

St. Alban's Church Celebrates 25 years of serving God's Children in Fern Creek



St. Alban's Child Care Center marked its first 25 years on October 1, with a celebration that began with bishop Ted Gulick lighting the anniversary Candle in the center's lobby

and then leading an exuberant liturgy that echoed the message of Christ in John 8, “I am the light of the world”.

Mavis Ros, the founding Director with her staff welcomed the guests. Several active clergy both from the Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky and Fern Creek - Highview Ministerial Association, were joined by St. Alban’s Parishioners. They participated in a tour of the classrooms and the facilities. The bishop, acting on behalf of St. Alban’s parish, presented the center with a colorful anniversary plaque on display in the lobby and gave each staff member a commemorative 25th anniversary medal.

Afterwards, the bishop celebrated Eucharist. Concelebrants included Georgine Buckwalter, chaplain at the Episcopal Church Home; the Very Rev. Mark Bourlakas, dean of Christ Church Cathedral; the Rev. Candyce Loescher, rector of St. Mary’s Madisonville; the Rev. Eva Markham, a deacon at Advent Church; the Rev. Ken Hockenberry, minister at Beulah Presbyterian; the Rev. John Stoltz, priest at St. Gabriel’s, the Rev. Linda Barnes Popham, pastor at Fern Creek Baptist; and the Rev. Ron Loughry, the executive director of Fern Creek United Ministries. Gulick also preached, his three-minute sermon, coming from Mark 10:16 “And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.” The Greek *Tas keiras* (the hands), bishop pointed out, are the hands of resurrected Christ that embrace all God’s children in all generations, surpassing all barriers in the world. Collins in his welcome said the child care center is not a mission field to get people into the church but a ministry to the wider community. It is a home away from home for children 6 weeks through 12 years. It is a

window through which people from all walks of life peep in and sees our identity in Christ and our mission to the world.”

The Rev. Dr. Lester Gross and his wife Irene were honored for their vision in founding the center during his tenure in 1984. Larry Badgett, a long standing member of the parish, on behalf of the rector, wardens, vestry and the people of St. Alban's presented a plaque in their honor. The celebration was capped off with a fellowship lunch cooked and served by the staff of child care centre. The luncheon was held in the social hall at St. Alban's.

Rev. Aaron Paul Collins

