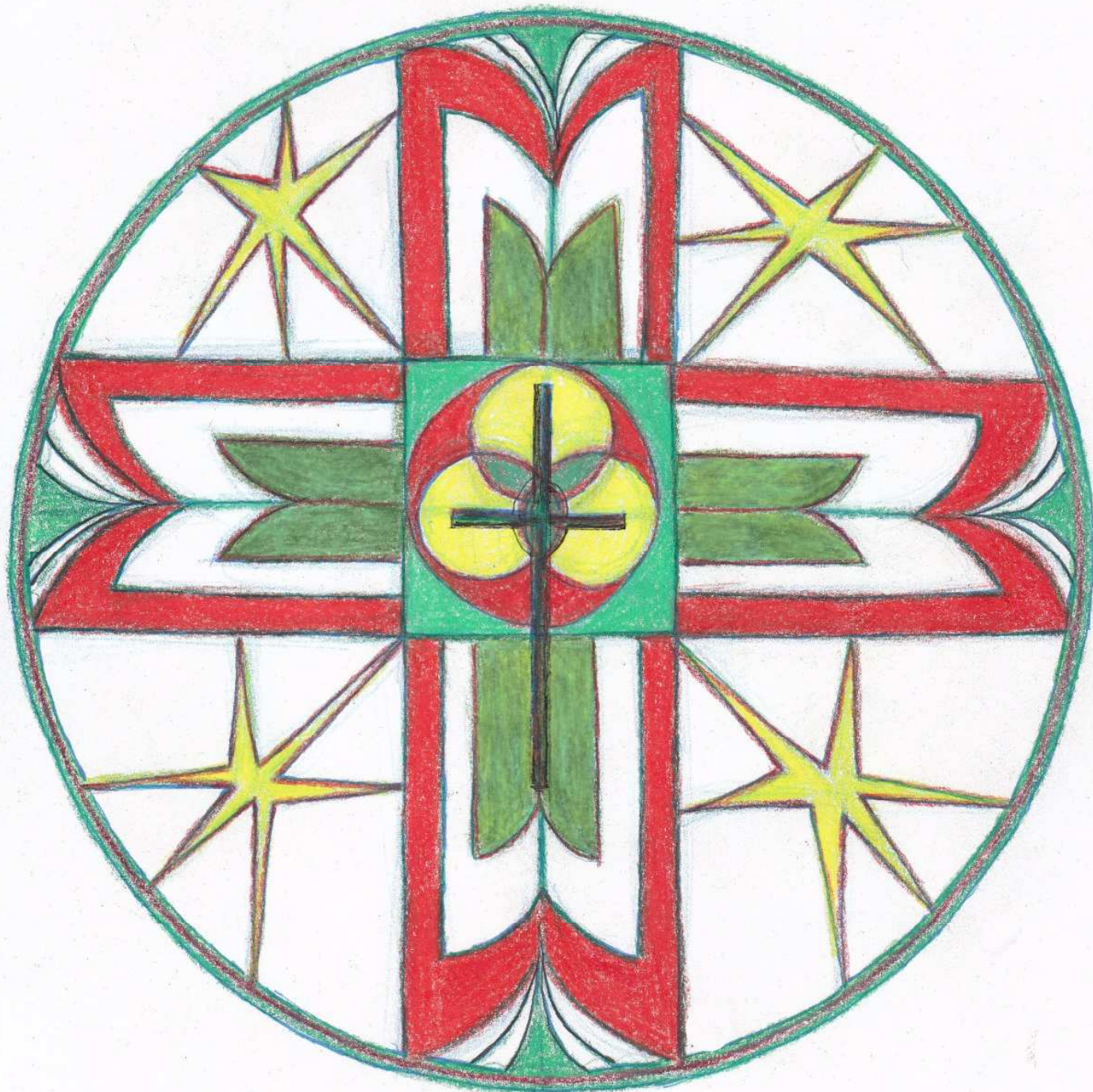


# THE ALMANAC

St. Alban's Episcopal Church Monthly Newsletter

December 2010 / January 2011



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given: and the government shall be on his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.      Isaiah 9:6



## Rector's Notes



Several years ago I spent the first week of Advent in a magical place that no longer exists, the College of Preachers at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Think Hogwarts, holiness, and snow with the change-ringing of the cathedral bells in the dark of night. There was much quiet for meditation and rich conversation over meals and wine and wisdom.

But in order to be present for the first event of the course I was attending, I had to fly up on Sunday and had Monday to myself until three o'clock in the afternoon. The choice about what to do with my time was a no-brainer!

I went to the National Gallery

having already decided to limit myself to the Advent and Nativity paintings of the Italian and Flemish collections. Well, the museum was all but empty on Monday morning, and I had all the leisure in the world to spend with some of the most incredible art ever created.

The hours I spent in the museum were some of the holiest of the week. I had my journal with me and the full intention to let the spirit inspire my sermons for the weeks to come, and she didn't let me down. The guards were kind to let me sit on the floor and stare for hours at a single painting, the Annunciation by Jan van Eyck.

The angel in this painting is mischievous. He's got something up his sleeve and isn't sure for a moment that Mary is going to say yes. There is tension in it. Mary's obedience is anything but passive. In the language of one of my old writing teachers, the painting is spring-loaded.

There is a paradox in Advent. On the one hand it is contemplative, expectant, and vacant in a promising sort of way. If we do it right (and I don't expect we really pull it off, but it is nice to think we might) we are clearing space for Christ to enter into our lives. And on the other hand it is spring-loaded.

It is nothing at all like anything we have the intelligence to expect. Lord knows, the messiah the Jews got looked nothing like the messiah they had been anticipating nor the one they would have ordered up. Yet he was the messiah who brought the world more than any of us would ask for.

We spend the four weeks of Advent hopefully preparing for the coming of holiness. We come to worship on Christmas Eve to sing Silent Night in the darkness of the candlelit church. We greet each other at midnight with wishes of Merry Christmas, and spend our Christmas Days filled with gifts and family and feasting of one sort or another.

And suddenly it is after Christmas. The tree goes out to the curb or up into the attic. We throw away the wrapping paper and eat the leftovers. And, if we are lucky, if we have paid attention we begin the new year infused with a peace and clarity that is the gift of Christmas. We sort out our priorities and make our resolutions and we start out the new year filled with purified intentions. I know...we stumble and fall. The diet only lasts a week. Our calendar gets filled beyond capacity. But we try. And sometimes we do really succeed at one thing or another.

I think these two months of December and January are suffused with hope. Hope that we can do better, be better, give better. Hope that we do not give up just because we didn't pull it off last year. Hope that our intentions have the power to transform us, and that if we are transformed even slightly, our transformation might have a chain reaction in the world, whether we see it or not.

I see these two months as times of trust. We let go as we wait for the birth of the Christ Child, and we take up the gift as we move into the new year. My prayer for all of us is to let ourselves be empty as the vacant stable and the young girl's womb and the open night sky to receive the angels who will certainly and without failing come singing their songs of Peace on Earth and Good Will to all God's people.

Peace and blessings,

*Margaret+*

# Children's Ministry NEWS

by Catherine LaGrone

Happy Advent!!

I am so excited to begin this Holy season with all of you. I cannot tell you what a joy it is to be a part of a church family like the one here at St. Alban's at this time of year — and always.

Looking back, we had an awesome, if lively, evening on October 29<sup>th</sup> at our first **Parent's Night Out**.

I am so grateful to those of you who volunteered to help out, whether by donating items or being there in person.

Our next PNO is Friday, **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** from 6-10pm and we can use all the help you can give, so if you are interested, please get in touch with me . The children will be making their own Advent calendars to take home. I am looking especially for volunteers to work in the nursery with the 6 month-2yr-olds so that we can avoid going over budget. We had a blast while giving some parents and grandparents a much needed evening out. What a gift for all involved!!



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT



Looking forward, we are officially inviting families to join us for three **special advent programs** on Sunday evenings at 5pm **Nov 28<sup>th</sup> and Dec 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**. These are short musical programs followed by refreshments in the Assembly Room. We will be providing quiet activities for the children to work on during the program and we encourage you to have a discussion with your children about the idea of being “quietly excited” and reverent during the presentations beforehand. We will also be providing nursery care for children under age 3, but we would LOVE to be able to do this without spending extra money. If you are willing/able to volunteer to work in the nursery any of those dates, thank you in advance and please let me know.



Also, during Advent we will be asking a few families to **light the Advent candles** at the beginning of the 10:30am service.

cont'd

## Children's Ministry NEWS

cont'd

On Sunday, **December 5<sup>th</sup>**, at the end of the late service, we will be doing a special **Children's Advent Message**, so plan to be there and bring your friends! We will be reminding them that they ARE the light, and that they can carry the light of Jesus everywhere they go as they light the way to Christmas.

One of the ways the St. Alban's children will be preparing to greet Christmas is by getting ready for the **Christmas Play**, scheduled for **Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30pm. This year, we will be doing a traditional nativity story called **"Bethlehem's Little Boy"**.



We have already begun casting parts and running through lines during Children's Chapel. If you are interested in helping with sets, please contact me and Mike Evans, who has graciously agreed to construct some new sets for the play this year. If you have sewing skills, please contact me or Susan Tennison, who has graciously agreed to sew new costumes for the children. We will continue to rehearse during Children's Chapel for the next several weeks, so please try to have your children here so they can be ready. I will be sending scripts home with your children with their lines highlighted, and we will have one mandatory Dress Rehearsal on Saturday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm. PLEASE make sure you can attend. The kids are sure to have a great time while learning the story of our Savior's birth, so consider getting involved if you can!!



The **family Christmas Eve service** will be at 5:30pm and involves a **"Pick-Up" pageant**. This is a chance for your children to decide where they fit into Christmas Eve, and dress as whatever Nativity character they choose.

I am just so excited to enjoy all of this preparation, fun, and wonder as we Light the Way to Christmas at St. Alban's.

Peace & Love

Catherine

As we look toward the New Year, please note that on **January 2nd** we will be having an **All-Parish Breakfast** in lieu of Sunday School at 9am. We will be accepting free-will monetary donation for this as well as food donations. Please join us so that we can meet as a big family and ring in the New Year as one. After that, Sunday School will be back on as usual, and I am so looking forward to seeing what 2011 brings!!

# EYC UPDATE

## EYC UPDATE

by Brian Tarver

**FUN**●  
**WORSHIP**●  
**SERVICE**●

Our EYC is all about fun, worship and service to our parish and our community. The fun times are when we are most likely to grab a camera and snap away, so you see lots of those photos on these pages and on our facebook pages. Worship, prayer and study are less likely to be captured by a camera. And when we are serving we are usually too busy to think about taking pictures. The best times are when the fun and service get all mixed up together; and worship can be very joyous. So as we reflect on what we have done over the past year and let you know some of our plans for Christmas and the coming year, we promise to help you read between the lines ... or pixels of the photos!

Ready for the holiday season? We are!

We hope everyone will be able to join us this year as we host **Fireside Christmas**. Like the Shrove Tuesday meal we also host each year, this is a really fun way for us to serve the parish. Help us celebrate Christ's birth as we watch a nativity play by the children and enjoy a wonderful meal together



Our teenagers really know how to have fun! On Halloween, everyone dressed up and went trick-or-treating as a big group. Bowling was also a blast.



*If you really want to meet some people who enjoy life and know how to have a good time, strike up a conversation with some of the young people at St. Alban's.*

Inspired by how rewarding our In-Town Mission was last summer ( see photos to the right) ...

We have a date for a **Mission Trip** this coming summer. From June 25<sup>th</sup> to July 2<sup>nd</sup>, our group will be traveling to Tennessee, rolling up our sleeves, and getting to work. If you are a Youth from 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, we have a limited number of spots, so register as soon as you can.

And we will need plenty of support from our parish, so stay tuned for more information throughout the year for ways to support our Youth Group.



fundraising



dirty work at Capitol Area Food Bank



reaching out to our homeless neighbors

# OUTREACH Report

by JoeAnn Wright

Sometimes the Numbers *do* tell the Story!

## TWELVE DAYS of ... HABITAT for HUMANITY BUILDING

We love traditional Christmas music, but this year our parish was able to help give a present that meant much more than anything that might have accompanied a **Partridge in a Pear Tree!** Participating in our second Habitat for Humanity "Build" (November 11th) gave a wonderful family their very first home — Just in time for Christmas.



Merry Christmas!

Home for the Holidays

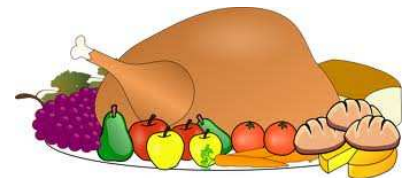
**1st**

Christmas in their new home! For the **2nd** family in whose Habitat for Humanity build St. Alban's participated.

- 1 Happy Child
- 2 Proud & Grateful Parents
- 3 Bedroom Home!
- 4 O'Clock was Quitting Time (Look how much got done!)
- 5 St. Alban's Builders — laid down the lawn!
- 6 More Donations—\$50 each — will "wrap up" our pledge
- 7 Days-a-week (of healthy living: shelter, safety, and privacy)
- 8 O'clock was Starting Time (Everyone exited!)
- 9 Great St. Alban's Cooks & Servers (Yummy)
- 10 "Build Days" — to Create a Home (from start to finish)
- 11 Churches came together (for our Episcopal Build)  
Mar/Apr/May
- 12 Churches came together for *this* Ecumenical Build



... Celebrated both the birth of a new baby and Julia's **4th** Birthday!



**72**

Families will receive Thanksgiving dinners from El Buen Samaritano through the generosity of people from St. Alban's.

Yes! We nearly doubled our goal of forty.

Home for the Holidays!

### A LANDSCAPER'S TALE by Sheila Hancock

*"The time has come, the Rector said,  
To talk of many things:  
Of leveling beds and cleaning up.  
of plumbago in the spring.  
And why we need to look into  
some xeriscaping links."*



... our resident instigator and faithful overseer of small miracles!



Thus began the beautification of the grounds at St. Alban's. **Bobby Meyer's** Eagle scout project turned an empty island into a beautiful memorial garden. You can feel the serenity of the garden when you sit on the huge rock "seat" and watch the purple fountain grass swaying in the breeze.



Next came **Beverly Drawe's** project where new matching raised beds were created in front of the church with nandinas, knockout roses and vincas on the sunny side and nandinas, plumbagos and begonias on the shady side. The colorful combination of plants greet visitors as they enter the church.



Our Master gardener, **Tom Brotherton**, planted a bed next to the labyrinth with a purple sage that knows to bloom just before the rain and a knockout rose bush producing pink flowers all through the summer with a minimum of watering. The plumbago bush with its lovely powder blue flowers is another heat-loving plant. Tom also brought in the pots of rosemary and red hibiscus.



Margaret had mentioned a **butterfly garden** and that materialized shortly after with a small space filled with brightly blooming plants that was both a feast to the eye and to the butterflies.

Did you enjoy the yellow daffodils under the mountain laurel last spring? Well, with a good feeding of bonemeal they will be back next spring, so look out for them.

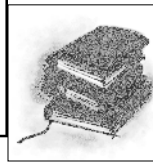
To cut back on mowing, a new **wildflower patch** has just been created in the area by the entrance to the lower parking. This was a project that our wonderful children undertook so let's see what comes up in the spring. Ladybird Johnson will be happy that we are still following her suggestion to beautify our highways and gardens in Texas with wildflowers!



We would not have been able to enjoy the lovely landscaped areas but for a group of dedicated mowers and watering crew. We want to welcome visitors to the hill any way we can and landscaping is a good way to do it, especially when you hear a visitor returning to vote here comment on the improvements we made to the grounds last year.



## RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RECTOR



### WEBSITES



#### Jesus Christ The Apple Tree

[youtube.com/watch?v=Cm3fZDZxiko](http://youtube.com/watch?v=Cm3fZDZxiko)

The Choir of King's College Cambridge sings *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*, an 18th Century American folk song. (Follow the links there to more gorgeous Christmas music.)



### *A Time of Miracles*

[explorefaith.org/miracles/index.html](http://explorefaith.org/miracles/index.html)

REFLECTIONS ON THE SEASONS OF ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

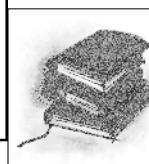
[Explorefaith.org](http://Explorefaith.org) is an outreach of the Episcopal Church, one you can very happily recommend to your friends of all faiths. It presents the most generous and embracing face of our church and offers nourishment in many forms. Every year the offerings for Advent are rich and lovely.

**THE DAYS OF WAITING**  
thoughts on the message of Advent

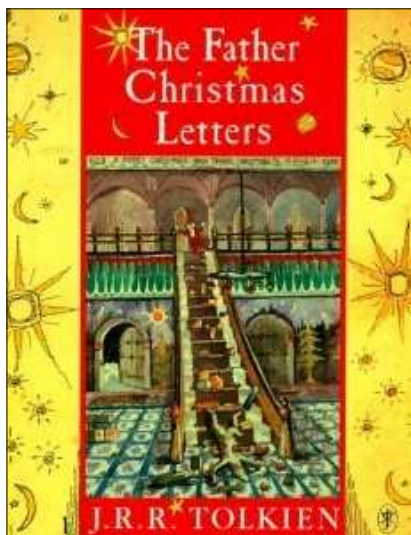
	2 LONGING AND WAITING	3 AND WAITING	4	5	7
8	11 AND STILLNESS	12 AND STILLNESS	13		
15	16 HOPE AND EXPECTATION	17 AND EXPECTATION	18	20	21
22					



# RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RECTOR



## BOOKS



**The Father Christmas Letters**  
by J.R.R. Tolkien

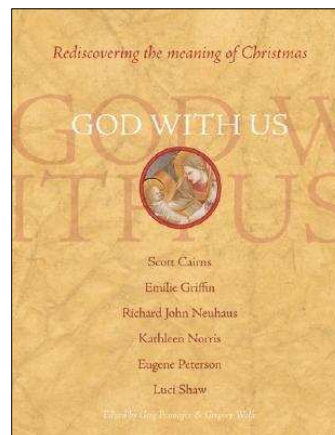
I love to imagine what it must be like to be Tolkien and to have access to the deep truths of creativity and mythology. These letters, written over many years, offer a picture of a complex life at the North Pole. They are wise and compassionate and funny.



**REMEMBER ...**  
There really is a gift that keeps on giving!

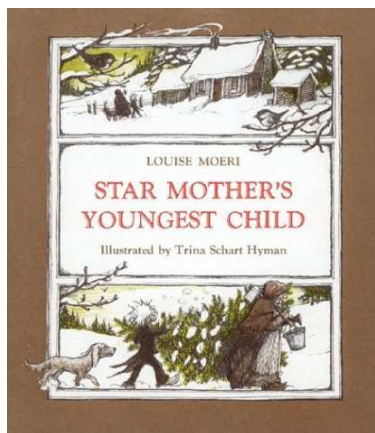
Any gifts or books you purchase through our virtual store at Amazon.com ... (see the link on our website)

between now and the end of the year will help raise money for our project to buy books for all of the first graders at Menchaca Elementary School to take home over the Summer!



**God with Us: Rediscovering the meaning of Christmas**

A lovely book for Advent, an anthology of writings by some of the best-known Christian writers and poets. This makes a wonderful gift to be given early in the holiday season and will become a tradition in your family



**Star Mother's Youngest Child**  
by Louise Moeri

This is hands down my favorite Christmas book. The child of the title is sent down to earth because he is a pest to his mother and finds himself in the cabin of a homely ancient and lonely woman on the cusp of Christmas. He has high expectations for Christmas, but she has few resources. I can't get through it without Kleenex.

Here's a poorly kept secret –  
St. Alban's is a vibrant congregation.

Actually there is more to this. Last spring, though a website I frequent in sermon preparation, I learned of a project, funded by the prestigious Lilly Foundation (as in pharmaceuticals) that was all about vibrant stewardship. Another poorly kept secret – I'm passionate about stewardship, and if I know you at all, so are you. So I applied for our parish to be part of the project. So did about 250 other churches. In the end Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, who is conducting this study, chose nine parishes, and we were one of the chosen. So now we are officially vibrant.

What is it all about? Over a two-year period they will be learning all they can about the best practices of these nine parishes. Seven are Lutheran. Two are Episcopal. But in truth there is more diversity among us than you would imagine. The goal is to be able to empower seminarians, as they move towards their vocations in their parishes, with the best possible information to lead their parishioners into the fullest expression of meaningful Christian mission in the world, and to transform the world in the name of Christ and the love of Christ.

The first thing you will notice is that between now and January 31 you will be asked to complete a survey about the stewardship practices of St. Alban's and your experience of our scriptural teachings and communications. (It will be available online and on paper.) This is something that everyone in the parish is asked to do. Following this, about 25 people in the parish will be interviewed at length by a member of the team. We will report these findings to the team at Luther, and Allen and I will return in the spring to St. Paul for a weekend to continue the process.

What is in it for us? Besides the affirmation and honor of having been chosen – did I mention that this is really a BIG DEAL!? – we will have the advice and companionship of some of the wisest mentors in the area of stewardship. In essence, because we are already doing very well as stewards of what we have been given, we have been blessed with the promise of learning how to do even better.

## LUTHER SEMINARY

### The Vibrant Congregations Project

Through a three-year initiative called The Vibrant Congregations Project, Luther Seminary will work to better understand how growth can be promoted in six areas considered critical to vibrant congregational life: biblical preaching and worship; stewardship; vocation; mission; children, youth, and family; and Bible study.

"Congregations in the Vibrant Congregations Project will be drawn together with into a vibrant learning community committed to discovering and implementing the very best practices. It will be an exciting venture, and none of us will leave unchanged."

As a post script on our pledge drive, let me point out what you already know. We are not a rich parish in comparison to some whose parking lots are full of fancy cars. We don't live in the biggest and most opulent houses in Austin or Buda or Manchaca or Kyle. I don't know of a single parishioner who has an office in the corner of the top floor of a downtown office building. But we live richly and we give richly because we have a sense of blessedness, of the grace of God in what we have been given, which is more than enough, and which we delight in being able to share with the world in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God and to you!

Love,  
*Margaret+*



## Blue Christmas

A Liturgy for those who have suffered loss  
Tuesday, December 21  
6:30 p.m.

Cries of “Merry Christmas!” and non-stop caroling contrast with the feelings of many people at this time of year. For those suffering from the recent or impending death of loved ones, for those whose families are in crisis, for people hurt by divorce or separation, and for those who have lost their jobs, it can be a very isolated and dreary time. Every greeting and every song reminds the grief-stricken of how unhappy life is at this moment.

Many churches have begun to recognize that Festivals of Lessons and Carols, celebrations of Christmas, and children’s pageants do not meet everyone’s needs. To fill this gap this year we at St. Alban’s will offer a Blue Christmas service, a Service of Solace or Longest Night. People who are not having a very merry Christmas and friends who support them are invited to come and sit with one another in a liturgy that speaks of the love of God for the grieving.

We will gather in the early darkness to experience the presence of Christ’s love even as we are accompanied by emotions of very real sadness. People are encouraged to bring readings to share, photos or objects of remembrance

We will receive laying on of hands for healing and Holy Communion in remembrance of the One who loves us in sorrow and joy. Your friends, neighbors, and family members are most welcome. Following the service the alumni of Walking the Mourners’ Path grief recovery group, the vergers, and the Daughters of the King will host an informal wine and cheese reception.



## Advent and Christmas at St. Alban's

**Sunday, November 28, 5:00 pm**

Noah Cogdell, *Classical Guitar Concert*  
followed by an informal reception in Parish Life Center

**Sunday, December 5, 5:00 pm**

Dr. David Means, *Concert of Holiday Favorites* (piano & singing)  
followed by an informal reception in Parish Life Center

**Sunday, December 12, 5:00 pm**

Cantamos (a group of women singers from First Baptist Church)  
*Traditional and Sacred Christmas Music*  
followed by an informal reception in Parish Life Center

**Sunday, December 19, 5:00 pm**

*Fireside Christmas*  
St. Alban's Children present "Bethlehem's Little Boy"  
St. Alban's Youth prepare and serve dinner, and  
afterwards we practice Christmas carols!  
Parish Life Center

**Tuesday, December 21, 6:30 pm**

Blue Christmas  
Solemn and comforting worship with Holy Eucharist  
for people for whom this season is not jolly because of loss or sorrow

**Friday, December 24, 5:30 pm**

Rite II Holy Eucharist with 'pick-up' pageant and Christmas Carols  
All children are invited to come as any character in the Nativity Story  
Pageant will take the place of the sermon

**Friday, December 24, 11:00 pm**

Festival of Lessons and Carols with Midnight Mass  
Music by the Choir of St. Alban's, Dr. David Means Director


**Sunday, December 26, 10:00 am**

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

# December 2010

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
			1 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM  <b>5:30PM</b> TAEHS	2 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i>	3	4 <b>10:00AM</b> Klickety Klack
5 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>3-5PM</b> Natural Spirituality <b>5:00PM</b> 2nd Advent Program Followed by Wine & Cheese Reception <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	6 <b>6:30PM</b> "Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear"	7 <b>10:30AM</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:30AM</b> Tai Chi <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM	8 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM  <b>5:30PM</b> TAEHS	9 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i>  <b>6:30-10PM</b> C.O.H. Christmas Party (Kittels' home)	10 <b>6:30PM</b> Mahjong	11  <b>8:30AM</b> B.O.S.A.   <b>5:30PM</b> Cinema Paradiso
12 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>3-5PM</b> Natural Spirituality <b>5:00PM</b> 3rd Advent Program Followed by Wine & Cheese Reception <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	13 <b>6:30PM</b> "Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear"	14 <b>10:30AM</b> Tai Chi <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM <b>7:00PM</b> Daughters of The King	15 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM  <b>5:30PM</b> TAEHS	16 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i>	17	18 <b>10:00AM</b> Klickety Klack
19 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>5:00PM</b> <b>Fireside Christmas</b> <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	20	21 <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM <b>7:00PM</b> <b>Blue Christmas</b> Service & Reception	22 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM	23 <b>9:30AM</b>	24 <b>5:30PM</b> <b>Family Service</b> <b>Children's Pageant</b> <b>&amp; Santa Claus</b> (Movie & Tamales between services) <b>11:00PM</b> <b>Candlelight</b> <b>Service</b>  <span style="background-color: green; color: white; padding: 2px;">OFFICE CLOSED</span>	25 <b>Christmas</b> <b>Day</b>
26  <b>10:00AM</b> Rite II	27	28	29	30	31	
OFFICE CLOSED						

# January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 <b>New Years Day</b>  <b>10:00AM</b> Klickety-Klack
2 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:00AM</b> <b>All-Parish Breakfast</b> (no Christian Formation) <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	3 <b>OFFICE</b> <b>CLOSED</b>	4 <b>10:30AM</b> Tai Chi <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM	5 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM	6 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i> <b>11:00AM</b> Staff Meeting	7 <b>6:30PM</b> Mahjong	8 <b>8:30AM</b> B.O.S.A.
9 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	10	11 <b>10AM-3PM</b> Staff Meeting <b>10:30AM</b> Tai Chi <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM	12 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM	13 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i> <b>6:30PM</b> C.O.H. Planning Mtg.	14	15 <b>10:00AM</b> Klickety-Klack
16 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	17	18 <b>10:30AM</b> Tai Chi <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM <b>7:00PM</b> Daughters of The King	19 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM	20 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i>	21 <b>6:30PM</b> Mahjong	22  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">             Y.E.S. &amp; Happening Weekend              for EYC           </div>
23 <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">             Y.E.S. &amp; Happening           </div>	24	25 <b>10:30AM</b> Tai Chi <b>6-9:00PM</b> EFM	26 <b>1-4:00PM</b> EFM	27 <b>9:30AM</b> Adult Bible Study <i>Matthew</i>	28	29 <b>3:00PM</b> Bingo
30 <b>YOUTH SUNDAY</b> <b>8:00AM</b> Rite I <b>9:30AM</b> Christian Formation <b>10:30AM</b> Rite II & Children's Chapel <b>After Service —</b> <b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> <b>&amp; Vestry Election</b> <b>4-6 PM</b> EYC	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 20px;"> <p>MAY 2011 BRING</p> <h2>A VERY HAPPY &amp; BLESSED</h2> <h2>NEW YEAR</h2> </div>				

# CINEMA PARADISO

from Tony  
Garcia



In 1998, Carlos Santana said that he was visited by an angel, who said that his music needed to ascend to a higher spiritual plane. In response to his angelic visit, Carlos went to his home studio and began to craft a song he would later entitle "Victory."

In 1999, Santana released the Grammy Award-winning album, "Supernatural." The album featured the hit song "Smooth" which was written and performed by the Matchbook 20 star, Rob Thomas.

There were other collaborations on the album with a wide range of current and past music superstars from different musical genres. Eric Clapton, Lauryn Hill, Dave Matthews, Everlast, Ce-Lo, Product B & G — all appeared on this album, which elevated Santana's standing among current popular music icons.

There is an indelible spiritual backdrop to Santana's music. The concert, filmed in the historic Fillmore East Auditorium in San Francisco, is a beautiful celebration of life and music. Hopefully, it will afford all of St Alban's parishioners an opportunity to enjoy and revel in the company of angels and each other.

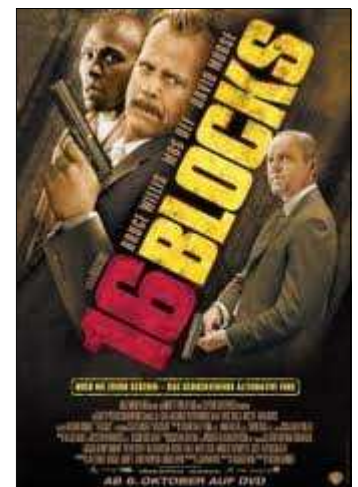
**COMING Sunday JANUARY 11th at 5:00PM**  
to The Parlor at St. Alban's Parish Life Center

Richard Donner has built a career on directing commercially successful projects. He gained initial notoriety for his movie career directing "The Omen", a supernatural drama in which Gregory Peck and Lee Remick are the parents of the anti-christ, "Damien." He followed that success with the original "Superman" movies and by developing the "Lethal Weapon" series. His movie "Ladyhawke", released in 1985, has developed a cult following.

In 2006, Donner paired Bruce Willis and Mos Def, who portray a cynical policeman and a jailhouse informant who must travel "16 BLOCKS" (from the jail to the courthouse), so that the grand jury can hear testimony regarding police misconduct in New York City. Willis finds himself having to protect this wise-cracking street thug from the very people he has worked with throughout his law-enforcement career. Besides being an entertaining action-thriller, Donner actually captures the moral dilemma of doing the right thing at your own personal cost.



**COMING Saturday**  
**DECEMBER 11th**  
**at 5:00PM**  
to The Parlor  
at St. Alban's Parish Life Center



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp\\_RHnQ-jgU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wp_RHnQ-jgU)



Opera Company of Philadelphia "Hallelujah!" Random Act of Culture



This is the best  
MUST SEE—MUST LISTEN  
that the internet has to offer  
during this joyous season

If you don't have a computer,  
take this page and visit someone  
who does. They will thank you!



On Saturday, October 30, 2010, the Opera Company of Philadelphia brought together over 650 choristers from 28 participating organizations to perform one of the Knight Foundation's **"Random Acts of Culture"** at Macy's in Center City Philadelphia. Accompanied by the Wanamaker Organ - the world's largest pipe organ - the OCP Chorus and throngs of singers from the community infiltrated the store as shoppers, and burst into a pop-up rendition of the **Hallelujah Chorus** from Handel's "Messiah" at 12 noon, to the delight of surprised shoppers.

This event is one of 1,000 "Random Acts of Culture" to be funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation over the next three years. The initiative transports the classical arts out of the concert halls and opera houses and into our communities to enrich our everyday lives. To learn more about this program and view more events, visit <http://www.randomactsofculture.org>



**DECEMBER 2010**  
**JANUARY 2011**



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Our Vision: With God's help, St. Alban's embraces the growth of our community as we invite and welcome all fellow seekers to come and worship with us. We offer a variety of opportunities for spiritual growth and diverse worship experiences, and we actively share our faith in Christ with others through service, outreach and fellowship.  
Our Mission: We seek transformation of lives through sharing the gifts of God's grace and love.