



Dear friends,

September 18, 2017

A few years ago we had a parish-wide conversation and asked ourselves who we are, and who we aspire to be as a community. In our listening to each other, we realized that we share a pretty clear understanding. We described ourselves with some simple, secular words that have deeply spiritual and faith-filled meanings.

We said that we are thankful, useful, joyful and hopeful. And we told each other that with God's help, we aspire to nurture these Christian traits in our lives and world.

As I begin my eighth year as your rector, I continue to resonate with your idea of being people who start with a deep sense of gratitude for all the gifts we've been given by God. And I love how together we bring those gifts alive, making a useful difference in our own lives and the world around us. I know you do this. You reflect God's light with heartfelt joy and hope! Just as the saints who went before us revealed, often in the midst of deep darkness, the light of Christ carried by us is the hope of our broken world. Here we honor and nurture that light. The world calls us forward.

Friends, without a doubt, we are living in a time of a deeply divided nation and world. It is confusing, troubling and painful. And yet I have never been more certain that our hope to serve God and God's people right here at St. Alban's matters deeply. We humbly live into this as ones who are thankful, useful, joyful and hopeful.

Each September we return from our summer schedules and launch a new program year at St. Alban's. We have kicked off this new program year very well, and each week our numbers grow. As always, our time together includes joyful worship and warm fellowship. Our young ones begin a fresh round of classes and formation. And our stimulating offerings for adult formation and service are also up and running!

If you have been taking a bit of a summer break or if you have been with us often, I invite you to return with a renewed sense of belonging and engagement. The world needs your prayers and action. And your neighbors near and far welcome your reflection of Christ's love. I know I do!

I hope to see you in church at the two morning services or Celtic Eventide. I invite you and your neighbors to experience the transforming love of God through the grace of Jesus Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit!

With deep gratitude for your invitation to serve you and God in this good place,

The Reverend Timothy A. Boggs, Rector

St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Cape Elizabeth Maine www.stalbansmaine.org