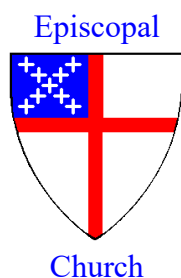


St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
1308 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718  
Website: [stalbandsyracuse.org](http://stalbandsyracuse.org)  
Church email: [stalbands.syr@gmail.com](mailto:stalbands.syr@gmail.com)

The Rev. Julie E. Calhoun-Bryant, Rector  
Email: [julieatalban@gmail.com](mailto:julieatalban@gmail.com)  
Cell: 315-416-7133



Emmanuel Episcopal Church  
400 W. Yates Street  
East Syracuse, NY 13057  
Find the Sunday Service on Facebook  
Website:  
[facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse](https://facebook.com/emmanueleastsyracuse)

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

January 25, 2022

Dear Friends,

Last Tuesday we celebrated the Confession of St. Peter and today we celebrate the Conversion of St. Paul. This was 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 Paul.

Until he became a Christian Paul was known as Saul. In Philippians he proclaims, "If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless." (3:4b-6) Zealous about the purity of the Jewish faith Saul traveled for the purpose of arresting Christians and bringing them back to Jerusalem in chains for trial. He did everything in his power to stamp out the newly forming Christianity. Then one day when he was on the road to Damascus, Syria with letters authorizing him to arrest Christians, Paul was blinded by a brilliant light and Jesus spoke to him, asking "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" When Saul asked who was speaking to him Jesus replied, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." (Acts 9)

After his dramatic conversion experience Paul zealously proclaimed that Jesus was Lord and Savior throughout Europe. All of the energy he put into persecuting Christians he now put into making Christians by preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ. All of the education in the Hebrew Scripture he had received in his training to be a Pharisee he now used to persuade people that the God of Israel had acted decisively in Jesus' death and resurrection.

Paul was passionate, hot-headed, and argumentative. He was tenacious and long-suffering. He writes to the Corinthians, "Five times I have received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I received a stoning. Three times I was shipwrecked; for a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from bandits, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers and sisters; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, hungry and thirsty, often without food, cold and naked." (2 Cor. 11:24-27) And on top of that he suffered from a physical ailment that three times he asked Jesus to cure, and three times received the answer that Jesus' "grace was sufficient."

Paul never stopped proclaiming Jesus as Lord until he drew his final breath. The churches he planted and filled with former pagans are largely responsible for the survival of the infant Church. The letters he wrote still inspire, inform and teach us today. Paul threw his entire being into his faith, warts and all. In the end he was able to write, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." Praise be to God that he did.

Mother Julie+

**Coming in February:  
Thursday Evenings on Zoom**

6:00 p.m. Gather and share dinner from your home  
6:30 p.m. Classes led by Mother Julie on Grace (3rd), Forgiveness (10th),  
Redemption (17th) and Group's Choice (24th)  
**Zoom Codes - 861 7759 3272 & 295096**

**The Bishop is Coming!**

Emmanuel: March 26 and St. Alban's: April 24

If you are interested in being confirmed or received into The Episcopal Church please speak to Mother Julie soon. At St. Alban's Donnie, Tendai and Terri are being confirmed or received.

**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.	

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**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**

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 9:30 a.m.**

**826 9515 6305#**

**#**

**446765#**

**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 29-February 3**

**Emmanuel**

Saturday: 3:30-6:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**St. Alban's**

Sunday

Tuesday: In at 9:30 a.m.

Thursday: In at Noon

**Days Off**

Monday

Friday

## **St. Alban's Annual Meeting**

**Sunday, January 30 beginning at 9:30 a.m.**

### Nominations

- 1 Warden: Gelene Lewis  
2 Vestry, 3 Year Terms: Steve Pekich and Terri Tighe  
1 Vestry, 1 Year Term: Jan Bookhout

If the slate is full nominations are not allowed from the floor  
per our by-laws.

### Procedure

- 1) Holy Eucharist with music by St. Alban's Quartet and Rector's Address
- 2) Opening of the meeting and the polls, Treasurer's report
- 3) Fellowship Time: those in person will adjourn to the Fellowship Room for refreshments prepared by the Vestry. Those on Zoom are encouraged to bring their own refreshments to enjoy at home while chatting with those on Zoom.
- 4) Regather in the church with those on Zoom for Rector's report and honoring of those who have completed their term on Vestry

### Technical Difficulties

- Last Sunday I discussed with those on Zoom what to do if technical difficulties arise. Please use the chat function on the Zoom menu to send me a message. I also will have my cell phone with me and ask someone to monitor it so people can text messages. There's not much I can do if the connection is poor, but at times the computer puts me on mute without my knowledge, usually when I am moving the laptop.
- David will videotape the reports and post it on our website.
- A PDF of the Annual Report will be sent out with the Zoom link.

St. Alban's,  
a Community founded in **CHRIST'S LOVE**,  
*Joyfully* seeking to live our faith,  
reaching out to **ALL** God's people.