



The Episcopal Church
in Arlington
saintalbansarlington.org
open-minded joyful authentic



ST. ALBAN'S TODAY

Stewardship Sunday

On Sunday morning, November 5th, gathered in the midsts of all the saints of the church - those who have gone before us, live today, and yet to be born - we will take into our hands a piece of paper and a pen. Then we will pause for a moment to ask ourselves "How will I respond to God's generosity?" Thereupon, we will write down a number and some words on that paper, put it in an envelope, walk up to the altar on which Jesus re-presents his sacrifice, and lay down our response. It can be a profound moment in our lives - recognizing just how blessed we are, how loved we are, how called we are to be conduits of God's love in deed, word, and action. It can be the moment we move from being a disciple to an apostle.

Other than Peter as a disciple and Paul as an apostle I hadn't thought much about the difference between the two states of being. However, I recently read an article which referred to a disciple as someone who is a student and an apostle as someone who has absorbed the teachings into their being so that their life has become those teachings. It's just like our mothers told us, "You become what you eat."

While we are always student disciples (after all there is always more to learn about an infinite God) isn't the point that the learnings will move from our heads to our hearts and become manifest in the works of our hands. The power of Jesus is that he didn't just talk about the concepts of God; he lived out the concepts of

God, ultimately on a cross. This living out is how he changed the world and changed me (and you too, I hope).

God, even to this day is creating each of us every moment; spilling forth love from the essence of God's being. Filling our flesh: feet, fingers, lips, eyes. Filling our lives: achievements and failures, delights and miseries. Does this spilling forth love terminate at the tips of our fingers and toes, at the boundaries of our lips and eyes? Or, does it radiate beyond our fingertips and footprints, flow from our lips and eyes? Are we repositories, keeping the love all to oneself? Or, are we conduits, changing the world?

Peace,

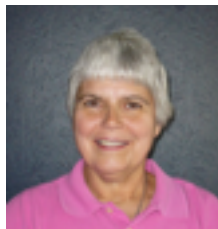
—Kevin+

National News

[Episcopalians Being Good Stewards in Firestorms](#)

[Episcopal News Service] Episcopalians in Northern California continue to monitor the growing wildfires in their neighborhoods while finding ways to help their communities deal with the ongoing and expanding disaster.

From the Vestry



Saint Alban's has a great team that keeps our Internet presence current. Did you know that many new folks who come to Saint Alban's find us by looking on-line? The Internet and social media are where it's at these days! If you're on Facebook,

you can find our page by searching for StAlbansArlington. Our church website is found at www.saintalbansarlington.org. Please check these out if you haven't done so already.

— Karen Henry, Vestry Member

Outreach Fund Raiser

Hopefully you received the special email or heard the announcement about our show buy-out fund raiser. This year we elected to buy-out the preview performance of Theatre Arlington's Christmas show "Plaid Tidings". If you've seen the very popular "Forever Plaid", this show brings the boys back for another posthumous performance. This time they perform holiday classics, well, with a forever plaid twist.

The date is Thursday, November 30th. The reception will be from 6:30 pm – 7:15 pm and the show starts at 7:30 pm. General seating. Tickets are on sale now for \$25.00 and will include a champagne punch and appetizer reception. How can you help? You can either buy a ticket or sell a ticket.

We will also be having another 50/50 raffle. Raffle tickets will be on sell during the reception for \$2.00 each or a pack of three for \$5.00. Someone will go home that evening with some Christmas cash.

Help is also needed with the before show reception. Please see Pam if you can help with food for this event. You can find her and the list at the bar on Sunday.

Advent Lessons and Carols

Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Worth, will host a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 3 at 5 pm. Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price and Fort Worth Independent School District Kent Scribner will be among the readers from the wider community.

Church musicians and choir members from across the diocese are invited to be part of this uniquely Episcopal (Anglican) service. Interested people should contact Debbie Clark at debora.d.clark@gmail.com for more information.

Rehearsals will be held on Sunday afternoons, November 12, 19, and possibly November 26 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving).

Stewardship 2018

I am excited to announce Stewardship Sundays begin on Oct. 15th and continue through Oct. 29th. On each of those Sundays, one of your fellow parishioners will tell us why they give and how giving has impacted their lives. On November 5th we all will have the opportunity to place our pledges on the altar of our Lord. Until then, consider these words from Malachi 3:10: "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Mickey Tryon

2018 Stewardship Chairperson

Activities

Adult Forum with Ed Waggoner

October 29, 11 am

November 5, 11 am

Dr. Ed Waggoner, Asst. Professor of Theology at Brite Divinity School, will join us for Adult Forum on October 29th and November 5th.



70th Anniversary Service & Reception

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church of Arlington TX, invites you to celebrate Our 70th Anniversary including sharing love, laughter, and stories with friends, old and new.

Outreach Fund Raiser

November 30, 7PM, Theatre of Arlington

This is a wine and appetizer function followed by a preview of Plaid Tidings. Tickets go on sale October 15th, so please make sure to get yours.

Advent Retreat - Praying Your Way

December 2, 9AM - 12PM, Church Office

Come join us for a lesson in praying according to your personality type. We will explore the Meyers Briggs personality type and how that translates into a natural prayer style for each and every one of you.

Advent Lessons and Carols

December 3, 5pm Trinity Episcopal Church in Fort Worth

Join us for a night of singing and joy

Holiday Lights Parade

December 19, 2017 6 pm

If you have some great ideas or would like to contribute to making the float, please see Beth Marshall.

Catechesis Starting Again

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, Spiritual Formation for ages 4-12, has resumed after Eucharist at 11-12 in the administration building across the street.



Spiritual Gifts

For so many of us the Holy Spirit seems to be a nebulous, wispy, hard to get-a-handle-on person of the Trinity. I mean, you've got the bromance between God and the Son, then there's this third wheel. Yet, the Holy Spirit has a critical purpose, which many overlook. Let's talk about spiritual gifts.

Spiritual gifts, also, is a term that sometimes feels nebulous and extra. It doesn't help that our inherited Puritan piety tells us that we should never claim to be "gifted" because that would be ostentatious. Nor does it help that claiming a spiritual gift might feel "prideful," which is right next to sinful. On the contrary, St. Paul is very clear that the Holy Spirit manifests herself in humans to enable them for particular works for the benefit of God's children.

St. Paul uses the term "charism," which implies a divinely graced capability given to a person of God. Everyone is freely given gifts of charism, not everyone has the same charisms. So, Paul says, "Some are teachers, some givers, some leaders, some servants, some prophets, some healers, etc." The gifts don't belong to us, nor are they the result of anything we've done to hone them. Rather, they are activities of the Holy Spirit striving to work through our bodies and lives.

Here's the predicament when we fail to recognize, claim, and live out the Holy Spirit's gifts: we become a stumbling block for God by impeding God's work to bring about the Kingdom of God. Some are teachers and when we choose to not live that out it means some child somewhere is stilted in their development. Some are prophets and when we choose to keep silent it means some injustice continues to oppress another human being. Some are givers and when we choose to not live generously it means that some God provided resource lies barren. Some are servants and when we choose to not live that out it means some need is being ignored. Some are leaders and when we choose to not live that out it means a dream of God perishes. Not claiming

and living out our spiritual gifts is a false piety causing us to "miss the mark" (the literal translation of the Greek word hamartia, which gets short-cut translated in English as "sin.") In effect, we miss out on the point of our human life as God has individually crafted us to be.

So, what is one to do. How does one avoid "missing the mark?" The place to start is to take the time to discover your spiritual gifts. A useful tool is a spiritual gifts inventory such as this one: SHAPE Assessment. Tools like this help you identify how the Holy Spirit yearns to work through you. The next step is to actually put yourself in the position so the Holy Spirit can work through you. Perhaps your gift is serving. Consider serving meals to the homeless. Maybe it is administration. Non-profits would love to have someone come in and organize their work systems. Or, perchance the Holy Spirit wants to exercise leadership through you. Think about serving on vestry or a non-profit board of directors. Or, take the reigns of a much needed project and bring it to life. Figure out where your passion intersects with the needs of the world and just do it. It seems contradictory, but exercising your spiritual gifts has the effect of energizing your soul. Stymieing the Holy Spirit results in a constipated soul: bloating, grouchiness, and general blah.

On November 5th you are going to have the opportunity to walk up to the altar of God and claim your spiritual gifts. I encourage you to invest a few hours between now and then considering how the Holy Spirit seeks to live through your body and life. Then profess it and live it.

Blessings to you and those you love.

—Fr. Kevin+

Prayer Your Way

Join us on December 2nd at 9AM to learn more about finding the right style of prayer for your personality

Spreading Love Through Stewardship

by Jennifer Toy

It's stewardship season again: A particular time in the church's life cycle in which the church goes into a time of gathering the commitments that it needs to be able to continue to function on an ongoing basis. That is, at least, how the majority of people think about stewardship. The other obvious definition is the notion that stewardship is about taking care of the earth around us, which we do through environmentally focused activities like conservation, recycling and participating in Earth Day. While these are great examples of stewardship, they are not the only examples.

What does Stewardship mean? According to Merriam-Webster, stewardship is "the job of supervising or taking care of something". We are called as Christians to be stewards of everything on Earth, so that means we are responsible for caring for the physical earth and everything in it. One of the things that is within the physical earth is humanity. What this basically means is that we as Christians have the responsibility of caring for other human beings. Yes, you are your brother's keeper.

What does being a steward of humanity look like? There are a variety of ways that we can care for the rest of humanity. By supporting the church financially, we are making the greatest impact with our dollars by ensuring that we give them to the systems that reach the most amount of people. The funds donated to the food bank are a good example of this. However, we can also care for humans by exposing them to the gifts and graces that we possess. If we are fortunate to have been blessed with patience, then we can practice patience with whomever we meet. If we have been blessed with the gift of hospitality, we can practice hospitality with whomever we meet. If we can teach, we teach. If we can love, we love. All of these are valuable ways of expressing our gifts and caring with other

human beings, and all of them fall within the sphere of being a good steward. All of these gifts also require that we practice them as much outside of the church as we do inside.

Why do we need to practice stewardship?

We must practice stewardship precisely because the expansion of Love in the world depends on we as humans reaching out to other humans. God can give us the ability to do the work, but we have to actually do the work ourselves. We also practice stewardship because God fills our own lives with the love that we give to others. We spread the love outwards, and God spreads it back towards us.

What can I do to practice? We have so many platforms for being able to connect to other people that we struggle to find the ways that work for us, and we struggle with the expectation messages we receive about what is and what isn't a legitimate form of stewardship. We can stall out with all these opportunities and expectations. To get started, however, you only need to focus on the small instead of the big. Pick one thing that you know that you can do and love doing, and go do it. The world's need will rise to meet your love and skill.

During this stewardship season, please consider carefully how you can effectively and efficiently spread the Love around to the humanity surrounding you, and start doing it.

70th Anniversary Reception

Our 70th Anniversary Reception will be a nice catered event - more on the lines of citrus glazed meatballs, smoke chicken biscuits, mimosas, and real forks, not Subway! Would you help with the cost of the catering by donating to a special collection either on the 22nd or 29th of October? Look for the box on the bar in the lobby marked "70th Anniversary Reception".

Events

Stewardship 2018

Mickey Tryon is our Stewardship Chairperson for 2018 and he introduced Reuel and Kit Jentgen who spoke to the congregation about their love for St. Alban's and what keeps them coming back.



Come See Us

Services are held @ Theatre Arlington on Sunday mornings at 9:30am at 305 W Main St, Arlington, TX 76010

Blessing of the Animals 2018

We had very close to fifty people turn up at Vandergriff Park, mostly with their pets and Father Kevin was kept busy blessing them all. The different venue this year was well received and many thanks are due to the people who helped with the setting up.

