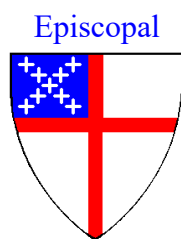


St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbansyracuse.org
Facebook: stalbanschurhsyr
Church email: stalbans.syr@gmail.com



Church

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
Facebook: emmanueleastsyracuse
Email: emmanuel13057@gmail.com
Website: emmanueleastsyracuse.org

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

Food Drive for InterFaith Works 20+ Food Pantries

Through October 31

Pasta and Sauce
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Canned Vegetables
Soups/Ramen
Ensure
Cake mix/frosting



Canned Tuna/Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Cereal/Oatmeal
Baby formula
Pancake mix/syrup
Flour and sugar
Mayo
Shelf Stable Milk

Philippians 3:4b-10

Paul writes: 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.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Mother Julie's Sermon on October 7/8

Why does Paul regard all of his qualifications as rubbish? Why is his decades of education to become a Pharisee no longer of value to him? I ponder this, in part, because of my own qualifications to be an Episcopal priest: 4 years of college and 3 years of seminary. I couldn't do what I do without that education. Many of you couldn't do what you do without your own education and training. So, what does Paul mean by this?

I think we need to go back to last week's reading from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul writes about Jesus, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking on the form of a slave, being born of human likeness." Jesus did not regard his divinity as something to be exploited, so he emptied himself to become a newborn baby. We usually only think about this at Christmas, but we literally cannot imagine how hard that must have been to do for the Son of God. Then Jesus emptied himself a second time in his human life. He left behind his family, his profession and skill as a carpenter, a home in which to return each night, to do God's will.

God the Son's love for both God the Father and humanity led to his emptying himself to become one of us. During his earthly ministry Jesus did not exploit or abuse his divine power. He used it sparingly, and always in accordance with God's will. Being one with God, having faith and trust in God, being obedient to God, was the center of Jesus' human existence. It was all that mattered to him. And Paul says to the Philippians, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus." What did that mean for him, to have the same mind as Christ Jesus? He counts all his accomplishments as nothing because of "the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." Knowing and serving Jesus as his Lord is the only thing that mattered to Paul. He upended his entire life to follow Jesus. That doesn't mean that Paul didn't use his many skills in his service to Christ. His vast knowledge of Scripture and his skill in public speaking that he learned as a Pharisee were put to very good use as a Christian missionary and founder of churches. A tentmaker by trade, he used that as a means to support himself so that he would not be a burden on anyone.

After Paul's dramatic conversion to Christianity when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus, Paul learned a deep humility. He considered himself a slave to Jesus, whose only purpose in life was to do Christ's bidding. Every skill he had acquired was now exercised on behalf of Jesus. Paul emptied himself of pride and selfish ambition, and calls us to do the same.

The parable in Matthew 21 that Jesus tells in today's Gospel against the chief priests and elders of the people is a stark example of what happens when those who are to serve God serve themselves instead. In the story the owner of the vineyard, who represents God, builds a fine vineyard, rents it to tenants, and travels out of the country. When it's time to collect the produce owed to him as rent the tenants - who represent the chief priests, elders, and Pharisees - refuse to pay it. They seized the slaves, who represent the many prophets God sent to call them to repentance, beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Finally, as a last resort, the owner of the vineyard sent his son, saying, "Surely they will respect my son." Instead, the tenants said among themselves, "This is the heir; let's kill him and claim the vineyard as our own." And they did. Jesus' parable ends with God taking away the vineyard from the current tenants and giving it to new tenants.

Jesus' accusation against the chief priest, elders, and Pharisees, as illustrated by his parable, is that they were not serving God with all their heart, mind, soul, and strength. They were neglecting the heart of the duties as leaders of the people and serving themselves. 90% of the population were peasants, many of whom had been forced to sell their family land and hire themselves out to the new owner to work the land that was once theirs. They were forced to sell because of the high taxes imposed on them by the Romans, the extortion practiced by tax collectors, and the taxes imposed to support the priesthood. The Temple in Jerusalem had become the national bank where all debt records were restored. Working together, Caiaphas (High Priest) and Pilate (Roman Governor) kept this going for eighteen years. No wonder the Jewish people were longing for the Messiah to come and free them from this tyranny!

Jesus considered himself God's servant, called to do God's bidding. Anything that interfered with that had to be counted as loss. Paul considered himself a slave of Jesus Christ and gave up a comfortable life and successful career because to him knowing and serving Jesus Christ was more valuable than anything else.

True Christian faith causes us to reexamine our own values and priorities. Let me ask you 3 questions to ponder.

- 1) What do you hold onto too tightly?
- 2) What, other than God, do you rely on too much?
- 3) Do you regard your worth as stemming from your status as a child of God, or from a human status attained through education, position, or wealth?

What foundation is your life built on? Let it be the rock, which is Christ. Amen.



A Change Up for Second Thursday!



October 12 at St. Alban's

6:00 p.m. Dinner is Chinese takeout. Cost is \$7. Please sign up or call the office!

7:00 p.m. Concert Preview with vocalists Katerina Skafidas and Kyle Seniw, and Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas on piano. Those who have heard Kat & Kyle sing for us on Sunday know that we're in for a real treat. On Zoom too! Kat has a Master's Degree in Opera from the New England Conservatory. They'll perform at St. David's on Saturday, Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. as part of a concert series. A freewill offering to support Kat and Kyle will be taken.

Zoom Codes: 836 0660 6389 and 371096



Emmanuel's Rummage and

Bake Sale is October 14!

10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Church Secretary News for Both Churches

Valerie, St. Alban's secretary, is retiring for medical reasons. Her last day will be Thursday, October 12. Val is training Lisa Wojtaszek, Emmanuel's secretary, to be her replacement. Emmanuel is giving up secretary coverage on Thursday and St. Alban's is giving up coverage on Wednesday. Lisa will work a longer day for both churches than currently scheduled.

**Lisa's New
Hours Begin
Oct. 17**

St. Alban's, 9:00-2:00
Emmanuel, 10:00-4:00
St. Alban's, 9:00-2:00

You are welcome to call Lisa any time!
St. Alban's: 315-446-3490
Emmanuel: 315-463-4310

Valerie Warfield's Retirement Lunch

October 19 at noon at the Olive Garden

Let Mother Julie know if you can come. We will phone ahead with the number of people attending.



Christmas Cards Needed for Loretto Residents

This is the time of year when charitable organizations send us Christmas cards in the mail as part of asking for a donation. Don't throw them away! Residents at Loretto can use them to send greetings to their family and friends.

The fronts of used Christmas cards also are accepted and used as decorations. Bring in your cards and Chaplain Kate Bell will bring them to Loretto.

Emmanuel
Wednesday, October 18
3:15 p.m. at the church



St. Alban's
Tuesday, October 24
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

From Emmanuel's Special Vestry Meeting on October 4

A Proposal for Parish Hall Rental was passed and will be actively marketed to area businesses in time for the Christmas Party season. Many thanks to Lauren Wojtalewski who is spearheading the plan to get the word out. The hope is that we can begin to close the \$28,000 gap in the parish budget with this additional income.

Times

Friday: 12:00-4:00 p.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:30-3:30 p.m. and 7:00-10:00 p.m.

Weekdays: Contact us for availability

Family Celebration: Birthday, Anniversary, Holiday meal

Up to 40 people: \$200

41-85 People: \$300

Business Party/Wedding/Bridal Shower/Gender Reveal Party

Up to 40 People: \$300

41-85 People: \$450

\$75 clean up fee will be added if the renter does not choose to clean up after their event.

Agreement will include that those who rent the hall provide proof of insurance, such as a one

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are Welcome!

Saturday	Emmanuel Home	* 4:15 p.m.: Coffee Hour 5:00 p.m.: Holy Eucharist, Church School on Oct. 7 and 21
Sunday	St. Alban's	* 8:30 a.m.: Bible Study * 9:30 a.m.: Holy Eucharist 10:30 a.m.: Coffee Hour
* also on Zoom		

Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

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

Sunday

8:30 a.m. Bible Study: 825 2837 9378 & 695433

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

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 849 7442 6644 & 031228

Wednesday

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



Correction!