

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania

PARISH PROFILE



At St. Alban's, we are called to be "a welcoming, Christ-centered community growing in God's grace and empowered to share Christ's love in the world." We who call this place home take that mission and welcome seriously and joyfully, and we invite you to come and experience it as well! We have a shared vision with clergy and members working together to match gifts and talents with our ministry.

As a worshipping community our spiritual and well-being are blessed with numerous committees. All our volunteers give generously with their time and talent. Our programs include:



- Prayer Shawl – St Alban’s faithful knitters that meet to crochet and knit shawls and other items that are blessed and shared with our parish and the community.
- Flea Market– The COVID pandemic has temporarily paused our flea market, but we are looking forward to resume in 2022 with our 3 events throughout the year. After each event remaining merchandise is donated to the Goodwill.
- Opportunity House – Founded decades ago as a homeless shelter, this community resource changes lives by educating, housing, feeding, and empowering people to stand on their own feet. Monthly we provide a nourishing meal along with supplies such as towels, and toiletries.
- Wilson Ministry Center - It was established as an outreach ministry by Grace Episcopal Church and offers a variety of services and programs for area residents. At the church we regularly donate canned goods and food that are delivered to the center.
- Mary’s Shelter – Prior to the COVID pandemic we regularly donated supplies. It is a housing and parenting shelter in Reading that address' pregnancy, parenting, & homelessness.
- Greater Reading Cops n' Kids - We deliver new and used books at the Berks Literacy Council. They distribute them throughout the school districts located in the greater Reading area and other organizations.
- Endowment fund – Annually contribute to various needy organizations in our community.
- Building use – Allows a safe place for community groups to meet. Currently being used by a Twelve Step Program.

- Angel Tree – During the Christmas season we purchase gifts from names decoratively displayed on a tree for those less fortunate.

Other committees that meet the needs of our church are:

- Stewardship - We look to the Tens Program for guidance and inspiration through their publications and material that we find very valuable to us.
- Property - Where our Spring clean-up get together fosters hard work with good fellowship. We, also, follow up with one in the fall.
- Fundraising - Sell grocery gift cards, Christmas cookies, valentine candy, car wash tickets. We participate in Redner's Warehouse Market's Save-A-Tape program.
- Social Dining - We have a breakfast gathering, lunch bunch, and supper club. We hoped to resume these but were postponed due to COVID. We anxiously wait to continue this time together outside the church.
- Parish Life - Committee prepares our social hour that is held after services and our annual church picnic held on the grounds.
- Adult Christian Education – Christian book club currently reading Love Is the Way by Bishop Curry, Bible study officiated by our rector, Lenten study program.
- Health Ministry - Exercise program designed for our senior members. Sitting exercise is scheduled twice a week for an hour. Once a month is a yoga session.

St. Albans Christian Learning Center has been educating and encouraging social, emotional, and spiritual development for ages 3-5 since 1985.

- Amidst COVID has 30 children enrolled, size deterred some parents
- Teachers required to have a 4 yr. degree in education with 12 hr. continued education annually
- Academic curriculum changes monthly with focus on seasonal activities in combination with numbers, colors, shapes, and various other aspects designed to prepare them for school

- Christian education program changes monthly. October's Bible verse: Trust the Lord with all your heart, Proverbs 3:5, and story of Abraham, Moses, and David
- Financially they are self-sustaining. Advertising is minimal due to word of mouth by families who send all their children through their program

We are very proud and supportive of all aspects of our learning center. We continually seek to work in partnership with them and confirm our commitment to their success.

We have a strong music program with a director and very enthusiastic choir emphasizing classical and traditional music which greatly energizes the congregation. Our worship services are very traditional with an open mind to changes that will enhance the worship experience. Our services are, also, videoed live each Sunday morning on our Facebook page for those at home. Our Lay Eucharistic Ministers serve those that wish to receive the communion but are not able to come to church.



St. Alban's began in the 1960s as a suburban mission located in the western suburbs of Berks County near Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania. A four-acre tract was purchased by the Diocese halfway between Philadelphia and Harrisburg.

The first worship service was held in August 1962, in the Wyomissing Hills Borough Hall, and in 1963, a temporary church was completed. The plan was to lease it from the Diocese for five years while the congregation built its own structure. Instead, the congregation bought the A-frame in 1967, and by 1973 the self-supporting mission became a parish.

Over the next four decades, dedicated parishioners, through hard work, fundraising, and generous bequests, expanded the original facility by 2,290 square feet to add offices, a nursery, choir and conference rooms. A pipe organ was purchased, and an organist/choir director was hired. Many necessary improvements were made.

The parish addressed a pressing community need by opening Saint Alban's Christian Learning Center in 1985 for pre-school and after-school care.

Over the years, gifted priests brought their special talents and leadership to support the thriving parish. However, as the twenty-first century progressed, it became obvious that faithful stewardship of the growing, dynamic and welcoming congregation could not keep the original A-frame structure safe and up to code. The time was right to act upon the founders' vision.

Architectural drawings were approved, and the new church home was dedicated in 2013. Contemporary in style, the sanctuary features a half-theater-in-the-round layout with excellent acoustics. Surrounding space accommodates the Learning Center, offices, meeting rooms, a sacristy, choir and robing rooms and storage. Ample parking and handicap accessibility support worshipers who otherwise might not attend church.

While many congregants miss the original church where treasured memories were formed, they brought its historical spirit to their new home.

In our prayers, we are looking for a person that has inspirational preaching, good organizational skills, compassion and is an approachable listener.

Please submit your materials to the Rev. Melinda Artman (melinda@diobeth.org).



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Sinking Spring, PA 19608

<https://www.stalbansepisopal.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansSinkingSpring>

ST. ALBAN'S STEWARDSHIP CROSS

St. Alban's Stewardship

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above..." James 1:17, NRSV

WORSHIP

Mission & Outreach
is sharing the Good News with the larger world and serving others.

Evangelism & Inreach
is fostering and supporting spiritual growth in the congregation, as well as caring for the material and pastoral needs of members.

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Social Ministries (e.g., Opportunity House, Food Barrel) Prayer Shawls Greeters Endowment Committee Vacation Bible School Building Use (<i>Learning Center, 12-Step Groups</i>)	Clergy Vestry Parish Secretary Finance/Treasurer Archivist Organist and Choir Master Website Administration Endowment Fund Memorial Fund	Vestry Calls to Parishioners Lay Eucharistic Visitors (L.E.V.) Christian Education Lenten Study Program Evangelism & Renewal Phoebe Berks Eucharist Stewardship
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Sr. Exercise

Flea Market

Grocery Gift Cards

Boscov's Cards

Health Series

Cops 'n Kids

Search Committee

Property

Parish Life

Sign Management

Warden's Newsletters

Ladies' Prayer Group

www.stalbanseiscopal.org

Counters

Sonlight

Albanac

Sunday School

Adult Forum

Book Group

Bible Study

Social Hour

FELLOWSHIP

Have you ever wondered what St. Alban's does with your time, treasure, and talent?
Listed above are some examples of what St. Alban's is doing here, in the community, and the world.

