

# St. Alban's Chronicle

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20016

May 1, 2005

*Frank's left...*

## What's Next?

*Loren B. Mead*

On March 13, I was asked by the Search Committee to share—in the Sunday Parish forum—something about what happens when a parish goes through the leaving of a rector and the calling of another.

First, I need to say that what's written here is just a tip of a very big iceberg—a LOT of research has gone on in how parishes work in the past quarter century, and we know much more than we did before then. My own book has just been revised and republished by the Alban Institute—*A Change of Pastor*.

There are seven inevitable steps that lie ahead, and there are five dynamic issues we will be encouraged to work on. The inevitable steps will happen whether we want them to or not—and sometime before too long, St. Alban's WILL have a new rector.

The catch is that the effectiveness of the new parish/rector relationship will at least partially depend on how well we live out the dynamic issues—which are easily overlooked. It's the Search committee's job to keep working on the seven steps, but also to see that we do the best we can on the five dynamics.

Here they are:

### The Seven Steps

1 *Termination*

Bringing a satisfactory closure to the relationship with the departing rector.

2 *Direction-finding*

The parish forms a search committee and a plan, consults with people who know what's going on, and gets under way.

*Continued on Page 2*

## To note

For additional information on these events, contact the Parish Office at 202-363-8286, [Office@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:Office@st-albans-parish.org)

**Pentecost Picnic** Sunday, May 15, one service at 10:30 am here at St. Alban's. St. Philip's will be our guests. Followed by our old-fashioned church picnic on the lawn. Bring a dish to share.

### Annual Meeting election results

Elected to the Vestry: Susan Morris, Jim Nix, Jon Sawyer, and Bob Witten, with Margery Dunn Vestry Secretary.

Elected Diocesan Delegates: Sandra Barker and Bill Hall, with Pat Petrash First Alternate and Clem Dinsmore Second Alternate

The *Chronicle* will be published once a month during the summer.

- Articles for the June 15 *Chronicle* must be received by June 1st.
- Articles for the July 15 *Chronicle* must be received by July 1st.
- Articles for the August 15 *Chronicle* must be received by August 1st



**We welcome the  
faithful, the seeker,  
and the doubter,  
for God's embrace is  
wide and God's  
Good News is for all.**

**WORSHIP AND PRAYER  
OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. ALBAN'S**

**SUNDAY**

8:00 am . . . . . Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
9:15 am . . . . . Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
11:15 am . . . . . Holy Eucharist, Rite I  
5:30 pm . . . . . Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**TUESDAY**

7:30 am . . . . . Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am . . . . . Morning Prayer

**WEDNESDAY**

11:15 am . . . . . Healing Eucharist

**THURSDAY**

Noon . . . . . Centering Prayer

**SATURDAY**

9:00 am . . . . . Prayers for St. Alban's

**CLERGY**

The Rev. J. Carlyle Gill, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Margot D. Critchfield, Senior Associate Rector  
The Rev. Loren B. Mead, Honorary Associate  
The Rev. Douglas A. Greenaway, Assistant Rector

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN  
Carolyn Seaton

**DIRECTORS**

Day Dodson, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries  
Ron Hicks, Director of Operations  
Norman Scribner, Director of Music  
Sonya Subbayya Sutton, Director for Parish Music Ministries  
Jane Volkema, Director of Communications and Evangelism

**OFFICE STAFF**

Bob Bascom, Maintenance  
Shirley Dickey, Receptionist  
David Johnson, Community Life  
Wilma Smith, Finance Administrator  
Marcia Welch, Communications Assistant

**VESTRY OFFICERS**

Gordon Avery, Senior Warden; Kate Bouvé, Junior Warden;  
Margery Dunn, Secretary; Christopher Holmes, Treasurer

**VESTRY MEMBERS**

Paul Brewster, Bob Dunn, Diana Dykstra,  
Cay Hartley, Douglas Lapp, Chris Larsen,  
Susan Morris, Jim Nix, Tricia Pinkard,  
Jon Sawyer, Jo Turner, Bob Witten  
Duncan McKenna, Youth Representative,  
Russell Eckel, WSA Board

**ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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E-mail: First nameLast initial@st-albans-parish.org  
Web site: www.AlbansDC.org

*3 Self-study*

The parish takes a look at the data about where it is, what's changed, what needs to be taken into account, etc. This usually involves writing what's called a 'Parish Profile' outlining the challenges the parish faces.

*4 Search*

The parish seeks to learn about people who are potential candidates to become rector, and compares them with the qualities described in the profile—the Search Committee does research on them and gradually narrows the field.

*5 Discussion & Negotiation*

The Search Committee, working closely with the Vestry, makes a decision on the best candidate and sees to the negotiation of an agreement.

*6 Installation*

The new rector is brought on board, formally installed and introduced to the community, diocese, etc.

*7 Start-up*

The rector, vestry, and parish members enter into working relationships with each other, sorting out the rough edges.

Those seven steps will happen. Rarely is it done in six to nine months—more often it takes from 12-18 months. I've know some churches to take less time and others to take longer.

The five dynamics—and how well they are managed—have a lot to do with how well the relationship is likely to go.

## The Five Dynamics

*1 Coming to terms with history*

Helping the community work with grief over its loss, get perspective on its life over the past few decades, and let go of unreal images or expectations.

*2 Coping with changing leadership*

Recognizing that lay leadership will continue to be critical.

*3 Grasping a new identity*

Seeing how the mission and challenge of the parish has changed, and taking hold of a new way of seeing ourselves.

*4 Getting a new perspective on the Episcopal Church*

Being exposed to a larger sense of our Church, having to work closely with the bishop and other leaders of the denominations, and actually being exposed to many clergy and lay leaders from other places.

*5 Making a covenant*

About a new mission and challenge and a leader chosen to work with us on that mission and challenge.

The last dynamic is the real point. If you go through the seven steps you'll get a new rector. It's guaranteed by the system. But most people want more than simply locating a warm, willing body.

The more we pay attention to the five dynamics, the more likely we are to come out excited by and challenged by a renewed sense of mission, and committed to work with an ordained leader similarly excited by and committed to that mission.

So, if it takes some months, relax. Be patient with the Search Committee. It's to our advantage for them to take the time to do their job well!

## Search Committee update

The search for our new rector is progressing. On May 1 and May 8, the Parish Survey was passed out. This survey was also made available on line at: <http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB2246B4MEZ24>

This survey is an essential part of the Search Committee's self-study to assist with our criteria for a rector and the writing of our Parish Profile. Thoughtful completion of your survey will help the Search Committee describe clearly our collective needs and values.

The Profile Subcommittee has started organizing Focus Groups. These groups are intended to broaden the framework of what we want as a Parish. We will come together for discussions about ourselves and St. Alban's. For example: What brought you to this Church? What is best for us individually and collectively? Groups will form in a variety of ways. It is believed that diversity within groups will provide some of the best self-knowledge material.

Meanwhile, the committees are writing our Parish Profile and busy assembling names and information about prospective candidates.



## Mustard Seed Offering

The May 15 Mustard Seed offering will go to Our Place, DC, a center that provides gender-specific pre- and post-relief health, social, and legal services for women who are or have been incarcerated. Most of the women are mothers, have been convicted of drug-related offenses, and have histories of drug addiction, alcoholism, mental illness, trauma, violence, or abuse. Estimates of HIV rates among those served are as high as 18 percent. Many have other chronic and life-threatening health problems, including hypertension and diabetes. The website for this worthy service center is [www.ourplacedc.org/pages/legal4.html](http://www.ourplacedc.org/pages/legal4.html)

## Parish Meetings: Let's Talk

*Gordon B. Avery, Senior Warden*

A lot is going on at St. Alban's these days, and a number of parishioners have expressed a desire for more frequent updates and opportunities for discussions.

To honor these requests, Parish Meetings will be held once a month, alternating between the Building Committee and the Search Committee. These meetings will be held on Sundays at 12:30 pm in Trenbath Assembly, following the 11:15 am service.

Meetings have been scheduled through September:

June 5	Building Project
July 10	Rector Search
August 14	Building Project
September 18	Rector Search

Come, hear reports, ask questions, give input.

A light lunch will be provided, contributions to offset expenses are welcomed.

## New telephone system installed at St. Alban's

*J.K. Volkema, Director of Communications & Evangelism*

After outgrowing our old system, and experiencing more and more breakdowns, we now have a new system. The new telephones were installed the first week of May. Our apologies if you were transferred to the wrong extension or accidentally disconnected.

**When calling, note that our individual extension numbers have changed.**

The new extensions are:

- 214 BASCOM, Bob, Maintenance
- 219 BAYH, Kitty, Volunteer
- 202 CRITCHFIELD, Rev. Margot D. Senior Associate Rector
- 201 GILL, Rev. J. Carlyle Interim Rector

- 515 GREENAWAY, Rev. Douglas A. Assistant Rector
- 200 DICKEY, Shirley, Receptionist
- 207 DODSON, Day, Director of Children's and Youth Ministries
- 206 HICKS, Ron, Director of Operations
- 210 JOHNSON, David, Community Life
- 220 RUSSELL, Julie, Transformed for Ministry campaign
- 209 SMITH, Vilma, Finance Administrator
- 205 SUTTON, Sonya Subbayya, Director for Parish Music Ministries
- 204 VOLKEMA, Jane, Director of Communications and Evangelism

- 208 WELCH, Marcia, Communications Assistant
- 203 WHEELER, Rev. Louis, Deacon
- 218 Courtesy Phone
- 216 Flower Room
- 221 Kitchen (Satterlee Hall)
- 224 Kloman
- 225 Mail Room
- 211 Opportunity Shop (sorting area)
- 213 Print Room
- 217 Rectory Library
- 227 Rectory Kitchen
- 215 Sacristy
- 222 Robing Room
- 223 Sexton - Armando/Milton
- 212 Super 60's



## Have you registered yet?

### Vacation Bible School 2005 (VBS)

Evenings, July 18-22

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School, July 18-22. Our exciting VBS theme this year is *Wizards and Wonders*, based on the popular Harry Potter books. *Wizards and Wonders* is an intergenerational program, intended to bring the whole church family together, so we are planning an EVENING PROGRAM, starting with dinner at 5:30 and concluding at 8:30 pm. All ages—children, teens, parents, and non-parents—are invited to join the fun.

Volunteers are needed for:

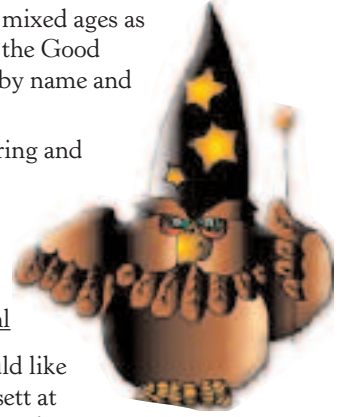
- Working with a partner to provide a simple meal one night (pasta, bread and salad)?
- Leading music for the closing chapel?

- Playing the role of Harry, Hermione or Ron and appearing, in costume, to talk to the participants during dinner?
- Participating in a small group of mixed ages as they compare the Sorting Hat to the Good Shepherd, who knows his sheep by name and knows what each of them needs?
- Making Hogwarts' robes this spring and summer, prior to VBS?

Registration forms are available on our web site at:

[http://www.st-albans-parish.org/children\\_youth/vbs.html](http://www.st-albans-parish.org/children_youth/vbs.html)

If you have questions or you would like to volunteer now, email Kristie Hassett at [krhassett@starpower.net](mailto:krhassett@starpower.net) or Maria Bowles at [mgbowles@starpower.net](mailto:mgbowles@starpower.net).



## Frankly Speaking

As we have experienced the end of my pastoral role at St. Alban's, I have often made the point that important relationships cannot be summed up. While I still believe that is true, I must say that the events of April 22-24 came as close as anything can to pulling it off.

The party Friday evening was overwhelming in every way. As Mary and I entered the hall, the first person I saw was Pat, a young man I have helped for many years. He came to say thank you. He was followed by a joyful drenching in mutual love, appreciation and gratitude that was, to quote Jane Dixon, "beyond the telling."

The tangible gifts, letters and cards joined the intangibles to richly warm us and almost gather the last two decades into two hours. Sunday was a day Mary

and I had been dreading because of our fear that we would be reduced to emotional roadkill by all that it would mean. There was plenty of meaning and emotion, there were tears and struggles to get words and symbols to exceed their boundaries. But above and around all of it there was Grace in abundance. Jane Dixon held it together with her generous words. The music, prayers and people swept like a great tide toward and then away from the altar rail. Seeing Carlyle, Margot and Doug at their places with Gordon and Kate beside them allowed me to be as confident of our future as I am joyful about our past. Mary and I thank you all and we thank God for you.

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Frank Wade". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid and personal.

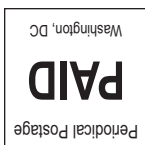
PS The first question anyone ever asked me as a parish priest was, "Do you know how to fix the mimeograph machine?" I was a little disappointed at its lack of theological content and at the fact that I had no idea how to fix the thing. I have waited 39 years to find out what the last question would be. I am glad to report that little has changed. The last question I was asked as I left St. Alban's was, "Do you want me to put the beer in the car?" I am content to let my career rest between those two profound inquiries, comforted by the fact that I did know the answer to the last one.

Submit articles for the *Chronicle* to: [JaneV@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:JaneV@st-albans-parish.org)

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St. Alban's Communications Team: The Rev. Carlyle Gill, The Rev. Margot Critchfield, Sonya Sutton, Jane Volkema and Marcia Welch



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