

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
1308 Meadowbrook Drive
Syracuse, NY 13224-1718
Website: stalbansyracuse.org

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

December 8, 2020

Dear Friends,

I don't have COVID-19! What a relief it is to say that after spending 50 hours last week-end not knowing. It was a reminder of how interconnected we all are. I was concerned about those at St. Alban's who I had contact with. Brian couldn't go to work on Monday morning and Russell missed his Saturday and Sunday shifts at the restaurant where he cooks. Yet, when it came to doing my own contact tracing to warn those I'd been in close contact with there were only 3 people to contact, Valerie and the Bookhouts; and so it was also a stark reminder of how isolated we are because of the coronavirus. God did not create us to be alone, but to be a part of families and communities. God created us with expressive faces that now are hidden behind masks. God created us to be responsive to human touch, but we cannot touch or hug one another. And so we wait for the vaccine, with anticipation and hope. We want this to be over!

Advent is the season of anticipation and hope as we wait for God to intervene in human history in powerful ways. We want the powers of sin and death to be defeated once and for all, as they will be when Christ returns. We live in the time between the first and second coming of Christ. We know how the story ends - with the power of God - but not when the end will come. Each Advent we are asked to remember to wait for God to act with eager anticipation, as when a man and woman await their wedding day or a pregnant mother awaits the birth of her already beloved child. In the meantime, we live faithfully and prayerfully.

While I was waiting for my COVID-19 test results I read the first verse of Psalm 57 during Morning Prayer and found it very comforting:

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful,
for I have taken refuge in you;
in the shadow of your wings will I take refuge,
until this time of trouble has gone by.

God be with you and keep you,
Mother Julie+

December Office Hours
Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Valerie is taking off Fridays this month.



St. Alban's Christmas Boutique

Open now 'til January 3

Take what you need to
give as Christmas gifts or
even for yourself.

Donate what you can
to St. Alban's.



The boutique is not staffed
and runs on an honor system.

In addition to office hours,
Mother Julie will be here
Saturday mornings Dec. 12
and 19 from 9:30-12:00.

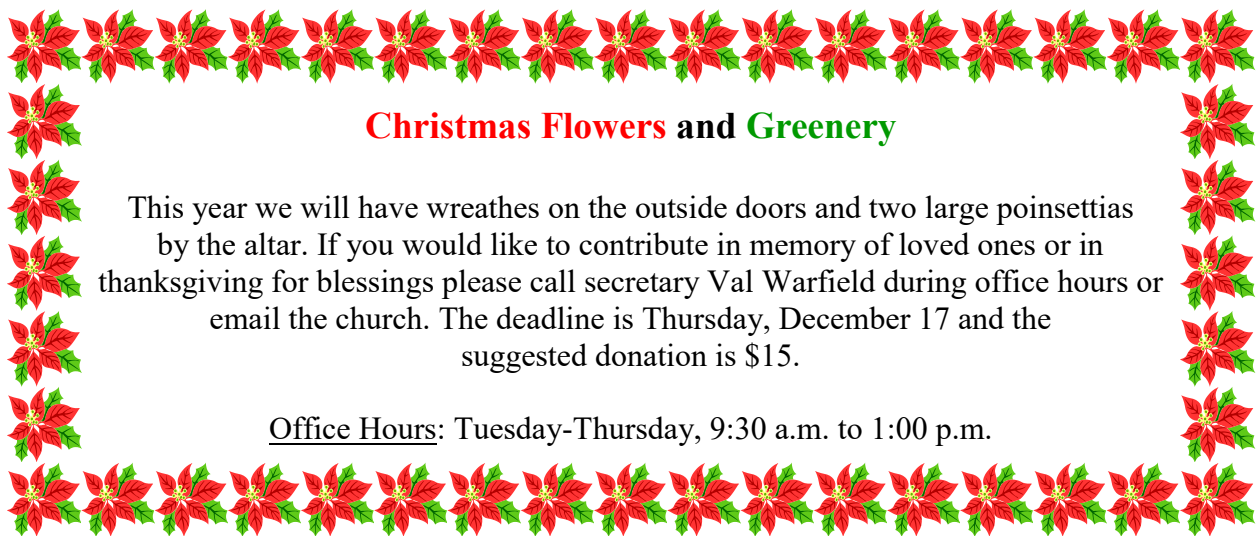
If you are isolating at home
Bert Bookhout and Bobbi
Lombardo will deliver items.

Any parishioner is
welcome to contribute
items to the boutique!

Jan Bookhout will restock
inventory as needed.

Christmas masks
Aprons
Stuffed animals
Lap blankets
Shawls
Infant/toddler overall bibs

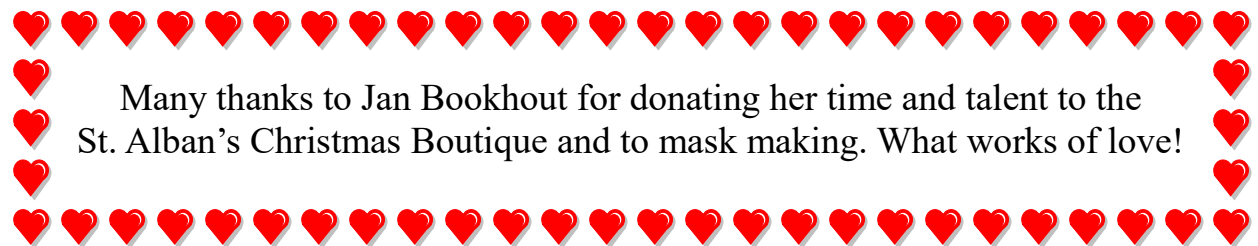




Christmas Flowers and Greenery

This year we will have wreathes on the outside doors and two large poinsettias by the altar. If you would like to contribute in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for blessings please call secretary Val Warfield during office hours or email the church. The deadline is Thursday, December 17 and the suggested donation is \$15.

Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



Many thanks to Jan Bookhout for donating her time and talent to the St. Alban's Christmas Boutique and to mask making. What works of love!

Tuesday Abbreviated Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m. on Zoom

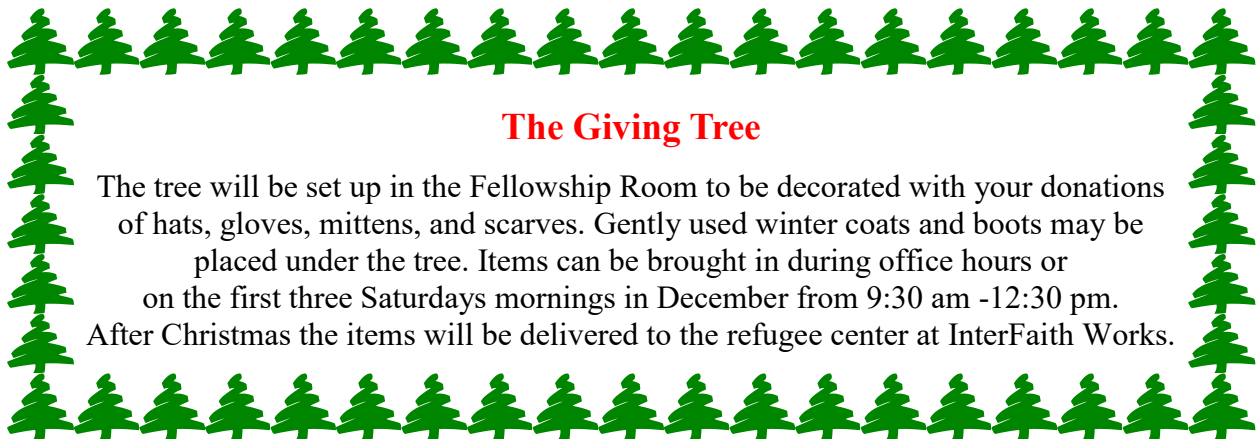
Zoom: 868 3084 1089 and 114552

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Advent Book Study on Zoom

**Saturdays December 5, 12, 19 from 10:00-11:00 a.m.
(Read four chapters for each session.)**

Zoom: 812 6262 9237 and 706768



The Giving Tree

The tree will be set up in the Fellowship Room to be decorated with your donations of hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves. Gently used winter coats and boots may be placed under the tree. Items can be brought in during office hours or on the first three Saturdays mornings in December from 9:30 am -12:30 pm. After Christmas the items will be delivered to the refugee center at InterFaith Works.

Gifts Double in December!

- 1) Check to St. Alban's with "ER&D" on the memo line
- 2) Go online and make a donation at episcopalrelief.org

Kathleen
Eckermann's
donations to
St. Alban's
Boutique

Life Saver
Dolls

Wash cloths

Hanging
towels



Sunday Morning Schedule

8:30 a.m. Bible Study on Zoom

9:30 a.m. Spiritual Communion on Zoom

Zoom Code/Password for Bible Study at 8:30 a.m. - 835 9000 0245 & 562087

Zoom Code/Password for Worship at 9:30 a.m. - 826 9515 6305 & 446765

Use your telephone for Zoom on 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 and I will let you in.

To mute or
unmute yourself
on the phone
press *6