



The Little Church with the big heart



Getting to know you from Rev. Mark C. Bigley

Getting to Know You...

Jesus was a “storyteller.” Jesus told stories that opened people to the Mystery of God’s presence. We have a common story as God’s people and our own personal stories in the context of the Greater Story.

Stories cannot be rushed but must be listened to intentionally, slowly and deeply, especially to the pauses in between the words. Stories are formational. Stories create our identity, belief systems and our ensuing behavior. Stories are also the container that holds our hope for transformation and healing—in the story of God’s action through creation, Christ and in our incarnation in the Holy Spirit. Story is how we convey spiritual reality and the essence of who we are.

I want to hear and get to know your stories. By knowing your story, I can better respond to you as a priest. Beginning Sunday afternoon June 19th at 12:30 following the Eucharist and coffee fellowship, I want to begin a series of visits over lunch. In Jesus’ day, sitting down to share a meal with another person bonded you together as a member of his or her family. As stories are shared, the relationship grows as we not only learn about each other, but in the telling and hearing, we realize our common internal experience and our sacred unity.

I will have a schedule in the narthex on the table on which you can sign up for a time. You will have the option for sharing the time with another individual or family or to meet with me by yourself or with your family. Where and how we share a meal is up to you. We can “brown bag” it and eat at church or go to favorite place of yours. It will be “Dutch treat” and I’ll pay my own way.

What would help me as your priest is to learn more of what is it that you want me to know about you (your family)? Besides your vocational background and life interests, I would like to hear stories about your spiritual journey like: church background, what brought you to St. Albans and keeps you here, your spiritual questions, joys, struggles, ministries, what gives you meaning, prayer and devotional life, what feeds you most in the liturgy and what you’d like to see and experience at St. Albans. Knowing about health or family concerns can keep me aware of where your challenges are and give me direction about applying to the gospel in education, preaching and pastoral care. Of course, you are free to ask me questions about myself. Any conversation we have is held “under the seal” of confidentiality. I’m looking forward to breaking bread and entering the sacred world of your stories.

Peace be with you,

Mark

Why Eucharistic Prayer C and the Easter Season

In seminary we affectionately called Eucharistic Prayer C the “Star Trek” prayer as it *mentions the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses and this fragile earth, our island home.* This prayer is especially appropriate during the Easter season. The Christ event and Resurrection is far more expansive than one’s personal salvation as it encompasses the whole of creation. The prophet Isaiah and St. John (Revelation) waited in expectation of a “new earth.” Early Celtic Christians were sensitive to the ecology of how interconnected God, humanity and the earth are. We too heed the tradition to ask God to *open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us* both in creation and in us.

God’s Peace,

Mark



Staying in Touch...



I want to let you know how you can contact me if the desire or need arises. Since I work full time during the week except for Wednesday afternoons, there are better "windows of opportunity" to reach me than other times. If not urgent, you can always leave a message on the church voicemail which is checked daily and forwarded to me. For more immediate needs, my cell (only) phone number is (423) 509-2674. Occasionally I might be able to answer your call or return a voicemail during the work day from my cell phone. The two best times to get me on my cell phone is on the way to and from work 07:15 to 7:45 or between 17:00 and 18:00 (5:00 pm - 6:00 pm) (I have a hands-free system).

I can also be reached by email and will check it daily in the evenings unless circumstances prevent it.

Please contact me on my church email account at: mbigley@stalbansepiscopal.net In case of an emergency and you cannot reach me, please call the Sr. Warden, Sherri Bishop or the Junior Warden, Nelson Sullivan. I'm not saying that I won't answer at other times but that these are the best times you can reach me under the constraints of my schedule.

If you or a member of your family is going into the hospital, please let me or one of the vestry members know where and at what time. I have no way of knowing if you're in the hospital unless you tell me.

I will be at St. Alban's Church office on Wednesday afternoon from 1:00 pm until early evening. Please confirm my availability by phone if you would like to see me as I might out of the office attending to other pastoral duties

Let's try this out and see if it works. Please give me or the vestry feedback about how we're communicating.

Peace be with you,

News from the Senior Warden

Great things are happening at St. Alban's! The newly formed MASH (Mighty Alban Senior Helpers) group was seen recently out and about celebrating Cinco de Mayo, and the word is that fireworks and road trips are in the future.

Wednesday Eucharist services have resumed—the service lasts about 30 minutes—**PLEASE** join us for this mid-week worship opportunity at 1:15 p.m.

The Farmers Market is in full swing every Saturday and the gardens are definitely blooming. Annual Spring Garden Tour is June 4th & 5th.

Keep **Sunday, June 26** (6:00 p.m.) open on your calendars for a Potluck Dinner in the Gardens. It's the official welcome party for Rev. Mark Bigley and his wife Kathy to our parish. Everyone is welcome! Refreshments and ambiance will be provided.

If you haven't been with us in a while, June seems like the perfect month to check us out.

Note I have a new email address: justsherri@epbfi.com

St. Alban's Community Garden



The Community Garden has really taken off in 2011. All of our 40 plots are rented and look great especially with all the new mulch.

We are preparing for the 24th Annual **SPRING GARDEN TOUR** that will be happening on Saturday June 4th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and on Sunday June 5th from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Complete details can be found at:

http://chattfoodbank.org/?page_id=299

Contact Dee Clark (423) 842-6303 GDClark503@comcast.net



St. Alban's has new occupants! Check out the purple martins nesting high above the community gardens. At least six have been spotted at once. We're hoping to see growth in that community too!

St. Alban's Farmer's Market



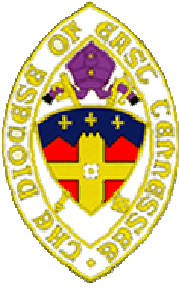
The Farmers Market has been going for 4 weeks now. We continue to get more vendors and I believe there will be more as produce starts coming in. I send out a weekly email listing of who is coming and what items they are bringing. It has come to my attention that it is not going out to all the church members. If you would like to receive the weekly market newsletter please reply to GDClark503@comcast.net.

We are drawing a name weekly for \$10.00 worth of market bucks for that Saturday's attendees. What are 'market bucks', they can be used to purchase goods at any of the vendors booths. If you sign up for our weekly email we draw a name and that lucky person will receive 5/ \$2.00 market bucks. Already on our email list? No problem, just pickup a **sign up form** and write your name and telephone number and you are eligible to win. Also if you refer someone to the market and they sign up and list your name on the referral line, you can win \$5.00 in market bucks if we draw that name. So tell your friends and neighbors. We start over every week so you need to attend each week to get into the drawing.

For complete information please visit our web site at:

<http://www.stalbanepiscopal.net/farmersmarket.asp>

Contact: Dee Clark (423) 842-6303 GDClark503@comcast.net



**Bishop-elect Rev. George D. Young III
Ordination and Consecration**

The celebration of Ordination and Consecration of Bishop-elect Rev. George D. Young III will take place in Knoxville, TN on June 25, 2011.

Please see the invitation below; for complete details view the Diocesan website at:

<http://www.etdiocese-search.com/>

**God willing and
the People consenting**

The Rev. George Dibrell Young, III

**will be Ordained and Consecrated
a Bishop in the
One, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church
and Fourth Bishop of the Diocese of
East Tennessee**

**Saturday, June 25, 2011
Eleven o'clock in the Morning**

**Church of the Ascension
800 Northshore Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee**

**Chief Consecrator: The Most Reverend
Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop**

**The Standing Committee of the Diocese
requests your prayers and presence.**

A reception will follow

**Bishops – Rochet and Chimere
Clergy: Alb and Red Stoles**

MASH off to a GREAT start!



The group's first meeting was at the Church on **Friday, 29 April 2011** and we succeeded in naming our group; **MASH** (*Mighty Alban Senior Helpers*).

Many suggestions for the groups activities were made, including sites for meals, local sight seeing, field trips, etc.

Our first social gathering; Dinner at La Fiesta Mexican Grill on 5/5/11 (Cinco de Mayo) was great and we all had a wonderful time.



Please consider joining our group and add to the fun by bringing a friend or two!

If you have any questions please contact Charlie or Kathy Brown 240-925-0717 or by e-mail at browncbkb@aol.com



Our Financial Highlights as of APRIL 30, 2011

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Pledge Income	\$30,886	\$28,167
Open Plate Income	\$ 9,095	\$ 5,000
Total Expenses	\$20,679	\$33,338
Loan Balance	\$164,479	