

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

Count Your Blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes;

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears;

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean;

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth;

Love your neighbor as much as yourself.

May God grant you always...

A sunbeam to warm you,

A moonbeam to charm you,

A sheltering angel, so nothing can harm you.

--Author Unknown



From the Senior Warden...

As I write this, preparations are being made for our Annual Halloween Chili Supper, open again to the public this year for the first time since the pandemic and fire of 2020 put a halt to so many activities. I am "holding the presses" for a day so we can include photos of the fun event, which you will find on page 10!



Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign continues. Parishioners should have received in the mail a letter and pledge card for the coming year. We ask that every person or family pledge something as they are able. On the back side of the pledge card is a space for indicating how you would be willing to contribute to the parish with your time and talent. There are many opportunities to serve—we can all contribute to the greater good in some way. Please fill out both sides of the pledge card and return it to the church office as soon as possible and no later than November 12th, which is our designated Stewardship Sunday. If you did not receive a pledge card and would like to, please contact Ann in the church office.

Many thanks to all of you who completed the Parish Survey sent out by the Search Committee. Results are available at church and will be sent as an attachment with this newsletter. The Community Profile for our parish is now posted on the Church's national website and will be on our diocesan website this week. The Search Committee will also be posting our job ad in various venues, such as Episcopal News Service, where priests may see it. Progress is being made!

I am going to be on vacation and out of the country from November 8th to 26th. Because our Junior Warden, Jean Downey, is still out of commission after her fall and broken bones (although home now and showing steady improvement), I have asked Vestry member Mimi Almonroeder to oversee the smooth operation of the parish while I'm gone. Because the Canons of the Diocese clearly state that a Vestry meeting may not be called without a priest or at least one warden, we are planning a combined November/December meeting after my return. Any business needing the immediate attention of the Vestry in the meantime will be conducted via email.

I'm so grateful for all the supply priests who have been willing to come from afar to lead us in our Sunday worship! In November, Fr. John Henry will be here the first two Sundays, and Fr. Jim Cravens the third and fourth Sundays. That takes us to Christ the King Sunday and the end of the liturgical year. Advent begins the first Sunday in December. I'm happy to report that I have obtained priests for every Sunday in December plus Christmas Eve. We plan to have one service on Christmas Eve, which will be at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's.

I am also grateful to Fr. Gene Stormer for coming to St. Paul's every Tuesday to lead us in Morning Prayer at 9:30 a.m. and Bible study at 10:15. Fr. Stormer is quite a gifted teacher, and it would be worth your while to join us for Bible study if you can.

With Thanksgiving coming, I like to take time to truly count my blessings, as the poem on the front page of this newsletter indicates. Focus on the positive and you will be amazed how much brighter life becomes. I see much positive within our parish and am always amazed at the love and compassion (and lots of hard work) that many of our parishioners express within their daily lives and the life of the church. I wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving as you take time to count your blessings!

Susan Lukasik

Dear Parishioners,

The Search Committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent Parish Survey. We are



continuing to analyze the results and to look for ways this data can inform our search for a new Rector. The Committee has also been researching when and where we wish to place an ad to attract eligible and interested applicants for our position. Of course, we continue to work closely with the Vestry and appreciate their guidance and ongoing support.

We ask for your prayers and your patience as we move forward with the search process.

Tony Springman, Chair

Prayer for our Parish as we search for a new Rector:

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Organ Loft

Our handbell choir has begun fall rehearsals, and has played in a Sunday service for the first time this fall. There are several solos planned in the upcoming weeks, and more bell anthems for Advent.



On the Saturday of the tour at St. Paul's we had a cypher in one of the organ pipes (one of the pipes kept playing after the key was released). It was a very

high-pitched pipe...one of the tiniest...which sounded like a teakettle whining. Bob Dial found the "offender" and all is well again.

Fr. Gene Stormer graciously made a custom music rack for Trinity's organ. It is very adjustable and fits nicely on the organ desk. It was a very welcomed gift! These two pictures show the quality and skill of Fr. Stormer's craftsmanship!



If anyone has a small table or bookshelf (approximately 16 in. by 16 in.) that they are not using and would like to donate to Trinity Chapel, we could use a replacement for the makeshift upside down/sideways drawer that is currently in place in the corner behind the organ! It would be used to store hymnals and music.

Blessings!

Gay Anderson

Major Feast Days of the Episcopal Church To Be Celebrated in November

All Principal Feasts and Major Feasts of the liturgical calendar may be celebrated privately. In the absence of a priest, we will not have Holy Day services at this time, except those celebrated on a Sunday.

All Saints Day—November 1st



All Saints Day commemorates all saints known and unknown. It originated in Ireland, then spread to England and the European continent. Celebrations have been part of the church since its early days, as far back as 270. It is a time of remembrance of those who fruitfully professed Christ—even to torture and death. Most Anglican/Episcopal churches celebrate a full Eucharistic liturgy on All Saints Day, but it may also be celebrated the Sunday following November 1, which is what we will do this year. All Saints Day is

followed by All Souls Day on November 2, which commemorates all the faithful departed.

Thanksgiving Day—November 23rd

Thanksgiving Day is a major holy day and a national day in the Prayer Book calendar of the church year (pp. 16-17, 33). The Proposed Prayer Book of 1786 included "A Form of Prayer and Thanksgiving to Almighty God, for the Fruits of the Earth, and all the other Blessings of his merciful Providence." The first American Prayer Book (1789) replaced the four national days of the 1662 English book with propers for Thanksgiving Day. The collect for Thanksgiving Day gives thanks to God the Father for the fruits of the earth in their season and

for the labors of those who harvest them. It asks that we may be faithful stewards of God's great bounty, providing for our own necessities and the relief of all who are in need (BCP, p. 246).



Christ the King Sunday—November 26th

This Feast is observed on the last Sunday of the liturgical year. It celebrates Christ's messianic kingship and sovereign rule over all creation. The collect prays that God, "whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords," will "Mercifully grant that the peoples of the earth, divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his most gracious rule" (BCP, p. 236). The cross hanging over the altar at St. Paul's Church is an image of Christ the King.



The Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle—November 30th

St. Andrew was the brother of Simon Peter and was responsible for Peter's "calling." "Andrew found his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus." Before Andrew became a follower of Jesus, he was a follower of John the Baptist.

Andrew is well known for his part in Jesus' feeding of the 5,000. It was Andrew who went to Jesus about the young boy who had a few loaves of bread and some fish, which Jesus used to feed the 5,000. Andrew assisted in the distribution of the food.

Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. He was crucified on an X-shaped cross. The X in the Episcopal shield represents and reminds us of the Scottish Episcopal Church's part in our history as it was in Scotland where bishops ordained Samuel Seabury as the first American Bishop in 1784.



The next **Pet Food Pantry** will be held November 5th. It is open one hour monthly on the first Sunday of the month from 12:30-1:30 p.m. People may enter St. Paul's through the Market Street entrance to

participate.

Marti LoRusso, who is leading this outreach ministry, welcomes any volunteers willing to help. Baskets for donations of pet food are located near the entrance at both Trinity and St. Paul's. Monetary donations are also much appreciated! Make checks out to the *Episcopal Parish of Alton* and write "Pet Food Pantry" in the memo area.

Many thanks to Byron Sever, Marti LoRusso, Mimi Almonroeder, and Donna Taylor for keeping this ministry going!





Stewardship Sunday Set for November 12th

Our 2024 Stewardship Campaign continues.

Please prayerfully consider how you can support this Parish through your Time, Talent, and Treasure!

If you have not already done so, please complete and return your Pledge Card by November 12th.

Book Club

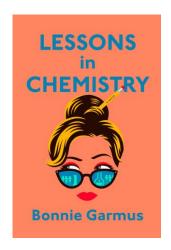
Book Club met in October to discuss *The Forgotten Bookshop in Paris* by Daisy Wood. Several of our regular members were unable to join us, but we still had a lively discussion. We happily welcomed a new member, Barbara Wilcher.

Plans for upcoming meetings were set for November and December. Please note that our next meeting date has been moved to Wednesday, November 15th to avoid interfering with Thanksgiving plans. As usual, we will meet at 9:30 a.m. at LuciAnna's, when we will talk about *Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus.

Following is a description of our November selection:

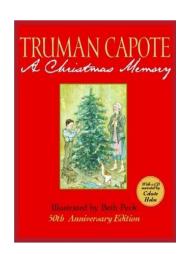
Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel—prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results.

But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show Supper at Six. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ('combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride'') proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.



Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, Lessons in Chemistry is as original and vibrant as its protagonist. goodreads.com

We chose A Christmas Memory by Truman Capote for the December reading and discussion.



'A Christmas Memory' is a short story written by Truman Capote, first published in 1956. This much sought-after autobiographical recollection of Capote's rural Alabama boyhood has become a modern-day classic.

Seven-year-old Buddy knows that the Christmas season has arrived when his cousin, Miss Sook Falk exclaims: "It's fruitcake weather!" Thus begins an unforgettable portrait of an odd, but enduring, friendship between two innocent souls—one young and one old—and the memories they share of beloved holiday rituals.

Truman Capote (1924–1984) was an American writer whose non-fiction, stories, novels and plays are recognized literary classics. "goodreads.com

For more information about our Book Club, please contact Mimi Almonroeder at 618-581-5756 or diamondzoe@charter.net.

Education Commission

Saturday Café—In Service with our Neighbors

On November 18th, our parish will once again be serving meals at the Saturday Café, a program held at First Presbyterian Church on Alby Street offering free lunches to those in need. Would you like to help?

Those who want to volunteer should meet in the kitchen at First Presbyterian Church at 10:30 a.m. We are usually done by 12:30 p.m., but you are welcome to come for a shorter time if you wish. Bruce Bayer, who usually coordinates this, is going to be out of town, so Connie Terry and Mimi Almonroeder will oversee this activity in his stead. If you would like to contribute to the cost of the food or for more information about how to help, including purchasing food, please contact Connie Terry at 618-917-4070 or c.eterry830@gmail.com or Mimi Almonroeder at 618-581-5756 or diamondzoe@charter.net. For monetary contributions, please write a check to *The Episcopal Parish of Alton* and note "Saturday Café" in the memo area.

Evangelism and Outreach Commission



Thanksgiving Food Collection

From November 1st through November 19th, we will be collecting non-perishable food items at Trinity Chapel and St. Paul's Church. We would like non-perishable food items that could be served for a Thanksgiving meal. The items will be placed at the altar to be

blessed and then given to Crisis Food Center to distribute to families in need. Please leave your food items in or near the basket in the Narthex.

Evangelism and Outreach Commission

Thanksgiving Harvest Feast

All parish members are invited to the annual Thanksgiving Harvest Feast, which will be held on Sunday, November 19th after church at St. Paul's. This year, our feast will be a potluck meal, and parish members are asked to bring a favorite dish to share—brunch casseroles, salads, fruit and autumn desserts. We're sure to have a delicious variety! For more information, please contact Mimi Almonroeder or April Drennan.



Education Commission and Parish Life Commission

Join our Weekly Morning Prayer and Bible Study

We continue with our Tuesday morning Bible Study at St. Paul's, which is being taught by Fr. Gene Stormer. Following Morning Prayer conducted by Fr. Stormer in St. Elizabeth's Chapel at 9:30 a.m., Bible study begins at 10:15 a.m. and lasts approximately an hour. We are currently studying *The Letter of Paul to the Philippians*.



Please join us! Be sure to bring your Bible!

Education Commission

Coats for Kids Campaign for Riverbend Head Start

To help those in need who may not have a warm coat to protect themselves from the cold this winter, we are participating in the Riverbend Head Start & Family Services' *Coats for Kids* Campaign.



The agency has decided to no longer do a coat COLLECTION; instead, they are doing a *Coats for Kids* FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN. They prefer to get money so they can buy coats in the exact sizes needed. They will, however, accept new or gently used coats in any size for children or adults.

There is a collection box in the parish hall at St. Paul's if you choose to donate coats. To donate money, please write your check to *The Episcopal Parish of Alton* and put "Coats for Kids" on the memo line. Our fundraising will continue through November 15th. For more information,

please contact Connie Terry at 618-917-4070 or c.terry830@gmail.com.

Evangelism and Outreach Commission

The United Thank Offering is a ministry of the Episcopal Church that is administered by the Episcopal Church Women. We are asked to set

UNITED THANK OFFERING

aside money for the UTO in thanksgiving for all our blessings. The monetary gifts collected are used in the support of grants for ministries at home and overseas as an outreach program of the Episcopal Church.

Mary Molloy is our UTO Chairman this year and asks that all contributions to UTO be made no later than November 19th. There are blue UTO envelopes available at Trinity and St. Paul's that can be used for your donation, or you may use a plain envelope. If you write a check, please make it payable to *The Episcopal Parish of Alton* and write "UTO" on the memo line. You may drop your donation into the collection plate or mail it to the church office.

By sharing generously, we can continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

ECW

Celebration of Churches Features Historical St. Paul's

St. Paul's Church was honored to be among the featured churches for the Alton Area Landmarks Association's 51st Annual Historic Home and Building Tour, which was held Saturday, October 7th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

About 60 people came through our doors. While touring St. Paul's, they were treated to a demonstration of our organ by Gay Anderson as well as light refreshments in the parish hall. Several parishioners were on hand to direct visitors and answer questions throughout the day.

We want to thank all who volunteered before and during the event—those who cleaned and arranged, those who weeded and trimmed the garden, those who made cookies and other treats, those who worked on creating the lovely brochure, those who stood by to direct visitors and answer questions throughout the day. Thanks, too, to Gay Anderson for the beautiful music and to Irene McLaughlin for coordinating the event.

Public Relations and Publicity Commission



Halloween Chili Supper Deemed a Huge Success



This will be our preparation for selling nuts at the upcoming "Charming Chicks" sale November 3-5 and December 1-3. Nancy Hayes is in charge of selling the nuts in November and Meg Dorris will be in charge of selling the nuts in December. We need two people per shift: Friday and Saturday shifts are: 10-2:00, 2-6:00, and Sunday is 12-4:00. Please let Nancy 618-830-3046 or Meg 618-530-7006 know if you can take a shift.

Irene McLaughlin

Report of the 146th Synod of the Episcopal Diocese of Springfield



The 2023 Diocesan Synod took place October 20th and 21st in Fairview Heights, hosted jointly by St. Michael's Church in O'Fallon and St. George's Church in Belleville. Conducted business included approval of the 2024 budget, appointments and election of diocesan officers and representatives (only one of which had more than one candidate), reports of various entities, and voting on resolutions. Representing our parish were lay delegates Susan Lukasik and Marti LoRusso.

The one resolution that was not a courtesy resolution was a **Proposed Canonical Amendment on Dependent Parishes**. It proposed that **Canon 28, Of Dependent Parishes**, include the addition of Section 1, c. (in bold and underlined below) and be amended to read:

Section 1. In order to assist any Parish facing financial or other difficulties that might impair its ability to continue to sustain its work, the Ecclesiastical Authority may designate the Parish to be a Dependent Parish, if requested to do so by the Vestry of that Parish, or, on advice of the Standing Committee, under any of the following conditions:

- a. That in the preceding year the Rector's stipend was less that level of compensation of Members of the Clergy in Charge of Parishes, unless it be shown that a part-time Rector is sufficient for the needs of a given Parish;
- b. That for the two years next preceding, the pledge payment by that Parish to the Diocese was less than the minimum pledge for Parishes established by Synod, or as otherwise provided for under these Canons; or
- c. That for a period of at least two years, the Parish has been without a regularly settled Member of the Clergy.

Section 2. The Parish designated as a Dependent Parish may request aid from the Diocese for an amount and purposes to be negotiated with the Department of Finance, in consultation with the Department of Mission, and under such terms as may be set by Council.

Section 3. During its term as a Dependent Parish, any such Parish shall retain its Congregational status as regards holding and custody of church property and the retention of a Rector. Should the office of Rector be vacated during the term of a Dependent Parish or be vacant at the time of designation as a Dependent Parish, the Bishop shall appoint a Minister in charge until the end of the appointed term or such time as the conditions requiring Diocesan aid or intervention have been relieved.

Section 4. If, at the end of the appointed term or negotiated extension, the conditions requiring designation as a Dependent Parish have not been relieved, said Parish shall be designated a Mission subject to the Constitution and Canons pertaining thereto, and the Vestry shall deed over to the Diocese all property at such time and in such manner as may be required by the Ecclesiastical Authority.

Because this resolution proposed to change a Canon of the Diocese, it was required to pass with a majority of clergy AND a majority of lay delegates voting for it. After considerable debate, it was **defeated** when it did not receive a majority of votes by lay delegates. Those parishes who have not had a priest in over two years did not want to make that grounds for having the Bishop designate their Parish as a Dependent Parish, and spoke passionately against passing the resolution.

ECM News

The next meeting of the Episcopal Church Men will be on Saturday, November 18th, at 9:00 a.m. at the Hickory Grove Restaurant located near Alton Square. The main topic of the meeting will be to finalize plans for the Parish Christmas Party, but there will also be plenty of time to socialize. As always, all men of the parish are welcome to attend. Please contact Dereck Cook at cookdnj@gmail.com or Tom Harris at dogula60@gmail.com if you plan to be there.

Parish Christmas Party Set for Thursday, December 14th

Mark your calendars now for the annual Parish Christmas Party, sponsored by the ECM, to be held on December 14th at Castelli's Restaurant at 255 on Fosterburg Road in Alton. The plan will be to gather for cocktails at 6:00 p.m. and be seated for dinner around 6:30. This dinner is always one of the highlights of the year, where members from both St. Paul's and Trinity can gather together and celebrate the season! More details, including the dinner menu and prices, will be coming soon.



Please note the following updates/changes in the church directory:

Phone correction for **Tony Springman**: 615-513-8685

Carolyn Hawkins 709 Pleasant Valley Dr., Godfrey, IL 62035

Brian and Amy Swanson

25921 Mt Ragan Rd Hettick, IL 62649

Brian cell: 618-660-7820 Brian's birthday: February 24 Amy cell: 618-616-2662 Amy's birthday: October 29

Let's Walk for Good Health and Fellowship!

The group of Friday morning walkers will continue meeting each week when people are available to walk. The exact time and location are determined on a weekly basis--Mimi usually notifies everyone ahead of time to see who wants to walk that Friday. If you are interested in joining us, please let Mimi Almonroeder know at diamondzoe@charter.net or 618-581-5756.

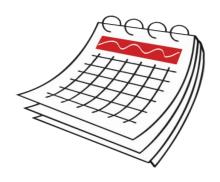
Parish Life Commission



November Calendar

Wednesday, November 1st All Saints Day

Sunday, November 5th All Saints Sunday
Daylight Saving Time ends
Offering for Rector's Discretionary Fund
8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's
12:30-1:30 p.m. Pet Food Pantry



Tuesday, November 7th – 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's 10:15 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

Wednesday, November 8th – 10:00 a.m. ECW meeting at St. Paul's

Sunday, November 12th *The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost*Stewardship Sunday
8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Monday, November 13th Veterans Day observed – Church Office closed

Tuesday, November 14th
9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's
10:15 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's

Wednesday, November 15th Book Club 9:30 a.m. at LuciAnna's in Alton

Saturday, November 18th

9:00 a.m. ECM meeting at Hickory Grove Restaurant 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Saturday Café at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, November 19th The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost 8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's Harvest Feast in Heneghan Hall after service at St. Paul's

Tuesday, November 21st 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's 10:15 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's Thursday, November 23rd Thanksgiving Day – Church Office closed

Sunday, November 26th *The Last Sunday after Pentecost: Christ the King* 8:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist at Trinity Chapel 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

Tuesday, November 28th – 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at St. Paul's 10:15 a.m. Bible Study at St. Paul's Guild of Grace meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 30^{th} – Feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle



Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, November 5th!

The Church Office will be closed:

- -- Monday, November 13 in honor of Veterans Day
- -- Thursday, November 23 for Thanksgiving Day

Our Sincere Condolences to:

--Valerie and Tom Wrausmann and family on the death of Valerie's brother Daniel Wyatt on October 27, 2023.





- 03 Angela Donohoo
- 04 Tom Harris
- 04 Eric Walton
- 06 Ryan Sever
- 11 Dereck Cook
- 12 Richard Dague
- 13 Alberto Caballero
- 14 Harold Green
- 21 Jason Wade
- 26 Barb Swany
- 30 Ron Downey



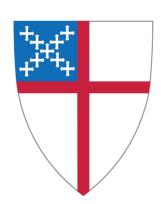
December Birthdays



- 03 Kate Simpson
- 05 Luke Mills
- 05 Nancy Elson
- 08 Ann Bromaghim
- 08 Christine Jones
- 12 Janet Riley
- 13 Kristina Stone
- 14 Verla Moyer
- 18 Meg Dorris
- 18 Gabrielle Hughes
- 20 Jane Hill
- 23 Parker Grassle
- 24 Christina Butler
- 24 Judy Jones
- 30 Diana Enloe

Vestry

Susan Lukasik—Rector's Warden
Jean Downey—People's Warden
Judy Jones—Treasurer
Lisa Springman—Clerk of the Vestry



Vestry Commissions:

Education: Jean Downey, Mimi Almonroeder

Evangelism & Outreach: Connie Terry, Tony Springman, April Drennan

Liturgy & Music: Susan Lukasik, Irene McLaughlin

Parish Life: Mimi Almonroeder, Donna Fisher, Jean Downey, April Drennan

Property & Maintenance: Dereck Cook, Tom Harris, Donna Fisher

Public Relations & Publicity: Irene McLaughlin, Susan Lukasik, Meg Dorris

Finance & Insurance: Judy Jones (ex officio), Connie Terry, Tony Springman, Meg Dorris



The deadline for the December *Angelus* is November 21st. Please email your articles and photos to lukasikwands@gmail.com.

The Episcopal Parish of Alton



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