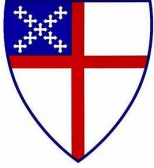


THE MESSENGER

St. Alban's is a Church Family that Welcomes, Nurtures & Reaches Out

APRIL 2024



LIVE A LITTLE



And why are we putting ourselves in danger every hour? I die every day! That is as certain, brothers and sisters, as my boasting of you – a boast that I make in Christ Jesus our Lord. If with merely human hopes I fought with wild animals at Ephesus, what would I have gained by it? If the dead are not raised, “Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.” Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” Come to a sober and right mind, and sin no more; for some people have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame. With what kind of body? But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?” Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. Not all flesh is alike, but there is one flesh for human beings, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish. There are both heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one thing, and that of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; indeed, star differs from star in glory.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:30-41

This passage from the fifteenth chapter of 1 Corinthians, part of the “Resurrection Chapter,” builds upon the previous verses, where Paul tells us that if people do not rise from the dead, then neither does Christ, and therefore, all preaching is futile and so is our faith (v. 14). He goes on and says that if we only have hope in Christ in this life – as in, we won’t rise from the dead ourselves – then “we are of all people most to be pitied” (v. 19). Finally, he reiterates that Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, and then we get to this passage, where he again talks about hope.

How could Paul have fought wild animals in Ephesus if he didn’t believe in a resurrection? How could he have suffered through the trials and persecutions he did, the imprisonments, unless he believed in a resurrection? This is exactly why Paul said we should be pitied if we follow this hope in Christ without any hope of a future beyond this world. Why are we subjecting ourselves to persecution, ridicule, imprisonment and torture, if there is nothing beyond this life of ours? If this life is all there is, then by all means, we should “eat and drink, for tomorrow we die.”

Those words that Paul quotes come from Isaiah 22:13, and the prophet there was chastising the Israelites for failing to repent of their evil, and instead, choosing to make merry in the face of impending doom. God had called upon them to repent and wear sackcloth (v. 12), and instead, they decided to throw their hands up in the air, and say, “Well, tomorrow we die, so let’s just enjoy our last day.” Forget about repenting, let’s live for the moment. (*cont. pg. 2*)

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Service Times

Sunday 10 AM

Online at [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/stalbanswickenburg) or
www.stalbanswickenburg.com

(Deacon Mike cont.)

And so, Paul is admonishing believers in Corinth for living with the same mindset: "This life is all we have, so let's live a little! We aren't going to be resurrected, so let's make this life all that it should be!" And, because of this mindset, they were spending time with those of "bad company," which was clearly corrupting their morals. The end result was that the witness of their faith in Christ was indistinguishable from those with whom they were spending time.

Both the challenge of impending invasion facing the Israelites in Isaiah, and the view in Corinth that the resurrection was a pipe dream spoke to a *lack of faith*. Is God the great provider? Is God mighty and capable of turning away invaders? Is God mighty and capable of raising the dead, and therefore raising *us* to *new life* – one that brims with meaning and fulfillment? Or is God merely the purveyor of a new moral code, one that promises peace, tranquility, an abundant life and resurrection after death – but can't really deliver?

In some ways, choosing to live this life to the fullest is an admirable one. It chooses to make the best out of what most would consider a finite existence. But it neglects the truth that our existence is not here merely for our pleasure, nor is this life here for our own sake. We are here because God has freed us from sin and granted us new life. God has given us the tools to live our lives, and live them abundantly. We live them abundantly when we fully engage with all that God has promised us in the work, death, and resurrection of Christ.

Some focus on the hedonistic pleasures of this world *because of our eventual death*. Others, at times, focus too heavily on *our eventual death* and *fail to live at all*. But if there is a resurrection of the dead, then what do we really have to fear? Wild animals in Ephesus? Imprisonment? Ridicule for our beliefs? Torture? Or can we boldly go, with a "sober and right mind" into the world, proclaiming the Love of God by word and action, and live a little?

Deacon Mike Seiler



"With the new day comes new strength and new thoughts."

~ Eleanor Roosevelt.

JUST AS I AM



The lovely Just as I am, a great evangelistic hymn, probably accompanied more souls to salvation than any other because of its use in Billy Graham campaigns. It was written by Charlotte Elliott in 1834 or '35. Her grandfather was a famous evangelical preacher. Her family, who belonged to the evangelical wing of the Anglican Church, taught her Christian piety.

Elliott was a famous humorous poet during her youth. At the age of 32, she suffered from a serious illness that left her disabled for the rest of her life. Then her lifelong spiritual mentor César Malan, a Swiss minister and hymnologist, counseled her to replace her rage and inner conflict with peace, and simple faith in God; from that day on, she turned her literary talents to writing hymns. He asked her at dinner if she were a Christian and she brushed him off irritably, but later said, "I want to come to Jesus but I don't know how." "Why not come just as you are?" he said. Later her brother, a minister, was organizing a bazaar and she was frustrated at not being able to help. But Malan's words came back to her and she wrote 'Just as I am' – "poor, wretched, blind", "tossed about with many a conflict" – and the hypnotic, repeated last line: "O Lamb of God, I come!" The repeated last line is hypnotic.

Just as I Am
(Words: L. M.) William B. Bradbury

1. Just as I am, with-out one plea, But that Thy blood was shed for me,
2. Just as I am, and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
3. Just as I am, though tossed about With man - ny a con - flict, many a doubt,
4. Just as I am - Thou wilt re - ceive, With - out - cess, my - self, my - self, re - ceive;
5. Just as I am - Thy love un - known hath brought me - here - 'ry - bar - der down;

And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Fight - ings with - in, and fears with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Be - cause Thy prom - ise I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
Now, to be Thine, O Thou - lone, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Riddle

I am the beginning of sorrow and the end of sickness. You cannot express happiness without me, yet I am in the midst of crosses. I am always in risk, yet never in danger. You may find me in the sun, but I am never out of darkness. What am I? (answer on page 10)



DEACON'S CORNER



St. Alban's is a regular contributor to Project SALT. On the last Sunday of the month, we have our SALT Luncheon after church. Donations, though not required, are accepted and all of the money is given to Project SALT to support their Food Bank. In addition, we collect non-perishable food and deliver it to Project SALT and Parishioners are encouraged to donate clothing and household goods.

As I prepared to write an article asking for your support of Project SALT, I realized that some of you may not know exactly what Project SALT is. Project SALT (Serving And Loving Together) is a non-denominational project that helps the poor of Wickenburg and the surrounding communities. Unlike other local charities, Project SALT does not require proof of need, making help more accessible. Project SALT is a 501c3 Non-Profit organization which is governed by a Board of Directors and operated by Volunteers. Project SALT operates out of a store front building close to downtown Wickenburg.

Project SALT serves the working poor, the homeless, and anyone who is in need. No one needs to prove that they need help. Project SALT helps by providing food (food boxes and sack lunches), clothing, basic household items and social services support.

How can you help Project SALT?

♦ Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to keep the "store" open.

Volunteers are needed to sort and stock food and clothing.

♦ Food

Non-perishable family sized foods to make Food Boxes for Families.

Single serve foods to prepare sack lunches; Tuna and Cracker packets, fruit cups, Vienna Sausage, Peanut Butter cups, Granola Bars, etc. See next column for collection schedule for April:

♦ Clothing

Interview worthy outfits.

Basic clothing needs.

♦ Housewares

Basic household items:

Bed Linens

Towels

Pots and Pans

Dishes/glasses/utensils

If you have any questions about Project SALT or would like to volunteer, please contact me.

Deacon Debra

PROJECT SALT

In addition to our monthly luncheon, we accept food and hygiene items each week which will be delivered directly to Project SALT. The schedule for March 2024 is

April 7	Canned meats (tuna, chicken, SPAM, etc.)
April 14	Soups, stews, ramen
April 21	Canned fruit and vegetables
April 28	Pasta, rice, pasta mixes, rice mixes

Please bring your donations to the Parish Hall on Sunday before or after the worship service.



AMELIA EARHART

Amelia Earhart broke into an almost entirely male-dominated profession to become one of the most famous aviators of all time, but being one of a small handful of female pilots came with plenty of obstacles. One of the more annoying problems was a lack of flight apparel designed to fit women's bodies. At the beginning of her career, Earhart was saddled with ill-fitting clothing designed for men, which only bolstered her lifelong interest in fashion. As a child, Earhart sewed clothing for herself and her dolls; later in life, she had a reputation for wearing practical clothing, much of which was custom-made.

In 1933, with a couple of transatlantic flights under her belt, Earhart released Amelia Fashions, a clothing line "for the woman who lives actively;" while some of the line was made for aviation, some of it was just stylish and comfortable. Earhart didn't just lend her name to the label — she approved every step of the process and helped sew some of the garments, too. Many of the designs incorporated aviation materials, such as buttons and buckles made of ball bearings, oil cups, and bolts. Some shirts were made from parachute silk and included tails, which were mostly exclusive to menswear at the time. She also designed hats, which she used as prizes for flying contests with the Ninety-Nines, an all-woman aviation society she helped establish. What ultimately doomed the clothing line was that Earhart cared too much about it, and she found that working as a full-time designer took her focus away from flying and lecturing.

From History Facts



A LITTLE BIT OF ARIZONA HISTORY

Charles T. Poston - "The Father of Arizona"

Charles T. Poston was born in Kentucky in 1825 and died in Phoenix, AZ in 1902. He was an educated refined gentleman with certain peculiarities which made friends and enemies. He received the title "Father of Arizona" for his work separating Arizona from the Territory of New Mexico. A title he gave to himself.

In 1850 Poston left his pregnant wife seeking his fortune in the California gold fields. He came by way of the Isthmus of Panama, then by steamer to San Francisco. There he found a job as a clerk in the Custom House. There he read about the Gadsden Purchase*, the land south of the Gila River in Arizona. Needing help looking for mining opportunities in southern Arizona, he partnered with Herman Ehrenburg, a mining engineer.

When the two arrived at the Colorado River, Ehrenburg stayed and discovered placer gold up stream near the place named for him. Poston with his new partner Samuel P. Heintzelman went east and arrived in Tucson in 1856. There they formed the Sonora Exploring & Mining Co. and set up headquarters in Tubac on the banks of the Santa Cruz River.

Tubac, a former Spanish Presidio, was almost deserted when Poston and Heintzelman arrived. The two discovered rich deposits of silver a few miles west of Tubac and as a result, the town attracted about 800 new people, almost all former Mexicans residents.

Poston established himself as the "Alcalde", or Mayor and Justice of the Peace. He also authorized himself to conduct marriages, baptisms, grant divorces and sentence criminals. Most residents worked for Poston as mine laborers, in the stores, cutting timber and making adobe bricks. Almost all could not read or write so Poston created and printed his own money. The bills were printed with pictures of animals, donkeys, cows and horses to indicate their value.

Every thing was going well for Poston until a visiting Priest from Sante Fe came and was alarmed. He told Poston all his marriage and baptisms were not valid. Couples were in panic as all their children were born out of wedlock. Poston resolved the problem by donating \$700 to the Priest's favorite charity.

When the Civil War started all US Troops were pulled out of Arizona and many Tubac residents left because they were afraid of Apache raids. Poston also left and went to Washington DC working to separate Arizona from the Territory of New Mexico. US Congress passed the bill and President Lincoln signed it on February 24, 1863. Poston commissioned Tiffany & Co. to create a \$1,500 inkwell made from Arizona silver and presented it to Lincoln upon signing the Arizona Organic Act. Lincoln also appointed Poston Superintendent of Indian Affairs for Arizona. Poston returned to Arizona. Poston was elected as the first Territorial delegate to Congress in 1863, but lost in the next election

He then traveled the world including China and India where he became interested in Sun Worship. He returned to Arizona and lived in Florence where he built a Sun Temple on a small rocky knoll called Primrose Hill. The locals called it Poston's Folly. He asked to be buried there. He lived his last twelve years in Phoenix and died in 1902. He was buried in Porter Cemetery, but in 1925 his remains were removed, placed in an iron case under a stone monument on the top of Primrose Hill which was renamed Poston Butte.

From: Wikipedia, and Pioneer & Military Memorial Park of Phoenix

Submitted by John Carr



[CORRECTION: In the March newsletter article, I wrote the Gadsden Purchase was 35,000 acres. The correct number is 35,000 square miles.]

BATS IN THE BELFRY?

Over the past several days there have been a number of bat sightings at church. This prompted a flurry of research by our Junior Warden, [Fred Poteet](#), and what he shared is quite interesting. For instance, did you know bats are a protected species?

Arizona is home to 28 species of bats, more than almost any other state. Bats are the only true flying mammals and are valuable human allies. Worldwide, they are primary predators of vast numbers of insect pests, saving farmers and foresters billions of dollars annually and helping to control insect-spread human diseases. For example, large colonies of Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*) eat hundreds of tons of moths each week, especially the moths that prey on cotton crops.

While some people appreciate bats and the ways they benefit us, others fear bats because a small percentage of them can expose humans and pets to rabies. Bats should always be kept out of places where people live indoors. Bat guano (feces) can present disease and odor problems. However, bats are generally harmless to humans and are extremely beneficial for controlling insects and mosquitoes and pollinating some plants. Bats are vulnerable to disturbances by people because of their roosting habits and slow reproductive cycle. (*cont. pg 11*)

PARISH NURSE

April is National Donate Life Awareness Month

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) was established by Donate Life America and its partnering organizations in 2003. Celebrated in April each year, Donate Life Month features an entire month of local, regional and national activities to help encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to celebrate those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

National Donate Life Awareness Month in April recognizes the impact of organ donation. The month is dedicated not only to improving support to those desperately waiting for life-saving donations but honors those who agreed to be donors.

Organ donation takes many forms, and there are teams of people involved to make donation happen. A single donation requires a coordinated effort from family members supporting both donors and recipients to a broad network of advocates and medical professionals and specialists.

This year's theme is focused on stars as stars remind us that even in the darkest night, there is light. We each have the potential to nurture and enrich our communities through organ, eye and tissue donation.

DID YOU KNOW?

- ⇒ Every 8 minutes another person is added to the national transplant list.
- ⇒ 5600 people in the US died in 2022 while on the transplant waiting list.
- ⇒ 16 people die each day while waiting for an organ transplant.
- ⇒ 86% of people waiting are in need of a kidney
- ⇒ 1 out of 3 deceased donors is over the age of 50.
- ⇒ If you donated your organs, up to 8 lives could be saved.
- ⇒ If you donated your cornea, eyesight would be restored to 2 people.
- ⇒ If you donated our tissue, 75 lives could be healed.

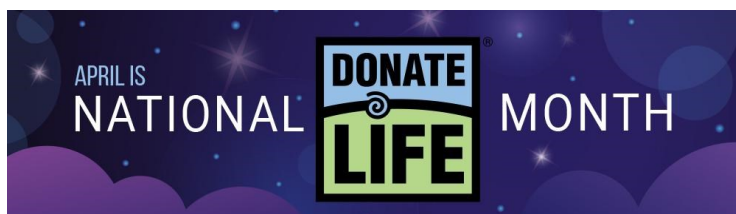
There are many ways to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor. You can register at the National Donate Life Registry or through the local Department of Motor Vehicles. If you are not already registered as a donor, please think about the lives you could impact if you were!

Linda Brockwell, RN

TRUTHS TO REMEMBER

1. Faith is the ability to not panic.
2. If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry.
3. As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day.
4. Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.
5. When we get tangled up in our problems, be still, so God can untangle the know.
6. Do the math; count your blessings.
7. God wants spiritual fruit, not religious nuts.
8. Dear God. I have a problem. It's me.
9. Silence is often misinterpreted, but never misquoted.
10. Laugh every day; its like inner jogging.
11. The most important things in your home are the people.
12. Growing old is inevitable; growing up is optional.
13. There is no key to happiness; the door is always open.
14. A grudge is a heavy thing to carry.
15. He who dies with the most toys is, nonetheless, still dead.
16. We do not remember days, but moments. Life moves too fast, so enjoy your precious moments.
17. Nothing is real to you until you experience it; otherwise it's just hearsay.
18. It's all right to sit on your pity pot every now and again; just be sure to flush when you are done.
19. Surviving and living your life successfully requires courage. The goals and dreams you're seeking require courage and risk-taking. Learn from the turtle; it only makes progress when it sticks out its neck.
20. Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.

Author and contributor unknown



RIDDLE

I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air; I don't have a mouth, but water kills me. What am I?
(Answer on page 9)





ECW

The first half of March was quite busy for the ECW as we planned for and held the rummage sale (see next column). It always amazes me how much work goes into a garage (aka rummage) sale!

We were invited to a St. Patrick's luncheon at the Yarnell Community Presbyterian Church, held on March 13th. St. Alban's was well represented by **Lois Thorson, Mary Hollenbeck, Lenore Goode, Francoise Marshall, Marilyn Spencer, Deb Poteet, Judy Stephens** and her friend, **Beverly Campbell**, as well as *myself*. The Weaver Mountain Chorus provided entertainment after lunch but before a cake and ice cream dessert. They were absolutely fabulous, singing a variety of tunes from spiritual to Irish to patriotic! They will be a hard act to follow for our fall luncheon!

Please join us for our next meeting, April 16, 2024, at 11:30 AM for a bring your own lunch and fellowship followed at noon by the business meeting. All ladies are welcome to join us and I hope to see you then!

Linda Brockwell
ECW Chair

ECW RUMMAGE SALE

The ECW's rummage sale on March 9th was a huge success, thanks in large part to organizer **Deb Poteet**. She spent many hours sorting and organizing the items prior to her "helpers" coming to price and move the items from the basement to the Parish Hall. Despite the hard work it was a fun time, especially as we got to know better some of the ladies. A big thank you to all who helped make this event a success: **Jan Savoie; Peggy Hamilton; Marilyn Spencer; Judy Stephens; Beverly Sinclair; Kelly Ryan; Linda Brockwell; Francoise Marshall; Randy Brown; Dawna Brown; Sandy Schlegel; Deb McBride; Fred Poteet; Bob Black; Dave Loder; and Deacon Debra**. The guys were so helpful in moving much of the stuff from the basement. Without them, there would have been a lot more sore knees and backs!



ELECTRICAL SAFETY

We rely on electricity, but sometimes underestimate its capability of causing injury. Even household current (120 volts) can stop your heart. We need to be aware of the hazards electricity poses, such as shock, fire and explosion, and either eliminate or control those hazards.

Shock

Electrical shock happens when current passes through the body. Electricity travels through closed circuits, and people, sometimes tragically, can become part of the circuit. When a person receives a shock, electricity flows between parts of the body or through the body to a ground. This can happen if someone touches both wires of an energized circuit, touches one wire of the circuit while standing unprotected or touches a metal part that has become energized.

Electrocution refers to the injury or lethal dose of electrical energy. Electricity can also cause forceful muscle contraction or falls. The severity of injury depends on the amount of current flowing through the body, the current's path through the body, the length of time the body remains in the circuit and the current's frequency.

Fire/Explosion

Electrical fires may be caused by excessive resistance that generates heat from any of the following:

- ◇ Too much current running through wiring where overcurrent protection fails or does not exist.
- ◇ Faulty electrical outlets resulting in poor contact or arcing.
- ◇ Poor wiring connections and old wiring that is damaged and cannot support the load.
- ◇ An explosion can occur when electricity ignites a flammable gas or combustible dust mixture in the air. Ignition from a short circuit or static charge is possible.

Electrical Safety Basics

- ◇ Make sure electrical equipment is properly connected, grounded and in good working order.
- ◇ Extension cords should not be used as permanent wiring and should be removed after temporary use for an activity or event.
- ◇ Surge suppressors with built-in circuit breakers may be used long-term and are available with three, six and 15 foot-long cords.
- ◇ High amperage equipment such as space heaters, portable air conditioners and other equipment must be plugged directly into permanent wall receptacles.
- ◇ Do not access, use or alter any building's electrical service, including circuit breaker panels, unless you are specifically qualified and authorized to do so.
- ◇ Wet environments can increase the risk of an electrical shock.

What you can do to stay safe?

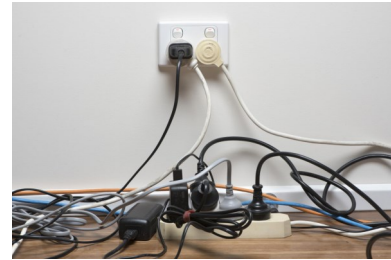
- ◇ Avoid activities that require training
- ◇ Do not make repairs or alterations to any electrical equipment
- ◇ Do not open up the case, or remove barrier guards, of any equipment that utilizes electricity
- ◇ Do not overload outlets/extension cords/surge protectors

Grounding

To prevent electrical hazards, always make sure equipment is properly grounded. Electrical grounding provides an alternate path for electricity to follow, rather than going through a person. Equipment with a grounding prong must be plugged into an extension cord with a ground; the grounding plug should not be removed from the equipment.

Wet Locations

When using electricity in a wet or damp location, including outdoor locations, a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) must be used. The GFCI ensures that any electrical shock is brief. Although painful, it wouldn't be fatal because the GFCI creates a ground fault or leak in the current.



From Environmental Health & Safety, University of Washington



Dear Lord,

*You are my ever present mentor.
Thank you for teaching me to see
good in all things!*

Amen



BISHOP'S COMMITTEE

Highlights from the March meeting:

Cathy Black, former Canon on Administration, joined us and did a presentation/discussion about "Bishop's Committee Enhancement." She shared many good thoughts on how to be a more proactive committee.

Deacon/Vicar

- ◇ The Parochial Report was approved and submitted.
- ◇ Godly Play Core Training Workshop April 19-21: Discounted Rate available; training in teaching children for Sunday school. Patti and Mike are registered and Erica has indicated an interest.
- ◇ Anti-racism training: Mike asked the Diocese if we could do the training here but would need 20 attendees. It was decided that those who have not taken the training will meet at the church April 27th and attend via Zoom; registration is still required.

Junior Warden

- ◇ The freezer needed to be defrosted but a new board is required to complete the repair; will be done Tuesday
- ◇ Gingrich Landscape will take over care of the roses and will replace the mulch with rocks (this will cut down on unwanted insects attacking the roses); cost estimated to be \$100. Fred moved to have Gingrich proceed with this plan; second by Sam; approved.

Treasurer's Report

- ◇ Currently remain in stable financial position
- ◇ Library book packing date TBD; Linda will send out survey to determine best date.
- ◇ Per the Canons of the Church, non-designated offerings are to be deposited into the Rector's Discretionary Account one Sunday per month. Linda moved that the last Sunday of the month be designated for this; second by Patti; approved.

Other Business

- ◇ Senior Center Parking at St. Alban's: Mike, Linda, Kelly and Fred met with Lory Loreda from the Sr. Center and discussed our concerns with the overflow parking. She will discuss with her superiors and legal advisors and have a lease drawn up to help offset the cost of maintenance/repair of parking area.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 11:30 AM** in the Vicar's office

The Bishop's Committee

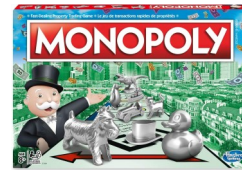


WHY MONOPOLY WAS IMPORTANT DURING WWII

During WWII, the British used Monopoly games to help POWs escape.

Monopoly has been beloved for generations, but the history of the classic board game isn't all fun and games. During World War II, specially manufactured Monopoly boards were used to help prisoners of war escape from captivity. In 1940, the British government struck a deal with Waddington's, the company that manufactured London-themed editions of Monopoly, in which MI9, a secret department of the War Office, tasked Waddington's with creating a version of Monopoly that contained various tools and information to aid POWs in their potential escape efforts.

The sneakily altered Monopoly boards were distributed to Nazi-run POW camps as part of larger aid packages. In addition to the standard thimble and dog game pieces, each board contained metal "playing pieces" that were actually escape tools, such as a file and magnetic compass. Each version also contained silk maps provided by the intelligence agency, which could be unfolded discreetly without drawing attention. What's more, these special editions swapped out fake Monopoly money for real German, Italian, and French currency that could be used to bribe guards. The British government also contracted game company John Jaques & Son to create chess sets and versions of Snakes and Ladders that contained hidden compartments with escape tools.



BRAIN AT 3AM:

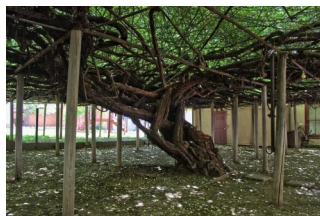
I can see you're trying to sleep, so I would like to offer you a selection of every memory, unresolved issue, or things you should have said or done today as well as in the past 40 years!

AND SO ON...

The month of March in Arizona is always a challenge with cloudy overcast giving way to deep blue skies. The weather warms a bit and sends everyone outside to enjoy their gardens. But beware! As John Carr reminds us, the mesquite trees are the most reliable forecasters and, until they bloom, the weather can change at the drop of a hat. Warning! The mesquite trees are not leafing out, so caution is advised. Some years back I remember an inch of two of snow in late March falling on my home in Wickenburg. BUT, it also is the time that the temperatures begin to climb to the summer heat that we all know will come.

With the rush of spring, many travel to a local nursery to stock up on bedding plants that will provide color in our landscape. Also, avid gardeners give and receive “pass-a-long” plants that have thrived in nearby yards. We are eager to go with old standards that will tolerate an Arizona summer. “Pass-a-long plants” document a long history of garden-sharing.

My favorite of all pass-along stories has to be the Tombstone Lady Banks rose. As you may know, the Lady Banks rose was originally from England but was cultivated widely throughout the British Isles. When Mary Gee married and immigrated from Scotland to Tombstone (AZ) in 1885, she missed the family’s Lady Banks. Her mother sent her a box of cuttings. Mary shared one with her friend Amelia, who planted it behind the boarding house where she worked. Some 140 years later, the trunk of that Scottish Lady Banks—now a rose tree—has a 12-foot circumference and its branches cover a 9000-square-foot arbor. You can see some photos of this massive pass-along on [the AZ Plant Lady’s blog](#).



The property was purchased by the Devore family in the late 1930s. It is located a few blocks from the famous OK Corral. The Devores have vowed to protect this legacy. The pruning takes over a week and it almost always is in full bloom on Easter Sunday. A scaffolding with steps to an elevated platform has been constructed so that viewers can see the top of the rose tree where the blooms proliferate.

Some years back when traveling with friends, I stopped in Tombstone in late spring to visit the famous Lady Banks rose.

Traveling back in memory I can visualize a dusty street filled with small tourist shops. In back of a restaurant/hotel stood a sturdy arbor supporting a huge rose “tree” with a massive trunk that seemed to encompass the whole block. Under the arbor it was cool and fragrant with an odor somewhat like violets. The Lady Banks has definitely found a place to thrive.



While I enjoy the stories of exotics successfully imported to Arizona, I find such beauty in our natural vegetation that roses almost seem gaudy when compared to the cactus, lupine, penstemon, desert marigold, and Palo Verde that cover our hills in Spring. We are truly blessed!

Hartley Bennett

CHALLENGE OF THE MONTH

CHECK EMAIL ONCE OR TWICE A DAY

It's such a distraction and time suck and email management is difficult enough as it is, but it works wonders for your productivity. So for 30 days, try this. Turn your email off on your phone and mobile devices. Pick one or two 30 minute periods during the day to read and respond to email and set an auto responder to let people know of your new email policy.



"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

~Hebrews 11:1



You just can't live in that negative way ... make way for the positive day.

~
Bob Marley

ANSWER to riddle: Fire



APRIL MUSINGS

The month of April gets its name from the Latin word *aperio*, meaning "to open (bud)" because plants really begin to grow now.

Flowers: Daisy-symbolizes innocence, loyalty, love and purity.



Sweet pea-signifies blissful pleasure, and are used to say goodbye.



Birthstone: Diamond



DATES TO REMEMBER

04/01: April Fool's Day

04/08: Solar Eclipse

04/11: National Pet Day

04/12: National Grilled Cheese Day

04/22: Earth Day

04/23: April's Full Moon, known as the "Pink Moon"

04/28: National Arbor Day – everyone is encouraged to plant a tree!



INTERESTING FACTS

04/01/1853: The Cincinnati Fire Department became the first full-time, salaried fire department in the U.S

04/14/1973: Engineer Martin Cooper made the first ever mobile phone call

04/15/1865: Abraham Lincoln was assassinated

04/25/1953: The DNA double helix was discovered

- ◇ 1945: The US invasion of Okinawa began (WWII)
- ◇ 1954: The United States Air Force Academy was established
- ◇ 1960: The satellite Tiros I was launched from Cape Canaveral and eventually transmitted thousands of photographs showing the distribution of Earth's cloud formations
- ◇ 1976: Steve Wozniak, Steve Jobs, and Ronald Wayne founded Apple Computer, Inc.
- ◇ 1999: Nunavut Territory created

April is the best month to watch a meteor shower!



Why are people so tired on April 1st? Because they just finished a 31-day March!

Riddle answer:
The letter "S"

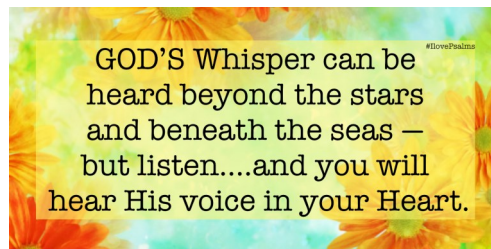


THE CHURCH MEDITATING

What purpose do the prelude and postlude serve in the worship service? Is the music enhancing the worship experience or is it just background for conversations? Most musicians focus on making the music relevant to the service. As one pastor observed, "the prelude and postlude are like bookends bracketing everything that happens in between and are theologically related to the central meaning of worship." The purpose of the prelude is to enter into a holy space by quieting ourselves and preparing for worship. We enter this holy space in a number of ways: through prayer, through music, through meditation on what God might be saying to us. Let's enter into that quiet space together now.

While the prelude prepares the worship for a meaningful worship experience, the postlude "captures" the grandeur of God's majesty and spirit. It is a fitting time for reflection and congregations are encouraged to remain silently seated out of courtesy to the organist or musician.

Norman B. Bendroth (nbendroth@hotmail.com) is an interim ministry specialist in the Massachusetts Conference, United Church of Christ



ST. ALBAN'S PHOTO DIRECTORY

With the blessing of the Bishop's Committee, *Patti Glinski* is creating a new Church Photo Directory. Pictures were taken in the Parish Hall during Coffee Hour on February 18th, 25th and March 3rd. If we need to add another date, we can certainly do that!

Patti has been working through our current directory and contacting people to update their information and find out if they want to be included in the new directory. If you have not been contacted, please call the office and give Ellen your current information. Please also send a current photo or make arrangements with Linda Brockwell to have your picture taken.

The new Photo Directory will be very beneficial to our new vicar as well as to our members.



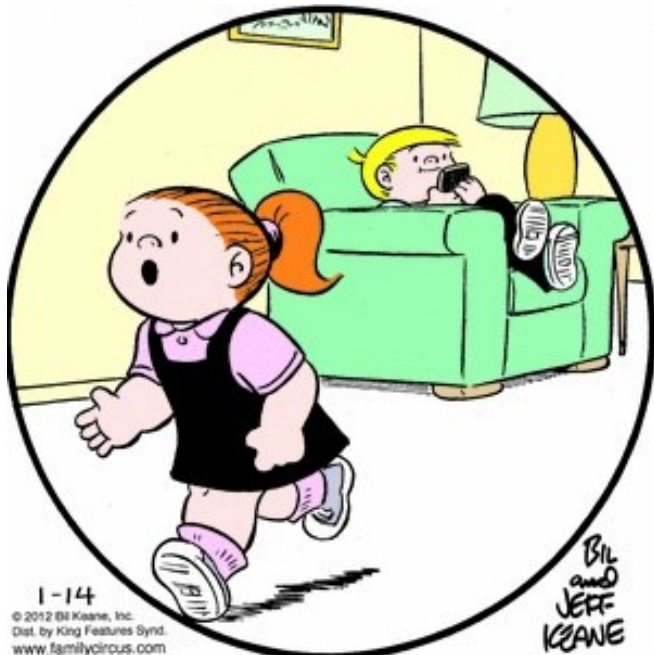


Birthdays

Tonie Tekulve	4/02
Jewell Halla	4/05
Rebecca Thomas	4/10
Sylvia Knudtson	4/11
Judy Lietzau	4/11
Lucille Latimer	4/13
Mary Piccinini	4/18
Don Thorson	4/30



Anniversaries



1-14
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Bill
and
Jeff
Keane

"Billy says he doesn't hafta go to church anymore 'cause his phone has an app for that!"

MONTHLY OFFERINGS

March

Pledged	\$5,482
General	\$ 890
Loose change	\$ 292
SALT lunch	\$ 268

Bats (cont. from pg. 4)



What Attracts Bats?

If bats are in an area, it is probably because they are finding food, water or shelter.

- Food can include insects that congregate in areas near lights, agricultural or playing fields, ponds or other water sources. Nectar-feeding bats may be attracted to flowering agaves and hummingbird feeders.
- Water sources can include any pool, pond or lake with a long flying corridor that bats can skim.
- Shelter can include rough surfaces for hanging. A bump of only 1/16 inch is enough. Bats can squeeze into holes as small as 3/8 inch and are attracted to spaces inside buildings and attics, under bridges, in culverts, behind siding on buildings, in palm trees, and under eaves and porch or patio awnings.

Bats should never be allowed to remain in human living areas. However, bats roosting on the porch, in the yard, or in a bat house are far more beneficial than harmful, and the small amount of guano can be cleaned up or used as fertilizer, in exchange for the reduction in flying insects and mosquitoes.

Bats are protected by state law, and disturbing a colony of bats where babies are present can result in dead bats and large fines. Bats reproduce slowly compared to other small mammals, and their benefits usually outweigh any harm they might cause. Bats should never be allowed to remain inside human living areas, but bats outside can be tolerated and even encouraged.

Bats on the Ground

A bat on the ground that acts sick or unable to move may have **rabies**.

- If a bat is on the ground and sick or unable to move, then leave it alone, keep pets and children away, and contact your local county health department immediately.
- Most bats cannot fly from ground level. If a bat has been knocked down during a storm and does not seem sick or injured, then use a stick to gently raise it to a tree limb. At nightfall, the bat should fly away.

NEVER handle a bat with bare hands.

For more information go to www.azgfd.com/wildlife-conservation

RECURRING EVENTS

WEEKLY

SUNDAYS: COFFEE HOUR
9:15 ADULT FORUM
1:00 PM AA

MONDAYS: 6:30 COMMUNITY CHORUS

TUESDAYS:

THURSDAYS: 6:00 PM AA

FRIDAYS: 12:00 PM ALANON

MONTHLY

FIRST SUNDAY: 11:15 BIRTHDAY CELEBS
1:00 PM RUSTIC RANCH SERVICE

SECOND SUNDAY 11:30 BCM MEETING

SECOND TUESDAY: 12:00 PM ECW MEETING

THIRD SUNDAY: 11:00 AM PARISH NURSE

Military Prayer List

US Air Force	Colby	Harlan
	Kay Lee	Thomas
US Army	Andrew	
US Navy	Caleb	Landon
	McKenzie	
US Marines	Tyler	

Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 8 AM – 12 PM

Other times by appointment

Deacon Mike Seiler

Wednesday – Saturday 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Sunday after Coffee Hour by appointment

Without appointment, please call first

Deacon Debra - By appointment



Our Mission:

Praising, learning, and sharing God's Love

Our Vision:

St. Alban's is a church family that welcomes, nurtures and reaches out

Our Core Values:

Loving God: We value worshipping God, inspired by the Holy Spirit, when we are gathered as his church and in our daily lives.

Loving His Family: We value loving others with the love of Christ. Our relationships will be forgiving, trusting, giving, gracious, truthful and respectful of differences.

Loving His World: Tending the blessings God entrusts to us.

ADMINISTRATION

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Reddall

Bishop

The Rev. Mike Seiler

Deacon

The Rev. Debra Loder

Deacon

Caroline Markham

Music Program Director

Ellen Richards

Office

Kelly Ryan, Sr. Warden

Fred Poteet, Jr. Warden

Linda Brockwell, Treasurer

Deb McBride

Caroline Markham

Sam Stephens

Patti Glinski

Erica Baxter

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