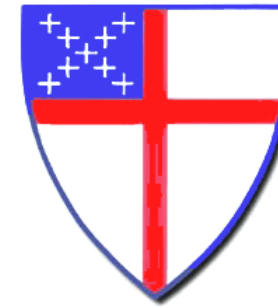


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St. Pete Beach, Florida 33706

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The Good News at St. Alban's

Volume Year 2011 • Issue 3

March 2011

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
330 85th Avenue — St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Address Service Requested

We thank God for:



March 2011

The Parish Ministry

The Rt. Rev. Dabney T. Smith, Bishop
Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Church Staff

The Rev. Stuart A. Swann—Priest In Charge
The Rev. Muriel de Bussy—Assisting Priest

Beth Gordon—Parish Administrator
Edward Crader—Organist & Choirmaster
Church Office: 727-360-8406 Fax: 727- 367-2801
Church E-mail: stalbansepiscopal@earthlink.net
Website: www.stalbanstpetebeach.org

The Attic Shoppe
316 Corey Avenue
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
727-360-5647
Nancy Waits, Director

Vestry Members

Glenda Rice, Senior Warden
Berry Ludwig, Junior Warden
Joe MacConnell, Secretary / Clerk
Brian Cone
Dave Gray
Anna McKenzie
Bob Sinclair
Brooke Taliaferro
Beth Gordon—Acting Treasurer,
Non Voting

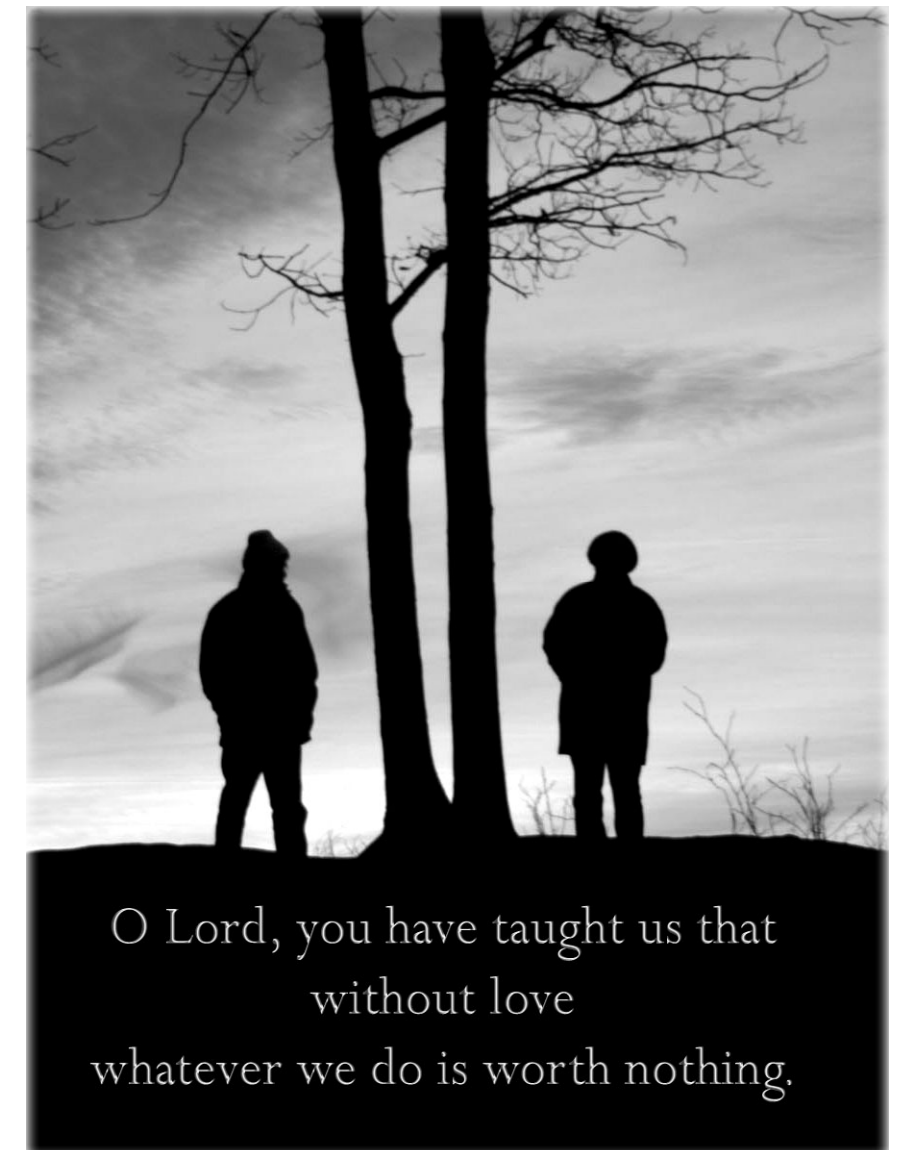
St. Alban's Episcopal DaySchool
8410 Boca Ciega Dr., St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Day School E-mail: stalbandayschool@aol.com
Beth Gregory—Day School Director
727-363-1533

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Our mission:

"Go then, to all people everywhere and make them my disciples... and teach them to obey all that I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:19



O Lord, you have taught us that
without love
whatever we do is worth nothing.

Lenten Issue

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast, March 8, 8am til 1pm

Ash Wednesday Services, March 9, 12noon & 7:00pm

A Perspective from Fr. Stuart Swann



Elk Neck State Park (Maryland),
Upper Chesapeake Bay, February 2005

You may have noticed that I like photography. I caught the “shutterbug” at an early age, and it has captured my imagination and fascination over the years. I’m no professional; I make do with old equipment and have no formal training, but there is always the possibility of catching just the right shot. Learning through trial and error – and thousands of photos! – I have come to appreciate the critical role of light and contrast in making a picture really “pop”. The subtleties of light and shadows define subjects and create moods that separate a ho-hum photo from a knock-out!

The Season of Lent is a study in light and darkness, of contrasts and shadows. It is a special time of year to encounter ourselves in ways that lead us toward liberation and deeper devotion to Christ. We will have opportunities for fellowship and laughter and we will have opportunities to enter into the solemnity of Jesus’ suffering and the price of God’s redeeming love toward humankind. Especially during this time, I encourage each of us to seek ways to abstain from things that hinder our spiritual growth, including any barriers to physical health that are within our abilities to control.

Taking on a new Lenten discipline could be just the source of joy and strength you have been waiting for. Sure, a deeper prayer life and sacrificial acts of giving are perfect for Lent, but how about other tangible changes, such as: A commitment to listen more attentively to someone in our life? The addition of a daily walk to your schedule? Decreased (or eliminated) intake of a food or drink that is damaging to your wellbeing? Reading a full book of the Bible, possibly for the first time? Finding a way to volunteer some extra hours to the work of ministry at church each week? Making an effort to identify one person in your life who might be a friend outside the Faith; someone whom your friendship might influence toward a commitment to Christ? Writing letters or cards to those special people in your life to whom you have a yearning to express appreciation? The possibilities are as infinite as the pictures waiting to be photographed!

I also encourage you to prepare now for the services of Holy Week. These are the most compelling and memorable liturgies of the church year. If you can possibly attend, please do so. Easter Sunday and Easter Season will take on a far brighter appearance when we first, collectively, experience dark sides of the Gospel.

Entreating a holy Lent ...

(Cover photo) Also from Elk Neck State Park, February 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
MARCH 2011						
		1 <u>Care Team Meets</u> 9am Parish Hall	2 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am <u>Inquirer's Class</u> 11:00am	3 Men of <u>St. Alban's</u> Meet 6:30pm Parish Hall Pg 7	4 <u>Handyperson's</u> Group Meets 12noon Parish Hall	5 Wine, Cheese & More 6pm Parish Hall Pg 8
6 Last Epiphany Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30am <u>Inquirer's Class</u> 9:15am Guild Room	7 Fr. Stuart Day Off	8 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Feast 8am—1pm Parish Hall Pg 8	9 <u>Inquirer's Class</u> 9:15am Guild Room Ash Wednesday Services 12noon & 7pm No Healing Service	10 Life Touch Photographic Sessions 2pm—8:30pm Parish Hall Pg 9	11	12 Life Touch Photographic Sessions 10am—4:30pm Parish Hall
13 Lent 1 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30 am “Let Us Pray” <u>Lenten Study</u> 9:15am Guild Room Pg 5	14 <u>ECW Board Meets</u> 10:00am Guild Room <u>Vestry Meets</u> 6pm Guild Room Fr. Stuart Day Off	15	16 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am <u>Lenten Study</u> 11:15am Pg 5 <u>Palms Doc Talk</u> Call 1-800-667-4576 Guild Room	17 School Board <u>Meets</u> 1:45pm Handprint Room St. Patrick's Day <u>Dinner</u> 6pm Parish Hall Pg 8	18	19
20 Lent 2 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30 am “Let Us Pray” <u>Lenten Study</u> 9:15am Guild Room Pg 5	21 Fr. Stuart Day Off	22	23 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10 am <u>Lenten Study</u> 11:15am Guild Room Pg 5	24	25	26 Lenten Quiet Day 10am—2pm Pg 7
27 Lent 3 Holy Eucharist 8 & 10:30 am “Let Us Pray” <u>Lenten Study</u> 9:15am Guild Room Pg 5	28 Fr. Stuart Day Off	29	30 Holy Eucharist With Prayers for Healing 10am <u>Lenten Study</u> 11:15am Guild Room Pg 5	31 Lenten Mid-Season Checkup <u>Soup Supper</u> 6pm Parish Hall Pg 7		



- | | | | |
|----|--------------|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Steve Turner | 20 | Jack MacConnell |
| 6 | Sally DeRosa | 21 | George Strickland |
| 7 | Bill MacMinn | 22 | Annette Slater |
| 12 | Lisa Yoder | 22 | Chris Schultz |
| 14 | Mary Jones | 25 | Johnna Patterson |
| 18 | Berry Ludwig | 28 | Mary Cole |

4 Ellie & Ken
Deacon



St. Patrick *Bishop and Missionary of Ireland, Feast Day March 17*

It is believed that Patrick was born into a Christian family somewhere on the northwest coast of Britain in about 390. His grandfather had been a Christian priest and his father, Calpornius, a deacon. Calpornius was an important official in the late Roman imperial government of Britain. It was not unusual in this post-Constantinian period for such state officials to be in holy orders. When Patrick was about sixteen, he was captured by a band of Irish slave-raiders. He was carried off to Ireland and forced to serve as a shepherd. When he was about twenty-one, he escaped and returned to Britain, where he was educated as a Christian. He tells us he took holy orders as both presbyter and bishop, although no particular see is known as his at this time. A vision then called him to return to Ireland. This he did in about the year 431.



Tradition holds that Patrick landed not far from the place of his earlier captivity, near what is now known as Downpatrick (a "down" or "dun" is a fortified hill, the stronghold of a local Irish king.) He then began a remarkable process of missionary conversion throughout the country that continued until his death, probably in 461. He made his appeal to the local kings and through them to their tribes. Christianizing the old pagan religion as he went, Patrick erected Christian churches over sites already regarded as sacred, had crosses carved on old druidic pillars, and put sacred wells and springs under the protection of Christian saints.

Source: *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, 2006

Editor's note: No mention of leprechauns or green beer in the literature.

From the Senior Warden—Glenda Rice

On Shrove Tuesday, we will throw the doors of the Parish Hall open and invite neighbors, parishioners and visitors in to enjoy pancakes and sausage. In preparing a press release to advertise the event, I became curious about why pancakes are associated with Shrove Tuesday. Research showed that during Lent believers gave up all products derived from meat. The cook in the house would prepare pancakes in order to use up the eggs and the milk in the house on Shrove Tuesday.

We often hear the phrase, the 40 days of Lent. There sure are a lot of 40 day periods in the Bible. Noah and the animals were on the ark for 40 days. Moses was on Mt. Sinai for 40 days while receiving the 10 commandments. Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days between the time of his baptism and the start of his ministry. Several things strike me about all of these periods of time. Each of these events involved a period of quietness. Granted the animals on the ark may have made a lot of noises, but a steady rain minus thunder has quietness to it that I find calming. There were a lot of activities taking place on the mountain with Moses, but he definitely had to be quiet in order for the Lord to finally get to the point of giving him the commandments. Jesus was dealing with the pesky Satan out in the wilderness, but after he resisted the temptations we are told that the angels came to minister to him.

Our 40 days of Lent is a great time to be still and listen for God calling us. Muriel is providing us with an opportunity to experience a quiet day later this month. Find some quiet time in the morning or at night or both and listen to God talk to you. Are you on the path that he wants for you? What is he calling you to do in your personal life and in your spiritual life? Does he have a ministry waiting for you at St. Alban's that you have yet to discover? Do you feel a tug in your heart to do something? That could be God calling you to that place. We are so busy in our day to day lives. What a wonderful opportunity to take 40 days and consciously and purposely listen to the Lord. At the end of 40 days, who knows what you might have gained. Happy 40 days!

In Christ,
Glenda

Mark Calendars now!

April 10th, 3 pm Lenten Sacred Music Concert

Musical theater, Opera and Oratorio selections that coincide with this special season, performed by students of Edward Crader.

A free will donation to benefit St. Alban's Music Program will be greatly appreciated.

**Shared Ministry Service Planning for Lent and Holy Week –
St. Alban's and St. Dunstan's (Rev. 2/21/11)**

Service	Date	Where	Time (AM)/ Officiant	Time (PM)/ Officiant	Music?
Ash Wednesday	March 9	St. Alban's	12 noon – Stuart	7 pm – Stuart	Yes (Edward)
		St. Dunstan's	12 noon – Jim	7 pm – Jim	Yes (Ginger)
"Bring-a-Friend to Church" Sunday	April 10	St. Alban's	8 am and 10:30 am – Stuart		No Yes (Edward)
SACRED MUSIC CONCERT "Bring-a-Friend to Church" Sunday (AFTERNOON)	April 10	St. Alban's	3 pm		An inspiring presenta- tion of music for the Lent and Easter sea- sons by Edward Crader and students (a free-will offering benefits St. Alban's mu- sic ministry)
Palm Sunday	April 17	St. Alban's	8 am and 10:30 am – Muriel		No Yes (Edward)
		St. Dunstan's	10:15 am – Stuart		Yes (Ginger)
Maundy Thurs- day	April 21	St. Alban's	(evening service only)	7 pm – Stuart and Muriel	Yes (Edward)
		St. Dunstan's	(evening service only)	5 pm – Stuart and Jim	Yes (Ginger)
Good Friday	April 22	St. Alban's	12 noon – Stuart and Muriel	7 pm – Stuart and	Yes, both services (Edward)
		St. Dunstan's	12 noon – Jim		Yes (Ginger)
Holy Saturday	April 23	St. Alban's	No Service		
		St. Dunstan's	No Service		
Easter Sunday	April 24	St. Alban's	8 am – Muriel 11:30 am - Stuart		Yes (Edward) Yes (Edward)
		St. Dunstan's	9:30 am – Stuart		Yes (Louise)



Get Ready to Say, "Cheese!"
**Lifetouch Directories will be taking
portraits in St. Alban's Parish Hall:**

Thursday, March 10, 2011
2:00pm to 8:30pm
Saturday, March 12, 2011
10:00am to 4:30pm

PHOTO DIRECTORY FAQs

Who is eligible to make an appointment to have photos taken?

- Members and friends of St. Alban's
- Extended family, friends and neighbors of church members and St. Alban's DaySchool families (they won't appear in the church directory, but will get a free portrait!)

Can I have a photo taken with my pets?

- Yes!! Pets are welcomed!

Do I have to buy anything?

- No, each household will receive a complimentary professional 8" x 10" family portrait at no charge.
- You will also have the opportunity to purchase professionally done family portraits, a treasured gift for family and friends, taken here for your convenience and comfort. Lifetouch accepts cash, checks and all major credit cards so come prepared to take advantage of this opportunity!

My kids are away at college or I /we won't be home during the scheduled photo sessions.

- Call or email the Lifetouch representative, Tony Kerns, 727-230-1757 or tkerns@lifetouch.com and he will look for another local Lifetouch photo session occurring where your child or you will be.

How do I sign up?

- Look for volunteers in the Welcome Center on Sundays, **beginning February 20, 2011.**
- You will soon be able to go to St. Alban's website and link to Lifetouch to sign up. We will let you know when that is ready!
- Call or email Lifetouch at 727-230-1757 or tkerns@lifetouch.com

Please call the church office 360-8406 with any questions!

Wine Tasting & More Party



**Saturday,
March 5, 2011
6-8pm
St. Alban's Parish Hall**

Wine, Cheese, Fruit & Canapés
Non-alcoholic beverages available

Donation - \$12.00 per person
Invite your friends & neighbors!



St. Patrick's Dinner Party

**Thursday,
March 17, 2011
6pm
St. Alban's Parish Hall**

"Jiggs" Dinner
(Corned Beef & Cabbage, all the trimmings, dessert & beverage)

Live Music!

\$12.00 Per Person

A Time for Prayer

The season of Lent will soon be upon us and, although, we can be in the season, we can easily not be in the spirit of the season. The observance of a "holy Lent" is no accident: We can be driving a car, but going in circles without directions to our destination. Prayer is the Christian's GPS. Don't leave home without it!

Please consider the possibility of joining the presentations and discussions on the topic, "Let us Pray", as a spiritual formation course during Lent. We will have five sessions between Sunday services, repeated on the following Wednesdays. Look for the topics in the March Newsletter, but please mark your calendar now for these dates:

*The Lord be with you.
LET US PRAY!*

- Sundays - 9:15 am	- Wednesdays - 11:00 am	Topic	Presenter
March 13	March 16	The Lord's Prayer: We are bold to pray	Fr. Stuart
March 20	March 23	Listening Prayer: Contemplative Practice	Pastor Muriel
March 27	March 30	Prevailing Prayer: Persevering through Obstacles to Outcomes	Fr. Stuart
April 3	April 6	The Collects: Historic, Masterful, and Fresh	Fr. Stuart
April 10	April 13	Uncommon Prayer with The Book of Common Prayer	Fr. Stuart



**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE FEAST**

**March 8, 2011
8:00 until 1:00 pm**

Pancakes, Sausage,
Orange Juice, Coffee

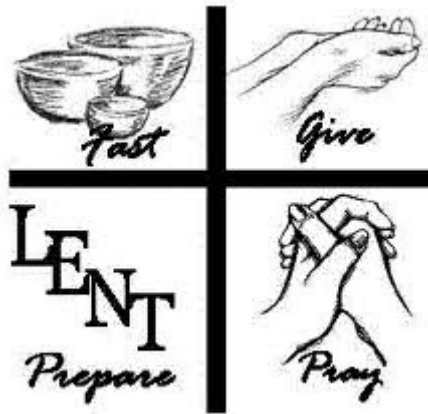
All you can eat Pancakes!

\$5.00 donation

Police, Fire, EMS and Military Eat Free!!

St. Alban's Parish Hall





A Meditation:

The World's Need

So many gods, so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind,
While just the art of being kind,
Is all the sad world needs.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox (1883)

Submitted by Patricia Pryor

Day School News:

March is blowing in with great activities and learning fun at the Day School. Did you know that Dr. Seuss' birthday is March 2nd? We will celebrate with many of his classic stories during the week of March 1-4. We will have a Wacky Wednesday when the children can wear something wacky to school and the classrooms will be filled with wacky and wonderful activities. We will also enjoy a Green Eggs & Ham breakfast at the end of the week.

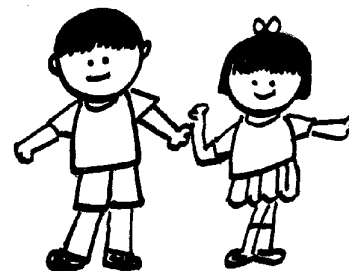
We will also celebrate St. Patrick's Day this month with a "green party" of green snacks, juice, and decorations. If we are lucky we may get a visit from that little green mischief maker Louie the Leprechaun. We will try to catch him and get his gold!

We will soon kick-off our Spring Prize Drawing fundraiser. For just one dollar donation, you could win prizes including round trip airfare, a sunset cruise, and many more.

A Garden Update – We have blossoms on the strawberry plant! Our green bean seedlings have sprouted and have been transferred to the garden already. Getting ready are the carrots, tomato, lavender, and a few variety of sunflowers. In addition to the vegetable garden, we are planting new plants in the rabbit habitat. The bunnies enjoy the shade of the plants as well as munching on them.

Happy Spring!

Beth Gregory & Staff of St. Alban's Day School



Lenten Quiet Day, Saturday,

March 26

Dear Parish Family,

In Mark's gospel, Jesus invites his disciples to come away to a quiet place and rest awhile. He invites us, also, to take some time from the demands of our busy lives—to rest in him; to listen to him.

You are invited to a Lenten Quiet Day on Saturday, March 26th, from 10am to 2pm. All you need to bring is a bag lunch and a listening ear. In the stillness, God often speaks to our hearts, fills our souls with joy and peace, and strengthens us for re-entry into the world.

I hope to see you there.

Remember, Jesus is waiting.

Blessings,

Muriel+

PS: Sign up in the Welcome Center so we may plan properly.

Lenten Mid-Season "Checkup",

Thursday, March 31, 6pm

We are midway through the season of Lent by March 31st. How are we doing? Let us meet together, in the Parish Hall, share soup and bread and, more importantly, share our Lenten experience.

Sign up in the Welcome Center to bring a soup to share.



The Men of St. Alban's had their monthly fellowship, program and potluck supper on February 3, 2011. Fifteen men, the largest number to date, were in attendance.

The March and April meetings will be very significant as we will establish a nominating committee at the March meeting who will present a slate of officers to be voted on at the April meeting. To-date, we have been operating with an interim slate of officers. The officers elected at the April meeting will serve for a full year.

Join us for the next fellowship, program and potluck supper March 3rd, 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

Questions? Call Ernie McKenzie at 360-6481.

"They devoted themselves to the teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and to prayer." Acts 2:42