



# THE ALTON ANGELUS

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

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This is a bi-monthly newsletter designed to keep parishioners up to date on Parish activities. Please send news items to Diana Enloe at [denloe5003@charter.net](mailto:denloe5003@charter.net) or the Church Office at [epialton@episcopalalton.org](mailto:epialton@episcopalalton.org) by the second or fourth Wednesday to have them appear in the following Friday's newsletter.

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### What does Mother Cindy do in a month?

#### Rector's Report for November 28, 2018

#### Mission Leadership Team Meeting

#### Some of the Highlights from the past month:

- I attended the annual diocesan Synod with lay delegates Diane Martin and Thom Harris. We accepted the task of hosting the next Synod on October 18-19, 2019 in Alton.
- I represented EPA by giving the opening prayer and benediction at the Benjamin Godfrey Legacy Trail fundraising dinner on October 25<sup>th</sup> at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Godfrey. While there, I invited John Meehan, AKA Benjamin Godfrey, to address Synod 2019.
- Met with Judy Jones to go over the activity pages for our new pictorial directory
- Attended Finance Committee meetings
- Attended the Annual Chili Supper and visited with everyone there
- Led the November PAWS service

- Had *several* in-depth pastoral conversations with parishioners, one over lunch
- Met with the Wardens
- Attended the ECW meeting
- Met with the Education Committee and the Church school Director
- Had pastoral conversations with several children of the parish on Sundays
- Attended a three day mandatory clergy retreat with the Bishop at Toddhall in Columbia, IL. These were long days (11-12 hours with meal breaks), with morning, afternoon, and evening lecture/discussion sessions and worship services, including the daily offices plus one Eucharist. The topic was preparing for Holy Week services and learning more (or really refreshing knowledge and learning Bishop Martins' thoughts) about the history, theology, and liturgics of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holly Saturday, and the Great Vigil of Easter. This was also a great way to strengthen ties with my fellow diocesan clergy.
- I spent a great deal of my free time cooking and getting ready for the Annual All Hallows Eve Service & Halloween party at my house. Byron decorated for weeks! We had good attendance and a wonderful, time worshipping and getting to know one another better over good food and fun activities. I am grateful to all who came and helped.
- Studied and restudied the resumes submitted for the Parish Administrator position, and scheduled interviews with six candidates (one of the six was a no-show.) Discussed impressions of the candidates' resumes with the interview team and the wardens before the interviews. Helped Linda compile a job description for this position and researched personnel practices.
- Interviewed six candidates over a three day time period and discussed impressions of each interview with fellow interviewers Jasper Fisher, Linda Dunnagan, and in the

case of the interview of Jennifer Grassle, with Warden Marti LoRusso, because Linda Dunnagan had a conflict with this interview. Two of the candidates were parishioners, one grew up in this parish, and three had no association with us. A CANDIDATE'S ASSOCIATION WITH OUR PARISH, OR LACK THEREOF, HAD ABSOLUTELY NO IMPACT POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY ON THAT PERSON'S CHANCES OF BEING CHOSEN. WE STRICTLY CHOSE THE PERSON WHO HAD THE BEST SKILLS FOR OUR POSITION.

- Chose the most qualified candidate with input from the team. Every candidate brought great skills and a good fit in certain areas to the table, but in the end, one candidate has all of the skills needed for this diverse position.
- Planning how to inform the other candidates of our choice in the kindest possible and most affirming way.
- Preparing materials needed for a new hire
- Wrote notes to quite a few parishioners and visitors
- A few pastoral care sessions with non-parishioners
- Preparing for Vestry meeting
- Planning for Advent and Christmas
- Attended Alton Community Service League meetings and made peanut clusters to raise money for the organization as part of my commitment
- Interface time with April Drennan, our new Church school director. I want her to feel supported
- Celebrated the Eucharist on Sundays and Tuesday mornings, and led Tuesday morning Bible Study

**What do Mother Cindy's weeks look like?  
Here's an average example!**

Date	Day	Times	Day's Total	Description	Weekly Total
11/24/18	Saturday	11 AM-9 PM	10:00	Sermon prep & personnel	10:00
11/25/18	Sunday	7:45 AM-2:30 PM 6-8 PM	6:15 2:00	Church svcs & lunch w/parishioner Resumes reviewed	18:15
11/26/18	Monday	10:20AM- 6:30 PM 6:30-10:30 PM	8:10 4:00	Worked on personnel issues, Finance Committee, & Vestry Finance Comm. Mtg.	26:25 30:25
11/27/18	Tuesday	9:20 AM-7:30 PM	10:00	HE @ Trinity, Bible Study, lunch w/Wardens, long pastoral care session, office work	40:25
11/28/18	Wednesday	9:30 AM- 7 PM 7-9:30 PM	9:30 2:30	Preparing for Vestry & new hire, office work, misc. Vestry Mtg.	52:25
11/29/18	Thursday	10:20 AM – 10:30 PM	12:10	Personnel, Vestry wrap-up, Angelus articles, pastoral care, greet new hire, bulletins, many phone calls	<b>WEEK'S GRAND TOTAL 64:35</b>

Except for the occasional business lunch, I eat my meals at my desk

### ADVENT 2018

As we close the month of November, we look forward to our upcoming Advent. 4 weeks of Advent begins Sunday, December 2.



Prepare the way of the Lord with one or more of the Advent devotional booklets available from the Bookstore and Gift Shop. Simple daily readings to enrich this time of waiting. Advent calendars and wreaths are also available. Start your Christmas shopping early. You will be surprised at what treasures you might find!

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### Save this date!

The Education Commission is planning a trip to see the lights at Our Lady of the Snows on Sunday, December 9th. Plans are in the works, so there is more information to come. Tentatively, we will meet on Market Street at 3:30 p.m. We will take a bus to Belleville. This is a free event, so please plan to attend.

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### Crisis Food Center Collection

This month's items for our ongoing collection for the Crisis Food Center: Canned chili, chili beans, canned potatoes, yams or vegetables. Donations can be brought to church and placed in the collection basket, or in the bin in Heneghan Hall. At Trinity, the items can be placed inside the model church in the parish hall. Thank you!

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### ECW NEWS

Thanks to everyone who purchased our Homemade Seasoned nuts! We appreciate your support. We are still selling our "Jesus is Coming...Look Busy" aprons (\$20) for their fall fundraiser. Please see Anna Potter or Irene McLaughlin to purchase. Thank you so much for your support!



### **NEWS from the Guild of Grace**

**Guild of Grace will meet in Heneghan Hall on Thursday, December 6th at 6:30 p.m. for our Christmas gathering/meeting. Bring an appetizer to share. Our Christmas gift giving this year will be a New Mother's Bassinet filled with items for a newborn. If you did not draw an item (diapers, onesie, receiving blanket, etc.) at our October meeting, please contact Diana Enloe. The bassinet will be purchased by the Guild of Grace and it and all the contents will be donated to RiverBend Head Start and Family Services. Bring yourself, bring a friend, bring a nibble, bring a gift.**

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### **ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**Join us on Sundays for our ongoing Adult Education lessons! Even though we have already started our program exploring the Advent season, there is still plenty to learn and discuss. We gather at 9:30am in the library at St. Paul's. We are studying the series *Not a Silent Night- Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem* by Adam Hamilton.**

**From the book cover:**

#### **Spend Christmas with Mary**

**Imagine Jesus from Mary's point of view-proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more.**

**In this book, Adam Hamilton begins at the end, with Mary at the Crucifixion and Resurrection; travels back in time as she witnesses Jesus' life and ministry; and ends at the beginning, with the Christ Child born in a stable, Mary's beautiful baby.**

**This year experience Advent and Christmas with Mary.**

**Please join us.**

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### **DECEMBER CALENDAR**

**12/2 - 2 p.m. PAWS at St. Paul's**

**12/4 - 9:30 a.m. Mass at Trinity**

**12/4 - 10:15 a.m. Bible Study at Trinity**

**12/5 - 10 a.m. ECW Meeting at St. Paul's**

**12/6 - 6:30 p.m. Guild of Grace Christmas party**

**12/7 - 10 a.m. Brass Cleaning - St. Paul's**

**12/9 - 3:30 p.m. Family Fun Night: Our Lady of the Snows Lights**

**12/11 - 9:30 a.m. Morning Prayer at Trinity Chapel**

**12/11 - 10:15 a.m. Bible Study at Trinity Chapel**

12/12 - 6:00 p.m. ECM at Castelli's  
12/16 - 2:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling  
12/18 - 9:30 a.m. Mass at Trinity Chapel  
12/18 - 10:15 a.m. Bible Study at Trinity Chapel  
12/19 - 9:30 a.m. Book Club at LuciAnna's  
12/19 - 7:00 p.m. Vestry At St. Paul's  
12/24 - Office Closed  
12/24 - 4:00 p.m. 1st Mass at St. Paul's  
12/24 - 9:30 p.m. Christmas Music 10:00 p.m. Mass at St. Paul's  
12/25 - Office Closed  
12/25 10:00 a.m. Mass of Christmas Morning

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### ST. PAUL'S BOOK STORE AND GIFT SHOP

The Book Store and Gift shop is literally bulging with new items and has a whole new look. It is the perfect place to begin your Christmas shopping. Come in and browse. You never know what treasures you may find. If you have any questions, comments or requests, please contact Diane Martin.

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### BOOK CLUB NEWS

For December, book club is reading *Christmas Jars*, by Jason Wright. We invite you to join us on Wednesday, December 19th at Lucianna's, 9:30 am. It is always an interesting time discussing the books we have read and we especially enjoy the fellowship with each other.

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### UPDATE ON THE 2019 PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

These are the latest figures from our pledge campaign:

Members pledging the same: 15	\$39,795.98
Members increasing pledge: 23	\$50,202.24
New members pledging: 3	\$2,980.00
Members decreasing pledge: 6	<u>\$13,364.00</u>
Totals : 47	<u>\$106,342.22</u>

With respect to our 2018 Pledge Campaign this represents a decrease of \$ 28,593.68.

If you have lost or misplaced your pledge card for 2019, please contact the office to receive another one.



## Get the gifts you want to give and raise funds for The Episcopal Parish of Alton with the holiday gift guide.

Choose from over 750 top brands you're already shopping and find something for everyone on your list, from the techies in your life to the adventure seekers to the DIY-ers. Whether you buy the gift cards to give as presents or use them to buy your gifts, your order immediately raises funds for our parish. If it's the thought that counts, count this one twice!

### How to order

If you're new to buying gift cards that give back—also known as scrip—see Linda Dunnagan or Mimi Almonroeder for specific ordering details.

A gift card order will be placed Friday, December 7th. Forms will be available during coffee hour.

Visit [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com)  
to view the 750+ brands available  
and the  
2018 Holiday Gift Guide

ECM ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Please join the Episcopal Mens's Group to kick off your Holiday Season. December 12th at 6 p.m. at Castelli's Restaurant at 255 and Fosterburg Road. Cocktails at 6 p.m. and dinner starting at 6:30 with your choice of prime rib, salmon or fried chicken, salad and sherbet all for \$20/each. This party is open to the entire Parish. Please make your reservations with Harold Green or Tom Fisher before Thanksgiving. Hope to see you all there!  
Tom Fisher

**Please welcome our new Parish Administrator, Jennifer Grassle!**

Seven people applied for this position. Six were interviewed, and one did not show up for her interview. Two of the applicants were parishioners, one grew up at St. Paul's, and the rest are unaffiliated with our parish.

*An applicant's relationship with our parish had absolutely no bearing, for good or ill, on his or her chances of being hired. We simply chose the best person for the position.*

All of the applicants brought significant gifts to the table, and we are grateful to have met and talked with all of them! In the end, however, we chose the person who had all of the qualifications we need for this diverse position. That person is Jennifer Grassle, a personable and extremely gifted individual in many different ways. Please congratulate Jenn on her new position with us!

Please note that no member of Jenn's family was present during her interview, nor weighed in on whether she was the right person for the job. She was chosen based on her competency for this job.



**CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS OR THANKSGIVING DONATIONS**

Christmas flower and Liturgy & Arts donations are being accepted now through Sunday, December 16th. If you would like to remember a loved one through a memorial, please fill out the printed forms you will find in your bulletins. Please return your check payable to EPA along with the form by Sunday, December 16th in order to ensure inclusion in the Christmas bulletins.

## RETIREMENT PLANS

We are collecting a purse for Linda's retirement. If you would like to make a donation, please see Mother Cindy+. If you are writing a check, please make it payable to The Episcopal Parish of Alton, and write "Linda's purse" on the memo line. If contributing cash, please place it in an envelope with your name and "Linda's purse" written on it.



## December Birthdays

3 Kate Simpson  
4 Bill Eagleton  
5 Luke Mills  
8 Ann Bromaghim  
13 Kristina Stone  
14 Verla Moyer  
18 Meg Dorris/Gabrielle Hughes  
19 Dan Plate  
22 Syndey Ferguson  
23 Parker Grassle  
24 Judy Jones  
27 Gabriel Alexander  
30 Diana Enloe

The Episcopal Parish of Alton | 618-465-9149 | [epialton@episcopalalton.org](mailto:epialton@episcopalalton.org) | [www.episcopalalton.org](http://www.episcopalalton.org)

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