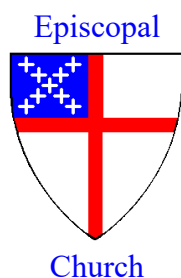


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbandsyracuse.org
Church email: stalbands.syr@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector
Email: julieatalban@gmail.com
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church
400 W. Yates Street
East Syracuse, NY 13057
Find the Sunday Service on Facebook
facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse
Email: emmanuel13057@gmail.com

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

January 11, 2023

Dear Friends,

Did you ever have one of those days? I did yesterday. My son, who has a rare neurological condition, had a terrible reaction to the latest COVID booster, so I needed to stay home with him. (He's ok now!) Unfortunately, my laptop was on my desk at St. Alban's. I planned to retrieve it later in the day, but when I picked up my dog at 3:30 p.m. after her surgery it was clear that I needed to stay home with her. So this morning I needed to pick up my laptop at St. Alban's before heading over to Emmanuel. Before I left my husband came unexpectedly through the front door from work. Could I follow him to Dunn Tire to drop off my daughter-in-law's car and then bring him back home so he could get in his car and go back to work? They had a cancellation and her car needed tending to. So off we went.

I tell you all this as a preamble to what I really want to write about: heaven is always open! Last weekend we celebrated the Baptism of our Lord. When Jesus was baptized heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit came down in the form of a dove. In Mark's Gospel we're told that they were ripped open/torn apart. The root word is our word schism. Something very unusual is happening here in the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. At the end of Jesus' public ministry - Jesus' death on the cross - the curtain of the Temple was torn in two. This is the curtain that covered the Holy of Holies in the very center of the Temple, where God was thought to dwell. Only the high priest entered the Holy of Holies and then only once a year on the Day of Atonement or Yom Kippur. Through Jesus the heavens were opened and now remain open. Through Jesus we have access to God at all times through prayer. No longer do we have to say with Isaiah: Seek the Lord while he wills to be found. Call upon him when he draws near. We never have to wonder if God is available. We never have to wait for God to intervene. God is ever-present in our lives and in the world. Christian hymns eloquently express God's nearness and care.

The soul that to Jesus hath fled for repose, I will not, I will not, desert to its foes.
That soul though all hell shall endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake. (Hymn ?)

Other refuge have I none, hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me!
All my trust on thee is stayed; all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing. (Hymn 699, v.2)

So whether you're having one of those days, or whether you're having one of those years, God will never leave you. In fact, God is waiting for your prayer right now!

Mother Julie+

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Saturday Emmanuel 4:15 p.m.: Coffee hour
* 5:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist

Sunday St. Alban's 8:30 a.m.: Bible Study
* 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist
10:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour
11:00 a.m.: Vestry

Wednesday Emmanuel * 2:00 p.m.: Bible Study



* also on Zoom

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel: **812 9701 3112 & 381729**

Sunday

9:30 a.m. St. Alban's: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Tuesday

7:00 p.m. St. Alban's Vestry (link will be sent)

Thursday

Rule of Life (link will be sent)
6:00 p.m. Eat and chat
6:30 p.m. Meeting

Use your telephone for Zoom

Dial **1-646-558-8656**

When prompted Enter

When prompted Enter

When prompted Enter

That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

826 9515 6305#

#

446765#

Other Events

First number#

Second number#

Mother Julie's Schedule January 13-19

Saturday

Emmanuel

4:00-6:30 pm

Sunday

St. Alban's

8:10-12:00

Tuesday

St. Alban's

9:45-8:45

Wednesday

Emmanuel

10:00-5:30

Thursday

St. Alban's

12:00-8:00

Monday & Friday

Days off

St. Alban's Annual Meeting is January 29

Elect one Warden and three Vestry Members

Continental Breakfast

Rector and Vestry Reports