Spirit, I Have Heard You Calling

1. Spirit, I have heard you calling, like a memory long grown dim, now I hear you call my name.

2. Now I see you all around me, now I spoke and set me free, I have yearned for this moment, seeking voice from deep within. I have given me, now I feed creation's flame. You are munition, for your fire inside of me! Now your heard you in my longing. I have loved you in my pain. Now I feel you moving love defines my longing. Now your

3. Since you moved upon my waters, since you

heard you in my pain. Now I feel you moving love shines through my pain. Now we dance in endless

in me, feel you burning like a flame.
in me, and I'll never be the same. union, singing out creation's name!
In 2013, St. Alban’s parish leadership was as follows:

**THE 2013 VESTRY**

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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term Expires</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Warden</td>
<td>Jim Croft</td>
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<td>Junior Warden, Connie Babcock</td>
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<td>Treasurer, Frank Governali</td>
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<td>Bruce Babcock</td>
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<td>Gretchen Hartley</td>
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<td>Rose Kennealy</td>
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<td>Peg Keyser</td>
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<td>Peter Merrill</td>
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<td>Erik Olsen</td>
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<td>Jen Tarling</td>
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**SAINT ALBAN’S CLERGY**

The Reverend Timothy A. Boggs, Rector
The Reverend Kelly Moughty, Asst. Rector
The Venerable Audrey S. Delafield, Archdeacon

**DELEGATES TO THE 2013 CONVENTION**

<table>
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<td>Connie Babcock</td>
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<td>Lisa Newbold</td>
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<td>Jim Croft</td>
<td>Ed Rea</td>
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<td>Gordon Gayer</td>
<td>Anita Samuelsen</td>
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<td>Barbara Hall</td>
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**2013 LAY MINISTRY COORDINATORS**

- Nancy Angier & Shirley Dalbeck, Flower Guild
- Virginia Blackwood, Altar Guild Directress
- Mim Britton, Prayer Chain & Birthday/Anniversary Cards
- Jason Burks, Buildings & Grounds
- Lisa Newbold, Memorial Garden
- Shirley Grange, Collection Counters & Archives Committee
- Kathy Hamor, Archives Committee
- Daphne James, Root Cellar Dinners
- Rose Kennealy, Communion Bread Bakers
- Triss Critchfield & Liz Davy, Parish Health Ministry
- Peggy Williams, St. Alban’s Cares
- Frank Governali, Rides Ministry
- Claire Ginder, Meals Ministry
- Marjorie Manning Vaughan, Home Eucharist Coordinator
- Peggy Williams, Companion Visits
- Robin Legere, Book Group
- Sara Merrill, Haiti Outreach
- Erik Olsen, Parish Breakfasts
- Joanne Olsen, Newcomer Committee
- Blaine Riggle, Ushers
- Anita Samuelsen, Senior Residence Services
- Scott Scharf, Soup Kitchen
- Peg Keyser, Prayer Shawl Ministries
- Daphne James, Reception Committee
- Barbara Hall & Kate Savidge, Needlepoint Kneelers
- Gee & David Wakelin, Lay Readers
- Louise Sullivan, Library Collection Coordinator

**PARISH STAFF**

- Liz Davy, Parish Nurse
- Debbie Fisher, Director of Religious Education
- Kirsten Helfrich, Parish Administrator
- Greg Hicks, Sexton
- Linda Howard, Assistant Treasurer
- Dr. James Strand, Music Director
- Jen Tarling, Albanor Editor and Communications Consultant
2013 Annual Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order \textit{Jim Croft, Senior Warden}
- Opening Hymn \textit{Dr. James Strand}
- Acceptance of 2013 Annual Meeting Minutes \textit{Jim Croft, Senior Warden}
- Video on Parish Life
- A Word from the Rector \textit{The Rev. Timothy A. Boggs}
- Question Time
- Report on Parish Outreach \textit{The Venerable Audrey Delafield}
- Report of the Nominating Committee \textit{Jen Tarling}
- Thanks to the departing Vestry Members \textit{The Rev. Timothy A. Boggs}
- A Word from St. Alban’s Cares \textit{Julia Beckett}
- 2013 Financial Report \textit{Frank Governali, Treasurer}
- 2014 Budget \textit{Frank Governali, Treasurer}
- Question Time
- Other Business
- Closing Prayer \textit{The Rev. Kelly Moughty}

Welcome from the Rector

Welcome to the St. Alban’s 2014 Annual Meeting

Please know that this meeting is designed to share with you the many stories and dreams of our mutual ministry in this little corner of God’s big world. We will want to discuss fully the fruitful year past and look forward together. Only through our open offering and sharing can we build the faith-filled future we are invited to make. Only through listening to each other will we know the Holy Spirit is at work in our plans. Thank you for your many gifts, including the gift of your time and attention this morning!

Blessings and thanks,

\textit{Jim +}
MINUTES OF THE 2013 ANNUAL MEETING, JANUARY 26, 2013

Senior Warden Jim Croft called the Annual Meeting of St. Alban’s Parish to order at 10:55 a.m. on January 27, 2013, in Bonoff Hall. The Rev. Tim Boggs opened the meeting with a prayer.

Parishioners were asked to review the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting. It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the minutes as written.

A brief slide show of 2012 parish life and events was shown.

The Rev. Tim Boggs addressed the meeting with welcoming remarks, followed by a brief period of questions from attendees.

The Venerable Audrey Delafield offered a report on parish outreach efforts.

The Rev. Tim Boggs thanked departing vestry members. The report of the Nominating Committee was presented. The recommended slate of parish officers and officials for 2013 was duly elected as follows:

Jim Croft, Senior Warden 1 year term
Connie Babcock, Junior Warden 1 year term
Frank Governali, Treasurer 1 year term

Vestry Members
Jason Burks 3 year term
Nancy Pezzullo 3 year term
Michelle Whitney 3 year term

Delegates to the 2013 Diocesan Convention
Connie Babcock Jay Houghton
Jason Burks Lisa Newbold
Jim Croft Ed Rea
Gordon Dayer Anita Samuelsen
Barbara Hall


Following a question-and-answer session and discussion period, it was moved, seconded and voted that the 2013 budget be accepted.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the 2013 Annual Meeting of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church was duly adjourned with a prayer at 12:25 p.m.

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for 2014 to the Year 2013 Annual Meeting of Saint Alban’s Church.

SENIOR WARDEN
Peg Keyser 2017

JUNIOR WARDEN
John Hartley 2017

TREASURER
Frank Governali 2014

VESTRY MEMBERS
David Abbiati 2017
Julie Merriam 2017
Scott Read 2017

DELEGATES TO THE 2014 DIOCESAN CONVENTION
Jason Burks
Gordon Gayer
Barbara Hall
John Hartley
Jay Houghton
Peg Keyser
Lisa Newbold
Ed Rea
Anita Samuelsen
**Report of the Altar Guild**  
Submitted by Virginia Blackwood

Officers and members during 2013 included Virginia Blackwood, Directress; Gail Rice, Assistant Directress; Ann Patton, Secretary; Candy Anderson-Ek, Lisa Fisher, Kim Gibson, Mary Ingalls, Daphne James, Judy Kline, Eve Lee, Robin Legere, Ann McCullum, Lisa Newbold, Louise Valati and Gee Wakelin. Members at Large included Grace Kimball, Mary Lancey and Bette Stoddard.

On May 4, 2013, Fr. Tim called an after-Easter meeting to discuss our duties during this challenging season, which includes Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Easter Vigil and Easter services. He was pleased with how we had executed our duties. We discussed some changes for 2014 and will meet during Lent to set these in place.

Our fall meeting was held November 23, 2013. Again, by invitation from Fr. Tim, we gathered in the rectory for an enjoyable and productive meeting. Our newest member, Linda LeBlond, was introduced and welcomed by all. Ann McCullum has retired from regular membership but will remain as a Member at Large. Thank you to Ann and that group for their on-going help when needed.

A “thank you” to our ever vigilant sexton, Greg, who noticed the prayer kneeler in front of the votive stand was loose and initiated its repair to avoid an injury.

Our thank you to Barbara Hall, who continues to launder and iron our Fair Linens (the cloth covering the altar.) As always, we welcome new members to join us in this important ministry.

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**Report of the Flower Guild**  
Submitted by Nancy Angier

The Flower Committee currently has nine members: Nancy Angier, Susan Betz, Shirley Dalbeck, Katie Gibson, Mary Giftos, Shirley Grange, Nancy Hancock, Emily Keith and Mary Townsend.

Each member is scheduled to serve for one week. The whole committee decorates the church for Christmas and Easter. Flowers may be given anytime by parishioners as memorials, in celebration (birthdays and anniversaries) or thanksgiving (healing, births, etc.), and we welcome the opportunity to provide floral reminders of these events in our lives. However, the committee does not supply flowers for weddings or funerals. (There are no flowers in the church during the seasons of Lent and Advent.) Anyone wishing to have flowers at the altar may send their request, stating the date, with a donation to the Parish Office. The amount does not determine the size of the arrangements.

We supply the wreath and candles during Advent and the palms for Palm Sunday.

Our monies come from donations and memorials and the interest from two small memorial funds that were designated to be used specifically for flowers in the church. Therefore, these funds are kept separate from the operating budget and we have our own Treasurer.

We are a very small group and would welcome new members. If you are interested in learning more about the Flower Committee, please contact me.

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**Shawl Ministry**

Report submitted by Peg Keyser

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry, and the nearly 40 knitters who participate, continues to quietly work on producing beautiful prayer shawls. Each shawl is started with a prayer, then knit or crocheted from a basic pattern. We pray while we knit, so the final product is not only beautiful, but full of love and blessings. When we gather about a dozen shawls at church, we have a “blessing” during one of the services, and these shawls are available to parishioners to give to someone going through a difficult time, illness or recovery, as a comfort after a loss or in times of grief. The shawls are beautiful!...and each as individual as the knitter who created it.

We have relied on the Prayer Shawl Ministry website at www.shawlministry.com to guide our own ministry, but our knitters use their own creativity to produce an incredible variety of soft, warm shawls. We welcome new knitters, and we gratefully accept donations of yarn. If you would like to learn more about the Prayer Shawl Ministry, you can contact Peg Keyser at 822-9810, or at pegt@maine.rr.com.
REPORT OF THE MUSIC DIRECTOR
Submitted by James Strand

The Chancel Choir is a group of very faithful servants who sing almost every Sunday from September through June at the 9:30am service. Their support of the liturgy is greatly appreciated, and their dedication and hard work are evident as they present weekly musical offerings. In addition to singing during Sunday morning services this past year, the choir sang for the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, Maundy Thursday, Easter Vigil, and for two services on both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday mornings. In May the choir sang for the wedding of a choir member.

Choir Rehearsals are on Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. If you are interested in singing in the choir, please contact me at 899-4452, or via email jstrand@maine.rr.com so that I can answer any questions and prepare materials for you.

The Saint Alban’s Handbell Choir is in its tenth year. This group of enthusiastic ringers rehearses regularly on Thursday evenings from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. and plays for church services throughout the year.

Guest instrumentalists were invited to offer their musical gifts for special services. These guest artists were made possible through generous contributions from members of our St. Alban’s family.

It is very gratifying for me to be an integral part of the worship and spiritual life at Saint Alban’s.

WORSHIP

SENIOR RESIDENCE SERVICES
Submitted by Anita Samuelsen

St. Alban’s worship services take place not only in our church but also outside our four walls on a regular basis. For a number of years, a group of our clergy and lay people have worshiped together with residents of the Betsy Ross House in South Portland on the second Tuesday of each month and with residents of both Cape Memory Care and Village Crossings in Cape Elizabeth on the last Thursday of the month. Most of these folks are no longer able to get to church and appreciate having church come to them. A number of those who attend are members of St. Alban’s.

The liturgy for these services is adapted from the Book of Common Prayer, and the Scripture lessons and hymns chosen are appropriate for the church season. One of our clergy provides a homily and provides communion. Although we don’t have a formal coffee hour, we do take time to talk with and get to know our faithful attendees, and both they and we look forward to our monthly services. Many thanks to those parishioners who help with these services by reading the lessons, playing the hymns (Mary Lancey), and being joyful participants.

Fr. Tim is also part of a team of area clergy who conduct a service at the Holbrook Health Care Center at Piper Shores in Scarborough every Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. In addition, he leads a service there at 3:00 p.m. on the fourth Sunday of the month.

REPORT OF THE BREAD BAKERS
Submitted by Rose Kennealy

During 2013, seven members of our parish baked more than 1,000 loaves of St. Alban’s beloved honey whole wheat Communion Bread for worship services. Each week, a baker spent an hour or two in his/her kitchen lovingly preparing the food of our communal table. Their time and skill are greatly appreciated by everyone who shares the bread and wine. St. Alban’s bakers are Peg Keyser, Julia Ginder, Sarah Choi, Maura McDonald, Daphne James and Rose Kennealy. New bakers are always welcome. Children often love to help with this ministry. Contact Rose Kennealy.

There is nothing in the world so much like prayer as music.

-William P. Merrill
In a time of turbulence and anxiety, generosity is one of the key spiritual practices that can keep us sane. Not only that, the practice of generosity may be one of the most powerful ways that we can bear witness to a hope that lies beyond despair.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
**Our Partnership with St. Luc’s in Trou du Nord, Haiti**

Submitted by Sara Merrill

*Building Connections* was the theme for our fundraiser this year and it could not be a more appropriate name for what is going on at St. Alban’s and St. Luc’s. Our communities continue to be knit together and we continue to be changed by each other.

This year’s fundraiser was kicked off with a moving report from Lorenzo Lebrija (the seminarian intern we sent to St. Luc’s this past summer) and our own Jerry Johnston. They spoke about how our gifts of visits, letters, prayers, and financial support have helped give hope, spurred faith, and greatly improved conditions and opportunities for the students and teachers of St. Luc’s School.

And here at St. Alban’s: we’ve joined our partners at St. Luc’s in praying for each other on a regular basis, over 80 of you have contributed to our *Building Connections* effort this year, and countless numbers have given time and shared talents and love to grow our partnership and find new ways to make a difference at St. Luc’s.

**Thanks to you all,** 2013 has again been another amazing year for our partnership with St. Luc’s School and Church. During our last visit we were struck again by what a unique and valued facility and community we have helped create there.

**In the last year:**

**Gifts from the 2012 campaign On the RISE were implemented.**

- A textbook library was initiated.
- Over $16,000 was sent in support of teacher salaries
- Bishop Oge completed a plan for the Trade School
- Lorenzo Lebrija, a US seminarian, was sent to intern at St. Luc’s this last summer

4 parishioners: Fr. Tim, Katie Payson, Jerry Johnston and Sara Merrill travelled to St. Luc’s on St. Alban’s behalf carrying with them gifts of school supplies, art supplies (later turned into beautiful notecards), and your love and prayers. We cannot express to you what a deeply moving and spiritual experience this is and what an honor it is to be your representatives.

*Building Connections* campaign nearly completed! 95% of goal met. “Building 4 Connections” and providing support for the 2013/2014 school year as follows:

1. “Adopt” 6 classrooms ($15,000)
2. Build a computer lab and begin classes ($3,500)
3. Send a US Episcopal seminarian to St. Luc’s in summer 2014 ($2,000)
4. Support St. Luc’s Church and its mission ($500)

Pere Louis and the new dynamic principal, Fritz Belhomme, send their thanks and are so very grateful for the bond we share through our shared faith in Christ. This faith gives strength to endure unimaginable poverty and conditions, and shared hope for a better future.

Another trip is currently being planned for Spring 2014. If you’re interested or would like to be more involved in this ministry please contact Sara Merrill pmerrill@maine.rr.com.

We are excited to see where the Holy Spirit will lead us!
REPORT OF THE
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION PROGRAM
Submitted by Debbie Fisher

It’s been a very busy year! Knowing full well that the children are in Sunday School for 45 minutes on Sunday mornings, we made a conscious decision in early 2013 to strive to make every minute count – and more. With every Godly Play lesson we present, with every Bible story we teach in Our PLACE, we focus on how to make the story come alive and be relevant in these children’s lives. With the ongoing series “Raising Spiritual Kids in a Secular World” we’ve entered into partnership with parents, providing discussions and resources to help them do just that. And through our additional offerings such as Shrove Tuesday, Maundy Thursday, VBS and the Pageant, families know that St. Alban’s doors are always open for spiritual – and fun – formation activities.

In 2013 we kept familiar, tried and true activities (think mask-making and merriment on Shrove Tuesday and bread-baking on Maundy Thursday) yet implemented new programs, such as the above-mentioned “Raising Spiritual Kids in a Secular World” and regular Family Services. A highlight of the year was the “Rediscovering the Christmas Story” program during Advent. We introduced the children to John Swanson’s colorful interpretations and wove them into the Our PLACE rotation and the Christmas Pageant. From the “Souper Bowl” campaign last February to serving as acolytes during Lent and Advent to making sea-glass mobiles for the classrooms at St. Luc’s in Haiti, we continue to invite the children to use their imaginations to see themselves in the unfinished stories we have inherited through our Christian faith.

The Nursery
We certainly have lots of little ones in the nursery every Sunday morning! Approximately 15 families have nursery age children (and the number seems to grow every week) who were lovingly cared for by Abby Donnelly and Jenna Wallace through mid-summer. Sarah Merriam and Julia Ginder are the new Nursery Supervisors, and together they provide a safe and inviting space for children 6 months – 3 years old. Our goal is to provide a 4:1 child/caregiver ratio and have at least one adult be with Sarah and Julia each Sunday morning.

Thanks to an anonymous and generous gift, each child and youth in the parish received their own Bible during the Family Service in October.

Godly Play
Some things just get better with time … and that is true with Godly Play, the Montessori-based, hands-on curriculum which we introduced here in 1998. In Godly Play, four and five year olds learn the church year and major Bible stories by literally playing with simple wooden figures and then responding to the story through wondering questions and a simple craft project. There are 18 children registered in this age group, with 10 children attending on an average Sunday. Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, I’m pleased to report that, in keeping with safe church practices, we consistently have two teachers in Godly Play each Sunday morning.

Our PLACE
Our PLACE continues to thrive. This is the Workshop Rotation-based model we offer 1st – 4th graders, who rotate through three classrooms (Thou Art, Show Me Cinema and St. Alban’s Playhouse) over a 3-week period, while the teacher remains in the same classroom, repeating each lesson to a new group of students. 36 students are registered in these four grades, with an average weekly attendance of 20 students. The theme for this current year is “Wrestling with God”, and the four Bible stories we covered since September are Abraham and Sarah, Jacob and Esau, Jacob Wrestles with God, and Rediscovering the Christmas Story.

And So Much More
We really are blessed to have such a solid children’s education program here at St. Alban’s. I think the secret is that we encourage children to see themselves in the stories, and for them to live their lives with faith and spirit. Thanks to our outstanding teachers and other volunteers, our children are being shown by example to do just that. In 2013 our children served as acolytes and torchbearers during Lent and Advent, brought their study of Abraham and Sarah to life as they created sea-glass mobiles for our friends at St. Luc’s in Trou du Nord, and will share the story of Jacob with the parish in spring 2014 when the beautiful stepping stones they created in Thou Art this past autumn will be placed next to the sidewalk off the patio. They burned palms on Shrove Tuesday, baked bread on Maundy Thursday, paraded behind their beautiful Alleluia and Hosanna banners on Palm Sunday, sang in church on two occasions, were delighted when Firefighter Dan arrived in his shiny fire truck during Vacation Bible School and presented – truly – the best Christmas Pageant ever. It seems clear that our programs here transform – and as well as inform – the children.
REPORT OF THE YOUTH MINISTRIES PROGRAM
Submitted by The Rev. Kelly Moughty

It’s been an exciting year in the youth ministries department as we completed the first program year with the new youth ministries structure and made some adjustments for 2013-2014. One of the biggest changes we made in the summer of 2012 was creating a new class for the 5th and 6th graders using a curriculum called Connect. Connect is designed to walk students chronologically through the entire narrative of the Bible in the course of two years. At the end of the 2012-2013 school year, the feedback we received on Connect was that the curriculum didn’t relate directly to the challenges our youth were facing in their lives. As a result, this program year there has been a special emphasis placed on making the Biblical stories come alive and feel relevant to our kids. For example, students discussed how King Herod’s behavior was like that of a bully or how the 12 disciples all had very different but equally important kinds of gifts. This change in focus, along with a great kick-off “Connect Fun Day” in September are two reasons why attendance in that class increased to an average of 13 students in the fall.

Our Rite 13 class is another place we made a major change over the summer of 2013. The Rite 13 curriculum was not a great fit for our community in part because there was so much carryover from lesson plan to lesson plan. If a student missed a Sunday it often felt difficult to pick-up the next week. This year we switched to a different curriculum called “re:form” which is published by the same folks who created Connect. This curriculum is entirely based on questions and each lesson is self-contained. Examples of questions the students have tackled include “Who wrote the Bible – God or humans?” and “Am I really supposed to believe Mary was a virgin?” Our goal is to demonstrate to our kids that asking questions is actually a really important part of being a person of faith, and we come from a tradition that encourages us to wrestle with these complex concepts. In addition, once a month Rev. Kelly has been in with the class talking about specific aspects of our Episcopal tradition, and students from this class have been invited to consider Confirmation as an option. Outside of Sunday mornings, the Rite 13 group had two successful (and tiring!) lock-ins, the second of which had 9 participants.

The High School Youth Group has benefited this program year from having a more intentional structure built around the Living Compass Teen curriculum. This past semester, we gathered to tackle topics like “how do we get more balance in our lives?” and “am I as organized as I’d like to be?” The overarching goal of this curriculum is to help our kids understand that God created them to live full, holistic, and integrated lives...that their whole selves are treasured by God. In addition, our youth group meetings have been salted with some of the more provocative questions from the re:form curriculum because the high schoolers wanted to know the answer to “Is God male?” as well. We had one successful retreat in the spring where four students spent a weekend in Lewiston working in a soup kitchen. In addition, our students tutored Somali women studying for the American citizenship exam and in exchange, were cooked a truly outstanding traditional Somali meal. Attendance does continue to be a challenge with their busy high school schedules, but we are hoping to have another service-oriented retreat this spring.

In addition to these three programs, a major facet of youth ministry this year has been the development of our Family Services. Middle and high schoolers have been encouraged to participate in leadership roles in our worship, and not only have they served as chalice bearers and readers, but our Rite 13 class actually wrote the Prayers of the People for the first service. This notion of fully engaging our young people in the worshipping and prayer life of our community was also a topic at our “Raising Spiritual Kids in a Secular World” series, a parent support group which we have continued this year.

I’d like to thank all of the people who have helped to make youth ministries at St. Alban’s possible. It takes a community to raise our young people in faith, and without the help of all our volunteer leaders, it absolutely could not happen. Thank you!
The Health Ministry was co-chaired by Dr. Terry Ann Scriven and Beth Barton for the first half of 2013.

During that time, the HM offered programs to respond to parish concerns raised in the survey of 2012. Coffee Hour Chats ran in February, March and April. Dr. Lew Phillips presented a talk about Hypertension (Feb.), Katie Payson on Stress in March, and Nan Ball and Sarah Merrill presented a session on Low Back Pain and Care. These were well attended and feedback was positive.

The committee worked to support Liz Davy in her new role as Parish Nurse. The Vestry approved the position in March and Liz was introduced to the parish on March 17th. Much effort was put into compiling and creating the Resource Book for the Parish Nurse and Clergy.

Monthly Blood Pressure Screenings staffed by HM members with medical training were offered monthly throughout 2013.

In May, Liz and Triss went to the National Episcopal Health Ministry (NEHM) Annual Conference in Baltimore. The conference was excellent, informative and inspiring. We were introduced to the Living Compass, a faith-based ministry that provides resources, coaching, education and support to individuals within the context of the parish community.

Liz and Triss assumed co-chair roles in May, and preparations began to have Dr. Scott and Holly Stoner come to St. Alban’s to present the Living Compass program to St. Alban’s parish October 18th and 19th. Dr. Stoner presented the LC model on Saturday in an open workshop format, and preached on Sunday morning. Holly Stoner met with St. Alban’s parents and youth. Facilitator training was offered on Sunday afternoon.

Anita Samuelsen and Terry Ann spent many hours throughout 2013 to develop a course with Priscilla Platt that brought her expertise on issues about death and dying to St. Alban’s. The New Art of Dying was offered at on Monday evening, Nov. 4th, Tuesday, Nov. 5th and Sunday afternoon November 10th. All of these presentations were very well attended and surveys said that the participants wanted to pursue learning and talking about this topic.

As Parish Nurse, Liz Davy has office hours on Wednesday mornings, as well as making herself available at other times if needed. She meets with the Clergy as well as parishioners who come in to talk over different concerns and to chat. Liz updated all first aid kits and added a portable kit for youth group retreats. She has provided the Parish with updated health information and is a great resource to the St. Alban’s community.

We are proud of what the Health Ministry has accomplished in the last year and excited about offering helpful programs in the coming year. Numerous studies have confirmed the importance of social relationships to our health. We seek to provide opportunities to learn about others and ourselves and strive to nurture the sense of connection for all parishioners. We welcome new members!

The Gospel calls us to teach, preach, and heal. St. Alban’s Health Ministry seeks to support the whole person: integrating spiritual, emotional, and physical health through opportunities that deepen and expand self knowledge, encourage personal responsibility, and recognize the interdependence of all God’s people.
REPORT OF THE ST. ALBAN’S CARES MINISTRY
Submitted by Peggy Williams

St. Alban’s Cares is a subcommittee of the Parish Health Ministry, offering hands-on-support for those who need meals, transportation, or home and hospital visits. Committee members include Anita Samuelsen, Grace Kimball, Audrey Delafield, Sarah Merrill, Marjorie Manning Vaughan, Peggy Williams, Claire Ginder, and Frank Governali. The following committee members have agreed to coordinate in these capacities. This ministry supplements the ongoing pastoral care provided by our clergy.

Rides to church, appointments and programs.
Frank Governali- fgovernali@maine.rr.com/ 799-5842

Meals delivered to your home in times of transition and difficulty
Claire Ginder- cginder@maine.rr.com/ 799-9977

Home Eucharist with short service
Marjorie Manning Vaughan- sparady@maine.rr.com/ 774 -3440

Companion Visits at home or at hospital
Peggy Williams- pmoorw@me.com/ 767-2303

We offer the old-fashioned grapevine way of caring for one another so no one is forgotten in this busy world. We invite you to use these good services whenever a need arises.

2013 was a year of growth for St. Alban’s Cares. The committee met four times to further fine tune our new ministry. With a strong volunteer base now established in these four capacities, our focus has shifted to encouraging parishioners to use our services. The committee has worked closely with the clergy, parish office and Jen Tarling to get the word out and to encourage parishioners to request and accept help when needed. St. Alban’s Cares has publicized its services by hosting Sunday coffee hour, adding new material on the Health Ministry Bulletin Board, advertising in the pew leaflet and Albanor, making church announcements, and committee members making themselves available to answer questions after Sunday services. Business cards with coordinator contact information have been printed and placed underneath the Health Ministry Bulletin board and are available to anyone who wants to take one for ready reference.

St. Alban’s Cares welcomes new volunteers. If you would like to regularly or occasionally drive someone to appointments or church events, make home or hospital visits, give communion to parishioners who are not able to attend services, or prepare meals, please sign up on the Health Ministry bulletin board in the parish hall, or contact one of the coordinators listed above.
2013 TREASURER’S REPORT
Submitted by Frank Governali

2013 was a successful year for St. Alban’s from a financial perspective. Through the support of our parish family and the wise management of resources, programs were enriched, facilities well cared for, and the long-term financial health of the parish strengthened through generous gifts and growth of the endowments.

Highlights of 2013 Results

• 2013 turned out much better than expected because expenses were a little lower than planned and income much higher. Total income was $504,555, almost $48,000 higher than budgeted. Most of this positive variance came from gifts earmarked for specific purposes as well as unrestricted gifts available for general operations. It was largely through these unrestricted gifts that operating performance was better than planned, allowing us to minimize the budgeted use of the operating reserve.

• The special gifts in 2013 included: $16,500 to fund the recently launched communications effort; $2,400 from special envelope collections for guest musicians; $3,000 for hosting our summer seminarian; an unrestricted $16,500 gift from the Randi Henry Estate used to support general operations; and an anonymous $4,000 gift also used to support general operations.

• Income was also aided by a healthy level of plate offerings and other non-pledged donations. As in previous years, pledge fulfillment is still a bit behind commitments. While some exceeded their pledges, others have yet to meet them completely. At the moment, net pledge payments are about $7,400 shy of original commitments, which we are working to improve over the coming weeks.

• Our parish family continued to generously support those outside our immediate congregation. Donations to St. Luc du Nord, Haiti, totaled almost $30,000. Contributions to the Diocese of Maine totaled about $80,000. Another $3,250 was used to support Clergy Discretionary spending needs, $1,600 for a contribution to Preble Street Resource Center through the Sullivan Concert fundraiser, and $5,700 to the Essentials Pantry and Root Cellar.

• Operating expenses were all at or below budget except for those areas where special gifts were given to fund specific programs (i.e. the communications launch, guest musicians, seminarian housing) and in utilities where gas rates and usage were slightly higher than forecast. Tight expense control combined with gifts and higher non-pledge income allowed us to dramatically reduce the use of the Operating Reserve, only utilizing $1,731 versus the budgeted $23,301. As a reminder, the Operating Reserve is an account which accumulates annual operating surpluses and deficits, and can be used to support basic operations in those years when shortfalls emerge. At the end of 2013 the operating reserve was approximately $34,000.

• In 2013 your Buildings & Grounds Committee once again oversaw a variety of important maintenance activities and repairs, including restoring stained glass windows, repairs to the church roof and elevator, and repairs to storm windows in the rectory. These projects totaled about $12,400, while day-to-day operations and maintenance totaled about $21,500.

Endowment Revised & Rejuvenated

As was discussed last year, an effort was launched to bring clarity to the management and growth of St. Alban’s endowments. An endowment committee was formed, comprised of experienced members of our parish (Gordon Gayer, David Wakelin, Justin LeBlanc) to advise the vestry on the management of the endowment according to the new guidelines approved in August 2012. As detailed in the monthly treasurer’s report to the vestry, the endowments are now all invested in the Vanguard Star Fund in four distinct accounts: General; Ministries; Mission & Outreach; Children & Youth. At yearend 2013 these totaled approximately $630,000. Additions to the endowment in the year came from $95,544 pledge fulfillment from the One Foundation Campaign; a $1,000 donation to establish a fund for Buildings & Grounds; and, a $200 general endowment gift. Each year we plan to draw prudently from the Endowment for parish operations. So, these additions were offset by the budgeted endowment draw of $11,840, which is based on a calculation of 4% of the average endowment balance over trailing twelve quarters. For 2014, this endowment calculation allows $15,972 to be used to support St. Alban’s general operations.

The Outlook for 2014

The financial outlook for 2014 is best characterized by a simple comparison to the 2013 budget: higher income, lower expenses, and, lower dependence on the operating reserve. Relative to the 2013 budget, in 2014 we expect the bottom line to improve by $14,600 cutting the dependence on the operating reserve by almost 2/3 to $8,524. This is driven by $13,300 in better income (higher pledges and endowment support), and $1,300 reduction in expenses. This net reduction is comprised of small increases in compensation, worship, and programs, offset by a lower
diocesan assessment, lower B&G project expenses, and lower office expenses. Budgeted 2014 income is $470,472. Expenses are budgeted at $478,996. And the gap between the two will be made up by use of the operating reserve of $8,524.

People To Thank

There are many people to thank for the positive financial results of St. Alban’s over the past year. First, I want to thank the members of our parish family, who affirm the importance of the good work our church is doing in our faith community and in our broader world, and choose to faithfully support these efforts. Second, I want to thank our staff who use our resources to lead our worship and create programs that enrich our lives. And, third, I want to thank the myriad volunteers who make the Treasurer’s job possible.

On the very front end of the Treasury function is the Stewardship Committee, which worked tirelessly throughout 2013. The new Endowment Committee has been great to work with. The counters cheerfully contribute hours every Sunday to help us carefully track and deposit your generous donations that pay for everything we do at St. Alban’s. Don Bonoff, who wears many hats in our church, has been the chief data entry person for years, and now is being ably assisted by Joan Phillips. Supporting everything we do, from verifying our deposits to paying our bills, and ensuring the integrity of our accounting records is Linda Howard our Assistant Treasurer, who cannot be thanked enough for her careful and thoughtful attention to detail. So, as with the many other volunteers and staff that make St. Alban’s run, we owe all of these folks our gratitude and thanks.

REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE
Submitted by Frank Governali

The Stewardship Committee approaches its task each year with a variety of goals. Of course, our ultimate objective is to secure the financial commitments to allow the vestry to construct a budget that supports all the wonderful missions of St. Alban’s. But, this goal is supplemented by many others. Stewardship is an opportunity for us to get to know more members of our parish. It is an opportunity to inform the parish about many of the activities of St. Alban’s that are deserving of our financial support. And, it is an opportunity to fine tune the way in which we conduct stewardship to make it less of a mad dash for dollars at year end, and more of a continuing effort to inform and educate the parish about the important work of St. Alban’s and the wonderful opportunity we all have to support and nourish these undertakings. This year the Stewardship effort was complemented by the Listening Project, which also reached out to every member of the parish, and helped inform each one of us about the wide variety of ways we can participate in the vibrant life St. Alban’s.

The eight members of the stewardship committee are Connie Babcock, Don Bonoff, Frank Governali, Kit Johnston, Michael Moore, Ed Rea, Anita Samuelsen, and Mike Watson. After wrapping up the 2013 stewardship effort last January, we began work on 2014 in March. With meetings from March through October, we rolled out the 2014 Stewardship effort. The biggest challenge the team has is in reaching families through the variety of communications vehicles now available – email, snail mail, voice mail, live conversations. Making contact with everyone interested in financially support St. Alban’s requires tenacity and patience (from both the callers and “callee’s”.) So, thank you to our Stewardship Team and to everyone in the parish who helps to make our mission easier to accomplish.

The 2014 Stewardship effort marked the first time since 2008 that we saw total pledging increase year over year, $404,000 to $414,000. While the number of pledges fell by three to 192, the average pledge rose a bit to $2,155. And 22 new pledges have been added so far. 27 pledgers from 2013 haven’t yet renewed pledges for 2014. In most cases these are pledgers that have moved away, are aging, suffering financial hardship, or we haven’t managed to reach yet. We still expect to receive some additional pledges from this group over the coming weeks. And as the year progresses, and newcomers become committed to St. Alban’s, we expect additional pledges to be made.

The biggest issue we as a parish must still grapple with is the dense concentration of our pledging coming from a handful of families. For 2014, 45% of all pledges came from only 15 families, which is the most concentrated it has been in at least ten years. This concentration leaves us vulnerable to inevitable demographics, since a disproportionate number of the larger pledges are from older members of our parish. It should remain a key objective of the Stewardship team and the parish to broaden this base of support.

Your Stewardship Team thanks you for helping us work towards our mission over the past year. We are a joyful team that has enthusiastically and energetically pursued our stewardship mission for St. Alban’s. And we look forward to carrying forward this effort with your continued support, suggestions, and encouragement in the new year.
Report of the Senior Warden
Submitted by Jim Croft

As I conclude my term as your Senior Warden, I want you to know that your Parish is in fine shape both in terms of the programs being offered and its financial position. The staff, clergy and vestry have worked hard on your behalf. This year we tackled the complex issue of communication. We reviewed how we communicate with each other and also with people outside this parish. The result is that we now have a more user friendly website, a new face book page, a new logo, a weekly e-news letter, and a redesigned Albanor. We also took the opportunity to Listen to you with the Listening Project. You will be hearing a report from Father Tim later in the annual meeting.

We will celebrate our Centenial Year as a Parish in 2014. A series of exciting events are all ready being planned. This is a major milestone for St. Alban’s Church. I hope you will participate.

It takes a team to manage all that happens in a exciting Parish like ours. It has been my privilege to be a part of a great team of staff and vestry. I have learned a great deal and I believe that I am a better person for it. Thank you again for all your support and guidance.

Report of the Listening Project
Submitted by The Rev. Timothy A. Boggs

This past fall St. Alban’s has been listening! We made good on our plan to listen to each other about God’s grace and gifts in our lives at St. Alban’s. Each parish household was given an opportunity to be in a personal, face-to-face conversation to express in a fresh way your experience, hopes and ideas for your church. And you were invited to consider the personal gifts of time, creativity, energy and resources you would like to pledge this year to see St. Alban’s dreams come alive.

31 volunteer listeners drawn from across the parish were able to personally contact 215 of the 271 households identified in the parish records. The remaining 56 households were unreachable (43), or are still in process (13) of scheduling a visit. We estimate 21 of this group of 56 are no longer active in the parish. For the remaining 250 active parish households, the listeners were able to hold 176 listening dialogs (141 meetings in person, 32 by phone, 3 by email), so more than 70% of the parish households actively participated in the Listening Project - a GREAT response!

The vestry and rector strongly believe that our life together at St. Alban’s will greatly benefit from this personal approach. Our relationships and community will be deepened as we continue to talk and to listen to each other. We have learned so much from all that you shared. All of which will be highlighted at the Annual Meeting, and is available in The Listening Project Report and on our website.
REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN COMMITTEE
Submitted by Lisa Newbold

The Garden Committee of Suzanne Higgins, Heidi McInerney and Lisa Newbold last year worked diligently to weed, divide and transplant perennials and shrubs in an effort to make our garden more easily maintainable.

There were weddings, baptisms, solstice celebrations, music recitals and poetry readings last year and we look forward to planning more parish and community based events this year. We welcome any and all ideas for future uses of our garden.

Last May a weeping crabapple tree was planted in honor of Audrey’s 25 years as our deacon. One of the Hinoki cypress trees was given in gratitude and appreciation of our loyal Sunday School teachers.

Unfortunately, we lost Lynne Holland when she and her husband Ward moved to Brunswick. A member of the Garden Committee since the early planning stages her dedication, hard work, extensive horticultural experience and knowledge will continue to be missed.

Special thank to our wonderful Sexton, Greg Hicks, for his tireless horticultural efforts.

Anyone interested in joining us for an hour a week or more, please let us know, whether your thumbs are green or not. We work, weed, socialize and learn in a beautiful space.

An engraved stone in the niche wall in St. Alban’s Memorial Garden.
REPORT OF THE COLLECTION COUNTING COMMITTEE

The weekly collection plate includes contributions directed to many of St. Alban’s ministries and other needs. The Collection Committee’s responsibility is to count and properly allocate these contributions. Two members of the counting team work together each Sunday after the 9:30 a.m. service for an hour or so. Members serve on a rotating basis, averaging one Sunday per month.

This ministry is very important to the parish, as it contributes to keeping accurate track of parishioners’ contributions and pledges.

Special thanks are extended to the loyal and hard-working team members: Anita Samuelsen, Pat Becker, Connie Babcock, Melinda Clark, Lois Morrill, Shirley Grange, Ann McCullum, Mim Britton and Janie and Mike Watson.

ST. ALBAN’S PARISH LIBRARY

MORE COMING SOON...

Special thanks to Louise Sullivan for her efforts to enhance and update the parish library.

REPORT OF THE PARISH OFFICE

Submitted by Kirsten Helfrich

Fr. Tim’s tremendous energy led to many new initiatives and programs in 2013. Most notable, was a year-long review of parish communications. The clergy, vestry and staff sought ways in which we could break through the noise and bustle in everyone’s busy lives and better reach out to those within the parish and larger community.

In September we were able to launch a beautiful and engaging new website. Updated weekly, the site can be depended on as an accurate source for the latest news and information about upcoming events. It also beautifully represents St. Alban’s for newcomers and seekers who wonder whether St. Alban’s may be a good fit for them. It is with much gratitude that we thank Anne Gale, Heidi McInerney and Jayne Hanley for their tireless efforts in designing the new website.

Also in September, the weekly parish email was replaced by a dynamic and interactive weekly e-news. The e-news format allows us to relay more information in an intuitive and attractive format and frequently includes links to music, worship resources, and parish publications—not to mention the much-loved Photo of the Week.

In December we were delighted to premier the new Albanor—now a seasonal journal with longer and more formative articles. The new digital format enables links to videos, interviews and music.

Many thanks to Jayne Hanley, parishioner and graphic designer, for creating St. Alban’s lovely new logo.

And don’t forget to “like us on Facebook”! St. Alban’s kicked off its social media presence in spring 2013, and we have seen a wonderful response.

Supporting worship, parish life and operations at St. Alban’s requires a tremendous amount of time and energy, and would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our remarkable office volunteers. It is with gratitude and affection that I would like to thank the volunteers who kept the parish office running smoothly in 2013. Special thanks go to Nancy Angier, Pat Becker, Lisa Newbold, Joanne Olsen and Margaret Wise. With their good cheer and high energy they have certainly made the office operate more smoothly.

I would especially like to thank Jen Tarling, Communications Guru, for her tireless research, enthusiasm, and many, many gifts. Her leadership with the communications initiative has been thoughtful, thorough and a delight.
OPERATIONS

REPORT ON 2013 COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS

“Communication is at the heart of all that we do at St. Alban’s.”

In our prayers and hymns, in our exchange of God’s peace and the good news of our work to build Christ’s body, we are each communicators. St. Alban’s has always done a wonderful job of spreading the word and inviting all to share in parish life. In 2013 we took some new and creative steps to build on this strength.

A New Website

www.stalbansmaine.org will draw you and visitors into St. Alban’s life. A creative parish team has designed an easy-to-use, fun and faith-filled site. Reaching both the inquirer and the old-timer, the new website is now the rich go-to place for everything St. Alban’s.

A New Weekly e-News

Will be sent each Wednesday afternoon to your email box! Updated with the latest news including Sunday worship, children and youth plans, and outreach updates. With links to music and articles this will be a quick and valuable resource for your busy household.

A New Albanor

The Albanor is now a seasonal journal that includes longer, more stimulating and formative articles, links, interviews and images. It is sent electronically to all members of the parish and also posted on the website. Paper copies are available for those who do not have access to the electronic version.

A New Presence on Facebook

St. Alban’s kicked-off its social media presence in the spring of 2013. Both clergy and staff have been posting articles, inquiries, images and links on a regular basis. Some posts reflect specific matters of parish life while others illumine our faith and connect us to God’s wider world. Like us on Facebook!
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church

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