



The Little Church with the big heart



## Greetings from Rev. Mark C. Bigley

Greetings to the people of St. Alban's:

My wife, Kathy, our Yorkie, named Shiloh, and I often take walks down our country road in the evenings. Our ears are filled with the songs of bullfrogs, cicadas, crickets and the other critters *fortissimo* in volume. Each sings and plays their unique song as a part of the symphony of creation. They are not self-conscious about it, holding back. As members of creation, they really put their song out there into creation!

I too believe that each of us, as children of God, have a song that we have been given to sing from above. Our songs come from the story of our lives. We all have a story to receive and a story to sing.

I would like to think that our coming together as a priest and people are about supporting each other to discover both our individual stories and Common Story in the Creating, Redeeming and Sanctifying Spirit so that we can sing the songs we have been given to sing. There is a special something that happens to us when we sing the Lord's song that is given to us. We are released from the restrictions that have barricaded us from experiencing and becoming vessels of true Joy and Peace.

It is my prayer that that Joy and Peace will grow in each of us so that we can proclaim, like Psalm 19 that the heavens and earth proclaim the glory of God, so that we in the words of John Powell, discover that *the glory of God is found in persons who are fully alive.*

I give thanks for our coming together as priest and people. I'll be interested in hearing your story and song. Sing on!

Sacred Peace,  
**Mark**

## News from the Senior Warden

As we approach the summer months I am reminded how lucky we are to have such an incredible place to worship! April showers bring the flowers that bloom in May but at St. Alban's it's more than just the flowers. Have you walked through the community gardens lately and seen all the good work Dee Clark and the gardeners are doing? The roses in the courtyard and out back are in full bloom—thanks to the Master Gardeners for helping with them! And what about Gary Fisher and his Memorial Garden team... what a great place to take pause during our busy lives. Thanks to our Buildings and Grounds Guys for being faithful mowers and, of course, what would we do without Dolly Sullivan who keeps the courtyard manicured AND the inside of the church vacuumed and spruced up.

May is an exciting and busy month. Inside the church, we'll be welcoming our new Priest in Charge Mark Bigley and hosting our IHN guests under the direction of Sarah Barys. The Farmer's Market will be in full swing and who knows what will be happening with the new yet-to-be-named 55+ group that is forming under the leadership of Charlie Brown. The Men's Club continues in the outreach mode (see related article) at The Blue Monarch. There's so much going on you just might want to invite a friend or neighbor to join us! Let the summer begin.....blessings to you all, Sherri



Calling All Golfers! The State Farm Collegiate Players Tournament to benefit Metropolitan Ministries will be held Monday July 11. See the bulletin board outside the kitchen for details!

**St. Alban's Community Garden**



Last Saturday we spread mulch, boy did we spread mulch! Ten pickup truck loads and we still need at least three more! We ran out of steam. I want to thank all who came and helped out with the mulch spreading and those who donated their time and trucks to pick it up. It sure looks nice. You don't realize how big the garden is until you do something like spreading mulch.

So far we have 40 beds and all 40 are rented. I am still getting calls about beds. This must be the year for community gardening. We are still sprucing up for the Food Bank Garden Tour on June fourth and fifth. So stay tuned.

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



**St. Alban's Farmer's Market**

Opening day is here at last. April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We will have meat (beef and pork), beef and turkey jerky, eggs, herb plants, vegetable plants, flowering plants, local honey, honey products, local produce (within 100 miles of here), regional produce (over 100 miles), and crafts.

There will also be a pancake breakfast fundraiser for People First in the hall from 8:00 am until 11:00 am. The cost is \$5.00 per person for the pancake breakfast

We will be 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 grab a sign up form and write your name and telephone number down and you are eligible to win. Also if you refer someone to the market and they sign up and put you down 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.

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***IHN (Interfaith Homeless Network) News:***

**\*\* Our next IHN host week will be May 22-29th \*\***

The volunteer sign-up board will be going up in the Narthex in mid-April. There are many other opportunities to help with IHN families if you are unable offer a meal, activity or overnight. Please consider being involved in some way with our community outreach with homeless families.

***IHN FUNDRAISER:***

Come and enjoy a fun evening while supporting IHN in it's efforts to transition homeless families with children to stability, employment, housing and self-sufficiency.

What: Celebrity Sing-Off Fundraiser

When: Thursday, May 5th

Where: Lindsey Street Hall from 6-9pm.

Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served with voting for your favorite singer.

More info can be found on the IHN website: [www.ihnchattanooga.org](http://www.ihnchattanooga.org)



St. Alban's Men's Club made another 2-day trip to the Blue Monarch in March. We had a sizeable "honey do" list to work on because they have three homes and a barn that need attention. Once again Marilyn and Gary Fisher opened their mountain home for us to spend the night (great rates). When we arrived we had \$400 worth of lighting fixtures, door locks, closet doors, towel racks, paint and brushes, window bars, screen wire, door knobs, cabinet drawers, door repair kits, light switches and miscellaneous hardware. Many thanks to the ladies of the ECW who provided the funds for us to tackle these tasks. Way to go ladies!

As always, we had a great time and enjoyed visiting with the residents and their children. This has really turned out to be a great outreach program that helps young women who are literally turning their lives around right in front of our eyes. Make sure you check out their thank-you letters posted on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Joe Galbraith at 870-6021 or [riverretired@bellsouth.net](mailto:riverretired@bellsouth.net)

***NEW ADULT MINISTRY FORMING!***



The new adult ministry is off to a great start! As of this news letter article, we have 12 individuals that have signed-up.

While we are advertising this ministry is for the "over the speed limit" folks (55 & above), it is actually open to all adults who just want good fellowship, enjoy getting out, exploring new places, socializing, and just having fun.

The group's first meeting will be at the Church at **noon on Friday, 29 April 2011** and last about 1 1/2 - 2 hours.

The first meeting will consist of a pot-luck lunch, group naming, and event planning session. Thereafter; we will meet once a month for lunch (somewhere), have speakers and/or activities; and quarterly we'll plan group day trips to local points of interest, parks, picnics, ball games, or other activities that interest the group.

Please consider joining our group, and consider 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](mailto:browncbkb@aol.com).

*Walking to Jerusalem*

*"Walking to Jerusalem"* is now officially over and we did pretty well all considered. Five (5) of our participants did more than 300 miles each and one did an amazing 755 miles!!!

We will present certificates to all at the covered dish lunch on May 1, 2011. Please attend and congratulate all those who helped make this program a success.

