

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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Emmanuel Episcopal Church
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The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant,
Priest-in-Charge

January 18, 2022

Dear Friends,

Today we celebrate the Confession of St. Peter and next Tuesday we mark the Conversion of St. Paul. This is the week when our various denominations come together in unity. Pulpit exchanges and other events are planned to recognize that we all worship Jesus Christ as the Son of God. Today's subject, then, is Peter and next week, Paul.

First the word "confession" - when we hear the word we tend to associate it with the confession of sin. What's meant here, however, is Peter's confession of faith in Jesus as the Messiah. In Matthew's Gospel we read, "When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:13-19)

The Peter we first meet in the Gospels is a far cry from the man who became one of the key missionaries in Christianity's infancy and who is remembered as the first Pope. When Peter met Jesus he was an uneducated fisherman who acted impulsively and was slow to understand how Jesus was redefining the meaning of Messiah. The first time that Jesus told his disciples that he was to undergo great suffering at the hands of the Jewish leaders and be killed, and on the third day be raised, Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Jesus, saying, "God forbid it. Lord! This must never happen to you." (16:21-22). It was Peter who attempted to walk on water and sank and who denied his Lord three times.

Yet it was also Peter who after Jesus' resurrection boldly proclaimed him as Lord and Savior in the temple and streets of Jerusalem and all the way to Rome. He risked his life on numerous occasions and eventually was crucified in Rome. Tradition has it that he requested he be crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to be crucified as Jesus was. As we read about Peter's struggles and stumbles and triumphs it reminds us that God can and does use anyone who devotes themselves to the work and ministry of Jesus Christ. Simon became Peter, the "Rock" through the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost because he offered himself for God's service. May each of us do the same and see where the Holy Spirit will lead us and our churches.

Mother Julie+

**St. Alban's Annual Meeting
Sunday, January 30 at 9:30 a.m.**

Elect
One Warden for a 2 year term
Three Vestry for 3 year terms
One Vestry for 1 year term

**Emmanuel's Annual Meeting
Saturday, April 23 at 4:15 p.m.**

Linda Anderson and I were searching records and found a document from 1983 that legally changed the date of the Annual Meeting to between April 1 and 15, unless Easter was later. Then it is held one week after Easter.

In Person Schedule

Saturday	Emmanuel	Coffee Hour: 4:15 pm	Worship: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday	St. Alban's	Bible Study: 8:30 a.m.	Worship: 9:30 a.m.
		Coffee Hour: 10:30 a.m.	
Wednesday	Emmanuel	Bible Study: 2:00 p.m.	

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: **835 9000 0245 & 562087**
9:30 a.m. St. Alban's Holy Eucharist: **826 9515 6305 & 446765**

Use your telephone for Zoom

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

Dial 1-646-558-8656
When prompted Enter **826 9515 6305#**
When prompted Enter **#**
When prompted Enter **446765#**
That will put you in Zoom's waiting room.

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: **824 6993 1403 & 680299**

Wednesday

2:00 p.m. Bible Study: **840 0349 8213 & 586548**

Mother Julie's Schedule for January 22-28

Emmanuel

Saturday: 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

St. Alban's

Sunday: 8:10-11:30 a.m.
Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Thursday: Off for moving van!

Days Off

Monday
Friday