

# St. Alban's Chronicle

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

## Giving Back: One Face of Stewardship



If you're around Satterlee Hall much on weekdays, you've noticed the painting and general refurbishing going on there. And you've probably seen the same lanky worker patiently scraping, spackling or painting every morning, most afternoons, and... does this man ever go home?

Parishioner Don Durkee is putting stewardship into daily practice, giving of his time and considerable skills to care for our church home. In a juxtaposition of coincidence and grace, we needed a Don Durkee at about the same time he needed to give.

An attorney, Don recently retired from 42 years of government service. He's been fixing up buildings since moving to his first home in Dupont Circle in 1975, with a special affinity for drywall and spackling. "Of course my own home has cracks in the wall," he wryly confesses, but he still appears each day at St. Alban's because, for Don, it's the right thing to do. His friend (and St. Alban's vestry member) Bob Witten speaks of Don's "labor of love," in the deepest sense of the word.

He is here because of what St. Alban's has meant to his family – his teenage son John, and his wife, Kate Sullivan. Kate died in May 2004 after a courageous struggle with cancer, one she shared with many in this Parish. Don believes that the love and support that embraced them are gifts he wants to repay. He wants to set that example for his son.

"I don't know what I'd be doing right now if not this," he reflects. "I'm not a 'group' person. I tend to be an introvert, and I can calmly think about other things as I work. I am comfortable on the edge." Others from the St. Joseph's Guild join Don to work on Thursday evenings.

*Continued on Page 3*

## To note

### Christmas Eve Services

4 pm, 5:30 pm, 8 pm, and, 11 pm

### Christmas Day Services

8 am & 10:30

No Children's Chapel or Nursery.

No 5:30 pm service

### New Year's Day Services

8 am & 10:30 am

No Children's Chapel or Nursery.

No 5:30 pm service

### Twelfth Night/Epiphany Eve Potluck

Thursday, January 5, 6:30 pm.

Celebrate the Twelfth Night with a potluck dinner, worship service and "house" blessing of the newly-referbished Satterlee Hall



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**

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 Ron Hicks, Director of Operations  
 Norman Scribner, Director of Music  
 Vilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs  
 Sonya Subbaya Sutton, Director for Parish Music Ministries  
 Jane Volkema, Director of Communications and Evangelism

**OFFICE STAFF**

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 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**

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 Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:30 am - 4:30 pm  
 E-mail: First nameLast initial@st-albans-parish.org  
 Web site: www.AlbansDC.org



# New Orleans needs volunteers on the ground

*Derrick Crowe, parishioner*

My wife and I returned on Sunday, Nov. 27, from New Orleans. We joined seven others on a trip organized by St. John's Episcopal Church to help families and churches affected by the recent hurricanes. New Orleans still desperately needs volunteers, and there

are not enough hands working to get people back on their feet.



Recent media coverage of zoo openings and Bourbon Street parties obscures what we found in the middle- and low-income neighborhoods: miles and miles of abandoned, silent homes. There are no construction sounds. Streets are clear, an enormously helpful accomplishment, but there are no signs of the masses of volunteers we expected.

In the four days we worked in New Orleans, I recall seeing only two other families working without our help. The reason is simple: they have no place to sleep while they work. They have to travel from wherever they've dispersed to.



We firmly believe in the power of showing up. Don't get me wrong, your monetary donations are needed, but checks from faceless strangers cannot compare to someone showing up in work clothes to help. Our group could only help four families and one church. But at every turn, we were met by gracious, tearful people grateful for each extra pair of hands cleaning out the muck that used to be their lives. These people can use your money. But they need your love. And love means showing up.

St. Alban's is participating in the Washington Episcopalians Respond to Katrina (WERK) group. We are organizing a trip

for after Christmas, and I hope you will consider joining us. Come for all or any part of the period December 26-Jan 2. I won't lie to you; the work is dirty, difficult, and, in many cases, disgusting. But it is the work God has put before us, and it is the work families need us to do.

If you want to learn more about the after-Christmas trip, or if you want to stay updated on the Gulf Coast Revival Group at St. Alban's, contact Derrick Crowe at [derrickccrowe@hotmail.com](mailto:derrickccrowe@hotmail.com).



Raised a Roman Catholic, Don was brought up to value service. He was drawn into St. Alban's to give John a faith foundation and join Kate in activities like Foyers. He is fed by the music in St. Alban's Sunday worship, as was Kate. Don considers himself a seeker and questioner, and he appreciates the forums and stimulating parish discussions. "This community is amazing – it's diversity, it's honesty."

Don likes the fact that his efforts benefit the many people who use Satterlee Hall, not just the church staff. He believes it's been a good transition into a retirement that sounds nothing like taking it easy: he's added Spanish classes on Monday evenings, dancing (tango!) on Tuesdays, and carrying on Kate's tradition of baking muffins every other Wednesday – for all on top of parenting and cooking for John.

This quiet man understands that true stewardship is not time *or* talent *or* treasure; it's every part of our lives. He and John helped in the church kitchen on Thanksgiving Day, preparing dinner for many in our neighborhood who have grown to depend on this event. He's turned in his pledge for next year. "It is very important to me to write that check each month," he says. "It's a continuing reminder of needing to pay my dues."

Don says that St. Alban's is Kate's gift to him. It is a gift that keeps on giving.

# January Parish Forum schedule

10:30 am Sundays, Satterlee Hall

## January 8th

**The Rev. Margot Critchfield and Pat Petrash**

### **"After the Holidays: A Follow-Up on Alcohol and Drug Dependence at Home and at Work"**

At popular request, we are having a follow-up forum on carrying out interventions for those who are alcohol and/or drug dependent. We will also be talking about issues that came up during the Christmas and New Year holidays, when these substances are more available than at other times of the year. The forum will feature the Rev. Margot Critchfield and Pat Petrash a therapist with considerable experience in working with those with these dependencies. It will be a relatively short forum, as baptisms at the 9:15 service will curtail its time somewhat, but will still provide an opportunity for questions and discussion.

## January 15th

### **"Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday"**

We are planning a special program for this special Sunday on a theme related to the work of Dr. King. We have extended an invitation to a well-regarded speaker and are awaiting that person's response. Will keep you posted.

## January 22nd

**Rite 13 Service and Party.** No forum.

## January 29th

**Ambassador Samuel W. Lewis**

### **"Political Earthquake in Israel: Is Peace Closer or Farther Away?"**

The title says it all. Our own Sam Lewis will talk about his view of changes taking place in the Middle East that could make a difference in the current situation in Israel. No speaker could be better qualified to address this topic. Sam served as a career diplomat for 33 years, holding such posts as Director of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff under President Clinton, Ambassador to Israel for eight years under Presidents Carter and Reagan, Assistant Secretary for International Organizations under President Ford, and Senior NSC Staff Member under President Johnson, as well as assignments to overseas posts in Afghanistan, Brazil, and Italy. He also served as the first President and CEO of the U.S. Institute of Peace.



# Parish Forum

## Reviews:

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).

### *“A Word from our Diocesan Delegates”*

Our diocesan delegates, Katie Wilson, Rich Turner, Sandra Barker, and Bill Hall, were introduced by Sunday Forum Committee member Bob Wolfolk (husband of Jane Schubert, a diocesan delegate who couldn't attend).

Our delegates took turns describing the preparation for the upcoming Diocesan Convention in January 2006. There were a series of four meetings held for the six regions in the diocese at which delegates were briefed on preparation and the status of the budget. Committees were formed through a nomination process.

Bishop Chane talked to the delegates about the “Three Years Out” campaign that involves an evaluation of his tenure as bishop up till now, as well as a call for future enhancements to lay leader training, networking and communications between parishes, fewer turf wars, and more team effort. Bishop Chane was described as inspiring and motivational in his call to “Do more, give more and to be more.” A recent survey showed vast and deep hunger for a partnership network amongst churches in the area.

The use of the Soper Fund proceeds continues to be a matter of interest. Once used to generate grants to parishioners and parishes in the diocese, these funds have been used for the past two years as income for the diocesan operating budget. Initially the Council viewed this current arrangement as temporary and had hoped that fundraising within the diocese would offset the Soper contribution over a period of five years. That expectation, however, is not being met and the future use of the Soper Funds for the budget continues to be a matter of discussion. Given by Ruth Soper for unrestricted use within the Diocese of Washington, the Soper Fund

is currently valued at over \$27 million and generates over \$1 million in interest annually.

While the financial situation of the diocese mirrors that of our church and others, there was also discussion regarding the job of bishop being too big for one person and the need for a full time Suffragan Bishop is being suggested.

—Chris Larsen and Katie Wilson

### *“Addiction and Recovery: Science and Spirituality”*

Just what drug and/or alcohol dependence involves and how the AA 12-Step Program helps those affected to recover and get back their lives were the focus of the Sunday Forum on November 20. Our speakers were Peter J. Cohen, M.D., J.D., chair of the Physician Health Committee of the D.C. Medical Society and a member of the Legal Counseling Committee of the D.C. Bar, and the Rev. Margot Critchfield.

Dr. Cohen pointed out that over 50 percent of people surveyed at a recent scientific meeting knew of someone who is drug or alcohol dependent; 30 percent knew of someone who has died of that condition. Yet it is a disease that is still “in the closet,” denied by addicts and those around them and stigmatized by society. It can lead not only to physical, but also to spiritual death. There are specific criteria by which drug or alcohol dependence can be diagnosed, such as: (1) having a need for increasingly larger amounts of the substance to achieve the desired effect; (2) trying to stop using without success; (3) spending considerable time in obtaining the substance; (4) giving up important social, occupational and recreational activities; (5) continuing to use, despite being aware of persistent physical or psychological problems made worse by the substance.

The Rev. Margot Critchfield explained the 12 Steps Program of Alcoholics Anonymous as a “spiritual tool kit.” Those attending have tried, on their own, to control their use of alcohol and/or drugs and have found it hopeless. They can go on to the bitter end and blot out consciousness—or they can get spiritual help. They turn to the 12-Step Program

out of desperation to find the spiritual tools for a spiritual transformation. There, they work to see things they don't normally want to see. They acknowledge that they are powerless over their condition, but that a Greater Power can restore them to sanity and take away what has made them toxic. Acknowledging past wrong-doing and making amends for are a significant part of the program – terrifying some people. Yet, they find that they are changing despite themselves and caring about others. The program is transforming, for AA members sense that they share in a common peril and aim to live happy, free lives.

A range of issues came up in discussion, perhaps the most pressing of which was how to help others who are drug dependent. At popular request, we will have a forum on January 8th to talk about how to engage in an intervention and issues that arose over the holidays.

—Cynthia B. Cohen

## Service notes

*There will be no  
Children's Chapel,  
Nursery Care or  
5:30 pm services on  
Sundays, December 25  
and January 1.*



*If there were no truck, these congregations could not be served.*



## St. Alban's in Manicaland

*By Ray Copson*

In Zimbabwe's Manicaland Province, Fr. Webster Simbabwe and Winnie Simbabwe continue to carry out their very challenging ministry at rural St. Faith's Parish, near Rusape. They are doing so with the help of a Mazda pickup truck purchased two years ago under a St. Alban's Transformation Campaign grant.

Zimbabwe is a collapsed state — food is costly and in short supply; the currency is in freefall; the communications, transportation, and electrical systems have broken down; and the poor face mounting difficulties at every hand. Yet Webster and Winnie are bringing the Christian message of hope and of God's continuing love to the people of Rusape, and the trusty St. Alban's-purchased Mazda is integral to all their efforts. On Sundays and throughout the week, they and the parish lay ministers conduct worship services, weddings, and funerals, as well as education and bible study classes for 15 remote congregations that have little other contact with the outside world. If there were no truck, these congregations could not be served. The truck is an ambulance for the area, carrying the sick, including AIDS patients, to health facilities, and it often brings back nurses and other skilled medical personnel to conduct open-air village clinics. As

Webster says, there are no single-purpose journeys. The truck is vital to the microenterprise projects Winnie has organized. It takes eggs to market from a parish-



sponsored program, and often returns with supplies for a candle-making project. The candles are sold for pennies and provide the only light at night in surrounding rural homes. The truck transports maize meal and rice for a daily church-sponsored feeding program, and when these are unavailable, it brings back what vegetables can be found for a parish "stone soup."

The Mazda too must be fed, however, if it is to continue its work in Rusape. A tank of

gasoline is now running at \$80, and the tires, which also cost about \$80 each, are swiftly wearing out on the region's rough roads. The St. Alban's Africa Roundtable has made regular contributions to maintaining the truck, but an extra boost is needed at this time for gas, servicing, and replacement parts. If you would like to help, perhaps by purchasing a half tank of gas or a tire to give in someone's name for Christmas, please consider putting a check in the plate any Sunday made out to St. Alban's Parish and marked "Africa Roundtable" in the memo line. Mailed checks are also welcome. For further information, visit the Africa Roundtable page at [www.AlbansDC.org](http://www.AlbansDC.org), click on Outreach and Our World, or contact Russell Ayers [rcayers@saia.org](mailto:rcayers@saia.org), 703-751-7951 or Ray Copson [ray@copson.org](mailto:ray@copson.org), 703 758-0347.



# Parish Services & Events

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## Christmas Losses, Christmas Light: An Advent Service of Anticipation

*Wednesday, December 21, 6:30 pm supper, 7 pm service*

For some, the nonstop merriment of the secular Christmas season – our Advent – brings a sense of emptiness. By the time we sing “Joy to the World” on Christmas Eve, our unease, ambivalence, or even deep sorrow stands in sharp contrast to the mood around us. We may feel isolated in the presence of so much happy togetherness. If you recognize those feelings or are coping with a significant loss, come worship with us on Wednesday, December 21.

The Healing Ministry and Clergy of St. Alban’s have planned “Christmas Losses, Christmas Light: An Advent Service of Anticipation” to acknowledge conflicting emotions, honor memories, welcome hope, and remind us that this Jesus for whom we wait comes as a Light in the Darkness. Join us for supper at 6:30, a 7 pm service, and dessert following. Feel free to participate in any part of the evening. In the meantime, here are a few suggestions to help you through a season that may be very trying:

Plan ahead. Recognize your limits, then consider what you can and can’t do. Let family or friends know your plans, but you don’t have to meet others’ expectations.

Reinforce daily routines. Plenty of rest and nourishment for your body and soul are extra important, so make a commitment to good self-care.

Embrace comforting traditions. Some may bring tears, but they are full of good memories, too. If a long-standing tradition is too painful, however, it’s time to create a new one – Jesus comes to offer new life.

Listen in quiet. In the busyness of seasonal activities, save quiet times. Use them to reflect on your journey thus far and listen for God’s word.

It’s okay to be sad – and okay to celebrate. It’s easy to cling to sadness out of doubts that we can – or should – feel happiness. Acknowledge these feelings, but cherish each joyful moment and let it give rise to others. God is with you in both places.

If you have questions, contact Elizabeth Fisher at 202-223-3493 or the Rev. Carlyle Gill at 202-363-8286 ext. 201.

## Christmas Day

*Sunday, December 25*

8 am & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist with St. Alban’s Parish Choir at 10:30 service. Preacher: the Rev. Douglas A. Greenaway  
*No Children’s Chapel, Nursery or 5:30 pm service*

## Christmas Day Community Dinner

*Sunday, December 25*

For many years, St. Alban’s has hosted a Christmas Day Community Dinner providing food and merriment to parishioners and neighbors. Last year, over 120 diners reveled in the spirit of the season with a banquet of ham and turkey, with all the trimmings. Volunteer opportunities abound. Watch our publications for details, and plan to attend and lend a hand. Contact: Jane and Nick Karas 301-853-8910 (w), 301-263-1095 (h), [karas@comcast.net](mailto:karas@comcast.net)

## New Year’s Day

*Sunday, January 1, 2006*

8 am & 10:30 am Holy Eucharist with St. Alban’s Parish Choir at 10:30 service. Preacher: the Rev. Louis T. Wheeler, Jr.  
*No Children’s Chapel, Nursery or 5:30 pm service*

PARISH OFFICE: 202-363-8286

# Rites of Passage

*As of September 2005*

## *Baptized*

Corbin Ellis Callaway  
Annabell Beckwith Cameron  
Lindsay Robyn Crosse  
Grayson Alexander Davis  
Ethan Christopher Jansen  
Melissa Elizabeth Jansen  
Sarah Reed Keating  
Veniamin Neal Sergeevich Kuzichev  
Bridget Rose Mercer  
Audrey Fulton Scott  
Isabella Sophia Volz

## *Confirmations*

David Randell Boone  
Jennifer Louise Gribskov

## *Marriages*

Phillip Hughey and  
Christina Pino-Marina  
Thomas Barr and  
Minh Trai Woods  
Thomas Honey and  
Vanessa Oldenkamp  
F. Scott Arnold and  
Lisa Moreno  
Rufus King and  
Barbara Stevens

## *Transfers to St. Alban's*

Deborah Atwood  
Brooke Coburn  
Patrick Fleming  
Susan Hall  
Cjrstina Hughey  
Elizabeth Mills  
Phoebe Patterson  
Tanner Patterson  
William Porter, Jr.  
John Sides  
Karlyn Stanley  
Charlotte Troup-Filyaw  
Lucille Troup-Filyaw  
Morgan Troup-Filyaw  
Serena Wille  
Marcia Wilson

# Twelfth-Night service and potluck

*Thursday, January 5, 6:30 pm, Trenbath Assembly*

Celebrate the Twelfth Night with a potluck dinner, Holy Eucharist and "house" blessing of the newly-referbished Satterlee Hall.

Bring your favorite dish to pass for the potluck dinner.

St. Alban's Clergy will led us through Satterlee Hall as we bless the rooms and offices with a prayer, lighting a candle and incense. Dating back to the earliest days of Christianity, the ritual of the house blessing typically happened during the Epiphany, the 12 holy days after Christmas. In the Christian faith, house blessings are primarily a tradition in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Episcopal Church. Other faiths have similar rituals, like the mezuzah posted in doorways in Jewish homes, the blessing by Buddhist monks, or the burning of herbs done in some Native American religions.

Also, all those who helped with the restoration Satterlee Hall are encouraged to attend to be recognized for their hard work. If you helped with the Parish Cleaning Day, painting, moving furniture, etc., be sure you attend.

# Mustard Seed Offering

The December 20 Mustard Seed Offering will go to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) to support those affected by drought and the subsequent food crisis in the southern African nation of Malawi.

Nearly four million people in Malawi are at risk of starvation, and only sporadic rains have resulted in little to no harvests. ERD is supplying emergency assistance to the Diocese of Northern Malawi for food, such as maize and seeds for the next planting season. ERD's partnership with the diocese will also train 25 farmers in eight communities on soil and water conservation and improving soil fertility.

The Rt. Rev. James Tengatenga, Bishop of Southern Malawi, said "We are using the parish church, the priest, and the

local village heads to distribute food supplies after the village heads have identified the most needy people."

For more information, visit the website [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org). One can contribute online; by calling 1-800-334-7626 ext. 5129; via mail to: Episcopal Relief and Development, Africa Relief Fund, PO Box 12043, Newark, NJ 07101. Please be prayerfully generous during the offertory at the worship services on December 20.

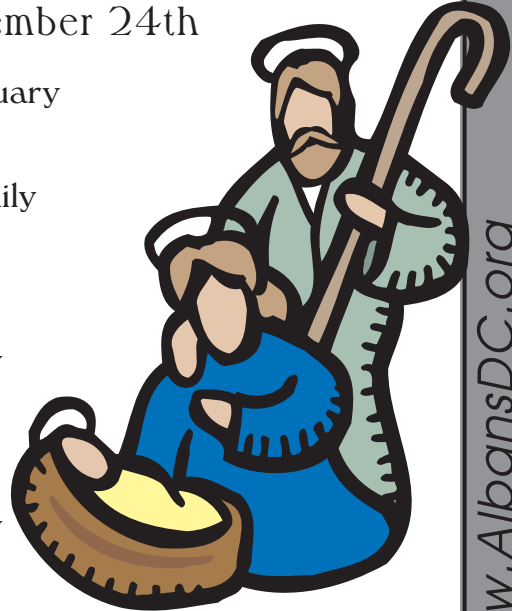


# St. Alban's Episcopal Church

202-363-8286 3001 Wisconsin Ave., NW (at Wisconsin & Mass.)

## Christmas Eve ~ Saturday, December 24th

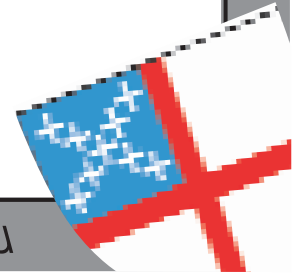
- 4:00 pm Holy Eucharist in the Little Sanctuary  
at St. Albans School
- 5:30 pm Children's Christmas Pageant Family  
Service with Holy Eucharist
- 7:30 pm Choral Prelude, Parish Choir
- 8:00 pm Festival Celebration of the Nativity  
of our Lord with Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 pm Choral Prelude, Senior Choir
- 11:00 pm Festival Celebration of the Nativity  
of our Lord with Holy Eucharist



www.AlbansDC.org

## Christmas Day ~ Sunday, December 25th

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Christmas Carols



The Episcopal Church welcomes you

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, and Jane Volkema

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St. Alban's

