



# St. Alban's Episcopal Church,

## Announcements for Sunday, December 18, 2016

Welcome!

The people of St. Alban's warmly welcome you. We are glad you're here! We look forward to getting to know you and supporting you on your journey with God and neighbor. We invite you to the Parish Life Center Assembly Room for light refreshments after the service.



**Jesus calls us by name and we are called to know one another by name.** If you need a new name tag or have never had one, please email Lisa Kittel at [lisa@stalbansaustin.org](mailto:lisa@stalbansaustin.org) or look for the name tag signup sheet in the lobby of the Parish Life Center.



### Base Camp Blessings

St. Alban's is our church home, our base camp where we are fed, where we share stories, where we wrestle together weekly with what it means to be faithful in our daily life and work. Last Sunday, we spotlighted Senior Serenity and Klickety-Klack. Want to know more? Check out the binder in the lobby of the Parish Life Center! You can also contact the Rev. Ann Brotherton at [revannbrotherton@gmail.com](mailto:revannbrotherton@gmail.com) (Senior Serenity), and Sheila Hancock at [shancock5@austin.rr.com](mailto:shancock5@austin.rr.com) (Klickety-Klack).



### Today we spotlight the Community of Hope.

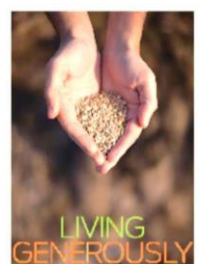
*"A School for God's Service" | Rule of St. Benedict, Prologue, Vs. 45*

Community of Hope was created in 1994 as a way of equipping lay chaplains in the art of pastoral care and as a way of supporting those whose ministry is the care of others, in our church family and in all areas of life.

"It's about the skills and the practices of spiritual life that prepares each one of us to be open to the other...to believe and trust that the hospitality of the Christian faith is to look for the Christ in the other person, and as

we approach them to serve them and in humility provide ministry to them. Our prayer is that the stranger will receive us and look for the Christ in us." — Rev. Dr. Helen Appelberg

Want to know more? Check out the magnetic board in the lobby of the Parish Life Center or contact Katherine Muhlenbruch at [lkmuhlenbruch@gmail.com](mailto:lkmuhlenbruch@gmail.com).



### Living Generously (Psalm 112:4-6) Annual Season of Giving Update

All the blessings of this life are gifts from God. Stewardship is the Christian term for how we use or steward time, talent/skills, and money/treasure. **Stewardship is thanksgiving, using God's gifts (that are on loan to us) to fund God's mission, sharing that is generous like the Lord's love.**

### Why pledge? Why not simply give on Sundays during the offering?

The majority of our ministry expenses-materials for worship and Christian education, building utilities, outreach ministries, personnel, parish life supplies-are funded by St. Alban's parishioners. St. Alban's would not exist without the generosity of parishioners offering time, talent, *and* treasure. Having a sense of what people hope to share financially by way of pledges helps the Finance Committee craft a more faithful ministry funding plan for the parish.

### What happens if things change and I can't pay my full pledge?

We understand that circumstances change. All are welcome at St. Alban's whether they pledge or not, and whether or not they can fulfill their pledge. So, please, make your best guess, do your best, and know you are loved regardless.

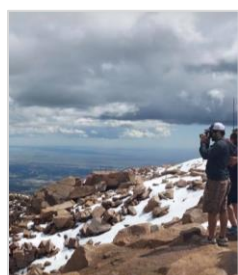
### Do YOU pledge, Rev. Erin?

Yes, I do! I have pledged 10% of my gross income to St. Alban's in 2017. My husband and I have pledged a proportion of his income to St. Alban's as well. We make other charitable donations, but we see funding God's mission through St. Alban's as a critical part of our following Jesus. I understand that St. Alban's may be one of many places where you share money; this is a good thing. I hope that you'll prayerfully consider pledging to St. Alban's.



### All are invited to the Annual Fireside Christmas This Evening at 5:00 p.m.

This special evening of fellowship, good food, and singing begins at 5:00 pm with the children's play, "Bethlehem's Little Boy." Following the performance, the youth will serve "Christmas Dinner," complete with ham and all the sides. The evening will end with all voices practicing Christmas Carols. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children. All proceeds go toward the Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) Mission Trip in 2017. Our intergenerational mission team will be traveling to Denver in June of 2017 to encounter God in those we serve and serve alongside. Thank you for supporting our children and youth ministries!



### Advent Daily Photo Challenge! #pictureadvent

Each day in Advent we offer a different Scripture verse and word for the day on our St. Alban's Facebook page. We invite to use the Scripture reading and theme to inspire a daily photo. You can post the photo on Facebook, Instagram, wherever you like with the hashtag #pictureadvent and/or a hashtag with the word for the day. The picture you see is one from Debbie Staub for the word #Go from **Sunday, December 11**. The Scripture was **Matthew 11:2-11**.

(More announcements on back.)



You shop. Amazon gives.

Give Christmas Gifts to Friends, Family, and St. Alban's Ministries at the Same Time

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support St. Alban's every time you shop, at no cost to you. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible items to St. Alban's. If you already have an Amazon account, go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and login. You will be asked to select a charitable organization. Select "St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Manchaca" before you begin shopping. Once you've made that selection, you will see "Supporting: St. Alban's Episcopal Church" under the search bar and every eligible purchase you make

at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation. *Purchasing through Amazon.com or the Amazon app will not result in a donation.*



Sign-up for Christmas Poinsettias Today.

Sign-up sheets are located in the lobby of the Parish Life Center. Each pot costs \$12. Poinsettias will adorn our church on Christmas Eve and the following Sundays, December 25 & January 1. Then, you can take them home. (The Altar Guild will bring them down from the altar and will take them to the Assembly Room during coffee hour for you to pick-up, or the flower deliverers will take them to hospitals, nursing homes, homebound parishioners, etc.)



This Wednesday, December 21, Chili's Give Back Event, South Park Meadows, Austin

Join us at Chili's at South Park Meadows, Austin on Wednesday, December 21 from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. Tell your server that you're there to support St. Alban's, Austin, and 15% of the proceeds will go towards funding God's mission through St. Alban's ministries. *Thank you for your support.*



Christmastide at St. Alban's

All ages welcome to celebrate the 12 days of Christmas. Quiet bags and cry room available; nursery closed on Dec. 24, 25, and Jan. 1

Christmas Eve - December 24

5:30p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

10:45p.m. Prelude Music begins

11:00p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist with Lessons & Carols  
St. Alban's Choirs, Soloists, and Violinist

Christmas Day - December 25

10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist with Music

The Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

January 1, 2017 Schedule

10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist with music and Children's Chapel

Please note the Parish Office will be closed from December 26 - January 2 for Christmas and New Year break. The office will reopen on January 3, 2017.



The Feast of the Epiphany Parish Wide Celebration-January 6, 2017

St. Alban's Twelfth Night Party for the Feast of the Epiphany on Friday 1/6 at 6:30p.m. We will begin with a short service of readings and music before processing to the Assembly Room for King Cake, stories, crafts, and a special Epiphany Service Project. Save your used (in good condition) Christmas gift bags please! We also invite all to bring donations of new or gently used warm items like hats, blankets, scarves, gloves, or socks (new socks please). Items can be brought directly to the party on 1/6, or starting this Sunday they can be placed in the lobby of the Parish Life Center. All ages are welcome. Contact Marcy Leonard at [marleonard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marleonard@sbcglobal.net) or Catherine LaGrone at [catherine@stalbansaustin.org](mailto:catherine@stalbansaustin.org).



Summer Camp 2017 Scholarships, Application Deadline, January 3

The St. Alban's Chapter of The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is offering to the youth of St. Alban's an **Albert S. Bowles Memorial Grant** for Summer Camp at Camp Allen 2017. **This is a 50% Grant (half the cost of the full cost for attending Camp Allen Summer Camp).** An application can be picked up in the lobby of the Parish Life Center. Each applicant must fill out the application and when completed may be given to a member of the Brotherhood or may be dropped off at the Parish office. **Deadline for application submission is Tuesday January 3, 2017.** Applicants must be in **Grade through 12.**