

## St. Alban's Weekly E-Blast Week of the Groundhog

### Raves

**THANK YOU** to each of you who attended the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Super Bowl Day. I would say that we had some super bowls and a big thank you to all who shared their culinary talents with the saints of St. Alban's.

Congratulations to the new Vestry members: Cathy Curtis and Ann Capion. We will have fresh input from one that is new to the scene and to the Episcopal Church and from one who has been part of this Church for all of her married life. We thank Sue McCoy and Karrie Dvorak for their three years of dedicated service, discerning the plan, the mission, God has for His children worshipping at St. Alban's. Well done, faithful servants.

And now we begin anew once again. Just when we think we have arrived we know that the journey is just beginning and there might be twists and turns ahead, but probably no smoke.

I am proud to announce that TIME and TALENT will soon be coming back to St. Alban's, although I have had the opportunity to observe both in my time here so far. I hope to have cards available on Sunday unless, of course, my week keeps unfolding in ways unplanned by me. "Committing my Gifts for a Season" will be the new format. WHAT? How does that translate into Time and Talent?

Talent is defined as a natural ability or skill. God gifts us with skills and abilities. And when we become His child through baptism, we are sealed in the Holy Spirit and marked as His own. In Confirmation/Reception, as the Bishop lays hands upon one's head, he prays that one will grow in the Holy Spirit more each day. We need the Holy Spirit to be all that we can be as men and women of faith. Read **1 Corinthians**

**12** for the list of the 9 gifts of the Spirit. And there are even more listed in Romans and Ephesians. How then are we to use the gifts/talents our Triune God has given us? Answer: to build up the Kingdom of God here and now!

When Gary and I first began our ministry of RICM, I was given the responsibility of administering – do all the things in the background – accounting, keeping records, scheduling for the weekends, team assignments and communication-the nitty, gritty work, the unseen work of the ministry. Then there came a season, a time, when my culinary talents were put to the test when I became the "cook" for our renewal weekends locally, planning and preparing six meals for 30-90 people. Talents and seasons. Then I felt a call to the Priesthood and different talents

And seasons came into the Light.

#### **Ephesians 4:7:13**

But that doesn't mean you should all look and speak and act the same. Out of the generosity of Christ, each of us is given his own gift. The text for this is,

He climbed the high mountain,  
He captured the enemy and seized the booty,  
He handed it all out in gifts to the people.

Is it not true that the One who climbed up also climbed down, down to the valley of earth? And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below.

So as you begin to think of the different gifts/talents you may have and how you would like to use your time/seasons for the glory of God, ask the Lord to show you how He sees your gifts being used at St. Alban's. We might all be surprised by His tugging, pushing, and suggestions.

*Judith+*

*And Ramblings*

**What comes next?** Sometimes I get so excited about LENT that I forget to really enjoy the remaining days of Epiphany, the time that our Lord is truly manifested to and in and through us. And from the wise men and women who followed the star to Simeon and Anna, waiting to see the Promised Messiah, we are filled with stories of Jesus being manifested, revealed to us. From the heavens opening and a voice declaring "This is my Son, in whom I delight" and then being thrust into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil to walking the shores of the Sea of Galilee, calling Peter, James, John, and Andrew with the words "Come, follow me". Words for each of us – Come. Follow. Enjoy these next few weeks, giving thanks for this Epiphany season and the revelations. We are fertilizer! (Read the Gospel for Sunday – I will give you a clue – SALT and its many uses).

**LENT. Mark your calendars and plan on being part of the Lenten practices of the Church.** But before all of that begins with Ash Wednesday, gather up the flour, eggs, milk, and butter, emptying one's home of such things and make pancakes. Yes, that is what **Shrove Tuesday**, Fat Tuesday is all about. Join the choir on **February 25<sup>th</sup>** as they mix, flip, and serve up their "famous" pancakes, from **5:30 to 7:00 PM.**

**PM.** Keep in mind that this is

not only a time of fellowship and banquet but a time for the new music

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**YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting on **Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>** to continue their journey with Gideon, gathering at 4:30 PM -6:30 PM. Pass the Word.

<b>Readings, Readers, &amp; More</b>	
<b>5 Epiphany</b>	
<b>February 9, 2020</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Isaiah 58:1-12
	Psalm 112
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	I Cor. 2:1-16
Gospel	Matt 5:13-20
<b>8:00 AM</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson & Psalm	Judy Murdock
2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	Don France
Prayers	Vern Murdock
Euch Min	Karen Kanakares
Euch Visitor	Judy Murdock
<b>10:15 AM</b>	

part of the discussion as well as sharing one's favorite soup will be available on Sunday.