

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
1308 Meadowbrook Drive  
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718  
Website: [stalbansyracuse.org](http://stalbansyracuse.org)

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August 31, 2021

Dear People of St. Alban's,

Sunday, September 12 is the 15th anniversary of my first day at St. Alban's. When I walked into my office that Tuesday morning I found a vase of roses from Dottie White's garden and a six-pack of Diet Pepsi from Senior Warden Bobbi Lombardo. Sharon Wilson, God rest her soul, was Junior Warden, Betsy Watson was parish secretary, and Fred Willard was organist and choir director. Over the years I've worked with 5 other parish secretaries. After Betsy retired Art Friedel became secretary. When he left us suddenly Sue Grosso stepped in and served for three and a half years before she retired. Sue was followed by Kim Privler and Terri Tighe. When Terri received an offer of full-time employment she left St. Alban's as secretary, but now is a member of the parish and will be received by Bishop DeDe into The Episcopal Church on November 14. Once again Sue Grosso came to the rescue and carried us through the next six months, at the end of which she trained our current secretary, Valerie Warfield. I have also had the great pleasure of working with organists Phoebe Swope-Askeland, Della Holtzapple and current organist Cynthia Bromka-Skafidas.

St. Alban's is much changed in the last 15 years. I have laid to rest too many beloved members to name here. We hold them in our hearts. Back then we had two services on Sunday and a choir with four paid section leaders, all but one music students from Syracuse University. Pre and post-pandemic we have/will enjoy the music of St. Alban's quartet and several other musicians. Through the years we've done Kids Night Out on first Saturdays in the colder months for neighborhood children. We've held Go Green Festivals on our lawn for the community. We've continued our food ministries - a passion of ours. Remember the Lenten 500 (500 items of food for a pantry on the south side) and Bright Chapel (one of those pantries)? The Youth Group made trips to NYC for Nightwatch and the youth who were acolytes journeyed to Washington D.C. for the national acolyte festive at the National Cathedral. Post-pandemic, I look forward to the return of Second Thursday dinner and healing service and the Thursday evening Lenten program - in person with dinner! During the pandemic we've met, worshipped, studied, and prayed on Zoom. We've held almost every meeting on Zoom. I give thanks for the technology, as frustrating as it can be at times.


We've rebuilt the roof, put in 18 new windows, done a series of projects to mitigate flooding in the basement, put new carpet in the church, and built Martha's Kitchen from the studs up. Thanks to Matt Grosso's Eagle Scout project the ramp was refurbished. Thanks to Carolyn Bashaw, in the spring we will have a new Memorial Garden. Though we've had several Property Committee chairs over the years, none was as pro-active as Margo Kowalczyk! She has led the charge for many of the projects named. Margo, Sue, and Bobbi also saw us through "the flood of December 18, 2016." That Sunday others arrived before me to find that the hot water pipe in my office had burst sometime the day before and damaged both offices, the sacristy, and the copy machine room. I was out the month of January for surgery, and for four and a half months after the car accident on Valentine's Day of 2017. These three ladies worked together tirelessly to get St. Alban's through the repairs, which weren't finished until March, and find priests to take Sunday worship for the second half of February through June.

On Palm Sunday of 2018 I rejoiced to be back with you at half-time again! During those 13 months, as I fought my way back, the people of St. Alban's supported and loved me through it. Having experienced such a long recovery has strengthened both my pastoral care work among you and my love for you.

I close by thanking Treasurer, and now member, Kathleen Eckermann and the Wardens I have served God and St. Alban's with over the years. Their support, knowledge, hard work and love have sustained me through our ministry together. They are, in order of their service, Bobbi Lombardo, Sharon Wilson, Beverly Hays, Bob Maynard, Sue Grosso, Kiki White, Bobbi Lombardo, Marjorie Maynard, Lorraine Merrick, Beverly Hays, Sue Grosso, Bobbi Lombardo, Kiki White, Grace Joseph, Emera Bridger Wilson, Bert Bookhout, and Margo Kowalczyk.

May God grant us many more years together,  
With Love and Gratitude,

Mother Julie+

<u>Hurricane Ida</u> Help those devastated by Ida.
 <b>Episcopal Relief &amp; Development</b> Healing a hurting world
Episcopal Relief & Development P.O. Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058  Or give online at <a href="http://episcopalrelief.org">episcopalrelief.org</a>

<b>Rector's 15th Anniversary</b>  Next Sunday, September 12, is Mother Julie's 15th anniversary at St. Alban's.  There will be a cake at coffee hour to celebrate.  In lieu of gifts please make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development for Haiti or for Hurricane Ida. Thank you!
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<b>Jane Talbot's Memorial Service</b>  Friday, Sept. 10 at 11:00 a.m. In Person and on Zoom  Zoom Code: 896 3925 5530 Password: 328159  Reception at The Bistro at Drumlins at 12:30 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited!		<b>Use your telephone to join Jane Talbot's service on Zoom</b>  Dial <b>1-646-558-8656</b>  When prompted Enter <b>896 3925 5530#</b> When prompted Enter # When prompted Enter <b>328159#</b>  That will put you in Zoom's waiting room. Wait to be let in.
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<b>East Side Episcopalians Holy Eucharist and Picnic</b> <b>September 19 at Ryder Park Pavilion at 11:00 a.m.</b>  Please let Mother Julie know if you plan to attend. We may have to cancel as numbers are low due to COVID.
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