



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
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October 12, 2021

Dear People of St. Alban's,

God has four answers to prayer: Yes, No, Not Yet, and I've got a better idea! (Some add a fifth: You've got to be kidding me.) Yesterday morning God's answer to my prayer changed from "Not Yet" to "Yes." As I was engaged in my daily prayer practice, and pondering "God's time" versus "our time" for someone I am praying for, the message was given that it was time for me to look for my family's new home. It was a powerful experience. When the COVID pandemic began my son Russell and his wife Shelby were furloughed from full time jobs with benefits. Shelby was called back at fulltime. Russell was called back at parttime and then furloughed again. As a result they moved back home from Florida a year ago. Shelby has since become a full time college freshman studying to become an elementary teacher, while Russell works fulltime in a job without benefits. That means they will be living with my husband and I for the foreseeable future. Our smaller, one bathroom home doesn't adequately house two married couples, our younger son Chris, our two dogs and their young Australian Shepherd. And so, we've been preparing our house to put on the market and waiting on God's time, knowing that on January 1st I take on a second church and begin working ten hours a week at Emmanuel, East Syracuse. We see a suitable home in Cicero at 5:30 p.m. tonight. If it's meant to be our new home it will be. If not, I am sure that God "Has a better idea!" My heart is singing.

However, I can't escape the reality that this is a first world problem. In second and third world nations owning a smaller house for a family of 5 adults would be heaven sent. Brian and I are unbelievably blessed to be able to make this move to a larger home. In my sermon on Sunday I said, "There are many other ways, short of selling everything and giving it to the poor, to detach ourselves from the love of money and possessions. First and foremost is the tithe. Do you give the first 10% of your earnings to God? Tithing is a discipline that addresses directly the source of our security and trust. Second, look around your home, how much stuff do you have? How many electronics? ... How many shoes do you have? How many books? How many vehicles? We live in a culture that glorifies spending to excess. It's all around us. How caught up in it are you? Has it drawn you away from the love of God? [As Jesus said to the rich man,] Go, Sell, Give, Come, Follow Me."

Keeping in mind both Jesus' words and the climate care work we've been doing, Brian and I are looking for a house that meets our needs, but not to excess. We're looking for a home that won't have a much larger carbon footprint than the one we live in now.

Speaking of excess, The Center for New Americans at InterFaith Works expects to resettle 700-800 refugees in the next 12 months. People from Afghanistan began arriving last week from American military bases, where they have been screened for entry into the country. The Center only receives 24-72 hours notice that someone is coming. Do you have an extra room or two in your home for temporary housing? Do you have any furniture, clothes, shoes and/or winter gear to give them? Jesus asks all his followers to look beyond their own needs to those of others. Don't wait for someone else to take care of it. Detach from your possessions and reach out your arms and your heart in love.

Mother Julie+

Martha's Kitchen

We cook on Tuesday, October 19 at 1:00 p.m.

We'll be making vegetable quiche and 36 sandwiches for the clients of the Women's Opportunity Center and their families.

We're all set for shallow, rectangular containers for now. Please keep bringing in takeout containers and larger ones for spaghetti sauce and pasta.

Thank you!

October 14-20 Calendar, with Zoom Codes where Needed

Thursday 4:00 p.m. Budget Meeting
6:30 p.m. Last Book Study: 885 9819 2410 & 103147
Saturday 10:00 a.m. Fall Yard Clean Up
11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday 8:30 a.m. Bible Study: 835 9000 0245 & 562087
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: 826 9515 6305 & 446765
Tuesday 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer: 868 3084 1089 & 114552
1:00 p.m. Martha's Kitchen
7:00 p.m. Vestry (Zoom link will be sent.)

In Person Weekend Worship

Saturday at 11:30 a.m.
Recorded for our website

Sunday at 9:30 a.m.
with organ and hymns,
also on Zoom

Use your telephone for Zoom Sunday at 9:30 am

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 you will be let in.



New Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Val is away on Tuesday, October 19.



Fall Yard Clean Up

Saturday, October 16 at 10:00 a.m.

Weed, Clear Sticks & Debris from Lawn, Prune

If you cannot make it on the 16th please feel free to work when you can. Let Margo know. Thank you!

New: Yoga

Lynne Pike, who lives in the neighborhood, is offering a monthly Hatha Flow yoga class at the church. She is a trained instructor whose “passion is to help others discover the peace and calm I have found through my yoga practice.” She teaches a multi-level class where all are welcome. Her students range from young adult to senior citizen.

To register call or text her at 315-439-9669 or email her at cnyyogawithlynne@gmail.com

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 19

Tuesday, November 16

Tuesday, December 14

Wear comfortable clothes and bring water and a mat and 2 blocks if you have them.

Cost is \$14 per class in cash.