

## **Annual Ministry Report (October 2021)**

### **St. Alban's Chapel, Baton Rouge**

St. Alban's Chapel has continued to adapt and revise the way we approach ministry on the campus of LSU through the pandemic. This congregation has shown itself to be resilient, creative, and flexible. Students have now returned to the LSU campus. Most are again taking classes in person and many of the normal aspects of college life have resumed. Despite the awkwardness of masking and safety protocols, our attendance at Sunday worship is growing again. Recently, we held our first Sunday Brunch and Sunday Night Dinner in over a year and a half. Our ministry to families and children has resumed with the addition of our new Director of Family Ministry. The addition of our Media Ministry has enabled us to stream all our services online. We host four weekly AA groups that have met continued to meet through the pandemic.

Much of our direct ministry to students continues to be done by our team of Campus Ministry Interns. Since 2007, twenty-eight student interns have served St. Alban's Chapel. Currently, we employ four fabulous undergraduates who meet weekly with me for discipleship. During the pandemic they have begun to lead a weekly service of Compline. They also plan regular social events to attract new students. Though the number of students involved here has dropped, we are beginning to see students re-engage.

We continue to employ a choir made up of students from the LSU School of Music. In 2016, we undertook a Legacy Campaign to restore our fine pipe organ and to repair and maintain the sanctuary and student center. Even with the challenges of the last year and a half, we are close to the end of our Legacy Campaign which has now raised over \$700,000. Those projects are almost all complete. We expect to officially close out the campaign with a celebration this spring.

Until March 2019, our "Lunch with C. S. Lewis" was our primary outreach to this campus of some 45,000 students. With the support of many churches from across the diocese, we were feeding between 100 and 150 students each week, many international students. For the past fifteen years, the goal of that ministry has been to present the Good News of Jesus Christ in a winsome and joyful manner – along with a free lunch! Plans are underway to resume that ministry this coming spring.

Our family suffered a major house fire in February of last year and we are in a rental house until our home is being rebuilt. We hope to return in November. The congregation has been extremely supportive through that whole ordeal. I was able to take a previously scheduled three-month sabbatical this summer. Skully Knight again stepped in to cover services and pastoral emergencies while I was gone. I have returned with renewed vision and energy.

For ninety-three years, St. Alban's Chapel has served a place of refuge, hospitality, and worship for the LSU community. St. Alban's was the first Episcopal Chapel in the United States to be built on the campus of a state university. Even with the restrictions brought about by the virus, students are back on the LSU campus and finding a home at St. Alban's Chapel.

We continue to be grateful to the whole diocese for your faithful financial and prayer support, especially through these months of pandemic. Thank you for appreciating the importance of the church maintaining a vital presence on the campus of this major state university!

The Rev. Drew Rollins  
*chaplain*