

St. Alban's Chronicle

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016
September 15, 2005

Community Building

Among the top ten challenges in parish life are the search for a new rector (especially after the retirement of a long-term beloved rector) and a building project. We are undergoing both at the same time. Yet your Search and Building Committees are doing wonderful work. (See Senior Warden Gordon Avery's articles about their work in this issue of the *Chronicle* on Page 5.)

The work of these two committees is fundamentally about the stewardship of community – our community at St. Alban's. They are asking community questions: Who are we? Where do we want to go? Who do we want to serve us as rector? The Profile Subcommittee of the Search Committee has produced a draft Parish Profile. It is a wonderful document that answers these community questions.

The Building Committee has been struggling with community questions of its own: What space will serve us best? What is the best use of the funds raised for this project? How can we be true to the initial goals of the Capital Campaign, while struggling with the late revelation of system failures? The committee will make a presentation to us on September 25 following the combined 10:30 a.m. service. As a community we will hear their report. The Vestry, having heard your questions and feedback, will meet immediately following this gathering.

Sunday, September 25th

*Combined service at 10:30 am and a
special presentation by the Building Committee
to share with us our architect's renderings
for the work in the church.*

Refreshments provided by Washington Interfaith Network (WIN)

To note

September 25, Combined Service at 10:30 am. Followed by the Building Committee presentation at 11:30 am. Refreshments provided by Washington Interfaith Network.

10th Annual Shelter Open Golf Tournament Monday, September 26, at Ft. Belvoir

Golf Course. Register in the Narthex to play, volunteer, be a sponsor or make a donation.

Parish Fun Day Saturday, October 22. We will have a potluck supper, square/line dancing, and a sing along. Details to come in the next issue of the *Chronicle*.

The Rev. Canon Herbert O'Driscoll will speak Sunday, October 30 at the Parish Forum on, "How Firm A Foundation?" exploring "the struggle in Western Christianity to recapture a grace-giving relationship with Holy Scripture."



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

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. Louis T. Wheeler, Jr, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Douglas A. Greenaway, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Loren B. Mead, Honorary Associate

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
Wilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs
Sonya Subbaya Sutton, Director for Parish Music Ministries
Jane Volkema, Director of Communications and Evangelism

OFFICE STAFF

Shirley Dickey, Receptionist
David Johnson, Community Life
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

3001 Wisconsin Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20016
Tel.: 202-363-8286 Fax: 202-363-6828
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm
E-mail: First nameLast initial@st-albans-parish.org
Web site: www.AlbansDC.org

October Sunday Forums

The Sunday Forum is at 10:30 a.m. in Satterlee Hall

October 2nd

"In the Footsteps of Paul: the J2A Pilgrimage to Greece"

While their friends were at camp or at the beach, St. Alban's J2A (9th and 10th graders) traced the footsteps of the apostle Paul through Greece in the early summer. The holy sites they visited included Thessalonica, the Hanging Monasteries of Meteora, ancient Corinth, and Athens. Come hear how they got to know themselves, each other, Paul, and God on this holy quest. The youth and their leaders will report and share a slide show at the Adult Forum on October 2nd.

October 9th

Timothy Sedgwick, "Unity or Schism and the Shape of the Anglican Communion: Responses and Challenges from Windsor to Lambeth Conference 2008."

Tim Sedgwick, Professor of Christian Ethics at Virginia Theological Seminary, will speak about his view of the role of the Episcopal Church in the Anglican Communion and current challenges faced by those within the Anglican tradition. Professor Sedgwick was a member of the committee that drafted "To Set Our Hope on Christ" (available at www.anglicanlistening.org), a response for the Episcopal Church to the Windsor Report's request for the Episcopal Church to explain "from within the sources of authority . . . how a person living in a same gender union may be considered eligible to lead the flock of Christ." (Editor's note: Dr. Sedgwick is one of the most beloved teachers at the seminary.)

Three-part Series on Islam

October 16th

Ayman El-Mohandes "Islam and Christianity"

Dr. El-Mohandes will discuss the theology of Islam and whether Islam and Christianity are compatible with one another. He received rave reviews the last time he spoke to a group at St. Alban's about Islam. Dr. El-Mohandes is a neonatologist and perinatal epidemiologist who is Director of the Prevention Research Center and Interim Chair of the Department of Prevention and Community Health at the George Washington University. He was born and grew up in Egypt and received his medical training in Egypt, France and the United States, as well as the equivalent of MD, PhD, and Masters of Public Health degrees. He still heads some medical education initiatives in Egypt. Dr. El-Mohandes is also the Principal Investigator of an NIH-funded cooperative agreement that brings together several medical centers around the Washington, DC area with the goal of reducing infant mortality within African-American and Latino populations.

Continued on Page 3

October 23rd

Shibley Telhami, "The US and Islam: Where Are We Going?"

Shibley Telhami, who is the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland, College Park, and a non-resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, will speak to us about U.S. policy toward Islam. He is a well-known authority on the Middle East who has published and been interviewed frequently regarding current issues in that part of the world and the United States. He served as advisor to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations during the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. He is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the advisory committee of Human Rights Watch/Middle East, and the American delegation of the Trilateral American/Israeli/Palestinian Anti-Incitement Committee mandated by the Wye River Agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

(The third presentation on Islam by John Peterson, former head of the Anglican Consultative Council and an authority on Anglican-Muslim relations, will take place in November.)

October 30th

The Rev. Canon Herbert O'Driscoll

"How Firm a Foundation?"

St. Alban's is fortunate to have as a special featured speaker on the fourth Sunday in October Canon Herbert O'Driscoll. He is an Anglican priest and native of Ireland, a well-known preacher, teacher of preachers, pilgrimage leader, and author of numerous books on prayer and spirituality. At the Forum, he will explore the struggle in Western Christianity to recapture a grace-giving relationship with Holy Scripture.

Is there a calligrapher in the house?

The Parish Office is looking for someone to inscribe baptismal certificates given to each infant or person being baptized and their godparents. If you are a calligrapher—or have nice penmanship—and would like to volunteer, contact Jane Volkema 202-363-8286 or JaneV@st-albans-parish.org.

10th Annual Shelter Open Golf Tournament

Monday, September 26

On Monday, September 26, at Ft. Belvoir Golf Course, St. Alban's will hold its 10th annual tournament to raise money to help cover the cost of operating the Crossroads Shelter. The day will include golfing, dinner, raffle and an awards ceremony. Come and play or come and help out and stay for dinner. Golfers and sponsors are needed to raise the money, and just plain people who want to help. The cost to play will remain at \$125 and Hole Sponsorship at \$250. Contact, Steven Fox 703-407-7424, sfox@fsavings.com. Can't make it? Don't know how to golf? No problem—money donations gladly accepted. Give Steven a call.

About Crossroads Shelter Program

St. Alban's provides a structured, supervised living space in the lower level of Satterlee Hall for four men from mid-April through September. Our residents are referred by Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place and in cooperation with Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. During the months of operation, our shelter needs many volunteers to provide breakfast foods, dinner, and to coordinate the meal schedule. There are many opportunities for service. Contact: Peter Spalding 202-337-0157 (h), pet202@aol.com

Isn't it time to have fun?

I think the answer is yes. So, keep Saturday, October 22nd on your calendars for a Parish Fun Day (formerly known as Parish Weekend at Home). We will have a potluck supper, square/line dancing, and a hymn sing-along.

Mustard Seed Offering

The September 18 Mustard Seed Offering will go to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) for relief and development in the nation of Niger. Various national publications have detailed the horrendous suffering experienced by thousands of people in Niger, particularly children. The current suffering in Niger stems from long-term development challenges and from a more immediate drought crisis. ERD describes on its website (www.er-d.org) current short and long-term assistance efforts in Niger in partnership with Lutheran World Relief. ERD is providing supplementary food aid, such as millet and milk powder, to a population of 50,000-52,000 in agro-pastoral regions. In its August 5 website article ERD states that "at least 3.6 million people, including 800,000 children, are at risk of starvation. Nearly 3,800 of the country's 10,000 villages have been affected."

Please be prayerfully generous during the offertory on September 18. You can also donate to the Niger relief and development effort through the Africa Relief Fund at <http://www.er-d.org/> or call 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief and Development, Africa Relief Fund, P.O. Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101

A **Mustard Seed Offering Committee** is forming to work with the Vestry Outreach Committee on the Parish's monthly plate offering program. Committee members would meet to decide on ideas and proposals for each offering and would serve as resources for parishioners to make suggestions and proposals regarding the offering. Committee members would also work to publicize and administer the "nuts and bolts" aspects of this humanitarian offering. Any parishioner interested in this ministry should contact Jeff Harwood at dme706@aol.com or 240-305-0842.



Foyers 2005-06

Another year – more Foyers teams! It's time to sign up for eating, drinking and fun with Foyers from mid-fall to late spring. Sign up to make new friends and get to know old ones better. You'll be glad you did. Phone or e-mail Didi Smith at 703-734-1978 or didiandbob@aol.com to ask questions and join.

Inquirer's Class & Adult Confirmation

Classes will be offered to adults seeking to be confirmed, received or reaffirmed into the Episcopal Church. Classes are also for those seeking to know more about the Episcopal Church. This year's class will feature the *Via Media* series. This series explores Anglican Christianity through videos, questions, content and conversations. *Via Media* is an excellent resource for evangelism and for exploring and discussing questions about the Anglican Tradition. The Rev. J. Carlyle Gill and the Rev. Louis T. Wheeler Jr. will lead the classes. The classes begin on Sunday October 2nd and continue for six consecutive Sundays. The classes will be held from 12:30 to 2:00 pm, a light lunch will be included. Sign up in the narthex, or contact Jane Volkema 202-363-8286 ext 204.

Tuesday Evening Reflective Bible Study

The Tuesday Evening Reflective Bible Study (TERBS) meets weekly on Tuesdays, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Its purpose is to better understand the Bible and how it relates to everyday life. The group reads and reflects on a particular Bible passage and examines the way God speaks to us where we are in our lives today, individually and collectively. TERBS offers a chance for a personal encounter with God in the Bible with the intent to develop harmony between life's experience, the world, and the Christian faith. Contact: Sandra Barker, 202-362-2404 (h), sbarker948@aol.com; the Rev. Louis Wheeler, 202-363-8286 ext. 203.

Thursday Morning Discussion Group ~ corrected meeting dates

Meetings take place once a month on Thursday mornings 7:30 - 8:30 am in the Rectory. Meeting dates for 2005-2006 will be: October 13; November 17; December 15; January 19; February 16; March 16; April 13; and, May 18.

Contact: Henry Farrington, 202-337-9190 (h), HFarrington@FNFD.com

Search Committee

The Profile Subcommittee of the Search Committee presented the intense and detailed process which lay behind the final draft of the Parish Profile. The draft had been circulated to the Vestry a few days earlier for review. Linda Bickford, chair, and Profile Committee members Bob Pinkard and Peter Albert, summarized the work of the Committee. In discussion, Vestry members warmly praised the document, and a color mock-up of the final booklet was reviewed. Some felt a bit more emphasis on Parish stewardship responsibility should be included in a final tweak. The Vestry then voted to accept the Profile as submitted, with adjustments at the discretion of the Profile Committee to reflect the Vestry discussion. The Profile will be placed on the St. Alban's website, and copies will be made available to the Parish as soon as possible.

By acclamation, the Vestry commended the Profile Committee for its thoughtful and protracted work. Jane Volkema also received a prolonged ovation for her many overtime hours and her skillful contributions to the design and publication of the Profile.

The Search process now enters a new (six week) phase. In mid-September, the Parish Profile and Church Deployment Office (CDO) request form will be reviewed with the Canon for

Deployment at Church House. This will initiate announcing our search nationally and using the national computer system in the New York offices to identify candidates. Names also will come from other sources, such as parishioner suggestions, networking by Church House at national meetings, suggestions from the Bishop, and spontaneous inquiries. The Prospects Subcommittee, chaired by John Daniel Reeves, will then begin to deal with candidate CVs and other documents.

Building Committee

Since June, the Vestry has been meeting twice a month to keep up with the press of business. At a milestone session, September 7th, the Building Committee reported the plan it recommended for rejuvenation of Nourse Hall and enlargement of the meeting and greeting space adjacent to the narthex. Doug Lapp summarized the work of the Building Committee. Our architects gave a PowerPoint presentation and answered both conceptual and technical questions. After discussion, the Vestry unanimously voted, with one abstention, to approve the plan in principle, subject to discussion and input from the parish at the special meeting scheduled for 11:30 AM, Sunday, September 25. Virtually the entire Building Committee was in attendance. The Vestry, by

acclamation, thanked and commended the Building Committee for its work.

A Special Parish Meeting is called for Sunday, September 25th, at 11:30 AM, following a single worship service at 10:30 AM. The purpose of this meeting is to hear the report of the Building Committee, see the PowerPoint presentation by the architects, have time for questions and discussion, and allow parishioners to give input. We look forward to seeing you there!

Search Committee

Gordon Avery, Chair
Peter Albert
Linda Bickford
Barbara Conyers
Fred Darr
Rachel Freytag
Jeff Harwood
Dennis Johnson
Liz Leland
Alex Netchvolodoff
Bob Pinkard
John Daniel Reaves
Amy Slemmer
Mary Snitch
Jim Sottile
Lizzie Thorne
Linda Wilson
Jane Volkema, Ex-officio

Building Committee

Douglas Lapp, Chair
Gordon Avery
Ann Bissell
Richard Dirksen
Marc Feterman
Lee Foster-Crowder
Ron Hicks
Nicholas Karas
Karen Strimple

August Parish Forums

Here are brief reviews of August's Parish Forums concerning Religion and Politics issues. Parish Forums are held on Sundays at 10:30 am in Satterlee Hall. If there is a forum you missed, contact Kitty Bayh at KittyB@st-albans-parish.org for a cassette tape (\$3.00).

Series on Religion and Public Life

Two Former State Department Officers on Religion and Public Life

On Sunday, August 14, to another packed crowd at the Sunday Forum, Bob and Phyllis Oakley discussed the role religion plays in the conduct of foreign policy. Bob and Phyllis are both retired Foreign Service Officers of the State Department. Bob served as Ambassador to Pakistan, Somalia, and Zaire; Phyllis retired in 1999 as Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research. She also had been Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration.

Phyllis looked at the question first from an historical perspective. Religion, politics, and foreign policy have been intertwined throughout world history. Religion shaped world affairs in the Holy Roman and

Byzantine Empires, the rise of Islam in northern Africa, the Crusades, and the religious wars in Europe. Phyllis also addressed the issue of the sovereignty of states. As the question of human rights has assumed increasing importance, how much should the international community intervene when a country violates those rights?

Bob began his career in the Sudan. Religion played a major role in Sudan's civil war, with the Islamic north pitted against the Christian south. It was hard to separate religious interests from questions of power and nationalism. The United States has been instrumental in helping to remove religion as a factor in the struggle, and progress has been made. Bob strongly praised the role former Senator John Danforth played as a mediator, bringing opposing forces together in dialogue for the first time. Other issues remain, however, e.g. the situation in Darfur.

—John and Betty Buchanan

The Head of the Church's Office of Government on Religion and Public Life

Our "Religion and Public Life" series concluded on August 21 with a report from Maureen Shea, Director of the Office of Government Relations of the Episcopal Church. Ms. Shea, a St. Mark's Capitol Hill parishioner with a long history of work on legislative issues,

explained that the efforts of her office stem from our oft-repeated commitment in the baptismal covenant to "strive for justice." While much attention is given to advocacy for specific legislation on issues that the General Convention has addressed, the office tries to take a long view of the process, addressing issues from the "broadest mission possible," in accordance with official Church positions.

She went on to explain what her office actually does. The five staffers work to inform members of Congress – 35 of whom are Episcopalians – of the Church's carefully crafted positions on issues ranging from environmental concerns and international debt relief to food stamps and child care. Efforts often focus on the budget process, always with an eye toward justice, as opposed to the day's hot-button political issues.

In response to questions from the sizeable audience, Ms. Shea invited St. Albanites to visit her Capitol Hill office (110 Maryland Avenue NE, 202/547-7300) and to join the Episcopal Public Policy Network www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn, 800/228-0515), the national Church's affiliated organization for its members. In a major drive this summer, the Network added 800 people to its already burgeoning list, which will help the Church to make its voice heard more effectively on Capitol Hill. She urged St. Albanites to join in this effort.

—Andrew Ramsey-Moor

A tribute to Brother Roger

Richard Palmer, parishioner

Frank and Mary Wade's St. Alban's pilgrimage to France in May 1999 included a stop at Taizé. For this pilgrim, a thoughtless anticipation rooted in ignorance, that Taizé might prove to be a Hollywood-style fad, evaporated immediately on arrival. The few hours spent there meeting some of Taizé's young European pilgrims, eating a simple lunch that they had prepared and served, walking the grounds, seeing the growing crops and utilitarian buildings, and participating in a hymn-filled service, became the most moving experience of the pilgrimage.

That experience also brought Taizé into union with two other nearby stops in eastern France: the beautiful early medieval church in Tournus and the World War I battlefield of Verdun. This link was expressed in two verses included in a Pilgrimage Report written upon our return.

A multitude of stones
Inanimate and old

A multitude of voices
Vital and young

Tournus' stones,
Joined in silent arches
Untrammled, Romanesque and pure

Taizé's voices,
Joined in thund'ring arch-like hymn
Unison timeless-new and sure
"In manus tuas Pater"

In one's being,
Congruant opposites blending,
Giving peace

Kaiser, Kaiser, we've been thinking
How you welded man with gun
In the name of land and glory
Man and place were bled in fury

Only left -- the silent din
-- of sad Verdun

Roger, Roger, we've been thinking
How you've wedded youth with God
Through the way of hymn and prayer
In humble house, on fruitful sod
Taizé's the place by pilgrims trod

The place where now
Verdun -- is won

In their August 17th edition, *The New York Times* reported: **Brother Roger**, a Swiss Protestant theologian who became a leading ecumenical figure through the community of monks he founded in Taizé, in eastern France, in 1940, was stabbed on August 16 by a woman during a service in Taizé in the presence of 2,500 worshippers. Brother Roger, 90, died immediately.

The Taizé community is made up of more than 100 brothers, Catholics and Protestants, from more than 25 nations and sees itself as an effort to reconcile Christian denominations with one another. Thousands of young Catholics and Protestants flock to the community each year, and many religious leaders have visited, including Pope John Paul II, archbishops of Canterbury and Orthodox metropolitans.

In manus tuas, Pater

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "In manus tuas, Pater". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system begins with a tempo marking of quarter note = 76. The lyrics are: "In ma - nus tu - as, Pa - ter, com -". The second system continues with: "men - do (spi - ri - tum) me - um, In ma - nus tu - as,". The third system concludes with: "Pa - ter, com - men - do spi - ri - tum me - um. In".

Into your hands, Father, I commend my spirit.

Pray for those serving in the military

Jane Volkema

Director of Communications & Evangelism

Send the names of men and women serving in the U.S. Military to JaneV@st-albans-parish.org. The names will be posted on our website, www.AlbansDC.org. All are asked to pray for them.

The Environment and Social Justice

St. Alban's Peace and Justice Group and the Environmental Concerns Committee are proud to present St. Alban's parishioner Dennis Johnson, who will talk on "The Environment and Social Justice" on Thursday, October 6, 7:30 pm, in Nourse Hall. This topic has special relevance in the aftermath of the hurricane in New Orleans and Mississippi. Questions? Contact, Helma Lanyi, helmalanyi@starpower.net or 202-364-0546.

In the news

In this month's *Episcopal Life*, the national newspaper of the Episcopal Church, USA, you will find an article by St. Alban's parishioner Cynthia B. Cohen, *Morality and medicine: Church addresses end-of-life obligations*. Cynthia is a senior research fellow at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University. Also in the same issue of *Episcopal Life*, is the reprint of an article that appeared in our December 1, 2004 *Chronicle*, written by our Director of Communications and Evangelism, Jane Volkema. *Episcopal Life* picked up the article Jane wrote on her experiences of church shopping in the Diocese of Washington. Jane's article also appeared in the *Washington Window* earlier this year.

In the September issue of *Washington Window*, our Diocesan newspaper. The legacy and retirement of our former rector Frank Wade is the feature article.

Subscriptions to these publications are available. A subscription to *Episcopal Life* is \$16.95 per year; \$30.55 for two years. Send payment, name and mailing address to *Episcopal Life*, P. O. Box 2030, Voorhees, NJ 08043-8000. Subscriptions to *Washington Window* are free. E-mail your name and mailing address to newspaper@edow.org newspaper@edow.org, or call Amy Elliott, 202-537-3975.

Narthex Bulletin Boards

The three bulletin boards in the narthex are an excellent way to tell the Parish about your ministry or group. The bulletin boards are available to all groups on a monthly basis, from the first of the month. (There may be exceptions made for special events or programs to keep a display up longer than a month, e.g. the Stewardship Campaign.)

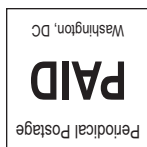
Here is your chance to show your creative talents and spread the message of your ministry. If you would like to reserve a bulletin board, contact Jane Volkema 202-363-8286 or JaneV@st-albans-parish.org

Submit articles for the *Chronicle* to: JaneV@st-albans-parish.org

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



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