

The Centurion

The Parish Magazine of St. Alban's Church

1011 Old Joppa Road, Joppa, Maryland, 21085



My dear People:

This month's issue of *The Centurion* is a "tribute" issue. We pay tribute to our senior suffragan bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Chad Jones, and also to the Rev'd Canon Ray Unterburger. Both are former rectors of this parish. We honor them for different reasons. Bishop Jones will be here on Whitsunday for an episcopal visit, and because of his office as a chief pastor in the church (BCP, p. 294) we esteem him and his ministry. Father Unterburger is honored because he is going home to be with the Lord. He is dying of a very aggressive cancer that has infected several of his organs. His whole ministry was given over to witnessing to Christ and his compassionate love, and now, even in his waning years and impending death, he is still witnessing to the power and love of Jesus Christ our Lord. May God bless both of these wonderful servants! But there is another person, or rather, "set of" people that I want to pay tribute to this month, and that is mothers. May is especially known for Mother's Day. On this day we pay tribute to mom for all of her hard work and sacrifices that she's made for us throughout our lives. I myself am blessed to have a wonderful mother and also a fantastic wife who is mother to our children. Mom always makes life beautiful and special. Her special touch is what helps makes life gentle and happy. So, on behalf of everyone everywhere, I want to say a big giant "THANK YOU" to all of the moms out there! Life without you would be very empty. The Great Forty Days of Easter ends on Thursday, May 10th on Ascension Day. On this day our Lord ascended into heaven where *"he ever liveth to make intercession"* for us. (Heb. 7:25) But he didn't leave us alone to languish and suffer until he comes again. Instead he sent the Holy Ghost, the Comforter (which means "strengtheners"), to be with us wherever we are, and to empower us with spiritual gifts. For what are these gifts? St. Paul tells us in Ephesians 4:11-13. *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."* God has given each one of us spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ—the Church. What gifts has God given to you? In what ways has he blessed you, and what particular interests has he given to you? No matter what it is it is all for him and his glory. We ought to be using our unique talents to minister to others to the end that they might be lead into a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and into a personal relationship with him. Thanks be to God, most of us do that on some level already. Don't get weary if you do not see "results" right away. God's work takes time. The results are up to him. All we have to worry about is being faithful and doing our job, which is to be witnesses of Jesus and his resurrection, and good stewards of the gifts God has given to us! May God bless each of you in your daily ministries for him.

Faithfully, your priest,

J. Gordon Anderson

May 2018

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Important News and Other Items

UPCOMING SERVICES:

May 1st - Ss. Philip & James

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

May 7th - Rogation Monday

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

May 8th - Rogation Tuesday

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

May 9th - Rogation Wednesday

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

May 10th - Ascension Day

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

May 21st - Monday in Whitsun

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

May 22nd - Tuesday in Whitsun

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Jun 1st - Of the Octave

Healing Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Jun 11th - St. Barnabas

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

Jun 15th - Feria

Requiem Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Jun 29th - St. Peter

Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m.

 CHURCH LIFE: *Meet Our Senior Suffragan Bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Chandler Holder Jones, SSC*

This month we welcome our suffragan bishop, the Rt. Rev'd Chandler Holder Jones, SSC, to Saint Alban's Church. He will preach, celebrate the Holy Communion, administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and receive new members.

Bishop Chad and I have been friends for over twenty years. I first met him when I was finishing up college at Towson University. Around 1995 or 1996 I began attending St. Stephens Anglican Church in Timonium. As the church had been slowly growing, the rector, Fr. Guy P. Hawtin, decided that a full time curate should be called. (A "curate" is a deacon or priest who who assists the rector.)

The young man they called was Fr. Chad Jones. He was a graduate of Emory and Henry College in North Carolina, where he studied philosophy, and the Duke Divinity School, where he studied theology under notable professors and visiting scholars like Stanley Hauerwas, Richard Hayes, and the famed Orthodox theologian Bishop Kallistos Ware. Previously he'd been serving as curate at two parishes in Virginia, St. Stephen's (Clifton Forge), and St. Paul's (Lexington).

Fr. Jones was, and is, someone who immediately makes a big impression on everyone he meets. His great love of Christ and the Church, his sharp intellect, his sense of humor and unforgettable laugh, as well as his humble servant's heart made a big impact on me and everyone else right away. The rector, knowing he'd struck gold, wisely decided to hire him.

As I've written elsewhere in *The Centurion*, Bishop Chad is the main reason I am a priest today. The day we met, after talking for a bit, he suggested that I consider becoming a priest. While it would take a number of years for that to happen (almost ten years), I would be confirmed a lot sooner. For preparation he gave me great theology books to read... classic Anglican works on Church History, Historical Theology, Ascetical Theology, and more. Indeed I still have all of those books and continue to refer to them regularly.

At the time Bishop Chad was in his early twenties and single. But that would not last long. St. Stephen's had a wonderful childcare provider/babysitter named Megan Baskwill, the daughter of Presbyterian minister. She and Chad hit it off and after a while began dating. One of the first dates they had was to a Halloween party that my roommates and I hosted in our Baltimore rowhome.

Not too many years later it was wedding bells for Chad and Megan. They were united in Holy Matrimony by the diocesan bishop in a gorgeous Pontifical High Nuptial Mass at St. Stephen's, where I was privileged to serve on

the altar. The reception was held at The Cloisters in Baltimore.

A year or so later, Chad and Megan would leave St. Stephen's and come to St. Alban's, then under the leadership of his old seminary pal, Fr. Mark Clavier. Chad ended up succeeding Mark, who took a parish in Arden, North Carolina. Under Fr. Jones' leadership the parish made notable advances on several fronts. Their oldest son Aidan was born while they were here at St. Alban's. While rector of St. Alban's he got his father-in-law, the Rev'd Richard Baskwill, received into the church and ordained as an Anglican priest. He also did some post graduate theological studies at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, DC. And most relevant to us and our continued life of worship, he had parishioner and talented artist Chris Browne begin work on the beautiful decorative painting behind the altar and on the east wall.

The gorgeous work of art was not to be completed under his tenure, though, because in recognition of his great gifts, Bishop Grundorf called Fr. Jones to the pro-cathedral in Oviedo, Florida to serve as canon pastor. After their move to Florida Canon Jones and his wife had another boy named Owain. He also assumed many more diocesan duties, including serving on the Board of Examining Chaplains, serving as vocation director at large for the diocese, assisting on numerous committees and task forces, and helping out each summer at diocesan summer camp. While at the cathedral he inspired a number of men to offer themselves for the sacred priesthood.

Several years later he was again on the move. St. Barnabas Church in Dunwoody, GA (a suburb of Atlanta) called him to be their new rector. This large, multi-cultural parish serves hundreds of people in the Atlanta region. Shortly after moving there Megan had two more children: lovely daughters Maili and Caelin. It was while serving as rector of St. Barnabas that Fr. Chad was nominated (by yours truly!) as bishop. In accordance with the canons an election was held at a diocesan synod and of the four men nominated Fr. Jones came out on top. He was consecrated bishop at our pro-cathedral, St. Alban's Church in Oviedo, FL where he had once served as canon pastor. His role is "suffragan" bishop, which is an assistant to the "ordinary" bishop, who is the main/lead bishop of the diocese.

His duties as suffragan take him all over the diocese, around the country, and sometimes even to other countries. Even though his many other responsibilities continue unabated, he tirelessly and faithfully serves the Lord with never a complaint on his lips. His cheerful countenance radiates the love of Christ. We are blessed to have him as our suffragan bishop! ✠

 PANEGYRIC: *A Tribute to the Rev'd Canon Raymond Unterburger*

As most of you know by now my predecessor at St. Alban's, Fr. Ray Unterburger, is dying of cancer in Melbourne, Florida. He is a truly wonderful man who, along with Bishop Chad Jones, was a mentor to me as I prepared to become a priest. He saw me through the final stages of the ordination process and presented me to the bishop at both my diaconate and priestly ordinations. In addition, he solemnized mine and Valerie's marriage, and then after ordination he brought me on as curate of St. Alban's. I learned so much from him about ministry and life. I could never repay him for all he has done for me.

St. Alban's was the first parish Fr. Ray served as rector. Prior to that he'd been a curate at St. Paul's Church in Melbourne, FL and St. Michael's Church in Charlotte, NC. He left St. Alban's in December 2010 to succeed the late Douglas King as rector of St. Paul's in Melbourne. It was a homecoming for him and Cheryl. He told me once that they always considered Melbourne home because they moved around a lot in their marriage but had stayed there the longest. Plus, their daughter Sarah was living there. So it was a "no brainer" that Fr. Ray should eventually go "home" to Florida.

He was what we call a "late" vocation to the priesthood. He was an engineer by training and had his own firm for a while in Florida. I remember once riding on a bus with him while in Florida for a synod. Fr. Ray proudly pointed out a large parking lot that he had designed, and then a little later a bridge he'd engineered. Once, while driving on an elevated section of highway he explained to me how hard it was to engineer them so they do not crack and fall apart.

Always a devout churchman, he discerned at some point that God was calling him to full time ordained ministry. So the family packed up and moved to Louisiana where he attended Cranmer House Theological Seminary. Always a high church Anglo-Catholic, the rather low church seminary joking awarded him a "DRE" ("Doctor of Romanist Eccentricities") certificate that he proudly displayed on his office wall next to his official degree!

I always called Fr. Ray "the altar ninja" because he was such a meticulous (though low key) celebrant. He demanded excellence from his altar servers. If you held your hands the wrong way, or fidgeted, or did anything wrong you'd hear about! He might even glare at you during the service. Once when I was serving Mass for him we were being bothered by a very naughty fly. (One of the worst things about having a church right next to a barnyard is the presence of flies.) I was determined to

kill the pesky invader, and so when I sensed an opportunity I tried to swat it. But alas, I missed. (Though I did manage to scare it away.) "I'm doomed." I thought to myself. "Fr. Ray is going to kill me for such an unseemly action! But immediately after the Mass he just smiled and asked, "Did you get it?"

Humility is one quality of his that always comes to mind. It is essential for a priest to be humble because he is ministering in the person of Christ who humbled himself to take human flesh and suffer and die on the cross. If he messed up he would be the first one to admit it, and he would never hesitate to apologize or ask for forgiveness. He always tried to learn from his mistakes and do better so he could become a better person and priest.

He accomplished a lot at St. Alban's Church. There was a Sunday school for children; various adult forums held throughout the year; he worked with the Pony Show; he helped co-host synod with St. Paul's Church; he got involved in the community as a hospital chaplain; a new sign was built and the parking lot was expanded under his watch; he saw to it that the great "reredos" painting behind the altar was completed; he sent parishioner Don Sackett to seminary at Nashotah House; and he had a magnificent feasibility study done on what the church could do to expand the physical plant, to name just a few of his accomplishments. Fr. Ray has always been one of the hardest working priests and people I've ever met.

On the diocesan level he served on various committees over the years such as diocesan court, and on the standing committee. He was best known in the diocese as head of the Board of Examining Chaplains. This is a group of clergy appointed by the bishop to examine and test men preparing to be deacons and priests, and women preparing to be set-apart in the order of diaconess. It is an enormous amount of work, because the chaplains work with the people throughout the year monitoring their process, administering various tests, and just generally keeping everyone on track. Fr. Ray's excellent organizational skills have been put to good use in this important ministry.

There is so much more that could be said about this wonderful servant of God. Please continue to keep him and his family in your prayers in this their hour of need. May God bless them each passing moment, each and every day, and may he give them grace, strength, and power to continue to love and serve him through thick and thin. ✠

PARISH NEWS & UPDATES: *Please note these important items!*

Seminarian Update - Mr. Mason Waldhauser

Dear Friends,

Spring has finally sprung up here in Wisconsin. The last of the snow melted this past Friday. School work has been intense, lately, but rewarding: and especially in my Hebrew class. We have been translating some of the most popular psalms, lately, and I just finished "The Lord is my shepherd." Here is the literal translation I came up with:

A Psalm of David. The LORD is shepherding (pasturing) me : I am not lacking (diminished, in want). In pastures of grass, he causes me to lie down : beside waters of resting places (still waters), he leads (guides) me. My soul he brings back (restores) : He will guide me (he leads me) on paths (tracks) of righteousness (right paths) for the sake of his Name. Although I walk through a valley of darkness [by vowels: a shadow of death], I do not fear harm (evil) : for you are with me : your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare (arrange) before me a table in front of those acting hostile toward me (my enemies) : you anoint (make fat) with oil my head; my cup is abundance (overflowing). Surely, goodness and loving-kindness (mercy; covenant loyalty) pursue (chase) me all the days of my life : and I return in the house (temple) of the LORD for (to) a length of days.

My favorite realization from this psalm was the word *radaph*, from the phrase which is typically translated, "Surely goodness and mercy *will follow* me all the days of my life." It's actually a word which is used for pursuing in battle, and is elsewhere translated *persecute*. So the idea is that God's goodness and mercy hunt us down, so to speak. God chases after us.

We had a "skit night" on campus last weekend, and I did some standup comedy. I'm pretty boring to talk to normally, but my friends here think I'm very serious, so I played that up in a sort of self-parody which had them in stitches. It was a lot of fun, and they told me that I had chosen the wrong career path. I mostly talked about my awkward forays in dating. There were a lot of other routines; and my favorite was when the choir sang passages from Thomas Aquinas to Anglican Chant as an idea for children's Sunday school.

I'm still preaching sermons for one of our classes, and my last sermon was on a Collect. I preached on the "four fundamentals" of the spiritual life, as humility, obedience,

desire, and recollection. I have found preaching to be more and more invigorating, like I'm passionate about what I have to share. It's been fun for me and my classmates to grow together in this skill and watch each other improve.

Looking forward to reconnecting with you all next month. Thank you for your prayers for me.

In all Christian love,

Mason

Episcopal Visit and Confirmations

Suffragan Bishop Chandler Holder Jones, SSC, will be at St. Alban's on Whitsunday, May 20th for our annual episcopal visitation, to receive new members, and to administer the sacrament of Confirmation. He will be at both services. A light reception will follow the 10:00 a.m. service.

Collection for Deacon Tyler Phass:

Our former curate, the Rev'd Dcn. Tyler Phass, will be ordained to the sacred order of priests by our bishop, the Most Rev'd Walter H. Grundorf, D.D., on Saturday, May 26th at St. Pauls Church in Melbourne, Florida. We would like to present him with a gift from St. Alban's, his home parish. During Eastertide we'll be collecting financial donations for Dcn. Phass. If you'd like to donate something to his ordination fund please drop a check in the offering plate with "Tyler Phass" in the memo line. Let Fr. Anderson know if you have any questions.

Yard Sale - Saturday, October 6th

You may now bring in items for our 50/50 yard sale scheduled for October 6th. *Everything will be sold for \$0.50* so please bear that in mind in terms of what you bring in. Half of the proceeds will go to Cancer LifeNet.

Standing Notices:

"The minister is ordered, from time to time, to advise the People, whilst they are still in health, to make Wills arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, and, when of ability, to leave Bequests for religious and other charitable uses." (BCP, p. 320) ☩