

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

September 6, 2022

Dear Friends,

Is your God a God of abundance? Every Saturday evening and Sunday morning I choose to use the prayer after receiving Holy Eucharist that begins:

God of abundance,
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Wow!

When we think of all that God has done for us in the sending of his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive new life, we should be thanking and praising God every hour of every day! It's not necessarily practical, but you get the idea. Out of an abundance of love God created humankind to share with us the love between Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Out of an abundance of compassion Jesus emptied himself of his divinity and became human to draw us back to God. With an abundance of grace the cross of Christ covers all our sins, no exceptions.

During his earthly ministry Jesus often gave with abundance. Think about the miracle of the changing water into wine at the wedding in Cana. Jesus didn't say 1 or 2 jars, but all 6. He didn't give an adequate wine, the wine was so good the steward of the feast publicly praised the family. Jesus changed the story. Instead of remembering "John and Mary's" wedding as the one where the wine ran out, it became the wedding where that fabulous wine was served. Which story would you want remembered about your wedding?

The Feeding of the 5000 is another example. Jesus could have taken his disciples' suggestion to send the people away so that they would have enough time to buy food for the journey home. Instead Jesus chose to feed them himself. Thousands of people (the 5000 men, plus the women and children) ate and were satisfied - and there were 12 baskets of bread left over! As Henri Nouwen writes, "Scarcity mentality is very visible in the Gospel. Jesus is saying that God is the God of abundance. Wherever Jesus appears there is not only life but life to the full. Jesus comes to bring life, and life to the full. He brings more than we even ask for. Jesus always offers us something beyond our expectations. The reality that Jesus keeps promising is a reality that we can't even grasp. He speaks about eternal life, the truth, the light, the life. ...Following Jesus, as described in the Gospels, is first of all an invitation to follow the Lord of abundance. We are invited to follow the Lord even if we can't fully absorb the enormousness of this divine hospitality." (Following Jesus, pp.40-41)

Rather than living with a "scarcity mentality" why don't we embrace our God and expect good things to happen for our churches and our lives? Not enough people, not enough money, not enough, not enough - and on we go. Let's praise God joyfully, expect God to act powerfully in our midst, and go forward in holy hope.

Mother Julie+

Summer Food Drive Ends September 30 for InterFaith Works 20+ Food Pantries



Pasta
Canned Fruits
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Dried or Canned Beans
Canned Vegetables
Canned Soup
Boxed Macaroni &
Cheese

Canned Tuna or Chicken
Vegetable Oil
Oatmeal
Cereal
Walnuts/Almonds
Juice
Flour
Rice
Shelf Stable Milk

If you are unable to shop for food pantry donations and would like to help you can make out a check to the church and put "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Mother Julie or a volunteer will shop for you. Donations have been received in both churches. The last week in September a shopping trip at BJ's will be scheduled.

Mother Julie's Schedule September 8-14

Emmanuel

Saturday: 11:15 a.m. - 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

St. Alban's

Sunday

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday: 12-8 p.m.

Days Off

Monday

Friday

Emmanuel

Saturday, September 10
11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Trinity, Fayetteville



St. Alban's

Tuesday, September 13 at
6:00 p.m. on Zoom



Altar Guild

**Emmanuel's Altar Guild meets
Saturday, September 17 at 3:30 p.m.**

Welcome to new members Debbie Michlin and Pam Trendell.

New at St. Alban's: Calling all Sewers & Needle Workers

Bring your latest sewing, knitting, crocheting, or other crafting project on Saturday, September 10 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. for a time of crafts and companionship! Coffee and tea provided.

Thursday Evening Schedule in September: All are Welcome!

1st Thursday: Eat & Chat on Zoom at 6:00 p.m., Book Study on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.
2nd Thursday: St. Alban's: Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
Healing and Holy Eucharist (service also on Zoom) at 7:00 p.m.
3rd Thursday: Eat & Chat on Zoom at 6:00 p.m., Book Study on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.
4th Thursday: Last Hot Dogs in the Kingdom at Emmanuel, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
5th Thursday: Eat & Chat on Zoom at 6:00 p.m., Book Study on Zoom at 6:30 p.m.

In Person Schedule: Both Parishes & Friends are welcome!

Wednesday	Emmanuel	*Bible Study: 2:00 p.m. (repeated on Sunday)	
Thursday	St. Alban's	Lasagna Dinner: 6:00 p.m. *Healing and Holy Eucharist: 7:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Emmanuel Emmanuel	Vestry Retreat: 11:30-3:30 Coffee Hour: 4:15 p.m. *Worship: 5:00 p.m.	
	St. Alban's	Crafting Group: 1-3 p.m.	
Sunday	St. Alban's	*Bible Study: 8:30 a.m. *Worship: 9:30 a.m. Coffee Hour: 10:30 a.m.	* also on Zoom



Zoom Schedule & Codes

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Emmanuel's Holy Eucharist: **812 9701 3112 & 381729**

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#

Other Events

First number#

Second number#

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: An invitation will be emailed shortly before the service.

Wednesday

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

Thursday

7:00 p.m. Healing and Holy Eucharist: **882 4503 7359 & 283961**