

THE FEBRUARY 2010 "CHIMES" NEWSLETTER



*SAIN*T ALBAN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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WHERE IS HE?

There is an old parable about a man lost in a dense forest who suddenly meets another man. "Now I will find my way out with this other traveler," he thought. "Tell me, sir, which is the way out of the forest?" The stranger replies, "Friend, I do not know. I too need to find the way. But one thing I do know; do not take the way I have been taking. That will lead nowhere. Let us both look for a *new way out together.*" This story describes us all. Whatever path each of us took before our life in Christ, left us lost and frustrated. As long as we searched for a way out alone, we strayed deeper into the forest of our former lives. But when we joined with one other person or two or more and found Christ together, we found a new way out together...we found a new life, which is, of course, "*the way, the truth and the life*" of our Lord and Savior. Jesus always pairs us up with at least one other, and we then find others in our midst to help us along. Jesus also puts us in the company of other Christian guides and teachers who in His name help us find more new, fresh, clear roads to travel together.

The old paths can still beckon us back into the forest, however. We can still get lost if we allow our old habits of the mind and heart to claim us. Therefore we cannot get complacent and ever think we can find our way alone. The lonely path will "lead nowhere." The path of Christ always takes us with others to somewhere -somewhere worthwhile even if together we cannot yet see the destination. Therefore we can rejoice. Why? Because Christ himself is our destiny and destination. He is with us from beginning to the end. So, Christ is not only the way and the path, he is our constant companion, who says, "*Fear not I am always with you.*" When we are lost in the dense forests of our lives and are overwhelmed with the immensity of the deep, dark jungles that seem to surround and isolate us, when we are all alone...Christ is right at hand in the midst of our loneliness.

A professor wrote these words on the black board: GOD IS NOWHERE. All his students were appalled. He apologized and said, "Oh I forgot the spacing" and wrote "GOD IS NOW HERE!" When we too think God is nowhere, we only need to skip a space and discover that, he is always *right here right now*; no matter how lost we may feel.

Father Philip

OUR TOWN AND SAINT ALBAN'S BEGINS ON VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 14TH @ 3 P.M. WITH

THE EL PASO COMMUNITY CHORUS PREMIERE PERFORMANCE IN OUR PARISH HALL, DIRECTED BY OUR OWN DR. CARL SMITH.

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY IN MARCH, APRIL AND MAY, OTHER FREE COMMUNITY CONCERTS WILL BE OFFERED AT 3 P.M. TO BE ANNOUNCED.

SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH, WE WILL HAVE AN ENCHILADA SUPPER AT 6 P.M.

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH WITH MASSES AND ASHES AT 7 P.M. 12 NOON & 6 P.M.

COME TO FIVE WEDNESDAY NIGHTS FOR SOUP & SANDWICHES & COMMUNITY SPEAKERS @ 6 P.M.

FEB 24 GENERAL RILEY - ON OLD FORT BLISS & THE HORSE CAVALRY,

MAR 3 SUSIE BIRD - OUR CITY DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE,

MAR 10 SUSAN TAYLOR - MUSEUM OF HISTORY,

MAR 17 CHRISTIAN GERSTHEIMER - ART MUSEUM,

MAR 24 SUE BEATTY - CITY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN OF ST. ALBANS

(1) On **Sunday, February 28th**, the Women of St. Alban's will provide a brunch in the parish hall between our two masses, at 9 a.m. for all the women in our church. This will be an occasion to ask questions about the vital work of our women of all ages.

(2) **Care packages** for our military men and women will be sent out every three months. These packets will include non-perishable items (no chocolate) such as dental items, small books, cookies etc., which can be brought to the church.

(3) UTO "**United Thank Offering**" blue boxes will be in the narthex of the church along with a container for coins for the Church Periodical Club to buy books for children and provide prayer books to needy missions.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FIRST & THIRD SUNDAYS @ 9 A.M. ADULT STUDY CLASS IN THE LADY CHAPEL

SECOND & FOURTH SUNDAYS @ 9 A.M. LADIES GROUPS IN THE GREEN ROOM

EACH SUNDAY - CHOIR REHEARSAL @ 9.45 A.M.

EACH WEDNESDAY, BIBLE STUDY BY FATHER ROWLAND @ 10.30 A.M.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT NOON IN THE LADY CHAPEL

FEB 5 —SATURDAY MEN'S COFFEE @ 9 am

FEB 7 — FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, 8 & 10.30 Eucharists

FEB 13 – SATURDAY - VESTRY @ 9.30 a.m. in the Green Room

FEB 14 – THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY, 8 & 10.30 Eucharists

FEB 14 – EL PASO COMMUNITY CHORUS RECITAL @ 3 P.M.

FEB 16 – SHROVE TUESDAY ENCHILADA SUPPER @ 6 P.M.

FEB 17 - ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES @ 7 A.M., 12 NOON & 6 P.M.

FEB 21 - THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT, 8 & 10.30 Eucharists

FEB 24 - 6 P.M. SOUP, SANDWICHES AND SPEAKER: General Bill Riley

FEB 28 - THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, 8 & 10.30 Eucharists

FEB 28 – CHURCHWOMEN'S BRUNCH AT 9 A.M. IN PARISH HALL

SATURDAY, MARCH 6 - DEANERY MEETING IN LAS CRUCES @ 9.30 A.M.