



Godspeed



St. Alban's Newsletter

Volume V, Issue V
May, 2009

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WOSA

(Women of St. Alban's)

Trunk Sale This Summer

The Women of St. Alban's would like to have a Trunk Sale this summer. "What is a Trunk Sale," you ask? It's a twist on the rummage sale. People park their cars in a parking lot and open their trunks to reveal the merchandise they want to sell.

Proceeds from the sale would benefit the furnace fund and WOSA's account. WOSA would decide how much to donate to the furnace fund after the sale. Participants would be allowed to decide how much money they will donate to the church from the sale of their items. The church has a number of furnaces that need to be replaced, some of them very soon, as they are nearing the end of their usefulness.

You could sell your gently used items or you could sell new items such as crafts. The church has tables available for those who might want to display their wares more visibly. The church can provide a receipt for those who want to use this as a tax deduction.

The target date for the sale would be Saturday, June 20th, with a rain date the following Saturday. (June 20th is Father's Day weekend.)

Other ideas WOSA has had for this event include having the men sell hot dogs and the kids sell lemonade, if there is enough interest in doing that.

Before we can proceed with this event, we need to find out if enough people want to participate as vendors. People (men and women) who attend St. Alban's as well as those who participate in our programs but attend another church would be welcome to peddle their wares.

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the social hall of the church. Please sign up by May 10th so we can continue planning for the sale if there are enough participants.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to share them with me.

Thank you!
Gigi

Special points of interest:

- Sunday, May 3rd—CPC Sunday.
- Wednesday, May 13th—Vestry meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, May 17th—WOSA meeting 11:45 a.m.
- Sunday, May 24th—UTO Sunday
- Sunday, May 31st—Ingathering of food for Soup or Socks Pantry.
- Sunday, May 31st—Parish Potluck after 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.



Fr. Walter's Reflections



Fr. Verne Walter

Pentecost (Gr. 'the fiftieth day'): along with the Passover (fifty days before) and the subsequent (autumn) Feast of the Tabernacles, is the third major Jewish feast, which celebrated initially the harvesting of the grain and later the giving of the Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. As a Christian feast, it is the Sunday fifty days after Easter on which the church remembers the bestowal of the gift of the Holy Spirit descending upon the disciples, Peter preached to the people and pilgrims in Jerusalem, and around three thousand accepted his message and were baptized (Acts 2:1-42).



PENTECOST 2009



The name derives from the Greek name of the Jewish Festival of Weeks fifty days after Passover, when the event originally occurred. Because this event signaled the beginning of the apostles' public proclamation of Jesus as the Christ, it is often called the birthday of the Christian church. Because it is also a traditional day for Baptisms, and because people at one time uniformly wore white garments in which to be baptized, the day also became known as Whitsunday (Old English, "White Sunday").

From the *Apostolic Constitutions* and the pilgrim Egeria we have evidence that in the Holy Land Christians already celebrated this feast in the fourth century. The twentieth canon of the First Council of Nicaea (325) speaks of "Pentecost" as the time from Easter till the first Sunday after Pentecost,

a period when fasting was prohibited and prayers, including many Alleluias, were said standing.

Symbols appropriate to Pentecost are those indicating the appearance of God and His Holy Spirit. Chief among these is the dove. The usual symbol of the Holy Spirit is the dove descending, always with the three-rayed nimbus, which indicates divinity. In a more general sense the dove indicates the power of God at work in individuals. Seven doves arranged around a circle symbolize the seven gifts of the Spirit as listed in Isaiah 11:2 – wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, fear of the Lord—plus piety, a seventh gift added by the Septuagint version. Within the circle are sometimes found the two capital letters SS, abbreviations for *Sanctus Spiritus*, Latin

for Holy Spirit.

Red is the liturgical color used for the Day of Pentecost and it symbolizes the flames of fire seen at the time of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in Jerusalem. Red, followed by white for Trinity Sunday; the rest of the season is green, except that in some places the Last Sunday after Pentecost is red or white.

My prayer for Pentecost is: that the Holy Spirit will come among all of us here at St. Alban's, renewing our commitment and ministries to carry on God's work in this place. That we might be embolden to reach for new ideas and new ways to present God's truth and love through the richness of traditional Anglican worship, to those around us.

In His Eternal Love,
Fr. Walter



Deacon's Notes



Deacon Georgeanne Cusic

I come from a family of 5 children, none of whom bear a strong resemblance to each other. In fact, my parents share very few biological traits. My parents, in their marriage, brought together diverse gene pools. Not a bad thing, it turns out, biologically speaking, because diverse genetics often strengthens the ability of organisms to adapt and survive.

You might guess, also, that this mix of genetic appearances among my siblings meant that we were different in our tastes, preferences, attitudes and appetites. In a funny way, that led to more harmony in our midst than might be expected. I think we all grew up knowing that the world was like our family, lots of differences of appearance, preference and attitude. We learned early to accept and tolerate each others' differences. And when we didn't, Mom and Dad stepped in to help us do so.

Perhaps that is one reason I have stayed in the Episcopal Church throughout my life. In Sunday School, I was told that the Episcopal Church believed in the concept of the "Via Media", the middle road. This term is used to describe our theological position of bridging the gap between Catholicism and Protestantism. More importantly, I learned that it meant that we believe in the concept of a broad road of interpretation with regard to religious beliefs. We have a creed and the 39 Articles of Religion, which lay down the foundations of our Episcopal belief. These are printed in the back of our Book of Common Prayer (pg. 867, if you want to look them up.) But we generally subscribe to a broad interpretation of those principles. We believe that God's truth is, in many instances, beyond our comprehension and must be taken on faith. We trust God to implant in us bits of wisdom about his truth. We are willing to live in uncertainty, believing God will give us answers as we need them.

It is by sharing and discussing faith beliefs with others, that I have been drawn into a deeper understanding. The knowledge, experience and understanding of others in their faith journeys have informed my own. That is why I come to church regularly. I cannot find enough of God's truth on my own. I need a community. This is why I study scriptures and other religious writings in a group.

These experiences grow my faith and understanding. They bring me closer to God.

Just like my group of siblings, God has given us unique individuals that people our lives, at home, at work, at church and at play. If he had created us all of one mind and understanding, things would be so much easier. We could all wear the same outfits, eat the same favorite foods, make the same life choices. And we would all be yawning a lot from sheer boredom, I bet! Isn't it all the differences that give spice to our lives. What would it be like to shop for cereals if there was only one flavor? What would we do at the check-out counter without People Magazine and the National Enquirer to gaze at?! We are who we are for a reason, God's reason. There is some God-given value in each of us. God calls us everyday to step outside our self-centered world, to look through a window rather than into a mirror. To see the truth that others have found. Our life in Christ is about sharing who we are and what we have learned about God. When each of us adds our input, our puzzle piece to the table, we all get closer to seeing the whole picture of God.

Come to church, share who you are and what you have learned and listen to what others have to offer. Respect their

unique voices as we all find God in each other. Let us do this with the understanding that God made each of us who we are for a good reason. Respect and honor these differences. It is in this community of Christians, that we will find God!

Paul talks about the mystery and the beauty of the church of God at the end of his 2nd Letter to the Corinthians:

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.”

Amen! Alleluia!

Deacon Georgeanne Cusic

WOSA

(Women of St. Alban's)

WOSA will meet on Sunday, May 17th after coffee hour at 11:45 a.m. All women of St. Alban's are invited to attend their meeting and enjoy their fellowship.

WOSA officers for the 2008-2009 year:

- President—Gigi Plautz
- Vice-President—Louise Greenlaw
- Secretary—Georgeanne Cusic
- Treasurer—Soo Owen

Soup or Socks

Thanks to everyone who worked on our April days. The pantry has been busy lately. The Boy Scout food drive was blessed with a rainy, cold day but brought in good donations. Our storage shelves were almost empty of many staple items so the collection was much needed. Thank you for filling our food basket on the last Sunday of the month!

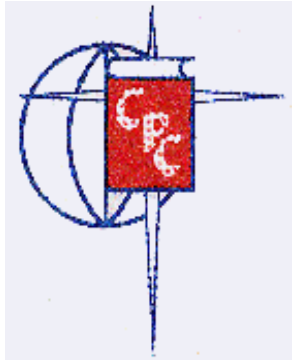
Help Needed!

The May Post Office Food Drive is May 9th. This is the biggest drive of the year. Volunteers are urgently needed to sort, date and box food at First Presbyterian Church on Monday – Wednesday, May 11-14th 9am – 3pm. If you have some free time those days, talk to me or just show up.

Deacon Georgeanne Cusic



CHURCH PERIODICAL CLUB Sunday, May 3rd



is CPC Sunday.

Monies raised during the Church Periodical Club Sunday in-gathering provides grants to individuals, congregations and other groups in the Church to assist them in purchasing written and musical resources they could not otherwise afford. The funds serve new congregations, seminarians in other parts of the Anglican Communion and ministries in the Church which use English, Spanish, French and other language.


The Church Periodical Club was founded in 1888 by Mary Ann Fargo (as in Wells Fargo) at the Church of the Holy Communion in New York City. It is the only organization of the Episcopal Church dedicated solely to providing both religious and secular literature and related materials without charge to those who need and request them and who cannot obtain them otherwise.

Please consider making a financial contribution to this work any time between now and May 3rd. Make checks payable to St. Alban's Episcopal Church and mark the reference on your check that the funds are for "CPC".

+ Christian Symbols +

Descending Dove

The descending dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove" (Matthew 3:16, NIV). The three-rayed nimbus around the dove's head identifies the Spirit as a member of the Trinity. A dove shown without the nimbus is a symbol of peace.



An unforgettable date

A woman told her husband, George, that she wanted him to take another woman on a date. "I love you," she said, "but the woman I have in mind loves you, too, and needs to spend some time with you. It's your mother."

Dutifully, George called his mom and made a date. For the special evening, she chose the dress she'd worn to the last anniversary she and her late husband had celebrated. Mother and son enjoyed chatting so much that they missed their movie. Both left feeling joyous and fulfilled.

Sadly, George's mother died only a few days after their date. He was so happy he'd been able to spend that special time with her.

Right before she died, George's mother sent him this note: "Enclosed are two prepaid tickets for you to have dinner where we had such a pleasant evening together. You'll never know what that night meant for me. I love you, Son."

UNITED THANK OFFERING Sunday, May 24th



is UTO Sunday.

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church.

Through the United Thank Offering, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in the United Thank Offering have discovered that thankfulness leads to generosity.

A short prayer of thanksgiving leads to an offering in the United Thank Offering box. All offerings are used to support grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach of the Episcopal Church.

Many Episcopalians know that the first official United Thank Offering was held in 1889. The money was used to send a woman missionary to Japan and to build a church in Anvik, Alaska. Many also know about the "Blue Box" airplane given to the Bishop of Alaska in the 1950s. Did you know the United Thank Offering has, in many instances, led the church to its work? From its inception, UTO has striven to "expand the mission and ministry of the church" and to "address compelling human need."

Today congregations are encouraged to hold an ingathering twice a year during the spring and fall. Please consider making a financial contribution. Make checks payable to St. Alban's Episcopal Church and mark the reference on your check that the funds are for "UTO".



Treasurer's Report

	March 2009		Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<u>Income</u>	\$ 6,771	\$ 8,470	\$16,968	\$ 22,445
<u>Expenses</u>	\$ 12,534	\$ 14,292	\$ 44,132	\$ 46,013
<u>NET</u>	(\$ 5,763)	(\$ 5,822)	(\$ 27,164)	(\$ 23,568)



To contact the Treasurer:

Thomas Witzel, 912 W. 6th St., Marshfield, WI 54449
 Phone: 715-384-1764

Ministry Opportunities

The following ministry opportunities are open at St. Alban's:

- Altar Guild.
- UTO coordinator.
- Sunday School Teacher.

If you are interested in one of these ministries, contact Fr. Walter. Parish Office 387-1330



This Month's Anniversaries & Birthdays

May	Birthdays	Anniversaries
1	Marla Morgan	
6	Wally Ives	
8		Kelly Villiers and Sarah Gregory
7	Joan Dix	
	Rev. Verne Walter	
10	Jeannie Pitsch	
11	Marguerite Dyke	
22		Fr. Verne & Ruth Walter Andrey & Kim Corrigan-Stojic
24	Adam Schlafke	
25	Augusta Roddis	
27		William & Sandra Eiche
28	Tom Witzel	Bill & Kathryn Manor

If you have a birthday or anniversary in May and your name is not listed above or you find errors either in spelling of your name or date of birthdays and anniversaries, please call the Parish Office so that your records can be updated..



Deadline for June 2009 newsletter: Monday, May, 25, 2009

Items Welcomed

Parishioners are welcomed and encouraged to submit items and notes for the monthly St. Alban's newsletter. Items may be sent via e-mail to: stalbansnewsleter@yahoo.com, left in the newsletter box at church, or by calling the parish office at 387-1330.

Classes Being Offered At St. Alban's

- Baptism:** for all ages.
- First Communion:** instructions for small children with parents on receiving Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Confirmation:** for older children and adults who wish to express faith and commitment to Christ and to be received into the Episcopal Church by prayer and the laying on of hands by the Bishop.
- Contact Fr. Walter. Parish Office 387-1330

May 2009 Service Schedule

Sunday 3 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

10 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

17 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

24 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

31 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS THE 10:00 SERVICE

In emergency call:
Rector: Fr. Verne Walter, Home Ph. 389-8390
Deacon: Rev. Georgeanne Cusic, Phone 387-3087

Parish Office Hours:
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Monday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Tuesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Wednesday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Thursday
9:00 a.m. - Noon, Friday
Closed - Saturday
Closed -- Sunday

Parish Office: 387-1330
Rector: Fr. Verne Walter, 389-8626
SR. WARDEN: Bill Knudson, 384-2500
JR. WARDEN: Jane Frodl-Lubeck, 652-2270
TREASURER: Thomas Witzel, 384-1764

COME WORSHIP WITH US!!

"A welcoming community spreading the joy of Christ's word and love"

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1413 S. Felker Avenue, PO Box 158
Marshfield, WI 54449

May 2009 Newsletter



TO:

*"Bless our God, you peoples,
Make the voice of his praise to be heard;
Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip"*

Psalm 18:46