



THE ALTON ANGELUS

June 2022

The Reverend Cynthia A. Sever, Rector

*The Episcopal Parish of Alton has as its mission:
To live and show Christ in our midst.*



FROM THE
RECTOR



The readings for May 29 heard last Sunday are all about hope, God's vast love for each and every one of us, and freedom from our bondage to sin and oppression. They are also about doors swinging open before us into new and better life while we live on this earth, and the gates of heaven opening to admit us to eternal life lived in God's loving presence after this life is over.

We hear the clear message that God wants all of these good things for us – now and forever. “Let all those who thirst come and drink the water of life as a free gift,” says Jesus in Revelation. So many people fear the Book of Revelation, thinking it foretells all manner of awful things in store for us at the end of time – like torture, war, and being ravaged by frightful beasts, to name a few.

But that's a misunderstanding of Revelation, because almost all of the things we read there have already happened, and they are told about in highly symbolic language. The symbolism was necessary because of the persecution of Christians at the time it was written. Christians would have understood the symbolism, but not those from outside the Church. The symbolism used can bring frightening images to mind, because we also can find ourselves perplexed by the imagery. All the battles told of in Revelation have already been won by Christ. He has already triumphed over every foe and has been victorious in every battle, in order to defeat Satan and death and assure our salvation in paradise with him. We've been released from our enslavement to sin, and God wants nothing more than for us to spend eternity wrapped in his love.

We have every possible reason to hope, spelled with a capital H. And yet we gather together in the wake of the second mass shooting in two weeks based solely on the hatred of people of different races than the gunmen. Where is our God of love while 19 little children and their teachers were being slaughtered in a primarily Hispanic elementary school in Ulveda, Texas, or while innocent shoppers were shot dead in the grocery store in Buffalo because their skin

is black?

God created human beings out of love and to be truly loved by us. He gifted us with free will because true love cannot be mandated or forced. Since things went wrong in the Garden of Eden, we humans have used our free will to walk away from God and to hurt one another, thereby continually adding to the evil in the world.

Where is God when these horrible things happen, or even better before they happen, while the urge to murder is being fed in a gunman's heart? God is right there with those plotting evil, urging them to walk down different pathways and back into his arms, and lamenting when they choose evil instead.

God is with the victims to comfort them and to hold them fast, weeping with their torment, and bearing them lovingly up to heaven to suffer no more.

God is with all those who mourn the victims and the shooters – loving them more than they can ever imagine.

God is with those of us who look on in shock and horror and pray for an end to this senseless violence, for an end to hatred and violence – pray for peace and harmony.

God waits until the time is right and then transforms all of these bad things that happen in our lives and in the world and then brings new life from them. Before the fire I had a photograph of a vast field of black, crusted lava. The lava had burned all life away from the entire area for as far as the eye could see. And out of that charred devastation, a single bird-of-paradise bloomed in glory.

That's what God always does. God turns death into new life while we live on this planet and after we die. God redeems, God saves, God loves, God brings new life even as he holds the people who have died and are already with him in paradise. We have every reason to Hope and to rejoice!

With love,

Mother Cindy+



Pentecost and Trinity Sunday to be Commemorated



The Feast of Pentecost, which falls on June 5th this year, is celebrated on the 50th day of Easter (including the day of Easter itself). It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus while they were in Jerusalem celebrating the Feast of Weeks, as described in Acts 2. The events of the day are foretold by Jesus just before his Ascension. While his followers were with the risen Christ, he tells them, “*John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now*” (Acts 1:5). He goes on to say to them, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Act 1:8).

We celebrate Pentecost as the inauguration of the Church’s mission in the world. Empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are to go out into our neighborhoods and the wider world witnessing to the Good News of the risen Christ. The Day of Pentecost is one of the seven principal feasts of the church year in the Episcopal Church (Book of Common Prayer, p. 15). The liturgical color for the feast is red. **We ask that you please wear red to church on June 5—we plan to take a picture of our church family in the garden at St. Paul’s after the service!**

Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the first Sunday after Pentecost and is another of the seven principal feasts of the church year (BCP, p. 15). As recorded by St. Matthew, the last words Jesus said to his Apostles before returning to Heaven were: “*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of time.*” These words, among others in Holy Scripture, form the basis of our doctrine of the Trinity. In our commemoration of Trinity Sunday, we honor the Unity of the Godhead, embracing God in Three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



Coffee Hour in the Garden Starts June 5

Parish Life is happy to announce that coffee hour at St. Paul's is coming back! Let's take advantage of our beautiful garden for fellowship after the Sunday service at St. Paul's. We're keeping it simple, but you can look forward to home made quick breads, coffee and bottled water, with various flavorings if you desire. June 5th is the scheduled date for the return of coffee hour.



Please join us!

There will be a sign up sheet for coffee hour helpers for future Sundays. Please consider signing up and volunteering to be a coffee hour host or hostess! Parish Life furnishes the food and beverages; serving and cleaning up afterwards is all that is required of volunteers.

Parish Life Commission



Save the Date for our Parish Picnic

On June 26th at 10:00 a.m., we will hold one worship service outdoors at Homer Adams Park, 6810 Godfrey Road (behind Godfrey Village Hall). Following the worship service, a potluck meal will be served.

The Parish Life Commission will provide fried chicken, beverages, and eating utensils for the picnic lunch. Parishioners are asked to bring a side dish or dessert. For those who are concerned with sharing dishes due to ongoing Covid-19, please feel free to bring your own individual meal. You may want to bring a folding chair. Mark your calendars!

PLEASE let us know if you are planning to attend so that we can have an ample amount of chicken and beverages to serve you. RSVP to any Parish Life commission member:

Mimi Almonroeder	618-581-5756	diamondzoe@charter.net
Jean Downey	618-466-2253	jldowney1@charter.net
Donna Fisher	618-791-3860	aldon75@sbcglobal.net
Tom Wrausmann	618-980-3507	thomaswrausmann66@gmail.com

Parish Life Commission

MONDAYS@7!



Our Monday evening time of worship and fellowship continues every Monday at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's.

It is simple worship involving reading from Scripture and other sources plus prayer, interspersed with music and or quiet singing. Each week has a theme from the Twelve Steps or Scripture, or other sources. The program is attended by those both in Twelve Step programs and those who are not. Following worship, we have as short social time with snacks and discussion. It is a very peaceful time! All are welcome!

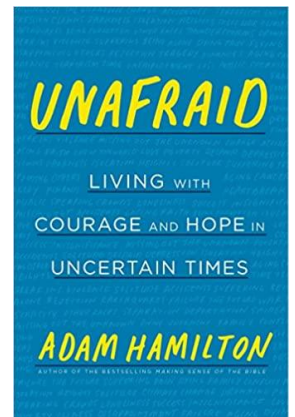
UNAFRAID--News from the Wednesday Discussion Group

The Wednesday Book Discussion Group continues to read Adam Hamilton's book *Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times*, meeting weekly at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Unafraid has been described as a "road map" for facing our fears with faith. Hamilton draws on scripture and science to help us learn to tame our fears and to help us to live with Christian courage and hope.

In these times of uncertainty in our everyday lives, the church, our families and communities – Adam Hamilton gives us the reminder of Jesus' recurring command "Do not be afraid."

All are welcome – with or without the book. Questions or do you want us to send you the Zoom link? Contact Diane Martin at 618-225-2676.



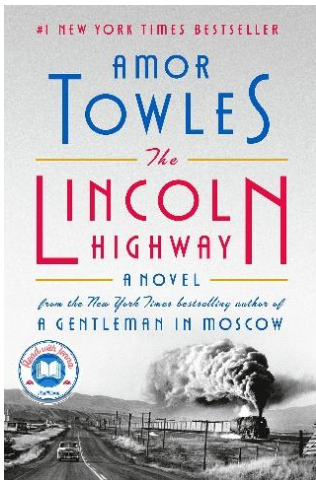
Welcome to:

--Bradley Black, who transferred his membership from Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. Brad is an R.N. at the VA Hospital. Brad has already served as Lector, and he is currently being trained to be an acolyte and crucifer!



--Christina Butler, who was baptized by Mother Cindy at the Easter Vigil on April 16, 2022. Chrissy was presented for baptism by Bruce Bayer and Janet Riley. *Congratulations!*

Book Club



We will meet on Wednesday, June 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at LuciAnna's on Broadway for our June Book Club. We will be reading *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles. Following is a short introduction:

In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car.

Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York.

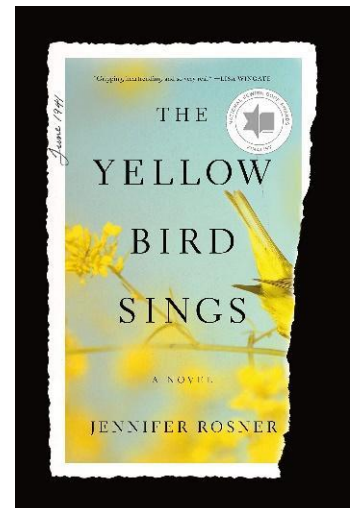
Please join us!

Education Commission

Book Club Sneak Peek for July

As Nazi soldiers round up the Jews in their town, Róza and her 5-year-old daughter, Shira, flee, seeking shelter in a neighbor's barn. Hidden in the hayloft day and night, Shira struggles to stay still and quiet, as music pulses through her and the farmyard outside beckons. To soothe her daughter and pass the time, Róza tells her a story about a girl in an enchanted garden:

The girl is forbidden from making a sound, so the yellow bird sings. He sings whatever the girl composes in her head: high-pitched trills of piccolo; low-throated growls of contrabassoon. Music helps the flowers bloom. In this make-believe world, Róza can shield Shira from the horrors that surround them. But the day comes when their haven is no longer safe, and Róza must make an impossible choice: whether to keep Shira by her side or give her the chance to survive apart.



Inspired by the true stories of Jewish children hidden during World War II, Jennifer Rosner's debut is a breathtaking novel about the unbreakable bond between a mother and a daughter. Beautiful and riveting, *The Yellow Bird Sings* is a testament to the triumph of hope—a whispered story, a bird's song—in even the darkest of times.

More from the Book Club



The Book Club has an interest in building and installing a Little Free Library at St. Paul's on the Market Street side of the church as an outreach project. We are in need of help in providing your building expertise, low-cost options and installation. If you, or someone you know, could assist us in this project, please let Jean Downey know at 618-466-2253 or e-mail jldowney1@charter.net

The first Little Free Library was created by Todd H. Bol in 2009 in Hudson, Wisconsin, launching what would become a global book-sharing movement. Todd built the inaugural Little Free Library book exchange in honor of his mother, a schoolteacher and lifelong reader. When he placed the structure in his front yard, Todd saw the "take a book, share a book" concept resonate with his neighbors, and he began shaping a vision to bring Little Free Libraries to the rest of the world.



Serving Area Kids

Serving Area Kids (SAK), a summer lunch program designed to provide free meals to kids pre-school through 10th grade who might need assistance during the summer months, welcomes volunteers! They will distribute lunches at five sites in Alton on Mondays and Thursdays starting July 5th. Our Parish has joined Main Street United Methodist Church in this outreach ministry for quite a few years. Would you like to help? Volunteers are needed for this important contribution to our community. For more information, contact Marti LoRusso at 618-251-4921.

Evangelism and Outreach Commission

The Baskets Are Back!

Our baskets are back in the Narthex at St. Paul's to collect food donations for Crisis Food Center. A second basket will hold donations for the Pet Food Pantry. Baskets are also in place in the side Narthex at Trinity Chapel. Please bring non-perishable food items when you come to worship on Sundays—together we can make a difference!



Saturday Café--In Service with our Neighbors

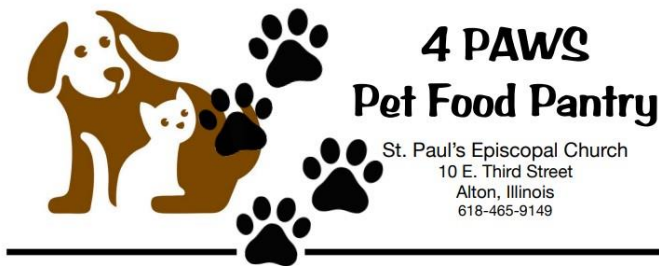
On Saturday May 7th, Bruce Bayer, Janet Riley, Susan Lukasik, Elizabeth Bumbacher, Patti Wright and Diane Martin, along with the Delanos—our guides from First Presbyterian—had quite a rewarding time working together at the Saturday Café, a program serving free lunches to those in need at First Presbyterian Church on Alby. Volunteers served a total of 65 lunches, including 15 carryout meals to Salvation Army. It was a congenial (even joyful!) environment. Those who prepared and served were as filled as those whom they served!



Bruce, Patti and Diane did all the shopping ahead of time and the meals were prepared on Saturday morning. Guests were served cafeteria style in the kitchen and seated in the fellowship hall. Lunches included sloppy joes (homemade by Bruce), green salad with cheese, potato salad, fruit cups, apple sauce, treats and sodas. Seconds were available as long as food lasted.

Several area churches, including ours, rotate serving the meals. Upcoming dates for our parish to serve the Saturday Café include July 16th, July 30th, November 19th and December 17th. We look forward to working with you! For more information, please contact Bruce Bayer at 618-798-1310 or Diane Martin at 618-225-2676.





The launch of our Pet Food Pantry on Sunday, May 1st was a big success! We gave out food to feed 10 dogs and one cat! Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this happen, including Mother Cindy, Byron Sever, Marti LoRusso, Mimi Almonroeder, Diane Martin, and Barb Prior.

Our next Pet Food Pantry is scheduled for Sunday, June 5th. The pet food pantry is open one hour monthly on the first Sunday of the month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. No food will be distributed at any other time. Enter St. Paul's through the Market Street entrance to participate. Pets are welcome!



Our mission is to feed the pets of the hungry in order to keep pets from being surrendered to shelters; keep pet parents and their beloved pets together; and improve the nutrition of the hungry, those who suffer from food insecurity, and their precious pets.



The 4PAWS Pet Food Pantry will run strictly on donations of pet food or money from the public, so participation from our community will be key to the success of this project. We would like to thank Round Table Restaurant in Godfrey; Mississippi Mud Pottery, Lucky Dog Groomers, and LuciAnna's in Alton; and a Farm Fresh store on Rt. 111 in Roxanna for allowing us to place a collection jar in their businesses! We would love to place collection jars in other locations in the Alton area. Please call the Rev. Cindy Sever at (618) 465-9149 if you are a business that would be willing to host a jar. Pet food can be dropped off during pet food pantry hours at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10 East 3rd Street in Alton. We would also gladly accept monetary donations, as this will allow us to purchase the food that is most needed at any given time. Checks can be made payable to St. Paul's Church with "pet pantry" written on the memo line.

Together we can improve the lives of our neighbors and their precious animal companions!

The Rev. Cynthia Sever+



PAWS
Sunday, June 5, 2022
2:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Conference Room
Inside the Market Street doors



Guild of Grace

The Guild of Grace has finally restarted after a very long wait!

The Guild of Grace was formed in the mid 1960's as a guild to provide hospitality to the parish, which still remains our main focus today. Our guild has evolved to include providing childcare and upkeep of our nursery as well as responsibility for the Chili Supper and the Annual Meeting Brunch. We also provide support to many other activities around the parish.



At our first meeting on April 30th, we elected new officers for 2022. Jean Downey will serve as President; Irene McLaughlin, Vice President; Mimi Almonroeder, Secretary; and Donna Fisher, Treasurer. Our second meeting was held on May 10 where we adopted a new mission statement and decided to set a regular meeting date of the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 28th at 6:00 p.m. We will meet at The Loading Dock in Grafton to enjoy fellowship with one another. ALL women in the parish are invited to join this group to share our time, talents and resources. We hope to see you June 28th!

Jean Downey

Legend of the Dogwood



The dogwood reminds us of the pain Jesus bore. Each petal wears the stain of blood, and in the heart of the flower lies a crown of thorns.

Because the tree loved Jesus so, so much, it was granted beauty that will forever symbolize God's great love for you and me.

Author Unknown



THE CHOIR RETURNS

On Sunday March 20th, the choir held its first practice since the fire! Gay Anderson, organist and choir master, led Elizabeth Foley, Robbie Cupp, Roy Anderson, Mimi Almonroeder, Irene McLaughlin, Connie Terry and Jean Downey. What a joy it was to see and hear them from the back of the nave!



The choir made its debut performance Easter Sunday with special music, including our hand bells that were refurbished after the fire. We would like to especially thank Kyle Montgomery for his beautiful chanting of the Exultet at the Easter Vigil (Kyle has also spent a great deal of time repairing the massive inner workings of the organ counsel, which was damaged by soot and smoke, and he has wired our entire building for internet and wifi).

A big thank you also goes out to Gay, Roy, Byron Sever and Kirk Meyer for sharing their music during the Covid and fire times!



The choir will continue to sing at St. Paul's throughout the summer (bells will take a break until the fall), with practice from 10:00 to about 10:45 a.m. each Sunday. All are welcome to join the choir! Please contact Gay if you would like to sing or play bells with us!



Maintaining the Garden

It's that time of year! Our beautiful garden at St. Paul's has been planted, but we need volunteers to help maintain it throughout the season! Consider how gardening can be a wonderful activity for finding quiet time and contemplating nature! If you are able to help, even for just a little while, please contact Diane at 618-225-2676 to get started.



Volunteers Needed at St. Paul's

In many of our activities, we are “starting again” after St. Paul’s was closed to indoor services for almost two years due to Covid and the fire. We’re finding that some of our parishioners who did certain “jobs” in the past are no longer able to do them, so there is a great opportunity now for those who wish to get more involved in the parish and with the worship services! **We are in need of Ushers, Greeters, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors and Altar Guild members!** Where would YOU like to help?



The Usher and Greeter ministry is a vital part of the worship service! Greeters welcome everyone on Sunday mornings and introduce themselves to guests. Ushers perform duties such as handing out bulletins, collecting the offering, and directing the flow of parishioners to communion. If you are interested in either or both of these ministries, please contact Marti LoRusso, who serves as our Head Usher, at 618-251-4921.

Lectors are those who read selections from the Bible during our worship services. Those who read the Prayers of the People are called Intercessors. Many people who do one of these ministries also do the other.



Acolytes and Chalice Bearers are part of the Altar Party who robe in a cassock (black ankle-length garment) and surplice (the white blouse-like garment with sleeves that is worn over the cassock). Acolytes light candles, assist the priest during the Holy Eucharist, and carry torches and processional crosses. Chalice Bearers assist the priest in serving wine during the Eucharist. We are not currently using Chalice Bearers since we are continuing the Covid protocol of offering communion to parishioners in one kind only, meaning the host without wine in the common cup. If you are interested in being a Lector, Intercessor, or

Acolyte, please talk with Diane Martin or call her at 618-225-2676.

The Altar Guild is a group whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services and clean up afterwards. Both men and women are welcome to share in this rewarding ministry. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Nancy Weiss-Hayes, Director of the Altar Guild, at 618-830-3046.



Address or Phone Changes?

If you or someone you know has a change of address or phone number, please let Mother Cindy know. This will help communications in the parish. Thanks!



New addresses:

Jane Flaherty
San Gabriel Memory Care Center
813 Lars Hoffman Crossing
Godfrey, IL 62035

Terry and Kay Durham
The Villas of Holly Brook (Bethalto)
312 Mechanical Drive
East Alton, IL 62024



Share the Love by Sending Cards!

Our parish family's "shut-ins" have been extremely isolated during these Covid times. Mother Cindy and/or Diane Martin have continued to visit all of them at least once or twice a month. Visits depend a lot on each facility's rules and procedures based on Covid at any given time. For example, Robings Manor has frequently been on "total lockdown."

Diane asked John Ulffers what he would like (besides the chocolates, cookies and snacks that they take.) After a lot of thought, John replied, "Cards!" The response was similar with Barb Swany. She would love to keep receiving many cards from her parish family.

It would make these individuals quite happy to continually know that they are remembered by their church family! With permission, we have included names and addresses as follows. If you know of anyone else who should be on this list, please contact Mother Cindy or Diane.

***John Ulffers** Liberty Village of Jerseyville 1251 N. State St. Jerseyville, IL 62052

***Boyd Sever** (Byron's father) Edwardsville Care Center, 401 St. Mary's Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025

***Barb & Frank Swany**, c/o Cederhurst Senior Living, 1000 Airport Rd., Godfrey, IL 62035

***Mother Jane Flaherty** has a new address: San Gabriel Memory Care Center, 813 Lars Hoffman Crossing, Godfrey, IL 62035

June Calendar

Sunday, June 5th--Pentecost

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Weekly Coffee Hour in the Garden at St. Paul's begins

Parish Photo—Please wear red!

12:30-1:30 p.m. Pet Food Pantry

2:00 p.m. PAWS



Sunday, June 12th—Trinity Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Sunday, June 19th—Father's Day

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Wednesday, June 22nd at 9:30 a.m.—Book Club at LuciAnna's

Sunday, June 26th—Parish Picnic at Homer Adams Park

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist followed by potluck

Tuesday, June 28th—Guild of Grace meets at The Loading Dock at 6:00 p.m.

Mondays@7 meets every Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's.

The Wednesday Book Discussion group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.



General Convention Meets in July

The General Convention is the governing body of the Episcopal Church that meets every three years. It will be meeting this year in Baltimore, Maryland, from July 8-11. Originally scheduled for July of 2021, the 80th General Convention was postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Convention is a bicameral legislature that includes a House of Deputies and a House of Bishops. During Convention, deputies and bishops representing each diocese consider a wide range of issues facing the church. Please keep them in your prayers.

June Birthdays

5 Don Lipe, Anna McLaughlin
6 Al Elkins
10 Rob Simpson
12 Kelley Downey, Rebecca Eagleton
17 Mary Molloy
18 Hannah Hughes
20 Destiny Drennan
21 Maya Grassle
23 Jeremy Mills
24 April Drennan, Frank Swany
26 Valerie Wrausmann
29 Jane Flaherty, Aiden Hayes
30 Joseph Wuest



Do we have your birthday in our files? If you've been missed...or just to be sure...please email your name and birthdate to episcopalalton@gmail.com.



Congratulations to:

--Valerie Wrausmann for being named *Mother of the Year* by ECM!

--Dorothy Wrausmann upon her graduation from Eastern Illinois University!

Do you know of someone connected with our parish that we might recognize...perhaps for a graduation, an award, or similar event? Please let us know!

Vestry

Mother Cindy, Rector
Susan Lukasik—Rector's Warden
Jean Downey—People's Warden
Judy Jones—Treasurer
Diane Martin—Clerk of the Vestry



Vestry Commissions:

Education: Jean Downey and Mimi Almonroeder

Evangelism & Outreach: Bruce Bayer, Irene McLaughlin, Connie Terry and Susan Lukasik

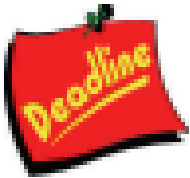
Liturgy & Music: Susan Lukasik and Donna Fisher

Parish Life: Mimi, Donna, Jean and Tom Wrausmann

Property & Maintenance: Dereck Cook, Anna Potter and Judy Jones

Public Relations & Publicity: Tom and Irene

Finance & Insurance: Judy, Anna and Connie



The deadline for the July Angelus is June 22. Please email your articles and photos to episcopalalton@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Parish of Alton



St. Paul's Church
10 E. 3rd Street
Alton, IL 62002

Trinity Chapel
1801 State St.
Alton, IL 62002



Telephone: 618-465-9149

E-mail: episcopalalton@gmail.com

Rector: cindysever210@gmail.com

Website: www.episcopalalton.org

[Facebook.com/episcopalalton](https://www.facebook.com/episcopalalton)