



January 2010 The Grapevine

A Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Brandywine Hundred, Delaware



A Word from Father Karney

Dear friends in Christ,

In pantheon of Gods there is one which stands out as peculiar to Rome. (Many of the ancient Gods had both Greek and Roman roots). The God Janus is represented by a two face image. Originally, a God to protect the gates of homes, Janus could look both forward and backward. When Julius Caesar expanded the calendar to include twelve instead of ten months, he chose Janus as the namesake for the first month of the year. Hence January has ever since been the first month of the year. It is entirely appropriate for Janus to represent the beginning of the calendar year. This is the time of the year when review what has happened in the year just finishing up. News programs, newspapers and magazines remind of the significant events of the year 2009. There are some bittersweet memories and reminders of public figures who have died. There are also joyous things about which we are reminded. Each one of you has memories of the past year. I hope most of them are happy. On January 1st. we will celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. I cannot think of a better way to begin 2010.

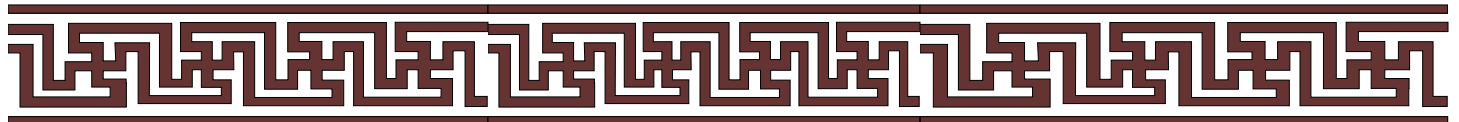


We at St. Albans Church will be looking back and ahead like the God Janus. This past year has certainly been filled with many events. I am the third clergy to be serving here this year. We are thankful to Jim Wolford and Bill Frampton for their faithful service. We also celebrated our 50th Anniversary as a congregation. Lots of good things have happened.

Even as we celebrated the past, we are looking forward to the coming year. Certainly there is an anxiety regarding the future of our community. There has been a great deal of speculation about what our future holds. Please rest assured that the people in both congregations are prayerfully considering what is the best way to minister to each other and to the greater community of Brandywine. Very often the New Year is pictured as a baby in diapers. This is symbolic of the potential for growth and optimism that a new child represents. Looking back and looking ahead is a long tradition of humankind - we know it dates from the time of Julius Caesar. It is the goal of our committees and vestries to never forget to look back nor fear to look forward.

God has not deserted us in the past and He will now desert us in the future.

Peace, **GJK**



On New Years day it is my intention to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus, which is a primary observance in the Prayer Book. The service will be at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, January 1, 2010.

Please note: Although Fr. Karney is not in the office daily, he is available for any pastoral need. Please contact him at (302) 994 3659 He asks you please to call him whenever anyone is hospitalized.

AROUND ST. ALBANS

Vestry Highlights – Bill Gail, Sr. Warden

At the December 14, 2009 Vestry meeting, your Vestry:

- Reviewed Renaissance Committee progress
 - Started including staff personnel into the process
 - Started joint budget planning
- Appointed Amy Harra as Vestry Sunday School/Youth Liaison
- Selected Diocesan Convention Delegates: Rick and Amy Harra
- Reviewed financial status
 - Revenue is up, expenses down, everything in good shape
 - Started the annual budget process
 - Approved transfer of funds from Barnabas account into checking account to cover grants
 - Upgraded our annual diocesan acceptance from 'below minimum' to 'minimum'
- Decided to have a 'spruce up' of the Memorial Garden in the Spring
- Planned upcoming fellowship events:
 - December 20 – Greening of the church and Vestry chili/soup luncheon
 - January 6 – Joint Epiphany service with Grace

Food Closet

Thank you for all your donations over the holidays.

During January we will particularly need

**pancake mixes and syrup
fruit juices, peanut butter, and jellies.**

Donations of canned soups, pasta, dry cereals and canned vegetables are also always welcome.

Sister Sheila Brigid

Ditty Boxes for Seamen

Thirty ditty boxes were assembled, wrapped, and delivered to the Seamen's Center. Thanks to all who donated items and particularly to those who knitted or crocheted hats. We had enough hats to put one in each of the boxes. Also, many thanks to the Mats and Pats and others who helped with the assembly and wrapping.

Deacon Sheila



Adopt a Family

Our **very** generous parishioners contributed over \$3000 to the Adopt-a-Family program this year. This not only allowed us to support the four families (each with four children) that we were originally assigned, but we were able to help an additional six families, each with one to two children! How wonderful and bighearted you are!

Sunday School

On December 24th the Sunday School performed "Scenes from a Charlie Brown Christmas" at the 5:30 PM Service. Our performers included Kelsey Olmstead as Lucy, Allie Olmstead as Linus, Kaylynn Taylor as Sally, Jason Roux as the Narrator and PigPen, Carla Wegner as Peppermint Patty, and Julia Wright as Charlie Brown - all talented and enthusiastic thespians!

Mark Your Calendar!

The Fourth Annual Service of Candlemass to be held at St. Alban's on February 2, 2010 at 7:00 PM. The service will consist of Candlelight Procession and Choral Eucharist to mark this historic Feast of The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (in the "old days" it was known as the Purification of the Virgin Mary). Singers from the Brandywine Hundred parishes have been invited to join our choir for the service and the special music for this celebration will include *Mass for the Quiet Hour*, composed by George Oldroyd in 1936 (this was the Third Communion Service in the old Hymnal 1940) and anthems by Antonio Vivaldi and Johannes Eccard. Rev. George Karney will preside and newly ordained Deacon Shelia Sharpe, AF, will lead the procession, with our own Al Barefoot serving as Cantor.



Invite your friends to join you for this special "outside of Sunday morning" opportunity to share the experience of a beautiful liturgy and worship experience.

BOOK GROUP RESUMES

The Tues. morning book group has enjoyed reading "The Shack" and will resume meeting early in January. This is a good opportunity for new people to join our discussions. Father Karney suggested "When All You Ever Wanted Isn't Enough" by Harold Kushner. Although that one appeals to us, we decided to start with Kushner's first book "When Bad Things Happen to Good People".

Call Joan Lynch (478-3137) if you are interested.

AROUND GRACE

You Are Invited!

Bishop Wayne Wright visits Grace Church on Sunday, January 3, 2010. He will celebrate Holy Eucharist with Confirmation at the 10:30 AM service. St. Alban's parishioners are invited to a reception in the parish hall for the Bishop following the service.



RENAISSANCE TEAM

The Holiday Brass Concert planned for Saturday, December 19th at Grace was cancelled due to the snowstorm. The event will be rescheduled for the spring.



Ideas for a New Church

Parish Life

January Birthdays

Doris Cummings	1/8
Ched Manion	1/11
Greg Pierce	1/13
Bettye Stout	1/14
Jim Cummings	1/16
Nancy Young	1/17
Graham Wright	1/18
Joe Weed	1/20
Jerry Harrell	1/21
Bob Morrow	1/21
Gary Young	1/22
Ruth Norman	1/23
Hazel Yeagle	1/25
Eric Wegner	1/25
Alexandra Lane	1/25
Callie Manion	1/26
Joan Hicks	1/27
Christopher Olmstead	1/29
Norma Mariner	1/29

January Anniversaries

Daniel and Barbara Krieger 1/2/1976

Just Married

On Sunday, December 27, 2009, Heather Pembleton and John Michael Beatty, Jr. were married by the Rev. George Karney at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. Heather is the granddaughter of Dick and Barbara Anderson.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE



Mrs. Riley forgets to check the volume control and catches Pastor Smith off guard.

*We continue to make progress on our exploration of a possible combined ministry with Grace Church. An exciting vision statement has been approved by both churches. (Copies are available in the narthex.) Now we would like to flesh out this vision with specific ideas. Ideas can be dropped in the **suggestion box in the narthex**. The deadline for name suggestions is **January 15**.*

1. Name: *We are searching for a name for the possible new church that would express our vision and our faith. The name can not be St. Albans or Grace. Some possibilities suggested to date are Resurrection, All Saints, St. George's and Holy Spirit.*

What name do you suggest? Why would it be appropriate?

2. Worship experience & education: *What aspects of our worship experience would you like to remain unchanged? What new or improved worship or educational experiences would you like to see?*

3. Other programs and events: *A combined church would have more parishioners and, at some point, we would plan to add a program director or assistant rector. Therefore, a new church would be able to offer more programs. The starting assumption is that all current programs would be continued.*

- a. What current programs or events would you like to see strengthened? How could this be done?

- b. What past programs or events would you like to see revitalized?

- c. What new programs or events would you like to see? How could this be done?

4. Other suggestions

(Optional) Name:

Sister Sheila Brigid Sharpe Ordained

On Saturday, December 5, Bishop Wright (center) ordained Delaware's first class of vocational deacons among a standing-only crowd at [St. Stephen's, Harrington](#). "The joy and spirit of the ordination could not be dampened by the weather," said the Rev. Gary Rowe, Canon to the Ordinary. "It was a great culmination to the ordinands' years of discernment and hard work." Pictured with the bishop (from left to right) are Deacon Susan Philips, All Saints', Rehoboth Beach; the Rev. Rita Nelson (leader of the diaconate program); Deacon Sheila Sharpe, St. Albans, Wilmington; Deacon Cecily Sawyer-Harmon, the Cathedral Church of St. John, Wilmington; Deacon Patricia Malcolm, Christ Church, Dover; Deacon Dorothy Vuono, Christ Church, Milford; and Deacon Thomas McCormick, St. Martha's, Bethany Beach. [Photo by Bob Gilley](#).



St. Alban's Vestry and parishioners gave Deacon Sheila four stoles, white, red, blue, and purple for the various seasons of the liturgical year. The Anamchara Fellowship gave her a green stole. Sheila was happy that the rain and snow did not keep many of the St. Alban's family from attending the ordination.

Sheila says her title is now Deacon Sheila Brigid Sharpe, AF. "I am using the initials after my name to indicate that I am a member of a religious community as well as being a vocational deacon. Parishioners may address me as either Deacon Sheila, Sister Sheila, or *just plain* Sheila."

Congratulations Sr. Sheila!
