



Godspeed



St. Alban's Newsletter

Volume V, Issue VII
July, 2009

Bishop's Annual Visitation

St. Alban's welcomes home Bishop Russell Jacobus as our celebrant and preacher on his annual visitation, June 14, 2009.

RECEIVED INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



A special warm welcome to Debra Nyberg-Kraus (bottom left) and Jane Frodl-Lubeck (bottom right) who were Received into The Episcopal Church.

* * * * *

"The Bishop is 'at home' in every congregation"

Ignatius of Antioch, who died as a martyr to Christ in 115 A.D., wrote: "Only that Eucharist is to be considered legitimate which is celebrated under the presidency of the bishop or under that of one the bishop appoints. There, where the bishop appears, let the community be, just as where Jesus Christ is, there is the whole Church."

Many consider the Bishop a visiting dignitary, as one who visits occasionally. The priest who called the bishop's visitation "the bishop's homecoming" expressed a far more theologically correct idea. We are beginning to recover this understanding where the Prayer Book indicates that the bishop, when present, is expected to celebrate, preach, baptize and offer the absolution and blessing.

* * * * *

Inside this issue:

<i>Fr. Walter's Reflection</i>	2
<i>Women of Faith</i>	3
<i>Our Church Is To Be Sold</i>	3
<i>Deacon's Notes</i>	3
<i>Soup or Socks</i>	3
<i>WOSA</i>	3
<i>MEN/SA</i>	4
<i>Evangelicals On The Canterbury Trail</i>	4
<i>Treasurer's Report</i>	5
<i>Birthdays and Anniversaries</i>	5

Special points of interest:

- Wednesday, July 8th—Vestry meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Sunday, July 19th—WOSA meeting 11:45 a.m.
- Sunday, July 26th—Ingathering of food for Soup or Socks Pantry.
- Sunday, July 26th—Parish Potluck after 10:00 a.m. Worship Service.



Fr. Walter's Reflections



Fr. Verne Walter

There are many things about life that cause us to be in fear: serious illness, death, defeat disappointments, national crisis, and changes in the church

to mention a few. Jesus is the one who ministers to our fears, overcomes them, and enables us to live with hope and confidence despite our fears.

I have found in times of change and crisis that it is often beneficial to return to the basics of life. In these times of change and crisis in the church, returning to the beginning of our Anglican heritage will offer us some comfort by telling us once again,

“Who we are as a body of Christ.” and “Who we belong to.”

Steven Curtis Chapman has said: “I have learned that we can control where we allow things that we can't understand to fall. They either fall between us and God, and we become angry. Or we allow these things to fall outside of us and press us in closer to God.

As a new way of approaching our

Anglican heritage, I recommend looking through of eyes of our Evangelical brothers and sisters in a book: *Evangelicals on the Canterbury Trail* by Robert E. Webber.

See Tom Witzel's article on page 4. It provides additional information from a personal prospective.

Be blessed on your journey.

In His Eternal Love,
Fr. Walter

Woman Of Faith To Use Max Lucado's “Facing Your Giants” Study Guide



There will be a Women of Faith Meeting and luncheon with faith sharing based on *Facing Your Giants* by Max Lucado. This group meets every Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. All are welcome, bring a finger food to share for lunch and invite your friends and neighbors!

Our Church Is To Be Sold

Our church is to be sold! Yes, our church is to be sold! No, we are not about to lose our building through foreclosure or repudiated debt. However, our church must be sold to the city and county. It has been planted to wield an influence beyond its membership and walls. Thus, we are presented with an enormous challenge.

Our church must be sold to the unchurched! There are scores of people in our community who would attend our church and join in the Lord's service if we would bother to sell our church to them.

How much is our church worth to you? How much do you value its ministry? How much do you value the Christ it proclaims? As a member of this church, you are selling your church to others every day. Are you selling it short? Has it helped you to the extent that you're willing to sell it to others? Will you be enthusiastic in talking about your church? Will you share your church with others who have no idea what they're missing?

Take our church seriously and talk to people about what our church has to offer them.



Deacon's Notes



Deacon Georgeanne Cusic

How lucky that Pentecost comes during the most beautiful season of the year (in my opinion, anyway). Summer: when things are growing so fast you can see it, cottonwood and dandelion seeds are floating around in the air like spirits, fireflies light up the evening lawn and the warm breezes welcome us outdoors. How easy it is to see God's marvelous hand in our world, in fruits and flowers, in baby birds and bunnies and the children outside at play, in the power of thunder and lightening storms.

At Pentecost, God breathed his spirit into our early Christian brothers and sisters. Those around who witnessed it were able to hear God in their own tongue. God came to them through his closest followers. On that day, God started a pattern

that would keep his band of faithful followers growing from then on. The pattern is for those of us who have heard or felt God calling us to reach out and translate what we have heard in word or action so that others might hear it, too. We who have been touched by God know that he offers us love, healing, forgiveness, peace, comfort, community and so much more. We are called to share what we know of God to those around us.

The world continually offers us distractions that draw our focus away from God and his purpose for our lives. We find it hard to hear and remember God's call in the midst of earthly temptations that give us instant gratification. I don't know about you, but in summer, Dairy Queen and Culvers continually call to me. When I drive by, it is all I can do not to stop! And it's so easy. I can get a quick cone and enjoy it in a matter of minutes. I have done this just for myself. At one of the Assisted Living homes in town, one of the family members showed up with small milkshakes for everyone. Was that ever a welcome surprise! And what a great way to use the world's pleasures to connect and bring love and healing to lonely folks. After all, God doesn't say we can't have ice cream. He just asks us to share.

How many times do we overlook opportunities like this to bring pleasure to more than just ourselves? God is calling you and I to be alert to ways to reach out in love to those around us who we can see need caring for. Who are those people in your area? They may be children on your block who have single parents short on time and energy after all they must do alone. It may be an elderly couple who don't get out much because of physical constraints. Maybe it's a family member going through a hard time who would love a phone call. Maybe it's a single person who needs some social life but has a hard time fitting in with the couples around. Try sharing some cookies or just stop in to say hi. Any act of kindness is gratefully accepted! And, the more you connect, the more you will see the needs that exist.

We all received Christ's spirit in our baptism. It is there that we (usually through our godparents) pledge to carry out God's pattern for our lives. As we participate in subsequent baptisms as members of a church we get a chance to repeat that pledge. You can find it on pages 304-5 in the Book of Common Prayer. We have all pledged to read the Bible, to receive communion, to resist evil, to

repent of sins, to share Christ's message in word and deed, to seek out and care for our neighbors and to strive for justice and peace for all people. This is a hefty pledge! How often do we think of it and uphold it?

It's just like the guidance about how to eat an elephant: just one bite at a time... God has given us much to do. More than any of us will ever complete (sort of like our boss at work.) But it begins with just one spoonful. Make mine a turtle sundae, please!

Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22

Deacon Georgeanne Cusic

Soup or Socks

April and May are always busy months at SOS. The largest food drives happen during that span. First, the Boy Scout drive and then, the weekend of Mother's Day, it's the Post Office collection. These drives fill our storerooms and should keep us in food well into the fall. The drives were very successful this year, but we received a good deal more expired food than in the past. It takes much work to sort and check dates on this food.

This year we were very short of volunteers to help with the intake process. For the Post Office drive, it takes 3-4 days to do the work. It isn't hard, just

time consuming. A few hardy souls, including myself and Bill Kolpanen, sorted through boxes of food and filled boxes for storage. Bill was a great help!

Next year, SOS will seek to involve more volunteers in this project. I am alerting you now so you can put the week after Mother's Day on your calendar. Workers are welcome through the day and evening hours. Even an hour is a big help. Or maybe St. Albans could set one evening to work together.

Thanks for filling the Basket to overflowing at the end-of-the-month collection Sundays. I am so proud of my

church that we continue to share so willingly with those going through hard times. "There but for the Grace of God" go all of us!

Deacon Georgeanne Cusic

WOSA

(Women of St. Alban's)

WOSA will meet on Sunday, July 19th 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



Evangelicals On The Canterbury Trail

By Robert Webber

We have been blessed this past week, by a visit from Kathleen O'Connell, a long-time dear friend beginning with our Chester, NJ days in 1975. Kathleen and her husband Joe were on the search committee which called us from Bowling Green, Ohio...and we have remained close friends ever since. Joe died of Cancer some ten years ago, and after a few years, Kathleen chose to move from the northeast into the southwest Phoenix area (close to our Sun City area) where we were able to regularly renew our close friendship.

But it is not her geographical pilgrimage of which I want to write, but her spiritual pilgrimage. Please understand, her personal saving relationship with Jesus was well established when I knew her in Chester, but (like all of us, I hope) she continued to search for ever deeper expressions of her faith. After her move to SW Phoenix, she became quite involved at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. And then she surprised nearly everyone (except myself, having shared with her for 30-some years), by becoming a confirmed member of the Roman Catholic Church. If you ask her about her unusual spiritual pilgrimage, she will smile joyfully and say, "It has been a journey!"

She gave me a most interesting book, written by Robert Webber, entitled: Evangelicals On The Canterbury Trail. As this describes Sara and myself, I have been reading it with great joy and resonance. It tells the story of HIS pilgrimage into the Anglican Church, along with a half-dozen other prominent Evangelicals. Let me quote just two excerpts from the introduction:

"Why would I, the son of a Baptist minister, become an Episcopalian? Why would I, a graduate of Bob Jones University, walk the Canterbury trail? Why would I, an ordained minister of the Reformed Presbyterian denomination, forsake my orders? Why would I, a professor at a main-line evangelical college risk misunderstanding and put my career in possible jeopardy to follow my heart?"

"My pilgrimage into the Anglican tradition is no repudiation of orthodoxy. Rather it is the affirmation of six aspects of orthodoxy that were not adequately fulfilled for me in my Christian experience...For me, Anglicanism preserves in its worship and sacraments the sense of mystery that rationalistic Christianity or either the liberal or evangelical sort seems to deny. I found myself longing for an experience of worship that went beyond either emotionalism or intellectualism ...I also felt a need for visible and tangible symbols that I could touch, feel, and experience with my senses. This need is met in the reality of Christ presented to me through the sacraments. These three needs—mystery, worship, and sacraments—are closely related."

He affirms throughout, the validity and importance of traditional evangelicalism, and also affirms that his pilgrimage is NOT For everyone. Make you want to read the book?

The Rev. Thomas Witzel

Men of St. Alban's At Work



On Saturday, June 13th, the Men of St. Alban's gathered on the parish parking lot at 10:00 a.m. to begin the process of spreading new mulch in the flower beds around the church building and in the parking lot. By 11:30 a.m. all was finished. Many thanks from the Parish family to the Men of St. Alban's for the hard work. The grounds and flower beds look beautiful.



Ron Lubeck unloading mulch for the flower beds and John Pitsch on the wheelbarrow.

Bill Kolpanen unloading mulch for the flower beds.



Ron Lubeck and Stephen Koontz spreading mulch in parking lot flower bed.



Treasurer's Report

	May 2009		Year-to-Date	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<u>Income</u>	\$ 4,438	\$ 4,982	\$ 27,032	\$ 35,114
<u>Expenses</u>	\$ 7,109	\$ 12,122	\$ 73,432	\$ 75,133
<u>NET</u>	(\$ 2,671)	(\$ 7,140)	(\$ 46,400)	(\$ 40,019)



To contact the Treasurer:

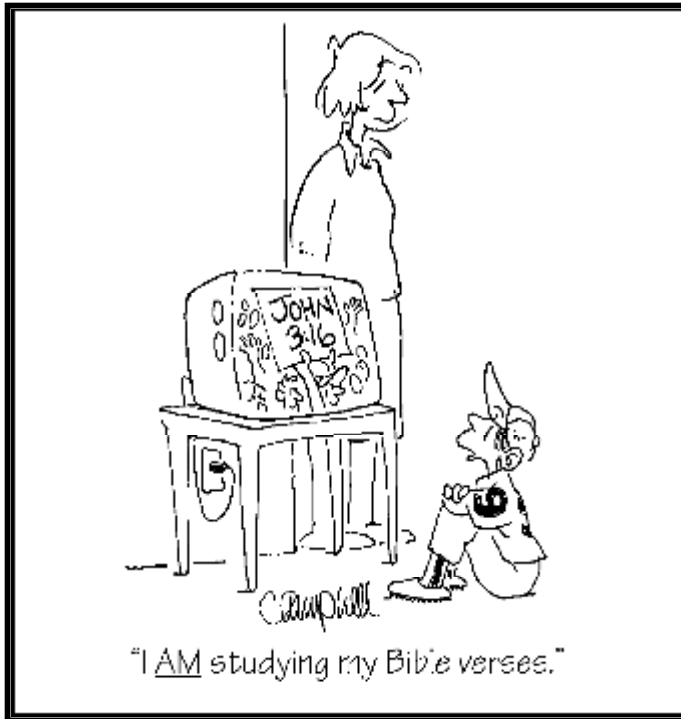
Thomas Witzel, 912 W. 6th St., Marshfield, WI 54449
 Phone: 715-384-1764

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

July	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Anniversaries</u>
4	Aidan Connor Stojic	
7	John Pitsch	
10	Rebecca Bartow	
15		Tom & Yvonne DeJean
16	Tom Bartow	
18	Joe Bartow	
19	Sybil Basombrio	
20	Soo Owen	
25	Sarah Witzel	
28		Tom & Rebecca Bartow

If you have a birthday or anniversary in July 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..

Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for August 2009 newsletter: Monday, July 20, 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

July 2009 Service Schedule

Sunday 5 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

12 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

19 - 7:30 a.m. Eucharist Rite I
10:00 a.m. Eucharist Rite II

26 - 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

July 2009 Newsletter



TO:

*Weeping may spend the night,
But joy comes in the morning.*

Psal m 30: 6