



The Good News!

January
2010



St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Church office hours: Monday — Friday 8 am to 4 pm

Rector's Reflections



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The glow of our Christmas services will stay with me for a long time. The poinsettias, flowers, wreaths, garlands and candles made the Church radiant with beauty. The new windows, streaming with jewel-like light, throwing rainbows on the walls, added another layer of dazzling beauty.

But it wasn't just how the Church looked; it was all of our worship that made Christmas so glorious. The Christmas pageant, the choir's singing, the new and old faces and voices, the hands and hearts open at communion--what joy there was in our celebration of Christ's nativity!

And that is how it should be in a community that in many ways is defined by its worship. Worship at its core, is about responding to the love of God. Our prayers and song, our attentiveness to Word, our presence at the Eucharist, gives a place for the love of God to emerge. Mysterious as it is, the love of God is real. In and through our worship, it is released.

Recently I received an email from a parishioner who moved to another part of California. She thanked this congregation for "making a space where Grace can appear." That is why worship is so important to us. What we bring to worship and what we take from worship creates a sacred time and place where God can be active within the lives of those who are present. No time is better for that process than Christmas.

As I look around our community, I see many signs that grace is being received anew. I hear your stories of transformation, both in your lives and in the lives of people for whom we are praying. I also see an increased desire for prayer, daily devotion; for study and contemplation. I also see more of us wanting to make the world better by getting involved in ministries of all kinds. We had so much wonderful outreach this Christmas. We made a difference in many people's lives.

This is the work of God in Christ that we celebrate at Christmas, work which leads inevitably to the distinct message of Epiphany, the next season of the Church year. In Epiphany, we remember the arrival of the magi to the stable. Their journey symbolizes the spread of the gospel to the gentile world. As the light of Christ fills us, transforms us, and gives us new peace and joy so we are naturally asked to share that light with others, especially those who are lost in darkness.

So let us continue the journey, taking in the joy that is present as we open ourselves in worship to the love of God. And let us think about inviting others into our community, not because we should, but simply because what we have found is too good not to share with another. And simply because such joy is too good to keep to ourselves.

A blessed New Year to you all, *Susan +*

CHORAL EVENSONG

Choral Evensong, Sunday, January 17, 4:00 pm Join the congregations and choirs of our neighboring congregations for an ecumenical evensong. Hosting this evensong, we will be joined in worship by St. Paul's Catholic Church, Westwood Presbyterian, Westwood Methodist, Westwood United Church of Christ and Westwood Church of Christ.

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Thank you, ALL	

Worship Services

Sundays:

8 am Holy Eucharist
10 am Holy Eucharist

Parish Staff

The Rev. Susan W. Klein, Rector
The Rev. Norm Ishizaki, Rector Emeritus
The Rev. Warner Traynham, Assisting Priest
Nancy John, Administrator
Darren Motise, Minister of Music
James Vail, Organist and Chormaster Emeritus

Imogen Eddington, Church School
Lisa Atmodjo, Nursery Care
Gordon Toler, Sexton

Vestry

Bisbee Goldfarb, Sr. Warden
Alexei Helmbock, Jr. Warden
Rudy Marloth, Treasurer
Vivian Hay, Clerk

Parish Annual Meeting

Friday Small Group

Barrett Sermon

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 10th in the Parish Hall. There will be a Unity Service at 10:00 am, (Morning Prayer will be said at the 8:00 am service.) We will honor the Vestry members who have served so faithfully and well, elect new members and new delegates, (and alternates), to our Diocesan Convention. In February we will have biographies of our new members. Please join us for brunch on the 10th as we celebrate our parish, hear about the past year, and make plans for the future. Sign up on the patio or call the church office.

Small Group:
Reconciliation and Rembrandt
Beginning Friday, January 8.
We will discuss *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*. In what many consider his finest work, Henri J.M. Nouwen takes on Rembrandt and reconciliation, reflections on the parable of the prodigal son. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**
We meet Fridays 1 to 2:30 pm.

For more information call or email:
John Hirning 310.985.5144/
jhirning@ucla.edu

On February 14, we will be hosting the Barrett Sermon and Lecture. This year our speaker will be Peter Hawkins, Professor of Religion and Literature at Yale Divinity School. His most recent book is Undiscovered Country, Imagining the World to Come. We will have a discussion group about that book on Wednesday evenings, beginning on January 20, at 7:30 p.m. If there is interest, we will share a pot-luck supper beforehand. Please sign up on Sundays that we may have enough books for everyone.

Kerygma

On Wednesdays, from 10:30 am—11:45, we pull out Bibles, commentaries, and our own beliefs and ideas to explore the scriptures in depth. Meet us some Wednesday in the library and join in a very stimulating conversation. We are studying the gospel of Matthew.

Mid-week Holy Eucharist

Take a mid-week moment and refresh yourself spiritually by joining us for our Noon-time Holy Eucharist.
Every Wed. at noon in the Chapel. Bring a friend!

Join us for These Weekly Services and Activities!

Sunday

8:00 am Holy Eucharist
(Chapel)

9:00 am Adult Forum
(Library)

10:00 am *Choral Eucharist
(main Church)

*Nursery and
Church school available

5:00 pm **UCLA Student Fellowship**
Episcopal and Methodist
Chaplaincy to host
(St. Alban's-main church)

*See usher or website for
Sunday Parking permits

Wednesday

10:30 am Kerygma
Bible Study
(Library)

12:00 Noon Holy Eucharist
(Chapel)

Thursday

7:30 pm Adult Choir Reh.
Starting (choir room)

Friday

1:00 pm Pilgrim's Way
Small group
(Library)

January Activities

Jan 9 Sat. 9-10 am Lectio Divina
Prayer/fellowship
(all are invited.)

Jan. 10 Sun. 11:30 am All Parish Meeting
Parish Hall
w/catered lunch

Jan. 17 Sun. 4:00 pm Evensong Concert
In the main church

Jan 18 MLK day The office will be
closed for
Martin Luther King day

Jan. 20 Wed. 12:30 pm "Lunch Brunch"
\$5 per person
(see article page 3)

Jan 22-24 Vestry Retreat:
Please keep
Our leadership in your
prayers this weekend.

E-Donations...Just a click away!

In this technological age, it only makes sense for churches to join forces with internet and automatic debits as a way of receiving contributions for regular pledges as well as specially designated projects. Many of our parishioners already use this financial media and are spoiled by the ease of it all. St. Alban's has joined with VANCO, a company that sets up non-profit institutions to operate in the realm of e-finance. If you are interested in making contributions via the internet, go to Stalbanswestwood.com and go to the [link "e-donations"](#) and follow the directions, easy! This is a small step to becoming more "green" as a church as well as increasing the ease to which our parish body and community is able to give.

Parish Community News Board

Monthly Outreach! *For the month of January, 10% of plate offering will go to:* Jubilee Consortium: Jubilee Consortium's mission is to create healthy and just neighborhoods through enrichment opportunities and leadership programs. The Consortium was created in 2001 by the rectors of a core group of inner city Episcopal parishes in LA. County. These member churches came together out of a common belief that churches should be able to provide much more for their communities than just a place to worship. The Consortium will be responsive to, and informed by, the unique nature of each individual parish. For more information: www.jubileeconsortium.org.



January Prayer List

Betty Jones, Jeanne Heckler, Ann Shannon, Courtney Williams, Doug Laidlaw, Herb Jones, Miranda Reem, Josephine Donor, Susan Duck, Peggy Symonds, Lydia Veis, Robert Jones. For those who are in the military, especially Lt. Ryan Klint, Grant Stone, and Rob Ruano.

St. Alban's "Lunch Bunch" (pray and stay) Last month's Lunch Bunch gathering continues to be a blessed time of fellowship. Please join us for our first lunch of 2010! The lunch is open to anyone in the congregation. We will have our next lunch (\$5 per person) on Wed., January 20, starting with the Noon Eucharist and finishing with lunch from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be on the patio for you to indicate whether you can join us. Please do!

Lectio Divina Saturday

January 9 All are welcome to join us the second Saturday of each month from 9 am - 10 am in the Library at St. Alban's, for prayer. We pray for each other, our parish, our community, the world, whatever is on the heart. It is an uplifting and encouraging time.

Pledges for 2010

THANKS to all of you who have sent in a pledge for 2010. We appreciate the generosity of many who either sustained their pledge or increased it. We are also thankful for the new pledges we've received. However, we still need to hear from around 40 households and your contribution

will make the difference between meeting our goal and having to make further cuts in our budget. God bless you all! You can print a pledge card from our website: www.stalbanswestwood.com/giving.htm or [go green](#) and use our e-pledge system.

Calling All St. Alban's Cooks

One of the great ministries of this parish is to provide meals for our Sunday evening student-focused worship services and dinners. The students love the home-cooked meals. If you are interested in helping out with this ministry, please sign-up on the Welcome Table.

Fond Farewell... In December we said Good-bye to long time parishioner and Director of St. Margaret's Guild, Eileen McHenry. She is currently living with her goddaughter. You can contact Eileen c/o Rebecca Conley, 437 N. Tangerine Square SW Vero Beach, Florida 32968...(772) 778-8297—she'd love to hear from you. Thanks to all in this congregation for your prayers and many acts of kindness.

The Good News

St. Alban's
Episcopal Church
580 Hilgard Avenue

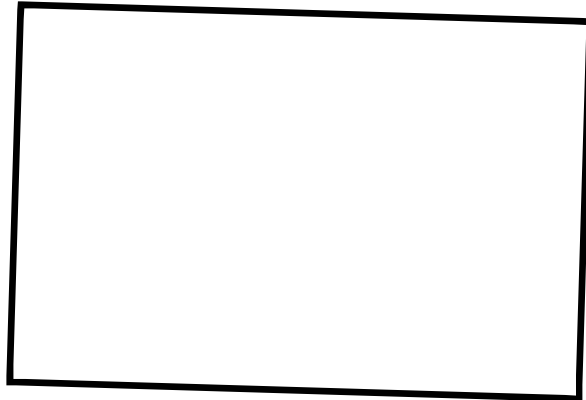
Phone: 310.208.6516
Fax: 310.208.6389

We celebrate the grace
and love of God in worship
and prayer, And seek to
follow God's example in
the fellowship we offer.

We're on the WEB!
www.stalbanswestwood.com

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In Gratitude...

A BIG THANK YOU TO:

- THE MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY WHO ARE ROTATING OFF THIS YEAR. IN THEIR SELFLESS GIVING AND DEVOTION TO ST. ALBAN'S, THEY EXEMPLIFY THE GRACE OF LIVES COMMITTED TO CHRIST AND HIS KINGDOM;
- FOR ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN MINISTRY WITH OUR CHILDREN AND FOR SARAH SPANO AND HER SPECIAL HELP WITH OUR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THIS YEAR; AND FOR ALL THE CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS WHO PARTICIPATED;
- OUR MINISTER OF MUSIC, DARREN MOTISE AND THE CHOIR FOR A BEAUTIFUL SEASON OF MUSIC THIS ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS;
- LISA JACKSON AND THE INDEFATIGABLE ALTAR GUILD FOR ALL OF THE EXTRA DUTIES PERFORMED AND THE CHEERFUL SPIRIT THAT ANIMATES THEIR WORK AMONG US;
- FOR THE TIRELESS ACOLOYTES, LAY EUCHARIST MINISTERS, AND LECTORS WHO ASSIST FAITHFULLY DURING THE WORSHIP SERVICES THROUGH OUT THE YEAR.
- RUDY MARLOTH, USHER COORDINATOR AND PARISH TREASURER, (NEVER AN EASY JOB BUT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DURING A TRYING ECONOMIC TIME), FOR HIS DILIGENCE, GOOD HUMOR, AND LOVE FOR OUR PARISH;
- BOB AND BETSY CAHALL WHO NEVER, EVER STOP GIVING AND LOVING!