

# St. Alban's Chronicle

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

## Surprise Somebody

*Ward Sloane*

Not too long ago I found myself idling in line at the Lincoln Tunnel on my way to see my sister in New York City. It was irritating. The lines were long and it seemed like total chaos trying to find a lane that actually led to a tollbooth. Then an SUV somehow got in front of me. Now I was steaming.

And then I noticed this SUV had one of those fish. You know the kind, two inverted bands of metal that look like a primitive fish. I'm not proud of this, but they irritate me. I guess because the people who put them on their cars aren't afraid to let other people know that they are Christian. I tend to keep that to myself.

Well, the driver of this particular SUV had a lesson for me. When I got up to the tollbooth with six dollars in my hand, the collector told me to keep my money. When I asked him why, he said the driver of the SUV had paid my toll and wanted me "to have a good day."

I was speechless. I tried to catch up to the SUV to thank the person but it got away from me. So I decided the next best thing I could do was to return the favor on my return trip. And I did, paying for three cars as I made my way back to Washington from New York on Interstate 95.

As I paid each toll, I thought about that SUV, and about the surprise that the people inside had brought to me. And not only the obvious, in-my-face surprise about how I had misjudged them. But also the surprise at how their small gift changed me in that one instant and on my drive home. That unexpected gift to me brought more unexpected gifts to other people. I can only guess if it made any difference to the drivers behind me.

We know what we as a people want to do at St. Alban's—we want to pay our bills, compensate our staff and reach out to the community. We can't do it unless we surprise ourselves and each other with generous pledges of money, given for no other reason than to change our lives and, more importantly, the lives of those behind us.

## To note

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**Help the Homeless Walkathon**  
Saturday, November 19

**Thanksgiving Day Community  
Dinner**  
Thursday, November 24, noon  
at St. Alban's

Satterlee Hall  
**Advent Silent Retreat**  
December 2, 3 and 4, 2005

**Mustard Seed Offering**  
Sunday, November 20

**Advent Wreath Making**  
Sunday, November 27, 4 pm



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

# Free, Fast Ways to Act

*Susan Kim, Disaster News Network  
for Episcopal Relief and Development*

Short on cash and short on time? Here are 10 ways to take action in the aftermath of Katrina, compiled from Disaster News Network sources. They cost nothing and take less than five minutes.

- Pray for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and for people helping them. And don't forget to pray for survivors of other disasters that feel like they've been forgotten. Thousands of people are still recovering from last season's hurricanes in Florida. "We still have a lot of displaced people without homes," said Courtney James, program coordinator of the Florida-based Volusia Interfaiths/Agencies Networking in Disaster.
- Enter the acronym ICE - for "In Case of Emergency" into your cell phone menu, with the phone number of your emergency contacts. "In an emergency situation, ambulance and hospital staff will then be able to quickly find out who your next of kin are and be able to contact them," explained Les Kerr, law enforcement coordinator with the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Missouri.
- Call and check on family members of relief workers you know who have been deployed in the affected states. In addition to representatives from faith-based and voluntary agencies, thousands of healthcare workers, National Guard, and other specialists are away from their families.
- Turn off the TV and talk to your kids. Psychologists have found that repeatedly watching disturbing disaster-related images on television can have a profound effect on children.
- Raise your hand at your next meeting and ask if your workplace is disaster-prepared. "If organizations don't get ready, they're going to find themselves in a real difficult time staffing the workplace. It's like if they don't talk about it, it's not going to come," said Wayne Hochwarter, associate professor of management at Florida State University's College of Business.
- Within 10 days after the Dec. 29 tsunami struck, several major credit card companies announced they would donate the revenue they made on tsunami relief offerings to certain charities. Has your credit company enacted that policy yet? Call and ask - even if you can't afford to make a donation right now.
- Ask the owner of your favorite restaurant if he or she would consider holding a benefit dinner for your favorite charity.
- Take five minutes a day to work on that long-overdue family disaster plan.
- Include your pets in that disaster plan. Thousands of people fail to evacuate in the face of disasters because they don't want to leave their pets, reported the Humane Society of the United States.
- Check the disaster-related clauses in your insurance policy.

## 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

# Tuesday Evening Advent Program



**The Rev. Dr. Kathy Grieb**

Happy Church New Year!

*“The Gospel of Mark:*

*Parable Unlimited, Challenge Extraordinary!”*

With the first Sunday of Advent on November 27th, the church calendar begins a new year during which our Sunday gospel readings will come from the Gospel of Mark. We will celebrate this change of season with a special program on Tuesday evenings during Advent. The program begins with a light supper, features a presentation by the Rev. Dr. Kathy Grieb, a biblical scholar on the Gospel of Mark, and we close the evening with St. Alban’s Handbell Choir leading us in sung Compline.

In the Church’s calendar, the Sunday gospel readings rotate through a three-year cycle of passages from the “synoptic” gospels of Matthew (Year A) Mark (Year B) and Luke (Year C). The word “synoptic” means, “to see or view together” and refers to the fact that the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke are very similar, while John’s gospel—which is peppered throughout the three years—is quite different.

Dr. Grieb will be here to teach us about Mark’s gospel so we can hear it read in church with new, informed ears this year. Her program, *The Gospel of Mark: Parable Unlimited, Challenge Extraordinary!* will feature four sessions:

November 29

*The Beginning of the Good News: Gospel as Apocalypse and Parable*

December 6

*Insiders and Outsiders: Discipleship as Dispossession*

December 13

*From Transfiguration to Temple Ruins: Conflict and Costly Obedience*

December 20

*My End is My Beginning: The Predictable Passion and the Resurrection Shock*

Dr. Grieb is Professor of New Testament and Biblical Greek at Virginia Theological Seminary, a distinguished author, teacher, preacher, and scholar on the Gospel of Mark.

*Tuesday evenings*

*November 29 - December 20, 6:30 - 8:30pm*

*To attend, sign up in the Narthex on Sunday’s  
or call the Parish Office at 202-363-8286*

## Review:

Parish Forums are held on Sundays at 10:30 in Satterlee Hall. If there is a forum you missed, contact Kitty Bayh at [KittyB@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:KittyB@st-albans-parish.org) for a cassette tape (\$3.00).

### *"How Firm a Foundation?"*

Introduced as world-class preacher and teacher of clergy, The Rev. Herbert O'Driscoll spoke to the Sunday Forum on October 30th. He continued a theme started in earlier morning services at St. Alban's that Christians in the future would be intrigued by our "peculiar position." He asserted that while churches are struggling in agony, the Christian journey is becoming richer and richer at the same time. The intensity of joining the Christian community is now much more meaningful, as we are breaking through historical limitations and moving from old arguments, visions, and identities that emanate from the Reformation. We are finding added communal strength. He believes that in the 1970s and '80s we began to break through towards greater religious exploration and cited the groaning bookshelves filled with religious titles as an example of the current, accelerated interest in religious topics.

Dr. O'Driscoll posed a hypothetical question to various historical times. "What have you to say to us?" Franciscans: We discovered Christianity in the shadows of time.

Benedictines: We found a way to break from murderers in Europe and to come back from marginalization. The speaker reminded us that in the middle of the third century Christianity was composed of the affluent, powerful, intellectual "urban believers" who were later challenged by those coming from an agrarian society. He posited that earlier Christians would tell us to "Take a rest from the idea that God is a question to be solved. God is a mystery."

The future will look back on us because the church is never richer than when in struggles and crisis. He briefly traced the spread of Christianity to Scotland and Wales with the growth of monastic communities. Threatened and aware of growing Islamic Mediterranean trade in

644, the Roman Empire exploited its cultural and educational advantage to force the Celtic ways to recede and to reassert Roman dominance over the area. The Romans appreciated the need for a united world and a solving of the "Northern problem." Twentieth century patterns of immigration and the crumbling of the Soviet Union have released Christian spirituality.

— Elinor Talmadge

## Walking in their shoes

An energetic group of St. Albanites gathered at the Peace Cross on Sunday, October 16, for the annual mini-walk to help the homeless. Led by Evan Witten and his marching snare drum, the group made its way around the Cathedral to the Bishop's garden, where volunteers from Samaritan Ministry helped us learn more about the people who need our help. Annette Carver and Mary Smith gave everyone a card representing someone homeless and hungry in our city. As we looked around, we could see that half are women and children, and that many homeless people struggle with mental illness.

The St. Alban's walkers helped to raise funds for Samaritan Ministry's Next Steps program, which helps homeless people help themselves, and its outreach to residents in transitional housing at Partner Arms. Altogether, our 49 registered walkers contributed almost \$950 to these ministries, and Samaritan sends a big thank you to everyone who participated.

If you missed the mini-walk, it's not too late to put your walking shoes on to help the homeless. The annual walkathon on the Mall is Saturday, November 19 at 9 am. Our own Margot Critchfield and Bishop Chane will be among the walkers. Sign up in the Narthex on Sunday or contact Dee Dykstra 703-971-5795 or [d2b2dc@msn.com](mailto:d2b2dc@msn.com).



*St. Alban's Mini-Walk to help the homeless raised nearly \$950.*

*Thank you to all the walkers and those who made contributions.*

## Thanksgiving Day Community Dinner

*Thursday, November 24, noon*

Once again St. Albans Parish, the Church of the Annunciation, and the Washington Hebrew Congregation will sponsor a Thanksgiving dinner for residents of the neighborhood who otherwise might be alone. This year the dinner is at the Church of the Annunciation, on Massachusetts Avenue a few hundred yards northwest of Wisconsin Avenue. There will be a reception at noon, and the dinner will be at 12:30. If you would like to be a guest at the dinner, call the Parish Office 202-363-8286, and ask that your name be put on the list.

We need volunteers to provide food and to help with the dinner on November 24. Sign up to bring a turkey, pie, vegetables, or whatever. Also sign up to cook, to serve, or to help with cleanup. Sign up sheets will be in the narthex after Sunday services until the Sundays before Thanksgiving.

This has always been a very enjoyable event, both for the guests and for the members of the three congregations that cooperate in putting it on. Please help us make it a success again this year. If you have questions, call Bob Dunn at 301-654-2184.

# Mustard Seed Offering

*Sunday, November 20*

The November 20 Mustard Seed offering will go to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) to assist those affected by the earthquake in South Asia and the floods in Central America.

The October 8 earthquake in Pakistan and India killed more than 35,000 people. ERD is partnering with the Dioceses of Peshawar and Lahore in the Church of Pakistan to provide assistance such as food, shelter, bedding, basic medicines, and clothing. ERD is also helping the Church's Mission Hospital in Peshawar field four medical teams and establish a field hospital.

Flooding and mudslides caused by Hurricane Stan have devastated areas of Guatemala and El Salvador. ERD is partnering with both the Diocese of Guatemala and the Anglican Diocese of El Salvador to provide aid.

More information about the relief efforts can be obtained on ERD's website: [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org). Contributions can also be made online, by calling 1-800-334-7626 or by sending a donation at Episcopal Relief and Development, Emergency Relief Fund, PO Box 12043, Newark, N.J. 07101.

Please be prayerfully generous during the offertory on November 20.

## Singing A - Z

Singing A - Z cordially invites you to a performance of John Rutter's highly entertaining musical drama, "The Reluctant Dragon," on Monday, December 5, 7:30 PM, at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church, 4700 Whitehaven Parkway, NW.

Starring in this delightful concert will be St. Albanites Rich Turner as the

Dragon, Jim Shaffran as St. George, with Rich Hoffheins narrating, and popular Washington singer Barbara Hollinshead as the Boy. Led by Betty

Buchanan, Singing A - Z, a recipient of a grant from the St. Alban's Transformation Fund, will give interactive performances this season for seniors in Friendship Terrace and the Christian Community Group Homes in North East, and for school children in South East, including Ketcham Elementary School in Anacostia. This is a truly generation-spanning concert, so please come, bring family and friends and help us launch this vital ministry!

## 5th Annual Palestinian Embroidery Project

The Palestinian Embroidery Project uses the proceeds of embroidery sales to provide income to women in Palestinian refugee camps and villages, working with refugee cooperatives supported by established nonprofit organizations, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the YWCA and American Near East Refugee Aid (ANERA).

Embroidered items were made by women in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza who are struggling with bleak economic prospects. They desperately need markets for their embroidery to provide income for their families. In the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon, the women are often the only wage earners in their extended families. Enjoy their beautiful work and know that your purchase will directly benefit these women.

This year's sale of embroidered goods will be held **Friday, November 18, 5-8 pm and Saturday, November 19, 10 am-2 pm at the Westmoreland United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda, MD 20816**

The selection of beautiful and unique items from Palestinian refugee camps and cooperatives around the Middle East include shawls, scarves, dresses,

capas, cushion covers, embroidered bags for every occasion, table cloths and jewelry cases. Christmas crèches and stockings, eyeglass and cell phone cases, bookmarks, placemats, napkins and napkin rings, business card cases, telephone books, table runners and coasters and other items.

Contact persons: Helma Lanyi [helmalanyi@starpower.net](mailto:helmalanyi@starpower.net); Gretchen Theobald 202-244-2753 [gtheobald@mindspring.com](mailto:gtheobald@mindspring.com); Pamela Mertz 301-229-0973 [MertzMD@aol.com](mailto:MertzMD@aol.com)

*Advent begins  
Sunday, November 27th*

## Advent Wreath-Making

*Sunday, November 27, 4 pm*

On the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, join fellow wreath-makers to create your own Advent wreath and to sing songs of the season. This is a special opportunity for lively fellowship and preparation for Advent. There are many opportunities to help plan the event or to assist with set up or clean up. Contact: Kathy Fox 202-337-4445 (h), 202-637-5453 (w), [kafox@hhlaw.com](mailto:kafox@hhlaw.com)

## Advent Silent Retreat

*December 2, 3 and 4, 2005*

This retreat offers the opportunity for spiritual renewal and grounding for the season of Advent, in the serenity of the beach in winter. Led by the Rev. Margot Critchfield at the Felix Dupont Memorial House in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware. Contact: the Rev. Margot Critchfield 202-363-8286 ext 202, [MargotC@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:MargotC@st-albans-parish.org)

# December Parish Forums

10:30 am Sundays, Satterlee Hall

## December 4th ~ Elizabeth Fisher

### “At home with St. Nicolas”

The historical St. Nicolas lived far from the icy reaches of the North Pole — he called the beautiful southern coast of Turkey home. His bishopric in Myra (modern Demre) retains a magnificent church and is now under active excavation. It also features a theater and tombs that the saint would have known in his time as ancient remains. His birthplace is marked by a monastic church and complex on the heights of dramatic Gemiler Island, which is the site of an excavation within sight of the broad sand beach and mountain cliffs of Olu Deniz. Visit these sites on Turkey's "Sea-Blue Road" in an illustrated slide tour provided by our own Elizabeth Fisher, Professor of Classics at George Washington University, to celebrate Nicolas' Saint's Day (December 6).

## December 11th ~ Richard Parkins

### “Welcoming the Stranger”

Advent provides an especially appropriate time to speak to one of the most incarnational ministries of our Church: assisting refugees to resettle in the U.S. In resettling refugees, we enter into their suffering and their onward journey toward recovery in a very intimate, immediate way. Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), as the refugee and immigration assistance arm of the Church, resettles between 2,500-3,000 refugees annually and speaks for the Church on behalf of about 21 million internally displaced persons and another 12 million mandated refugees. Most recently, EMM has augmented its responsibilities by facilitating the relocation of evacuees from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Parishioner Richard Parkins will speak to the ministry of EMM, which he heads, as well as the public policy challenges facing the Church and immigrant and human rights advocates in the post 9/11 era as security concerns often trump concern for the human rights of refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers.

## December 18th ~ Loren Mead

### "Mission at Christmas: God's Mission in Jesus, Our Mission in the World"

Thomas Friedman says “the world is flat.” What are the implications for the Church's world-wide mission. How do we conceive of “the mission of the church” when our paradigms of mission and of church have been turned upside down? Our fellow parishioner Loren Mead will share some of the thinking he has been in touch with in his 40 years as a church researcher, consultant, teacher and writer.

# St. Alban's Altar Guild:

## *A Special and Historic Ministry*

Established in 1896 by the Reverend Philip Rhinelander, the Chancel Guild, as it was known then, consisted of “regular communicants of St. Alban's Church who work solely for the love of serving God in the care of the sacred vessels, ornaments, and vestments used in the various services of the Church and have no other compensation than the joy of serving in a meaningful way.”

Although many changes have taken place in St. Alban's Parish in the last one hundred plus years, the role of the Altar Guild has remained much the same. Guild members prepare the Altar and Sanctuary for all Sunday and weekly services as well as for weddings, memorial services, and funerals. Much of their work takes place behind the scenes in the Sacristy, where they perform the Saturday tasks of cleaning, polishing, organizing, and maintaining the beautiful vessels, linens, and hangings. If they do their job well, most of what they do will go unnoticed!

The Altar Guild membership consists of 25-30 men and women who are divided into four teams for each week of the month. A fifth team prepares the Altar for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday services. Several members have served on the Guild for more than twenty years. The St. Alban's Altar Guild Manual, written by its users, outlines, in precise detail, procedures for everything that Altar Guild members need to know to do their ministry.

This special and historic ministry is for those who would like to serve in a significant way as a member of a team of wonderful colleagues. As one Altar Guild member has said, “I look forward to setting God's Table in the quiet and peaceful Church early Sunday morning. It is a very spiritual time for me.”

If you would like more information about the Altar Guild, call Molly Buck (202) 965-3786 or Elizabeth Dietel (301) 229-3010



## Have you pledged yet?

# The work of St. Alban's Clergy

*After Sunday services, what do  
our clergy do the rest of the week?*

Most diocesan priests are parish priests. They celebrate Holy Eucharist on Sundays and during the week, they anoint those who are sick, hear the confessions of the repentant, and officiate at funerals and burials. They preach the Word of God from the pulpit and teach it in classrooms and discussion groups. They listen to their people's joys and sorrows and often take the initiative to promote works of charity and justice. They may work with groups of the elderly, with teen or young adult groups and with parents. They offer pre-marital counseling and perform weddings.

A diocesan priest may also work with the patients and staff of a hospital or with students in a high school or college as chaplain or teacher. A priest may be asked to work with inmates and staff in a jail or prison. Some priests are released from service in order to be chaplains to our men and women in the armed forces—such as the Rev. Stewart Kenworthy at Christ Church, Georgetown.

Basic to the ministry of any priest is preaching the Word of God, celebrating the sacraments and being available to God's people. It's a busy, rewarding life that demands stamina and spiritual maturity.

*Open . . .*



## *The Reverend J. Carlyle Gill* *Interim Rector*

My work at St. Alban's has changed considerably as I now am in the position of oversight. Where I once had responsibility for discreet areas of parish program, I now need to look at the

whole. I have primary oversight for our parish staff. This involves not only chairing staff meetings but seeking ways in which we can best work together. I also meet individually with many staff members. I work closely with the Wardens as we together stay on top of all that is happening at St. Alban's. Gordon Avery and I meet every other week and have been doing that for almost a year. I am involved in many parish programs from Every Member Pledge to the Building Committee. I work closely with the Vestry Communications Committee. We heard the parish's wish to have more information available and we have tried to respond. I am in the position of sharing financial oversight with the Vestry and we are trying very hard to make the details of our financial situation available to the parish.

Another large part of my work at St. Alban's is the work of an Interim. It is, as I call it, John the Baptist work. I am preparing the way for the new rector. To that end I created a new office for myself and for the new rector. Rector's Aid graciously allowed me to create an office out of their space and they relocated to the Rectory library. With a committee I have initiated improving Satterlee Hall. As we speak, all the parish offices are being painted and will be carpeted. Trenbath Assembly will be painted, new wall paper will be hung in the halls, and the Lychgate will be painted. We had a Work/Fun Day in October when parishioners cleaned much of our campus. I hope to organize a History Day in the late winter when we can hear each other's stories about St. Alban's. Some of us go back a long way! There is also much to tell and hear about our sanctuary. The stained glass windows have their own wonderful story.

I preach twice a month and do some pastoral work such as hospital and home visiting, wedding preparation, and funeral planning.

It is wonderful work. I said in a sermon and will say again here, God saved the best for last for me. St. Alban's is a joy to serve.

## *The Reverend Margot Critchfield* *Senior Associate Rector*

I'm so glad someone suggested each of the clergy write a piece for the Chronicle about what we do. I fear too many people still operate under the impression that clergy only work on Sundays, with the rest of their week spent reading, writing and praying in the solitude and quiet of their offices. No wonder they think they can drop by without an appointment, and expect to find a clergyperson available for them! Nothing makes me feel worse than having to turn someone away because of other, already-scheduled commitments.

I generally have two or three appointments with folks in my office each day; I try never to schedule more than four appointments in one day. These appointments involve everything from pastoral care to spiritual direction, pre-marital counseling to marriage counseling, hearing confessions to planning funerals. Mostly, they involve listening—both to the person in the chair across from me and to the Holy Spirit in the room.

My formal "portfolio" during this interim period includes: planning adult education programs like the series of Advent, Epiphany, Lenten and Easter evening programs and the "Great Speakers" program of guest preachers and teachers; leading the Theological Book Group, serving as clergy liaison for our EFM and DOCC programs; planning and leading seasonal



retreats and quiet days like the Advent retreat, Advent Quiet Day; the Ash Wednesday meditations, the Lenten and Palm Sunday retreats; overseeing pastoral care programs and providing pastoral care and spiritual formation like home and hospital visits, counseling of all sorts, monthly spiritual direction, funerals, weddings; overseeing seasonal liturgical planning; serving as clergy liaison to our lay readers, PVLEM's and altar guild; preparing the clergy's preaching schedule (or "Rota"), and editing liturgies.

Much like my previous career in the news business, there is no such thing as a "typical" day here at St. Alban's. "God does," as they say, "laugh at our plans."

No two days are the same, the pace is constantly shifting; there seems always to be "breaking news" and one must be both flexible and quick to respond to a frequently changing, dynamic environment. And much like the news business I also get to listen to people's stories, do a lot of research (except we call it "exegesis") and write quite a bit (sermons, articles, reports, proposals).

Finally, like so many of you, I spend more time in meetings

than I'd like to, and always seem to have an endless barrage of emails and phone messages competing for my attention. Those alone could consume my entire day if I let them!

But I try not to. Because no doubt the most challenging aspect of my ministry is setting priorities and boundaries. The work here is never finished. There's always more to do. One could easily work a minimum of 10-12 hours a day every day like so many Washingtonians (and clergy) do. Not me.

I am blessed with a family I adore and with whom I love to spend time. So as much as I love St. Alban's (and believe me, I love St Alban's!) I try very, very hard to guard my family time; Don and Grace are my first and most important ministry. I am profoundly grateful to be at such a family-friendly church that understands and appreciates that.

I hope that gives you a sense of what I do around here. It is truly a privilege and a joy to serve at St. Alban's. But you know what? Right now it's 5:30 and it's time for me to get home!

## *The Reverend Louis T. Wheeler, Jr.* *Assistant Rector*



**Sunday Worship**- Participate and provide clergy leadership for worship which includes preaching and liturgy review.

**Pastoral Care**- as needed by clergy in response to parishioners, phone calls and walk ins.

**Hospital/Home Visitations** – as needed by clergy.

**Funerals**- lead and participate in funerals of parish members and families.

Assisted in creating, facilitated, and provided clergy leadership/ideas for the following newly formed Ministries for St. Alban's:

**Tuesday Evening Reflective Bible Study**- held every Tuesday evening, 7:00- 8:30pm Participants seek to better understand the Bible and discuss how it relates to everyday life. The group reads and reflects on a particular Bible passage and examines the way God speaks to where we are in our daily lives individually and collectively.

**Cancer Support Ministry**- Initial meeting held in September, group will resume meeting in January 06.

**Friends 20's/30's Ministry**- New ministry seeking to serve the faith needs of people in their 20s and 30s. First meeting was held Sunday, October 16th. Next scheduled meeting is Sunday, November 13th 6:30 pm in the rectory.

**Financial Assistance** - Financial Assistance Initiative. Met with DCEF and finalizing a letter of agreement to create a partnership which will provide screening and distribution of funding (from portions of clergy discretionary funds) for rental and utility assistance to residents requesting financial assistance.

**Newcomer Call Coordinator**- Call back newcomers to St. Alban's requesting a clergy phone call. Review newcomer cards and assign vestry volunteers names to contact newcomers to discuss areas of interest and opportunities for lay ministry at St. Alban's.



## *The Reverend Douglas A. Greenaway* *Assistant Rector*

One of the great privileges of my full time advocacy vocation and my priestly vocation at St. Alban's is that they allow me blend two aspects of a ministry of service in God's vineyard

I direct WIC (Women, Infants and Children) a non-profit,

non-governmental social justice organization committed to providing the essential nutrients found lacking in the diets of the nation's low-income and working poor families. Currently, 8.0 million at-risk women, infants and children participate in WIC. I am grateful for our Church's support in this effort, indeed, the Presiding Bishop has written to me of his support and the support of the Episcopal Church for the work of the WIC Program.

I advocate for WIC services before the Administration, Congress to ensure that WIC is funded to meet caseload needs. In any one week, I spend perhaps 1/4th to 1/3rd of my time on Capitol Hill.

Our organization, the National WIC Association (NWA), hosts several conferences annually, publishes a nutrition education calendar offered to WIC participants, and other publications. I coordinate and serve as an ex-officio member of NWA's Board of Directors.

As the Church embraces my role on behalf of WIC, the membership of NWA embraces my role in the Church – occasionally calling upon me to provide pastoral support, celebrate marriages, and officiate at funerals. Which leads me to my role here at St. Alban's. It is a joy for me to be present with you, each weekend when I am not on travel, to preach, and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in the church or at the Washington Home and Hospice. I am humbled by the privilege to proclaim from time to time the Gospel and to carry the Gospel and the sacrament to members of our parish community who may be in hospital or who are shut-in. On request, I am privileged to offer pastoral counseling support, pre-marital and bereavement counseling, celebrate marriages and officiate at funerals. For many Sundays I have led an informal bible study group that meets in the parish library between the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services.

I meet with our parish's wonderful team of healing ministers and the Washington Home and Hospice team. Most recently, I provided pastoral support for the youth pilgrimage to Greece and have begun training to serve as a facilitator in the Disciples of Christ in Community.

Serving the Lord and these two communities – NWA and St. Alban's – is a fulfilling and joyous experience for me. I can think of nowhere else that I would rather be than to serve in these two wonderful, warm and welcoming communities.



## *The Reverend Loren Mead* *Honorary Associate Rector*

Loren B. Mead, with his wife, Polly, has been a member of St. Alban's since 1976 when the family moved to the neighborhood—down 36th Street.

For much of the time he has been here he was president of the Alban Institute, which he founded in 1974— it was an institute that worked on dynamics of local congregations -- research, publication, education, and consulting. Loren retired from the Institute in 1994, since when he has continued teaching and consulting in a number of denominations. His consulting has led him to a number of denominations overseas, including England, Scotland, Canada, Germany, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. His professional work led him to work with others to adapt

behavioral science research and methods to the strengthening of religious organizations, especially congregations. At Alban he led in bringing 'organization development' skills and consultation methods to religious organizations.

His current interests are leading him to work on issues of church finance, of what "mission" is all about, how 'culture' and 'belief' relate, and how clergy are prepared for leadership. He is the author of a number of books between 1973 and 2005.

When Loren retired from the Alban Institute he became an honorary member of St. Alban's staff. He regularly is the celebrant at the Tuesday morning Eucharist.

Loren and Polly are parents of four children and have six grandchildren.

# A Letter from the Diocese of Louisiana

Although it has been two months since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita devastated Southern Louisiana, very few of our parishes are either functional or in a recovery mode. Large sections of New Orleans remain without power, some will not have electricity for 10 – 12 months. While most areas are allowing residents to return during daylight hours, some will not be open for 1 – 2 years because of the toxicity of the soil. The biggest problem we have is a total lack of housing which is a double edged sword. First, the residents cannot re-enter the city while they sort out their lives. Second, there are absolutely no accommodations for the many volunteers who are eager to give a helping hand.

That's the bad news, now let me share some good things that are happening. The cathedral in New Orleans is up and running as not only a house of worship; but, as a major resource center, distributing goods and materials to over 200 families a day. Trinity New Orleans is establishing a mobile meal program to reach out into the communities as people return. They are also developing a critical incident responder ministry to offer mental health services to those being re-traumatized as they come back to the devastation of their homes. And lastly, Trinity is establishing an office for a Reconciliation Specialist to be an advocate for the disenfranchised and marginalized as New Orleans reshapes itself. St. George's New Orleans is establishing a café for residents and workers to feed them before they have to leave the city each night. Holy Comforter Church, while being in an area that will not recover in the near term, is being developed as a major resource center. FEMA and the Corp of Engineers are setting up a headquarter camp next to the church and will be the destination of thousands of people seeking help. With that in mind, Holy Comforter will be set up as a distribution center for goods and provision as well as respite center with meals and mental health professionals. Each of these will need partners to help underwrite these ministries. Holy Comforter will be in need of volunteers to help make this resource center a reality for all who come to them. At this time anyone wanting to volunteer would need to be totally self-sufficient, i.e. motor home, food, provisions, medicines, etc.

There will be other churches "coming on line" as communities begin to recover and we will work with interested churches in establishing long term relationships them. God bless you for your prayers and offers of help, this will a long term recovery and rebuilding effort.

In Christ's Name,  
Archdeacon Dennis McManis  
Director Office of Disaster Response  
The Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana

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

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