

# St. Alban's Chronicle

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

January 1, 2006

## Epiphany Program with the Rev. Canon Michael Wyatt

### “AKA God”

*Six-week course, Thursdays at 6:30 pm, beginning January 12*



“God never was a church exclusive,” says the Washington National Cathedral’s Canon Michael Wyatt. In the last 100 years, Alcoholics Anonymous, *A Course in Miracles*, and philosopher-psychologist Ken Wilber’s approach to life, have changed the way some people think about how God works. What is found in these programs that isn’t found in the Church? Are such claims as the following in conflict with what the Church claims, or are they compatible?

- Trust in a Higher Power, however understood, relieves alcoholism.
- Healing is nothing more than the replacing of fear with love.
- A marriage between sense and soul is possible and necessary for the spiritual evolution of humanity.

Explore these three worldviews with Canon Wyatt, discussing how they interact with more historic faith traditions. In this six-week course, we will both read and share experiences with these movements, and consider their implications for more traditional faiths.

The Rev. Canon Michael Wyatt is a Canon Theologian and Director of Education at the Cathedral College, Washington National Cathedral, and a highly-regarded teacher and preacher with particular expertise in religious education to both the church and the un-churched. Canon Wyatt’s work with the Cathedral College includes a focus on Biblical scholarship and interfaith initiatives.

Register to attend by calling the Parish Office receptionist at 202-363-8286, or sign up on Sundays in the Narthex.

## To note

**New Year’s Day Services**  
8 am & 10:30 am

**Parish Office closed**  
Monday, January 2nd.

### **Twelfth-Night Celebration**

Thursday, January 5, 6:30 pm  
Celebrate the Twelfth Night with a potluck dinner, worship service and “house” blessing of the newly-refurbished Satterlee Hall.

*See back page for details.*

### **St. Alban’s Early Childhood Center (SAECC) Annual Meeting**

January 25, 6 – 7 pm, Nourse Hall  
Members of St. Alban’s Parish are invited to attend. SAECC is located on the 3rd floor in Satterlee Hall and had been apart of the parish’s community for over 30 years.



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

*Sunday 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 for a cassette tape (\$3.00).*

**"At Home with St. Nicolas"**

Perhaps inspired by the feast day of St. Nicholas on December 6th, Elizabeth Fisher, St. Alban's parishioner and classics professor at George Washington University, presented a slide show and talk, "At Home With St. Nicholas," at the December 4th Sunday Forum.

Touching briefly on some of the legends of St. Nicholas (redeeming a poor man's three daughters from a life of prostitution by throwing three bags of gold through their window at night; reviving and restoring life to three boys who had been pickled by a butcher; quelling a storm at sea on a journey to the Holy Land), she then proceeded to take us on an encounter with the St. Nicholas beneath the legend. Through slides and narrative of her own visit to the area in southwestern Turkey that was the birthplace and bishopric of St. Nicholas of Myra, we walked the land where this saint is said to have worked so many miracles and where he was buried.

St. Nicholas, revered for being a gift-giver, is the patron and protector of children and sailors, among others. The legends surrounding him down through the centuries have made him larger than life, but Elizabeth's talk evoked the man who was St. Nicholas. This forum was a wonderful Advent gift to us.

—Noell Sottile

**"Welcoming the Stranger: Episcopal Migration Ministries"**

At the Sunday Forum on December 11, St. Alban's parishioner Dick Parkins discussed the work of the Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM) in resettling displaced individuals and advocating public policy. Dick is the director of EMM, which is based at the national church office in New York.

Refugees are individuals who have been forced to leave their home countries because of racial or religious discrimination, or because of their political affiliation. Such individuals fall under the jurisdiction and protections of the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR).

Dick explained that there are three options for refugees. First, they could be repatriated voluntarily and their repatriation would be monitored by the UNHCR. Second, they could be locally integrated in the country of first asylum. This option, however, rarely occurs. Third, the refugees could be resettled. Approximately 50-55 thousand are resettled in the United States, representing a small fraction of the potential refugee population. Dick noted that there has been a precipitous decline in resettlement in the United States since September 11. Many millions of refugees, who are not resettled, languish in "protracted situations of suffering and neglect."

At this point in the Forum presentation, parishioners watched a fifteen-minute film produced by EMM about settlement of refugees in Episcopal churches and families.

Thousands of asylum seekers are in American detention centers, and there is a need for pastoral outreach to them. EMM provides this. Dick also cited the Secure America Act, which is trying to cope with the problem of undocumented workers and the push by several members of Congress to include language to assist in the progressive, orderly, and legal increase of immigrants. Dick observed that immigration policy that is only enforcement-based is not feasible, and that it is far more humane to let immigrants enter the United States, be fairly paid, and be reunited with their families.

—Dennis Johnson

# January Parish Forums

10:30 am Sundays, Satterlee Hall

## January 8

The Rev. Margot Critchfield, Pat Petrash and Prue Hoppin — “After the Holidays: A Follow-Up on Alcohol and Drug Dependence at Home and at Work”

By 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, 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 15

Marion Wright Edelman — “Leave No Child Behind”

On January 15, Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children's Defense Fund (CDF) will speak at the Sunday forum. On a day when we remember Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and those who joined him in the civil rights movement, Dr. Edelman will address the challenge of fulfilling his and our dream of leaving no child behind.

Dr. Edelman, a graduate of Spelman College and Yale Law School, began her career in the mid-60s when, as the first black woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar, she directed the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund office in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1968, she moved to Washington, D.C.,

as counsel for the Poor People's Campaign that Dr. King began organizing before his death. She founded the Washington Research Project, a public interest law firm and the parent body of the Children's Defense Fund. For two years, she served as the Director of the Center for Law and Education at Harvard University and in 1973 began the Children's Defense Fund.

She has received over one hundred honorary degrees and many awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, and a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship. In 2000, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings which include eight books.

## January 22

Rite 13 Service and Party. No forum.

## January 29

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.

## Mustard Seed Offering

The January 15 Mustard Seed Offering will go to Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM). The Director of EMM, Dick Parkins, St. Alban's parishioner, gave an eloquent presentation concerning this humanitarian ministry at the December 11 Sunday Parish Forum.

EMM is an outreach ministry of the National Church that focuses particularly on refugee resettlement and advocacy on behalf of displaced people. A video shown at the forum showed how welcoming refugees and their families has brought significant blessings to the host parishes.

Please be prayerfully generous during the offertory at all services on January 15. You can learn more about EMM at [www.episcopalchurch.org/emm](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/emm) or by calling 1-800-334-7626.

The plight of displaced people is particularly relevant in this season of Epiphany, as depicted here in EMM's logo.



## Award Honor: Cynthia Cohen

St. Alban's parishioner, and coordinator of our Sunday Parish Forums, Cynthia Cohen, received the J. Irwin Miller Award from the General Assembly of the National Council of Churches because of her contributions to the council's work in bioethics. Cynthia is a senior research fellow at the Kennedy Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University.

## Twelfth-Night celebration

See back for details

# Twelfth-Night Celebration

blessing of the

newly-refurbished Satterlee Hall

with potluck supper & worship service

*Thursday, January 5, 6:30 pm*

St. Alban's clergy will lead 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 was typically performed during the Epiphany, the 12 holy days after Christmas.

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck dinner. Beverages will be provided.

A simple service of Holy Eucharist will be held in Trenbath Assembly, with readings and music of the season, with the Women's Voices of St. Alban's.

**All those who helped with the refurbishment of Satterlee Hall are encouraged to attend and be recognized for their hard work.**

*A celebration for all ages*

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

Articles for the January 15, 2006 *Chronicle* must be received by January 1, 2006

Articles for the February 1, 2006 *Chronicle* must be received by January 15, 2006

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

St. Alban's *Chronicle* (USPS 560-600) is a periodical published twice-monthly (except in June, July and August when it is monthly) by: St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC. Postmaster: send address changes to St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016-5099.

**Chronicle**  
St. Alban's

