved by acclamation.

REPORTS FROM THE CLERGY AND STAFF

Reverend Carmen Germino provided the Rector's Annual Report for 2024, incorporated into the meeting agenda. To accompany the report, a video slide-show was played highlighting the Parish Hall construction activities, youth and adult ministries, and service engagements throughout the year.

The report highlighted growth, resilience, and commitment to our mission. Notably, this included visible construction of the Parish Hall and adjustments due to the temporary loss of the parking lot and rear walkway, which was overcome through the warmth and welcome by the Greeter ministry. Additionally, the report highlighted a multi-generational

workshops by a noted author, sponsored by the St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART), the Cards for Kids event in the Preschool, and the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in the nave and narthex. StAART also led exploration of BIPOC saints' legacies, Lent partnerships with Lifeline Christian Ministries for meal-packing as an Outreach event, and a Holy Week and Easter that celebrated the vibrancy of our worship life and depth of the faith of our community. She honored Patti Rossini who retired after eight years as Preschool Director and the remaining clergy and staff for their leadership during her sabbatical.

Most significantly, Reverend Carmen Germino thanked James Wally and Mike Sass for their tireless work leading the Parish Hall execution and Pam Sass for volunteering to coordinate adjustment to the new space. Oktoberfest was a favorite parish event and All Things St. Alban's, organized by Deacon Valerie and the Outreach team showcased the breadth of ministries and community service. The Parish Hall Ball celebrated the historic milestone in St. Alban's style. The four Christmas services welcomed over 800 people with overflow crowds to celebrate the good news of Christ's incarnation.

Reverend Kevin Lloyd provided the Annual Report from the Associate Rector & Davidson College Campus Minister incorporated into the agenda. He expressed gratitude for two exceptional communities, highlighting Morning Prayer opportunities at both St. Alban's (online Mondays and Wednesdays) and at the college (in-person Tuesdays and Thursdays), Wednesday Bible Studies, Episcopal Student Fellowship (ESF) meetings Sunday evenings with Eucharist and dinner, and the extremely popular ESF dinners facilitated by generous volunteers and coordinated by Elaine Carmann. The ESF celebrated six graduating seniors at the Davidson Lake campus. Rev. Kevin Lloyd facilitated another Confirmation Class for youth with Courtney Fossett, which was confirmed by Bishop Sam Rodman in November 2024. He planned a meaningful Fall retreat at Lake Logan Episcopal Conference Center in October for the ESF members that set the tone for the academic year. Twenty students were selected from 34 received applications for the Taize, France pilgrimage in March 2025. He presented Liam Barr for ordination as a transitional deacon in June and participated in his priesthood ordination in December, who served as Curate at Holy Innocents in Henderson, NC. Reverend Lloyd was asked to serve by Bishop Samuel Rodman on the diocesan Commission on Ministry for the Priesthood for a three-year term. His report bears witness to God's love through St. Alban's.

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 the Episcopal Diocesan Council of NC's Outreach and Justice ministries as the liaison for Refugee Ministries/Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Costa Rica, and the St. Augustine Literacy Project. She attended 10 Diocesan Counsel sessions in Raleigh, NC and various churches around and in the dioceses of NC. She traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana for "The Learning Tree" ABCD Community Organizing Conference and to Costa Rica for "Sacred Stories," a series of conversations with Afrodescendants on faith, culture, education, and their contributions to Costa Rica. Deacon Valerie assisted to facilitate St. Alban's Summer Children's Chapel. She participated in Davidson College and St. Augustine University events, the diocese of NC book study and tour of Wilmington, NC, and the NC Clergy Conference in Greensboro. She hosted the Clergy of Color Breakfast for the retiring Bishop Michael Curry and served in her second year as Clergy of Color Co-chair with Reverend Canon Franklin Morales. She facilitated the diocese introductory course "Dismantling Racism" and participated regularly in Journeys Adult Formation, St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team, and St. Alban's Women's Group meetings. Lastly, she served in various Outreach events including meal packing, Lydia's Loft, All Things St. Alban's ministry fair, Room at the Inn with DCPC, and Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte including their Personnel Committee.

Also attached to the agenda were additional written reports by Courtney Fossett, Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry, John Bailey, Organist and Choirmaster, and Nadia Rahaim, Preschool Director for their respective ministries.

REPORTS FROM TASK GROUPS

Dave Pylipow, Senior Warden, delivered the Annual Report from the Vestry, which concentrated on: individual contributions by parishioners, vestry, and staff. Goals included completing and successfully opening and using the parish hall, increasing volunteers according to interest and talent, and updating our mission statement. The Parish Hall has seen extensive use, including coffee hours, adult formation, community and outreach events, including the Parish Hall Gala. The Parish Hall Committee led by James Wally and supported by Mike Sass, ensured the building was completed – on time and within budget. The Parish Hall Usage committee led by Annamarie Klemm and James Kennedy included experience and knowledge in dining and hospitality endeavors to purchase supplies and develop protocols for successful operations. The Annual Giving Campaign led by Allison Kratt included volunteer opportunities and Deacon Valerie organized a ministry fair to recruit parishioners, broadening awareness and resulting in new participants. Mike McDonnell formalized work by generous volunteers for coffee hour. Mike Sass and Connor Fulton led efforts on building repair and maintenance.

Dave Pylipow expressed gratitude for parishioners' generosity and active involvement, particularly in the annual giving, parish hall fundraising efforts, and sharing the Good News.

Also attached to the agenda were additional written annual reports provided by: Mike Sass, Junior Warden, on the Building and Grounds; Danny Wiles, Chair of the Finance Committee; and Adrienne Bacchus, Chair of the Outreach Team; James Wally, Chair of the Parish Hall Committee, and Pam Sass, Parish Hall Coordinator.

Specifically, the Building and Grounds topics focused on themes of Parish Hall safety, overall maintenance, and property: which includes the preschool, plumbing, HVAC, playground, landscaping and outdoor components.

NEW BUSINESS

Hearing no new business that requires voting, the floor was opened for general questions.

THE SCATTERING

Rev. Lloyd delivered a benediction to close the annual parish meeting. Reverend Carmen Germino adjourned the meeting at 10:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Torok
Clerk of the Vestry

Meet Our Vestry Nominees

Elaine Carmann

I was a cradle Episcopalian, being baptized and confirmed at St. Mark's Pro-Cathedral in Hastings, Nebraska. I joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Grand Island, NE, after my marriage, and I was a member there for 35 years. I moved to Davidson in 2011 and joined St. Alban's, the most caring church I visited.

Jerry Hibbeler and I were married for 38 years, until his death in 2008. We had two sons: Jeff and wife April live in Davidson; Steve and wife Haley live in Westminster, Colorado. In 2013, I married Larry Carmann, a widower from Grand Island. He and his wife, Marcia, were church friends of ours for 40 years. My "bonus" children are Julie Carmann with husband, John Herickhoff in Arlington, VA, and Tim Carmann in Jersey City, NJ. Our eight grandchildren are Abby, Brooke, Lexi, Jacy, and Trevor Hibbeler and Paige, Max, and Tess Herickhoff. Larry died in October, 2024. I currently have six Davidson College "grandstudents" (Grandfriends Program) and one International student.

I attended Hastings College and the University of Nebraska before my marriage. My career has included positions as a pharmacy/ostomy technician; media/library aide for my children's elementary school; office administrator for Hope Harbor, a non-profit serving homeless women, children and families; and I retired as parish secretary for St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Grand Island.

I have had a blessed journey of growing and serving in faith: I have been on church council, co-chaired a capital campaign for a family life center, taught Sunday School and confirmation to middle schoolers, and facilitated adult *Disciple* Bible Study. Most rewarding were the 14 years sponsoring youth ministry, including two National Youth Gatherings and two youth work trips. I also volunteered for 4 adult work trips to New Orleans/Mississippi and Cedar Rapids, IA, to repair properties after Hurricane Katrina and Cedar River flooding.

At St. Albans, I've been a member of the Outreach team since 2012, serving a term as chairperson. Today I'm a regular at both online and in-person Morning Prayer; I help Fr. Kevin with the ESF program, attend the women's gatherings, and I've joined a supper group. I've been a lector at the 8:00 service for many years as well.

I offer myself to this beloved congregation as a fellow servant as we reach within and beyond our doors.

Kaitlin Mollenkopf

Hello! While I am a relatively new St. Alban's member, it feels a bit like I've always been here. I am originally from the Tampa Bay area in Florida, and moved to Virginia in high school. I received my Bachelor's in Communication from Elon University, my master's of Higher Education from the University of Virginia, and have a professional background in Admissions and Enrollment Management. My husband, Tim, and I moved to Davidson in 2021, and we have loved raising our family here. Our son, Ben (7), attended St. Alban's preschool and our daughter, Melia (almost 3), is currently enrolled. After attending multiple community adjacent events (Oktoberfest, Shrove Tuesday, and Preschool Sunday) we knew we had found the perfect community to join.

While I was raised in a general Christian home, my path to faith has been winding. I have always believed in a higher power, but religion seemed nebulous. St. Alban's was my first encounter with the Episcopal Church, and something seemed to very easily click for me. Put simply, it felt like home. I have enjoyed deepening my faith through prayer and exploration; I was baptized at St. Alban's in 2022 and confirmed in 2023. Our daughter Melia joined us in 2023 and was baptized here as well. We have loved growing our family and faith with you all!

I am currently a full time "domestic engineer" at home with the kids. When I get a spare minute, I love spending it in our SEEDS garden where I currently serve as the Garden Manager. Moms Connect has also been a huge source of joy and connection with fellow parishioners and great friends. I also enjoy cooking, crafting, and reading (with all my spare time!).

Michael Spivey

I am relatively new to St. Alban's, but from my first visit, I knew I had found an incredibly welcoming group of parishioners and clergy. It just felt like home. I have enjoyed getting to know many of you and am looking forward to continuing to make new friends and connections.

I was raised in the United Methodist denomination. I served as an acolyte, sang in the choir, and worked as a member of multiple committees as well as the administrative board. While living in Norfolk, VA, I started attending Christ and St. Luke's Episcopal church. I remember I felt a connection to the liturgy and experienced a spiritual connection I had not experienced before in other settings.

I moved to Charlotte in 2000. I attend St. Peter's in uptown and was confirmed in 2013. There, I served as a lay eucharistic minister, lector, and participated in the Community of Hope group, a spiritual formation that helps members develop practical lessons on care giving following the principles outlined in the Rule of St. Benedict. My spouse of 25 years and I moved to Huntersville in 2006 where we currently reside.

Professionally, I am in what I call my second act. I worked for over 25 years in the financial services industry as a consultant working as a facilitator and project manager. In 2017, after completing a graduate program, I became a licensed clinical mental health counselor. I worked at Lenoir-Rhyne University as a staff counselor and Assistant Director of the university's counseling center. In 2022, I began working at UNC Charlotte where I currently serve as the Associate Director for Academic Recovery. I also teach an academic success seminar.

In my spare time, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, reading, and I like to spend as much time as possible outdoors working in the yard. I am looking forward to working on the Vestry at St. Alban's and serving such a vibrant, welcoming, and growing parish.

Jim Turner

I'm a newcomer to St. Albans, having just started attending St. Albans this last summer. My wife, Julia, and I lived in Connecticut for many years and moved to the area in 2022 after a year in Seattle and bought our home here in Davidson in 2023. We are really enjoying living in Davidson and the Lake Norman area in general and are making wonderful new friends. We have five beautiful children between us (three mine and two Julia's) and have three wonderful grandchildren who live in the greater Boston area and bring us so much joy.

During our 30+ years in Connecticut, we were active members of St. Paul's, Fairfield, where I served on the Vestry for many terms and also as both Senior and Junior Warden and lay minister. I chaired and participated on numerous committees and church functions, including a major renovation of our historic 90-year-old Rectory, the annual Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast community fundraiser, and the holiday festivals. In business, I have served on several national and local industry Boards and awards organizations.

I am semi-retired, having wrapped up my corporate and entrepreneurial career of over 40 years in the media world last September and I'm now mentoring start-ups in the area and working on a new "solopreneur" business to keep me busy.

Annual Report from the Rector

The Rev. Carmen Germino

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.”

Ephesians 3:17

Dear St. Alban's,

“Rooted and grounded in love.” These words are part of my most-used blessing, adapted from Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus. To me, they are a reminder that the love of Christ is meant to be the foundation of all that we do as a church—our starting point, our end game, and everything in between. Love is the soil we plant ourselves in, and the fruit we bear.

As I think back over the past year, I believe that St. Alban's is indeed rooted and grounded in love.

In 2025, we rolled out our new mission statement - **Together We: Gather to Worship, Scatter to Serve, and Love like Jesus.** In asking the vestry to work on crafting a new mission statement, my hope was that we would find the right combination of words that are authentic to who we are, and succinct enough for all of us to remember. It took a long time, but we weren't willing to settle for just “good enough.” I am grateful that we did not rush the process, because in due time, the Holy Spirit provided the inspiration we needed. I am so happy with the result, and the feedback has been overwhelmingly positive! May these words continue to guide us as we seek to live out God's mission in Davidson and beyond.

At the heart of our life together is worship. Week by week, we have gathered at the altar in prayer, song, silence, and sacrament, to remember who we are and whose we are. Our worship continues to be a place where people encounter God's grace, find rest for weary souls, and are renewed for the work ahead. This year, we have seen:

- an increase in participation in Sunday worship
- an increase in the need for worship leaders such as ushers, choir members, and lay eucharistic ministers.
- some preliminary conversations about adding a third weekly service to help meet the needs of the community as it grows.
- a growing musical maturity in our wonderful children's choir.

Worship is not something we simply attend, it is something we co-create with God, and it is something that forms us, rooting us more deeply in God's love.

Being grounded in love also calls us to lifelong learning and spiritual growth. This year, our formation ministries have offered spaces for children, youth, and adults to ask questions, study Scripture, and explore what it means to follow Jesus today. I am particularly proud of the St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team (StAART) as they took a meaningful step forward this year, with the formation of two different working groups: *Shining a Light* and *Weaving a New Story*. The “light-shiners” focus on educational opportunities while the “weavers” focus on building relationships with BIPOC communities. These efforts are inherently rooted and grounded in the love that we are called to share with all our neighbors.

Rooted in God's love, we are called to extend that love beyond our walls. This year, our Outreach ministries have continued to serve neighbors near and far, responding to real needs with generosity and faith. Our Outreach team is one of many parish committees that put “loving like Jesus” into action. They have forged new community partnerships, and we are excited about the launch of Neighbors Hands, thanks to the grant of \$30,000 we received from the Diocese of North Carolina. They also organized a hugely popular meal-packing night with Lifeline Ministries in March and a stellar All Things St. Alban's ministry fair in September. And because of your generosity, we were able to increase our Outreach allocation in the 2026 budget significantly! This is a tangible expression of our parish's rootedness in the love of Jesus.

Our Parish Hall has been busy—with classes, meetings, yoga, and many other activities. Pam Sass continues to volunteer as our Parish Hall Coordinator, overseeing the use and stewardship of the space, and I am deeply grateful for her dedication. During Lent, we held weekly soup suppers on Wednesday nights in the Parish Hall. Lisa McDonnell and all of her amazing helpers nourished us in body and spirit, while we spent time learning about different spiritual practices. Because of the installation of acoustic paneling in the Parish Hall, it is now much easier to hear one another in the space. Dave Pylipow worked with a local company to design and install panels that not only improve sound but look wonderful, and a generous donor came forward to fund the project. And thanks to the extraordinary generosity of this parish, the Parish Hall is now completely debt-free! The Parish Hall is truly a place where love dwells.

Elsewhere, the demands of our 25-year-old building are evident, and our grounds are benefitting from the hard work of the Landscaping Committee, the Green Team, the SEEDS gardeners, and the wonderful volunteers who adopted a Station on our Prayer Trail last spring. Our Junior Warden, Connor Fulton, has gone above and beyond in addressing many needs. He managed the plumbing and flooring project last summer, made a plan to tackle long-standing drainage issues, and has tended to countless important details. I am profoundly thankful for Connor's faithful service.

Likewise, our Senior Warden, Matthew Goodson has been a constant source of support to me through the ups and downs of the year. He has energized and encouraged our vestry and staff, and has worked hard to help us move forward in faith, wisdom, and good humor. I will really miss having Matthew's easygoing spirit and thoughtful perspective on our vestry, but I know I can always come to him for counsel when needed.

Annamarie Klemm and James Kennedy also wrap up their vestry terms this year. Annamarie is a passionate champion of the Ministry of Fun and the Outreach Team. She is always ready to lend a hand in service of fellowship or helping others. Most recently, she has re-invigorated our parish's longtime partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica, and I will soon get to take my first trip there as well! James, meanwhile, has been a stalwart member of our Stewardship Committee, stepping up to chair this year's Annual Giving campaign with Rhett Mabry. He's also an expert usher who exudes warmth and welcome. I will miss having both James and Annamarie on the vestry, but I know they will find plenty of other ways to serve.

Leslie Urban & Danny Wiles have served as Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair, respectively, for as long as I can remember, each working closely with Erin Garrett to ensure that St. Alban's stays on solid financial footing. Leslie will be stepping down from her role after the Annual Parish Meeting, and a new Treasurer will be elected at the next vestry meeting. Danny has also decided it is time to step down from his role this coming April, and we are currently searching for a new Finance Committee Chair to take the reins. Leslie and Danny have both shared their incredible expertise and wisdom, seeing us through a pandemic, a major capital campaign, and multiple big projects. We are thriving financially, in large part to their financial acumen and prudent stewardship of the resources entrusted to St. Alban's.

We are blessed by the faithfulness and wisdom of our continuing vestry members: Sandy Beetner, Denise Badgett, Zee Berl, Gordon Garrett, Sarah Hicks, Mike Kingsley, Mike McDonnell, and Dave Pylipow, who are doing such good work together, and in their various areas of ministry.

In 2025, we had several staff transitions, bidding farewell to Deacon Valerie Davis in June, and organist/choirmaster John Bailey in November. While goodbyes are never easy, we have tried to navigate these transitions with grace and love, and I give great thanks for Valerie and John's ministries at St. Alban's. We also welcomed aboard Bob Beckham as Acting Facility Manager, who has been a helpful addition to our staff.

A search for a new Minister of Music is underway, and I hope to be able to share news of an appointment very soon. My thanks to the search committee members who have dedicated considerable time and thoughtful discernment to this process: Charles Emerich, The Rev. Kevin Lloyd, Carla Murray, Dave Pylipow, and Jan Steever. Additionally, I offer my thanks to the entire Parish Choir for their resilience during the transition, and to Lois Buesser, who has done an amazing job as our interim organist and choir director.

Our staff truly embody what it means to be rooted and grounded in love. They infuse the love of Jesus into their ministries every day, and I am blessed to get to witness it. Whether it's scheduling a meeting or a contractor, printing bulletins, planning Vacation Bible School, preparing monthly financial reports, teaching a confirmation class, giving a tour of the preschool, or preaching a sermon, I can always count on Bob Beckham, Jessica Ewell, Courtney Fossett, Erin Garrett, The Rev. Kevin Lloyd, Nadia Rahaim, and The Rev. Leslie Steffensen to approach their work in a loving and capable way. We have also been blessed by the gifts of our seminarian intern, Derek Riccelli, who is on track to be ordained to the priesthood in 2027, God willing.

In 2025, I began my eighth year as your rector, and I am more grateful than ever for the love that defines the St. Alban's community. This past year has been one of deepening—deepening faith, deepening relationships, and deepening our trust in God's abiding presence among us. In a world marked by change and uncertainty, our parish has remained rooted and grounded in love: the love of Jesus that gathers us, sustains us, and calls us forth to witness.

Yours in Christ,
Carmen+

Annual Report from the Associate Rector & Davidson College Campus Minister

The Rev. Kevin Lloyd

Dear Saint Alban's Family,

"Gather to Worship. Scatter to Serve. Love like Jesus." This officially became our mission statement this past year, explicitly naming what Saint Alban's has been doing for years and continues to do on a daily basis. It is a tremendous gift to serve in a faith community that so generously and enthusiastically "walks the walk" of Christian discipleship, loving God and loving that which God loves (to quote Marcus Borg). I remain deeply grateful to be in this place!

This past year has been another full and life-giving one for Saint Alban's and for Davidson Episcopal Student Fellowship. Here are some highlights:

- I continued to provide Morning Prayer opportunities both at Saint Alban's (virtually on Mondays and Wednesdays) and at the college (in person on Tuesdays and Thursdays).
- I continued to enjoy the great privilege of helping facilitate our Wednesday morning Bible Study. I am very grateful to the members of this growing group for their faithful inquisitiveness and their willingness to go deep.
- Episcopal Student Fellowship met regularly on Sunday evenings during the academic year with Eucharist at 4:30 and dinner at 5:30. One Sunday a month they come to Saint Alban's for worship in lieu of the 4:30 Eucharist on campus. It is such a gift to spend time with and walk alongside these college students as they navigate young adulthood and seek to discern God's presence and guidance in their lives. Both in group settings and numerous one-on-one conversations, I have been inspired by their authentic vulnerability and their search for meaning. My own faith has been deepened by my interactions with them. I am ever grateful to the members of Saint Alban's who have provided ESF dinners on a weekly basis. I am especially grateful to Elaine Carmann who coordinates this process. This is an essential part of our ministry to these young adults, and it is deeply appreciated by them and by me.
- In May, ESF bid farewell to four graduating seniors, celebrating them at a cookout at the Davidson Lake Campus.
- Courtney Fossett and I facilitated another Confirmation Class for some of our youth. Some were confirmed when Bishop Jennifer visited us in October, and some were confirmed later. It is always a joy to spend time with teenagers as they more deeply explore their faith and the Episcopal Church.
- This past summer, I was able to take my first sabbatical in thirteen years. It was a wonderful and restorative time with my family, traveling, and spiritual retreat. I am deeply grateful that Carmen and the vestry afforded me this opportunity.
- Last January, I began my three-year term serving on the Diocese of NC Commission on Ministry for the Priesthood. This body serves an advisory role to the bishop, and we meet several times a year to interview those you have put themselves forward for the discernment process and we make recommendations to the bishop. It has been a demanding but rewarding role and has been a source of hope and inspiration. There are some highly gifted folks in our diocese who are exploring potential calls to the priesthood, including some of our own (a sign of a healthy congregation)!

I am looking forward to another year of gathering to worship, scattering to serve, and loving like Jesus. Thank you for the countless ways that way you bear witness to God's love and mercy in a world that desperately needs it.

Yours in Christ,

Kevin+

Annual Report from Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

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

I am the Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry and have been for over 6 years now and I am blessed to have the most adorable children, inspiring youth, and most supportive families. The most amazing group of volunteers that I have is what makes it possible to do all we do. In 2025, we grew our younger children's classes so much that we had to return to three children's classes, a younger class, age 4 – Kindergarten, 1st - 2nd grades, and 3rd - 5th grades. Each class averaging about 8-10 each Sunday. Our curriculum for the younger classes has been Episcopal Lesson Plans that Work. This curriculum follows the

Lectionary and is very easy to work from and gives the children each a great message and an activity or craft. Our Youth (Middle and High) Sunday School class continues to use (Teen Text) youth curriculum. Both curriculums provide a great framework, however all our Sunday School teachers are encouraged to be creative and teach to their passions like Godly Play. Summer means VBS, held at the end of July inside the preschool. We had amazing participation of about 40 including a large youth presence that helped run some of our stations. In December, we were thrilled to have a great children's Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve with lots of participation including the face masks, crowns, and halos so that even those just attending could participate. The youth collected bears for the 6th year in a row to benefit homeless children go bags with Bridge of Hearts organization in Mooresville.

The Youth Group got a running start to 2025 with service projects including making tie-knot blankets for Cornelius Animal Shelter, Valentine treat bags made and wrote letters to Pines residents, and distributed mulch to the Prayer Trail. Youth outings to Valle Crucis and Beech Mountain for the ski trip, SpareTime for bowling and games, Urban Air, and going to Frankie's were so much fun. We also played fun indoor/outdoor games, at church with dinner and fellowship creating a wonderful, inclusive atmosphere to build a church youth community. We held the first ever Chopped Cooking Competition led by youth, Luke Wetherbee, and the youth loved it and came up with some very creative combinations. The summer brought back the Youth favorite Water Fun Day with homemade giant slip and slide, water balloons, and cookout. This year the younger kids were also included in the water fun, and we decided we may start hosting it for the kids as an intergenerational event moving forward. With kick off again in September, we helped Ministry of Fun host an ice cream sundae bar for children, had our 2nd annual Beach Trip, managed to get out of another Escape Room, carved pumpkins, stuffed Turkey boxes, had a Christmas party, and our annual collection of Teddy Bears to name a few.

A Youth Leadership Team was inspired and born out of the work of our Family Ministry Support Team (FMST), led by inspiring and long-standing members of the youth group. They helped to plan the schedule and each of them encouraged to lead an event. 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:

- Helped Ministry of Fun host 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.
- Youth led Chopped Cooking Competition was a huge hit in our new kitchen.
- Held an Easter Egg Hunt for our families and their children's enjoyment.
- Met with some of the parents for feedback, and continued Youth Leadership Team to help plan and execute Youth events.
- In-person VBS held at the end of July with a total of about 40 children, with at least 15 staff/volunteers and youth, who cheerfully made it happen.
- A total of 45 registered children for Fall 2025 Sunday School, averaging per week about 8-10 for each class, Age 4-Kindergarten, 1st - 2nd, 3rd - 5th, and Middle/High School.
- Youth held their 6th annual drive for Teddy Bears for Bridge of Hearts, benefiting homeless children.
- In November, our Youth packed over 25 Thanksgiving Dinner boxes for Ada Jenkins.
- Nursery is working great downstairs in the Preschool area with two paid workers, both Davidson College students.
- Monthly planned and executed High School/Middle School Youth Event Highlights include:
 - January – Tie-knot blankets for animal shelter, Ski Trip
 - February – Chopped Cooking Competition, Treat bags and letters to Pines residents
 - March – St. Patrick's Day, NCAA Basketball Bracket party
 - April – Earth Day service spreading mulch on trail, stuffed Easter eggs
 - May – End of Year party at Frankie's, celebrate graduates at Youth service
 - July - Quarry
 - August – Water Fun Day and Cookout
 - September – Ice Cream Sundae Bar, 2nd Annual Beach Trip
 - October – Pumpkin Carving, Oktoberfest
 - November – Thanksgiving Box service project
 - December – Christmas Party, Teddy Bear drive

- Family Palm Cross making event held with at least 15 families in attendance.
- Family Advent Wreath event held with over 12 families in attendance.
- Continued Youth Leadership Team to help take more ownership in events they want.
- Our Christmas pageant took place again with about 20 children participating and 2 of our senior youth and a child narrating. We had animal masks, halos, and crowns again 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 to build Sunday School attendance and Sunday School being 3 classes, Age 4 – Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd, and 3rd – 5th.
- Further develop Youth Leadership Team to be an integral part of event planning and execution.
- Renew work with Family Ministry Support Team and parents to support and build our programs.
- Execute a full Winter/Spring Youth Group schedule with continued increase in attendance and scope of events.
- Continue our annual Youth Group Ski Trip and Beach Trip.
- Encourage and promote interest and participation in Episcopal summer camps and retreats.
- 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 St. Alban's Weekday Preschool

Nadia Rahaim, *Preschool Director*

The Preschool continues to offer a joyful, play-based, half day program with the generous assistance of the church. The 2025 calendar year encompasses two school years for us. Here are some highlights:

January-June 2025 (25/26 School Year)

- Registration for the 25/26 school year began in January 2025. 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, summer and fall of 2025.
- 14 students graduated from the Fours classes in May 2025.
- Lyn Pyne and Melinda Green retired, May 2025, as 2-year-old teachers after 15 and 13 years of service to the St. Alban's community.
- In June we offered 2 weeks of summer camp for a total of 31 children, 18 in session 1 and 13 in session 2, that included some of our friends from La Escuelita.
- The preschool was able to scholarship 9 one-week slots of summer camp for both St. Alban's Weekday Preschool and La Escuelita.

August-December 2025 (25/26 School Year)

- We welcomed 11 staff members in August 2025.
- We welcomed 49 families (filling 53 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.
- Mary Pylipow was nominated and elected for a second term as Preschool Board Chair and added additional members from the church and preschool in August.
- Our enrichment providers began in September 2025. The children participated in Stretch-n-Grow, Science, and Musical 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 fundraising projects including our Annual Giving Campaign, a flower arranging event, Davidson Candle Company, and Fundraiser nights at Carrburritos and Whit's Davidson and Oktoberfest.
- The preschool was able to provide four partial scholarships for the 25/26 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 2026!

Annual Report from the Vestry

Matthew Goodson, *Senior Warden*

On behalf of the Vestry of Saint Alban’s: thank you all for a tremendous year in 2025! As I reflect on all that has happened in the past year, I am awed by the generosity and commitment of everyone at Saint Alban’s to our mission and ministry.

One of the highlights for this year was the debut of our new mission statement in August:

Together We:

Gather to Worship, Scatter to Serve, and Love like Jesus

I find this three-fold statement perfectly encapsulates all the things we do as a community. In many ways, our Mission Statement is reflected in the 2025 goals for the Vestry. At our Vestry retreat in March, we laid out the following goals for the year:

- **Increasing volunteers across all ministries**
- **Exploring alternate worship opportunities**
- **Managing the use and care of our spaces**
- **Building a broader community**

One of the primary motivators for these goals was the continued growth of our congregation. We have seen incredible growth since 2020, averaging nearly 250 in attendance on Sunday mornings in 2025, including 20-40 kids and youth in nursery and Sunday School. The elementary Sunday School classes were so full, we had to split the classes in the Fall! In response, the Vestry has started to explore alternate worship opportunities. We formed a small task force in the Spring, with Mike McDonnell and Dave Pylipow joining myself and the clergy to examine what this might look like. We have met several times, and we will continue the exploration process this year – stay tuned!

Increased attendance at events comes with the need for more volunteers – greeters, ushers, lay Eucharistic ministers, Sunday School teachers, Coffee Hour, Ministry of Fun, and more. The Vestry recognizes the need to get more folks involved to continue and build on our successes. We had great engagement at our annual All Things Saint Alban’s ministry fair in September, and we continue to look for ways to get more folks involved. Vestry member Sandy Beetner has led the charge on increasing volunteers, surveying leaders across our parish to determine the needs and opportunities for growth and leadership development. We are excited to welcome four new Vestry members who will bring new perspectives and connections. If you are seeking a way to get more involved at Saint Alban’s, please reach out, or just jump in!

The Vestry also recognizes the essential role that our spaces play in accomplishing our mission. We gather to worship in our beautiful light-filled nave, and we serve and fellowship in our wonderful new Parish Hall. And thanks to the generosity of this parish, our new Parish Hall is 100% debt-free! You answered the call last Spring in the Grow, Gather, Serve Challenge and helped us burn the mortgage papers on Shrove Tuesday. It is truly incredible!

The Parish Hall has seen increased use as we continue to utilize our new space – dinners, meetings, yoga, and more! Pam Sass has continued to oversee the use and care of the Parish Hall, for which we are immensely grateful. We also welcomed our friend and member Bob Beckham on to the church staff as our Acting Facilities Manager. And our Junior Warden Connor Fulton has practically set up a second office at the church. Connor oversaw the repair of the problematic drain line on the first floor – no more flooded toilets! Connor has also coordinated significant exterior drainage and water runoff remediation which will get underway in the next few weeks. He has also done many small but crucial tasks, like installing door stops and AED devices, or hanging the huge, lovely painting on loan from Elizabeth Bradford. Thank you Connor!

Another major project to improve our space was the installation of acoustic paneling in the Parish Hall. Dave Pylipow worked with a local company to design and install the panels, including the unique design to mirror the windows of the Parish Hall. I know that my ears are very grateful for this addition!

Our new mission statement calls us to “Love like Jesus”, which is both incredibly challenging and exciting. The Vestry therefore looked for ways to build a broader community this year. In the midst of troubling times, both locally and abroad, I have witnessed our church respond with care and compassion. We are grateful to our Outreach team which has made new partnerships in the community. We are excited about the launch of the Neighbors Hands project and the Green Team. And we continue to support the work of StAART, which is both reaching out to make connections and looking inward to build knowledge and compassion. Thanks to the generosity of our parish, we were able to increase the Outreach allocation of the 2026 budget by \$9000, pushing it over 9% of our total budget!

More than anything, I am full of gratitude; gratitude for our amazing clergy and staff, who work tirelessly in countless ways behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly and positively; gratitude for our Vestry and many volunteers and ministry groups, who engage in thoughtful inreach and outreach; and gratitude for our generous parish, who support our mission in so many ways.

On behalf of the Vestry,

Matthew Goodson
Senior Warden

Annual Reports on Buildings and Grounds

Report from Connor Fulton, *Junior Warden*

Each year many people volunteer and support the care and feeding of our wonderful St Albans facilities. Building and grounds maintenance activities and projects are a vital and often silent ministry for our parish. This year, Saint Albans added Bob Beckham as a part-time staff member to help support the varied needs related to maintaining our property. Which has helped distribute the work and eased some vendor management and time requirements traditionally born by Jessica Ewell and the Junior Warden.

Maintenance tasks and management activities run a full spectrum of needs, time commitments, and skills to keep things running smoothly around the church. It is a blessing to have a team and many volunteers as it truly “takes a village” to manage vendors, execute key activities, and coordinate repairs and plan and execute projects. Activities range from the simple changing of light bulbs, to maintaining service contracts and agreements to coordinate repairs and annual maintenance of equipment.

Each week, month, and year many building and grounds activities are performed. The building is cleaned, floors are polished, grass is cut, beds are mulched, equipment is serviced, repairs are performed, doors are adjusted, paintings and curtains are hung, gutters are cleared, our prayer trails is cleared and mulched, garden waste is hauled away, kudzu is battled, trees are cut and stumps are ground down, and the list goes on...

Our main building is ageing and as it does, it demands more and more love and care. If you have handy skills and are willing to help, please reach out to our new Junior Warden or Bob. This year we undertook a series of large and small projects to address a variety of challenges, next year new ones will arise, and we can all help in small ways.

This year we undertook some larger projects, which included some that were started and completed and others that are underway and will be completed next year:

- We installed new acoustic panels in the Parish Hall, to reduce sound reverberations, improving the acoustics for our various gatherings. This project was led by Dave Phylipo, but involved many others
- A large plumbing project was carried out to repair a damaged waste line under our building, which also led to the installation of new flooring. This important project will help our lines run smoothly during larger events and help us avoid those increasingly frequent emergency calls to Roto-Rooter
- A large drainage project is in its final installation phase. This project has been in development for most of the year. It will make significant improvements to our stormwater management and a series of other drainage-related issues the church has experienced for decades.
- A project to source and plan for a new playground sunshade was led by many throughout the year, we hope to complete this work in the coming year
- A project to plan for and source HVAC equipment to replace units that are worn out on our main structure has been led by Dave Phylipo and should begin execution some time in the coming year.

Report from Bob Beckham, *Acting Facility Manager*

Overview

The Junior Warden has provided a thorough summary of both completed and ongoing major projects, alongside detailed accounts of daily maintenance activities. This comprehensive overview ensures the Parish remains informed of the significant work being undertaken to maintain and improve our facilities.

Major Projects

As Connor has highlighted, several major projects have been carefully planned and successfully executed. One key initiative, the stormwater improvement project, is progressing well and will soon be visible to the Parish community, as materials are currently being delivered. These efforts reflect our commitment to maintaining the infrastructure and ensuring its continued functionality for everyone.

Daily Maintenance

In addition to major projects, daily maintenance tasks continue to be carried out diligently. These functions are essential to the smooth operation of our facilities and contribute to the overall safety and comfort of our environment.

Reflections and Appreciation

During my six months in this role, I have gained valuable insights into the individuals and processes that make this place more than just a building. I am grateful for the guidance and instruction provided by the Staff, Clergy, and Junior Warden, whose support has been instrumental in my transition and ongoing work.

Commitment to the Parish Community

My commitment to you, the Parish community, is to maintain a safe and comfortable environment that serves everyone's needs. I strive to foster relationships among us and with the Holy Spirit, ensuring our facility continues to be a welcoming space for all.

Annual Report from the Finance Committee

Danny Wiles, Finance Committee Chairperson

The Budget Process:

Priorities are set jointly by the Vestry and the Rector.

The budget for 2026 was approved by the Vestry at its meeting earlier this month.

2026 Budget Goals include:

1. Continue to preserve St. Alban's overall sound financial position. We are committed to maintaining appropriate cash reserves to be prepared for future expenditures that will arise based on the age of our church (for example, all the HVAC units are the originals – over 20 years old now) and for surprises that will inevitably arise. The budget approved by the vestry for 2026 is a balanced budget.
2. Increase annual pledge offerings – for Stewardship 2026, we have received 207 pledges totaling \$882,079, which exceeded our goal and is a 4% increase over 2025. If you haven't yet pledged, but would like to, please contact Erin Garrett (erin@saintalbansdavidson.org) or enter your pledge in Realm.
3. Grow 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. The Outreach amount in the operating budget for 2025 is \$73,000, which is a 14% increase over the amount budgeted in 2025. Additionally, the amount budgeted for Outreach combined with our designated giving to Episcopal Relief & Development, Thompson Child & Family Focus, the Back-to-School event and other giving events is anticipated to be approximately 10% for 2026.

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 in, and the source of, funds are accounted for.
- An independent audit is conducted annually (the results for 2024 were excellent).

2025 Financial Results:

Of note:

- For 2025 overall, our financial position remains solid. Due primarily to some unbudgeted maintenance and repairs work, primarily related to plumbing matters, our expenses exceeded budgeted amounts for 2025, but this impact was more than offset by higher than budgeted revenues due to a very generous level of non-pledge offerings.
- The "Retire the Debt" campaign in early 2025 was very successful, allowing the church to fully pay off the debt from the parish hall project and also reduce the remaining mortgage balance by over \$100,000. The church's mortgage balance at the end of 2025 was less than \$200,000.
- For 2025, Saint Alban's collected over 95% of pledges, and non-pledge offerings were very strong.
- As noted above, the church's cash and liquidity position remains very solid.

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

Thank you for your generous ongoing support!!

Respectfully submitted by:

Danny Wiles,
Finance Committee Chairperson

Annual Report from the Green Team

Mike McDonnell, *Green Team Chairperson*

Growing in Faith and Care for Creation

St. Alban's Green Team is a group of people that are focused on caring for God's creation through sustainable practices, educating the parish and conservation.

St. Alban's has taken great strides towards being green. We are recycling our cardboard by taking it to the North Mecklenburg Recycling Center. Our Parish Hall has contributed to greener meals by using washable dishes and fewer throwaways, resulting in less plastic going to our landfills. All of the lights in the church are now LED and the Parish Hall has switched to single-ply toilet paper. An energy audit was completed to make sure the mechanicals and building is as efficient as possible. All small changes that certainly add up!

We have a strong connection with our natural world through the SEEDS Community Garden providing space for the community to grow their own produce. And the Caldera Garden, which is not only beautiful but also a pollinator haven. We celebrate creation at our annual Blessing of the Animals which continues to be a joyful reminder of the sacred bond we share with our pets.

We are now composting our coffee grounds both in the Parish Hall kitchen and the upstairs kitchen. We have certified our property as a Wildlife Habitat through the NC Wildlife Federation and have checked in with the Town of Davidson arborist to make sure all of our trees are healthy.

And last but not least our education drive is focusing on providing the "Green Team Minute" in the parish newsletter highlighting areas of interest from our team.

Together, we're learning that creation care and being green is not just about big, world-changing actions—it's also about small, faithful steps that add up. If you are interested, please join us for this wonderful journey!

Annual Report from the Outreach Committee

Adrienne Bacchus, Outreach Committee Chairperson

As the chairperson of the Outreach Committee, I am filled with gratitude to experience the love people have for one another – the Clergy, the Vestry members, Outreach Team members, St. Alban's parishioners offering their time/treasure/talent; and, the community mission partners near and far. Individuals, children and families in need are graced with God's love as St. Alban's scatters to serve and loves like Jesus!

A special thanks to Annamarie Klemm for her Vestry Liaison role; Eunice Aikens-Affal for monthly meeting minutes; and, to all St. Alban's volunteers – young and older.

The Outreach Committee met each month of 2025 with the December meeting as a potluck including spouses/guests. The monthly meeting attendance average was 15 (an increase of 3 attendees per month compared to 2024).

Attendees:

Rev. Carmen, Mike Kingsley, Annamarie Klemm, Sharon Kingsley, Deacon Valerie Davis, Adrienne Bacchus, Cheryl Nealy, Kathy Miller, Elaine Carmann, Lisa McDonnell, Jackie Dienemann, Pete Sale, Alf Badgett, Mary Emerich, Darlene O'Toole, Anne Shandley, Margot Leydic-Boyd, Hayden Boyd, Geoff Allen, Laitan Alli, Eunice Aikens-Affal, Pam Stofberg, Sarah Ruiz, Jane Boettger

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

St. Alban's Outreach experienced significant growth in 2025, including these examples:

- Greater number of St. Alban's members volunteering to address food insecurity locally, including generous weekly food donations to support Red Wagon/Nourish Up at The Ada Jenkins Center in Davidson; Manna for Life food distribution efforts at the Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center in Cornelius; volunteers helping at FeedNC in Mooresville; increased donations during the Thanksgiving drive; and, the meal packing event with Lifeline Christian Ministries at St. Alban's during Lent yielded 10,000 meals.
- Wells funded in rural Africa through Marion Medical Mission now provide 300 additional people with access to fresh water.
- Housing issues addressed via a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of NC for small home repairs in West Davidson in partnership with the Davidson Housing Coalition.
- Increased partnership level with Gethsemane Baptist Church to address back to school needs, coat and blanket drive and GBC presence at All Things St. Alban's mission fair.

- St. Alban's Outreach added financial support of The Ada Jenkins Center LearnWorks after school program after learning of need from Aurrita Payne of Ada Jenkins during a guest presentation to the Outreach Committee.
- Outreach to Safe Alliance included St. Alban's volunteers painting and refurbishing the client waiting room.
- Local migrant families supported with Know Your Rights information packets.

A summary of St. Alban's Outreach *Scatter to Serve and Love Like Jesus* activities for 2025:

All Things St. Alban's – a September event held in the Parish Hall featured over 30 In-reach and Outreach missions with displays and volunteers connecting with St. Alban's members, including youth. Partners attended from Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, Safe Alliance, Gethsemane Baptist Church, La Escuelita and St. Alban's Preschool. A pre-event exercise implemented by Rev. Carmen to build a scriptural foundation was especially beneficial to attendees. Numerous St. Alban's members signed up to volunteer for the missions represented. Special thanks to Eunice Aikens-Affal for her leadership in making this annual event a success along with committee members Mary Emerich, Cheryl Nealy and Annamarie Klemm. Thanks to emcee, Sharon Kingsley and all of the Outreach and In-reach volunteers for sharing their joy!

Lifeline Meal Packing – during Lent, over 70 volunteers including children and adolescents, packed 10,000 meals in the St. Alban's Parish Hall. The meals support children and families facing hunger in North Carolina and abroad. Thanks to Lisa McConnell for leading this Outreach event.

Feed NC – St. Alban's volunteers gave a total of 220 hours of their time in 2025 as food prep helpers, dining room assistants and more on the 3rd Friday of every month. Thanks to Mary Emerich for ongoing coordination of these opportunities to serve.

Back to School – In partnership with Gethsemane Baptist Church, St. Alban's had an opportunity to collect back to school donations. St. Alban's members were very generous and thanks to Pete Sale for taking the lead in coordinating this event. Estimated that over 75 St. Alban's Parishioners participated by providing school supplies and monetary gifts. The effort directly served 750 children, Pre-Kindergarten through 5th grade at Winding Springs Elementary School, Charlotte, NC. This effort supported educator, students, and parents by ensuring students have the required supplies and resources they need to achieve academic achievement and to improve overall social and emotional skills.

The Ada Jenkins Center:

Red Wagon/Nourish Up – Red Wagon Donations for the Nourish Up Food Pantry at Ada Jenkins are collected weekly at St. Alban's. An impressive 2036 pounds of food, hygiene, pet, and cleaning supplies were donated by St. Alban's members in 2025.

LearnWorks – St. Alban's donated funds to the after-school program at The Ada Jenkins Center; Aurrita Payne was guest speaker from The Ada Jenkins Center.

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive – 30 food boxes with groceries and gift cards were packed and delivered by St. Alban's members. St. Alban's Youth Group members decorated the boxes. This was St. Alban's largest Thanksgiving Turkey Drive due to the generosity of St. Alban's members. Thanks to Cheryl Nealy and her daughter Erin for again leading this Outreach opportunity.

Angel Tree – This year's Angel Tree event was St. Alban's biggest ever with 110 requests for gifts! The donations were provided to La Escuelita families. Thanks to Mary and Charles Emerich for being the lead Santa Helper's.

Winter Coat and Blanket Drive – This November's ask for coat donations from St. Alban's members was received with tremendous generosity. The drive was in partnership with Gethsemane Baptist Church. Four packed carloads were delivered for distribution in the greater Charlotte area.

Sacred Stories II/Diocese of Costa Rica – Outreach contributed to the Pilgrimage to Costa Rica in August 2025 with St. Alban's representative, Annamarie Klemm participating. Annamarie traveled to Limon, Costa Rica with clergy from the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Annamarie reports: "As a lay person representing St. Alban's, I was grateful to be there on national Negro Day -- a celebration that was celebrated by people of all color from all walks of life – meeting many folks from the United States. My pilgrimage took me to several Churches worshipping in fellowship, love and joy and increased my understanding of how critical it is for the people of Costa Rica to see faces of color that represents them. These wonderful people of this beautiful country hold a place in my heart." St. Alban's Outreach made a donation to the Seafarers' ministry providing food, supplies and prayer to those coming to shore with needs.

La Escuelita Bilingual Preschool – St. Alban's has members participating as volunteers at this bilingual preschool in Davidson, including the annual Las Posadas event.

Safe Alliance – St. Alban's volunteers refurbished the waiting room of Safe Alliance to include painting and new furniture. St. Alban's members also donated coffee and other items to Safe Alliance throughout the year. Thanks to Anne Shandley for leading this effort and deepening the partnership with Safe Alliance in 2025.

St. Alban's Weekday Preschool – on-going opportunities available for St. Alban's members to be involved through substituting, serving on the preschool board, assisting in the office, reading in a classroom, or sharing a special talent.

Marion Medical Mission – St. Alban's donated funds to build 3 wells in 2025 to support 300 rural African villagers with safe drinking water. Thanks to Hayden Boyd for his continued leadership.

Davidson Housing Coalition/Neighbors' Hands – St. Alban's applied for and was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina to support West Davidson homeowners with small home repairs in partnership with the Davidson Housing Coalition. The program is named Neighbors' Hands and includes a Steering Committee of members: Alf Badgett (Lead), Connor Fulton (StAART liaison), Mike Kingsley, Eunice Aikens-Affal, Adreinne Bacchus, Connie Wessner (Executive Director of the Davidson Housing Coalition). In this first phase of the program, the Davidson Housing Coalition has identified 3 homeowners with needs; a thorough assessment is done to identify issues and support conversations with homeowners to collaboratively decide if/how to proceed. The program also facilitates connections within the community to support homeowners with needs outside of the scope of the program; for instance, the coordination of a volunteer to help an elderly resident with delivery of groceries. As the program proceeds, the opportunity for additional volunteers to participate will increase.

Lydia's Loft – St. Alban's annual donation provided 352 pairs of new socks to people in need. Thanks to Darlene O'Toole, a St. Alban's parishioner and over 20-year-long volunteer for taking the lead and coordinating opportunities for people to donate items to Lydia's Loft.

Access 2 Success – St. Alban's financial support helps to provide sustainable programs that generate positive change for Nigerian children and their communities. A St. Alban's member volunteered as support at the annual golf fundraiser and a few St. Alban's members attended the annual Soulful Supper fundraiser. Andrew Lovedale, Laura Knight and staff continue to appreciate St. Alban's support and prayers.

Room In The Inn – St. Alban's provided food and volunteers to support 15 guests on a cold winter night in 2025. The opportunity is in partnership with Davidson College Presbyterian Church. Overnight guests who are experiencing homelessness stay at DCPC's Congregation House. Thanks to Cheryl Nealy and Mike Kingsley for taking the lead with St. Alban's coordination of volunteers.

Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center – In 2025, St. Alban's developed a relationship with the Neighborhood C.A.R.E. Center, an organization in Cornelius that provides support to local neighbors in need. In October, over 20 St. Alban's Parishioners participated in distribution of groceries for the October Manna for Life Event; St. Alban's provided groceries for over 100 families through this event. St. Alban's assisted with the Neighborhood Care Center tutoring program and participated in service projects within Smithville (the largest intact historical African American community in Mecklenburg County). Thanks to Pete Sale for continuing to deepen this partnership and inviting additional St. Alban's members to volunteer.

Davidson Cornelius Child Development Center – St. Alban's continued to support scholarship donation to DCCDC. Anne Shandley attended annual donor/volunteer event on behalf of St. Alban's.

Augustine Literacy Project – St. Alban's parishioner, Sue Bartlett, continues to serve as the liaison for interested St. Alban's volunteers. Sue provided information at the *All Things St. Alban's* event to potential St. Alban's volunteers.

Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte – St. Alban's volunteers participated in garden days at Galilee and community lunches. Several St. Alban's members attended the Power of 10 celebration of Galilee's tenth year.

Migrant Support – printed and assembled 1,200 Know Your Rights packets in English and Spanish for distribution in North Mecklenburg County during January and February 2025. Six months of special food collection for 19 family members in need was provided by St. Alban's.

Special Monetary Offerings – St. Alban's gives to the United Thank Offering near Thanksgiving, to Episcopal Relief & Development at the beginning of Lent and to Thompson Child & Family Focus on Mother's Day. Thanks to St. Alban's parishioner Kathy Miller for continuing to raise awareness about ERD. A special donation designated to ERD of Western NC was made in 2025. Cheryl Nealy has established an opportunity for St. Alban's members to volunteer with Thompson Child & Family Focus with a roll-out planned for 2026.

May God continue to bless our efforts as we "scatter to serve and love like Jesus".

Respectfully submitted by:

Adrienne Bacchus

Outreach Committee Chairperson

Annual Report of Parish Hall Operations

Pam Sass, *Parish Hall Coordinator*

- The one-year warranty on equipment and systems expired in September and each component was checked or repaired as needed in advance of that date.
- The Acoustic panels were created and installed.
- Training sessions on all Hall and Kitchen components were held multiple times for representatives of all our church groups.
- An AED device was installed.
- A schedule of regular maintenance of equipment was coordinated with the Facility Manager, Bob Beckham.
- We are delighted that in 2025 the Parish Hall has been used for:
 - Sunday Coffee Hours
 - Sunday morning Faith Formation events
 - All Things Saint Alban's
 - Packing Thanksgiving baskets
 - La Posada
 - Advent Wreath and Cookie Making
 - Bishop's Visit
 - St. Alban's Annual Meeting
 - Cards For Kids
 - Oktoberfest Set Up
 - Lenten Soup Suppers
 - Outreach Events
 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
 - Preschool Events
 - Men's and Women's Group events
- Outside groups were invited to use the Parish Hall after our first year of operation. Each group filled out Facility Use forms, received training, and was given temporary access during their events:
 - Give Yoga has held free classes on Tuesday mornings since September.
 - The Davidson Garden Club will hold its meetings here monthly.
 - Davidson Learns has scheduled one of its classes beginning in January.

We hope all our St. Alban's groups use the new space to its fullest and have wonderful ideas for future events.

Respectfully submitted by:

Pam Sass, Parish Hall Coordinator

Annual Report from StAART (The St. Alban's Anti-Racism Team)

Cynthia Clemons, *StAART Chairperson*

2025 was a year that brought both change and restructure to our StAART ministry. Our mission statement says in part "we are seeking to foster God's Beloved Community through dismantling racism in ourselves, church, and community." We feel that the changes made have positioned us to do just that.

We now have two working groups within StAART. Our first group is called "**Shine the Light.**" This group is responsible for education through learning opportunities such as book discussions, documentaries, guest speakers, and more. Our second group is called "**Weaving a New Story.**" This group works to develop and deepen relationships with local BIPOC - Black, Indigenous, & People of Color - communities. Our heart is to learn and become allies with our brothers and sisters of color. We also have a beautiful library located in the narthex. We have books for people of all ages - from young children to adults. Checking out a book is easy so please feel free to stop by anytime to do so. Our vestry voted to make StAART an official ministry of St. Alban's in 2021. We are very blessed and grateful to have the continued support of our vestry. We currently have five vestry members who are engaged and attend regularly scheduled meetings and events. For a list of upcoming events, please visit our page on the parish website. For any questions, please feel free to contact Cynthia Clemons.