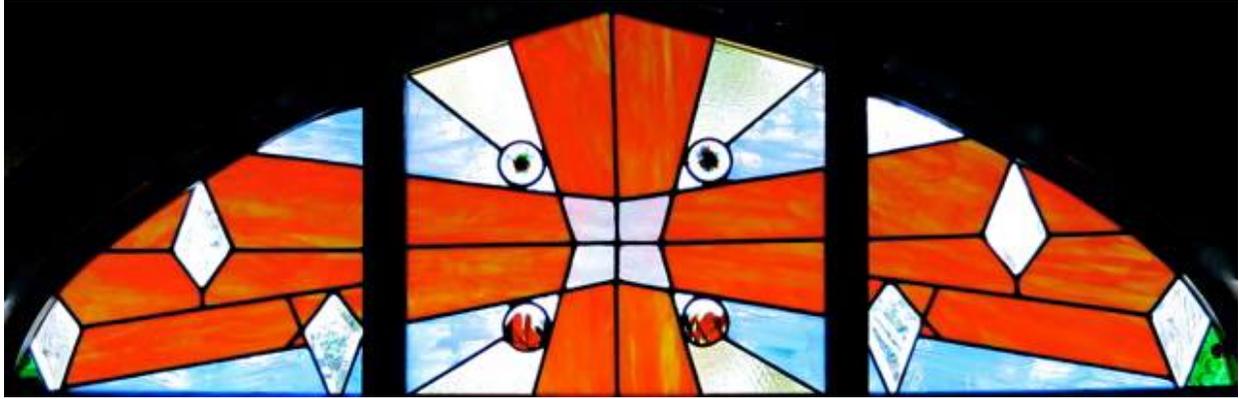


# St. Alban's Serves

## A Capital Campaign



St. Alban's Episcopal Church is rooted in volunteerism and community engagement. Founded, built, and even originally staffed by volunteers, St. Alban's can-do spirit and commitment to hospitality has been its hallmark for more than 80 years.

Our buildings hum daily with programs benefitting children and adults throughout the community. Church members and stakeholders in the many programs and events held here pitch in together to keep things functioning and harmonious.

This programming is accomplished on a thin budget, and our only sizeable endowment is restricted to outreach grants, made quarterly to benefit local, national, and international programs. Getting by on a shoestring budget



often means that needed maintenance is delayed or "make do" patches are put in place. Over the years, the result is hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of deferred maintenance.

We are excited to begin this capital campaign to repair and strengthen our buildings and, even more so, strengthen us as a community as we continue living into our vision of being a central gathering place and resource for the wider East Bay community.

### **Our History**

The story of St. Alban's is one of faith, imagination, and sense of purpose. From the very beginning, dedicated people committed their time and resources to establish a church community. Throughout our history, our congregation has risen to meet a myriad of challenges, including establishing and maintaining a church community, overcoming fundraising obstacles, and reversing waning membership, and it has conquered those challenges head-on with hope and determination.

St. Alban's began in 1935 as a mission serving Episcopalian families in the East Bay, including Berkeley, El Cerrito, Albany, and Kensington.

## Outreach By the Numbers

- **45** children served weekly by an after school care program housed at St. Alban's
- **25** senior adults practice Tai Chi in our parish hall (a program now run by the church since City funds ran short in 2014)
- **30+** years of hosting Tai Chi practice
- **9** unique 12-step groups hosted
- **48,000** sandwiches prepared by parishioners and served at the Greater Richmond Interfaith Project over the past 20 years
- **25** young adults served a hot breakfast monthly by the parish at the Youth Engagement Advocacy Housing shelter in Berkeley
- **12** yearly cover-song open mike events
- **25** community groups meet at St. Alban's regularly
- **\$67,500** given in grants and direct aid since 2009
- **39** concerts at St. Alban's in 2015

## History (continued)

Using a collapsible altar, altar rail, choir stands, and pulpit built by the men of All Soul's Episcopal Church in Berkeley, our fledgling congregation met for worship services in the Masonic Temple. This continued until 1947, when the congregation had the down payment, a lot, and the energy to begin building its own space.

In a move foreshadowing St. Alban's ongoing commitment to fellowship and community outreach, the congregation built its parish hall first to provide both a worship space and a hub for Sunday School activities and community events. St. Alban's predicted this would draw families and individuals to the church and that the congregation would

continue to grow and thrive. Indeed it did, and by Easter Sunday 1961, ground was broken on the new sanctuary building.

In 1975, to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the congregation, St. Alban's began its project to install stained glass windows in the sanctuary celebrating the story of creation. By 1980, this project was complete, and the windows were blessed by the bishop.

Coupled with the sanctuary's perfect acoustics for vocal music and a 1914 Hooks and Hastings pipe organ (opus #2346, and listed in the Organ Historical Society's register of historic organs), the soaring beauty of the scenes brightens the interior of the church and is an ongoing reminder of the gracious, creative, and generous spirit of both God and the people of God in this place.

## St. Alban's and the Community

From its inception, surrounding community and civic and business groups have supported St. Alban's. Today, the church is increasingly known and sought out as an advocate and voice for justice in the community. Our members are engaged and active volunteers in the communities where they live, and we are equally well known as a magnificent

performance space for live music.

It is not uncommon for people to find us through our community work or concerts, and then join us for worship and fellowship (where our warm congregation provides a generous welcome). We provide meeting space for hundreds of community-related gatherings every year and look to continue to build on these important strengths in the years to come.

## Our Capital Campaign

Funds must be raised for critical building improvements to guarantee continuance of St. Alban's as a hub for community activity and service – melding the needs for physical improvements with the outreach missions of the parish and enabling a sustainable relationship between the church and the people it serves. In so doing, St. Alban's seeks to reaffirm its commitment to inclusion and to serve others by ensuring our building and facilities will meet the needs of future generations.

### ***What are we going to fix?***

- Build ADA-compliant ramp for building access
- Replace dry-rotting windows, doors, and porch
- Bring electrical wiring up to code
- Replace aged, inefficient furnaces
- Install proper drainage for side of parish hall where ground level is high
- Install ADA-compliant bathroom in parish hall
- Repair our historic Hooks and Hastings pipe organ
- Upgrade kitchen
- Install sound systems in church and parish hall
- Paint inside and outside of church and complete other cosmetic upgrades
- Provide ongoing support for staff growth and development
- Create resources to support more outreach work and make more possible with music and the arts

### ***Who is going to help us?***

A lot of people! All of the communities that use our space, and even others that don't, are excited about supporting us in this work.

Local businesses, neighbors, community organizations, public leaders, and friends of St. Alban's will be actively engaged along with the congregation.

### ***What new programs might use the church after improvements are completed?***

Through creation of a new 501(c)(3) organization, we envision making funding possible for more arts and cultural organizations to work and perform here. Improved sound resources will make us more attractive for music and other performances, and improved ADA accessibility will make it physically possible for people with different physical abilities to participate in events here. Improved kitchen facilities will draw culinary classes and caterers, as well as enhance our own celebrations.

### ***What is the goal?***

Our capital campaign goal is \$250,000, and nearly \$75,000 has already been pledged.

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