

# St. Alban's Chronicle

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

April 1, 2006

## "Via Crucis" by Franz Liszt at the Good Friday Three Hours Service

*Sonya Subbayya Sutton, Director for Parish Music Ministries*

The Three Hours service on Good Friday, noon until 3 pm, will use the storytelling power of the traditional fourteen Stations of the Cross to help us enter into the Passion narrative more fully, giving us a way to pray this story. The story of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection have been told by his followers from the earliest days, and, beginning in the 16th century, European towns would create replicas of the Way of the cross, creating a processional walk with stops for prayer at each Station, as a form of pilgrimage. Over time this became the set of fourteen Stations as we know them now, and are seen most often, but not exclusively, in Catholic churches.

*Via Crucis*, or Way of the Cross, was composed in the 1870's by Franz Liszt while he was living in Rome and winding down from a wildly flamboyant life as the most famous pianist of the century. Liszt took minor Holy Orders (as he had hoped to do early in his life, against his family's wishes) in 1865, and in the last two decades of his life he increasingly sought quiet and times of solitude for prayer and meditation.

His interest in new and experimental music was always strong, but his compositions took this even further in his final years, anticipating harmonic and other musical changes to come some fifty years later. In creating these radically intense miniatures that make up the *Via Crucis*, Liszt threw out all dramatic or musical conventions. In fact, no one would publish or perform this music until more than 50 years after his death in 1886. The texts were

gathered from the Bible and traditional sources by Carolyne Sayn von Wittgenstein, the second of his two most important companions, but Liszt used the text sparingly, giving only turning points in the Passion narrative, without much detail. This simplicity leaves space for listeners to more fully contemplate the story of each Station, and perhaps further, to experience some consolation as we walk our own Way of the Cross in knowing that Jesus fully shares our suffering and the death we face. The music is stark, audacious, avant-garde for its time and perhaps even still. What Liszt makes very clear is that the actions of these three hours, and not the music, are the central focus.

Recalling the medieval roots of the Stations of the Cross, Liszt uses the 6th century Gregorian melody *Vexilla Regis prodeunt* as the primary inspiration for this work. The first three notes – going up a whole step and then a minor third – become a symbol of the cross itself and recur throughout the composition. Another medieval Latin hymn that expresses Mary's profound sorrow at witnessing the death of her son, *Stabat mater dolorosa* is heard with piercing clarity in several movements. Two German chorales, *Herzlich tut mich verlangen* and *O Traurigkeit* provide the most traditional sounding moments of the work.

St. Alban's Parish Choir, with soloists James Shaffran and Joan Phalen, will sing this work by Liszt, as well settings of *The Reproaches*, *Lamentations of Jeremiah* and *God so loved the world* during the Three Hours service on April 14.

## To note

### Daylight Saving Time begins

Don't forget to "spring forward" by setting your clocks *ahead* one hour before going to bed on Saturday, April 1.

### Fellowship Sunday

The Sunday, April 23 Fellowship Sunday will be hosted by Workers of St. Alban's. Come for delicious treats and learn all about WSA.

### Candidates' Forum

Sunday, April 30 at 10:30 am. This Parish Forum will feature those standing for Vestry and Diocesan Delegate.



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, Associate 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 Subbayya 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;  
Bill Bond, 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,  
Mary Jane Shackelford, 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

# Proposal to Amend the Parish By-laws

*Unanimously Approved by Vestry February 21, 2006*

St. Alban's by-laws require that any amendment to the by-laws be presented in writing to the parish at least 30 days before the Annual Meeting and approved by a majority vote at the meeting.

What is proposed: Allow Diocesan Delegates to stand for a second, successive term.

Reason for proposed change:

- Washington Diocese is placing increasing emphasis on regional and diocese-wide initiatives, calling for more leadership at that level.
- St. Alban's, along with St. Columba's, is the largest parish contributor to the Diocesan budget, but we have less influence on Diocesan affairs than many parishes.
- It has been difficult to elect St. Alban's parishioners to positions of influence or to have the visibility for key appointments partly because of term limits.
- Under the current by-laws, Diocesan Delegates are held to the same term restrictions as other elected leaders; if they serve a full three-year term (or more than a half-term), they cannot stand for re-election until one year has elapsed after the term's end.
- Many other parishes have been sending the same Delegates to Convention for more than a decade. It is often the same individuals running for office, or promoting those running for office, at every convention.

We wish to honor St. Alban's tradition of sharing leadership possibilities with a broad section of the parish and to avoid institutionalizing any one individual in a leadership role. Rather than considering longer terms, we propose making a second, consecutive term possible for those who are interested and willing to expand St. Alban's sphere of influence in the Diocese. The proposed new language is in capital letters and the omitted language appears as a strike-through:

Section 5. Diocesan Convention Delegates, Terms and Eligibility for Office.

- a. At least one Delegate to the annual Diocesan Convention shall be elected at the Annual Parish Meeting each year for a term of three years. The runner-up in the election for Delegate shall serve for one year as the Alternate Delegate. DELEGATES COMPLETING A THREE-YEAR TERM OR ANY PORTION THEREOF WHO SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THE PARISH'S ROLE IN THE DIOCESE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR ELECTION TO ONE ADDITIONAL TERM. ~~After a delegate has served a three year term or over one half thereof, he shall be eligible for election to another term as delegate after the lapse of one year after the end of such three year term.~~

## Parish Pledging for 2006

*Jo Turner and Keith Jones, Stewardship Co-chairs*

Here are the results (*as of February 21, 2006*) of the All for One 2006 campaign, the annual pledge drive to fund parish operating expenses. As you know, this was a challenging time to raise money: our long-time rector retired, we are in a search for a great new rector known only to God, and we have been immersed in getting our building project off the ground. In fact, stewardship experts advised us that we would have a very hard year. This has not been entirely true.

You've already been told that St. Alban's closed 2005 in the black for the first time in four years, thanks to your response to an appeal from the pulpit and the conscientious more-than-fulfillment of pledges. Many of you are fulfilling capital campaign pledges as well; a lot is asked of God's people at St. Alban's!

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	2005 as of the 5/1/05 annual meeting	2006 as of 2/21/06
Pledges received	610	498
Amount pledged	\$1,334,026	\$1,225,308
Increased pledges	36%	45%
Decreased pledges	11%	12%
Unchanged pledges	40%	28%
New pledges	13%	15%
Average <i>total \$ divided by # of pledges</i>	\$2,186	\$2,490
Median <i>half of all pledges are above this amount, half are below</i>	\$1,100	\$1,500

	% of all pledges received		% of overall \$ pledged	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Over \$10,000	2.44	2.61	21.69	17.74
\$5,001-10,000	7.14	8.84	21.42	24.49
\$1,001-5,000	42.05	49.20	44.91	48.93
\$1,000 & below	48.38	39.6	11.99	8.84

In spite of the fact that fewer pledges have been received to date, we give thanks for the highest percent of increased pledges in recent history, and the number of new pledges continues to grow. The table provides information about how giving patterns among those who pledge are shifting in a healthy way.

We do not presume to know parishioners' personal or financial situations, and we are grateful for the many time-and-talent ways that so many give to St. Alban's. But we can't ignore the fact that in 2006, there is less money to do more work. Twenty percent of all pledges are for \$500 or less (a positive change from 26 percent in 2005) and here, as in other churches, there are still those who value worship, Christian education for their children, social opportunities and outreach ministries but do not pledge.

The Budget Committee and Vestry craft the annual operating budget based on pledges, striving for a balanced budget. This year, balancing the budget at current income levels will mean cuts that we all will feel. Covering significant and necessary costs of the rector search and relocation expense is complicated by the fact that some parishioners are waiting to see the results of that search before they pledge.

You can learn more about parish finances at the Annual Meeting on May 7 and in additional communications from the Vestry. Thank you for the ways that you have – and will – help St. Alban's navigate this challenging and exciting time. And of course it's never too late to pledge for the first time—or to increase your pledge.

## Holy Land Adventure:

### Vacation Bible School '06

*Kristie Hassett, VBS Coordinator*

This year, we are transforming our church into a little Holy Land village. Our "Holy Land Adventure" program will provide fun, memorable Bible-learning activities for families. Each day, parishioners of all ages will join in small groups, named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Family Tribes will come together for singing and to explore traditional Bible-times family life. They might visit the Census Taker, play authentic games, or sample Middle Eastern snacks. Tribe members will even explore a Holy Land marketplace where they will become apprentices in the Mosaic Shop and make clay toys in the Toy-Making Shop.

"'Holy Land Adventure' is a unique opportunity for everyone to experience Bible stories in an environment similar to their original setting," says Day Dodson,

who took a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Advent. "And the best part is that we will learn by becoming immersed in authentic Bible-times culture. We will participate and witness real-life dramas in the center of town, chat with shopkeepers about the Messiah, and discover what it was like to live in the Roman Empire. We hope Holy Land Adventure will make God's Word very real to the people in our community."

"Holy Land Adventure" begins on Monday, July 17 and continues through Friday, July 21, meeting each day from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Volunteer opportunities include: Shopkeepers, Drama Team Members, Village Playground Leaders, Census Taker, Kitchen Staff, Tribe Leaders and Gathering Leaders. We also need costume-makers and decorators! Registration forms will be mailed to Church School families and will also be available on the parish website. For additional information, contact Kristie Hassett at [krhassett@starpower.net](mailto:krhassett@starpower.net), 202-338-3375 or Maria Bowles at [mgbowles@starpower.net](mailto:mgbowles@starpower.net), 202-337-0718.

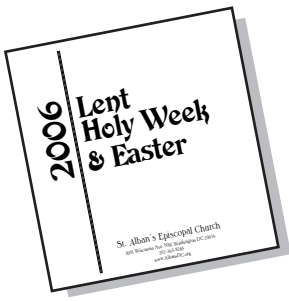
## Parish Forum

### "Money, Sex, Power, & the Christian Life"

*April 2, 10:30 am, Satterlee Hall*

*Speaking to Power* Tom Hart, DATA (Debts, AIDS, Trade in Africa)

Tom Hart, although only in his mid-thirties, has had a long career of speaking to power. His work on Third World debt relief for the Episcopal Church as director of the Washington Office on Government Relations put him in touch with Bill Gates, founder of Microsoft, and Bono, front man for the rock band U2. When they asked Tom to help them to speak to power on behalf of their organization, DATA, he realized that he was being called to the next phase of his career. He is now working to help overcome extreme poverty and stop the spread of AIDS in Africa. This also involves speaking to power on Capitol Hill, and Tom—the son of a retired Episcopal bishop—will talk about how a person of faith can persuade those with power to help those without it.



Lent, Holy Week & Easter booklets are available in the Narthex. Pick up copies for your neighbors, friends and co-workers. Take some for your office lounge or waiting room.

## Palm Sunday Silent Retreat

April 7, Friday eve. - April 9, Sunday morning

This annual silent retreat provides an excellent way to prepare for Holy Week. The retreat, led by the Rev. Margot Critchfield and Claudia Upper, will be held at Bon Secours Retreat Center in Marriottsville, Maryland, from Friday evening to early Palm Sunday morning. Learn about Ignatian, 12-step and Benedictine Spirituality. Space is limited to 30, and the cost will be about \$180 to \$200 per person for retreat, lodging and meals. To attend, contact the Parish Office, 202-363-8286 or sign up on Sundays in the Narthex.

## Cafe St. Alban's

Come support St. Alban's Youth on Palm Sunday, April 9, as the ever-popular Cafe St. Alban's returns. A wide variety of brunch favorites will be available both for those on the run and for those with time to linger. Bagels, eggs, waffles, fresh fruit; you name it. St. Alban's J2A will cook and serve, and your contributions support their pilgrimage in summer '07 (destination TBA). Cafe hours are 8:30 am to 12:45 pm.

## Centering Prayer Intensive Retreat

Sunday, April 2 to Saturday April 8  
at Cathedral College

This week-long retreat provides for periods of silence and Centering Prayer. There will be instruction and review of the Centering Prayer method, and opportunities to view Father Thomas Keating's tapes on the Spiritual Journey. This retreat is a fabulous way to prepare yourself for Holy Week in the quiet setting of the National Cathedral grounds. We will enter into Centering Prayer three times a day. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated each day with *lectio divina*. And, there will be occasion to meet for spiritual direction, one-on-one, with Rev. Carlyle Gill. Participants will stay at the Cathedral College, with meals included. Cost is \$770 for a single room, or \$700 for a double. The retreat begins at 7 pm April 2, concludes noon April 8. Contact: Sara Thorne at SaraT@st-albans-parish.org

## Holy Week Services and Homilists

### Monday, April 10

7:30 am - Bob Wolfolk

6:30 pm - Peter Albert

### Tuesday, April 11

7:30 am - Tuesday Congregation

6:30 pm - Kate Brantingham

### Wednesday, April 12

7:30 am - Gray Maxwell

11:15 am - Healing Eucharist

6:30 pm - Lacey Gude

### Maundy Thursday, April 13

7:30 am - Sally Slater

6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service and Foot Washing  
(beginning with a light supper)

### Good Friday, April 14

7:30 am - Laura Ingersoll

Noon-3 pm The Three Hours - *The Way of the Cross*

This year St Alban's will remember the three hours of Good Friday with a series of prayers and meditations inspired by the Episcopal Church's liturgy, Way of the Cross, and a setting of the Stations of the Cross, *Via Crucis*, by Franz Liszt, with the Parish Choir sung throughout the three hour service.

Noon-the Rev. Louis T. Wheeler, Jr.

1:00 pm-the Rev. Margot Critchfield

2:00 pm-the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill

Noon-3 pm - Youth Program

1:30-3 pm - Children's Program

6:30 pm - Taizé Service, the Rev. Margot Critchfield

## April Mustard Seed Offering

This month's  
Mustard Seed Offering  
will be collected  
on April 30.



# Report on the two Parish Forums held March 5, 2006:

## Status of the Building Renovation

*St. Alban's Vestry Communications Committee*

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### ***The Background***

At the September 2005 forum, members of the Vestry and Building Committee reported to the parish that the building project envisioned for our capital campaign had undergone critical adjustments due to escalating costs, the immediate need for a new HVAC system, and construction estimates from our project managers. The original plans that included a gallery and moving the front entrance of the front door forward were not possible for a number of reasons, the level of pledged funding not the least of them. The committee presented plans for a renovation of the lower floor, the mezzanine level, enlarging the narthex, and renovation of the Nourse Hall meeting room. Feedback was elicited from the parish and, after two weeks, the Vestry voted to authorize our architects to continue the design drawings of the modified plans.

### ***Winter News***

During two lengthy Vestry meetings in February, the Building and Finance committees reported – in detail – that unexpected costs and conditions have raised the estimates of the project well past the amount of money pledged to the capital campaign. After intense discussion, the Vestry passed a resolution to be shared with the parish along with the new information. You will find the Vestry resolution later in this article.

### ***At the Forum***

Information provided to the parish by members of the Building and Finance committees covered the same points as the Vestry discussions, although time limitations kept them shorter. Lee Foster-Crowder, an architect on our Building Committee, reviewed the renovation goals and design concepts that were approved in fall 2005. She noted that there has been no substantial design change since that time,

but reported proposed simplification of interior design elements for a cost savings.

### New Information on Estimates

Marc Fetterman, an architect specializing in historic properties, then discussed the reasons that estimated construction costs are significantly over budget:

1. An overheated regional construction market, with no slow-down in sight, means that contractors and subcontractors are devoting less time to realistic pre-bid estimates and being very selective in choosing their projects. Our project is considered a small project. Continued high demand for materials in developing countries and the profound effects of Gulf Coast rebuilding also contribute to higher estimates.
2. As detailed drawings were developed, some issues were clarified and some new ones were raised. (One example: we will now be required to remove all excavated dirt from the site, even though some of it will have to be trucked back to fill in our excavations.)
3. Fire sprinklers are required for this project by the DC Building Code; the committee confirmed this requirement only after months of sometimes-contradictory input from the parties involved. Our project architect, MTF A, worked with DC code officials with the hope that sprinklers would be unnecessary. The city responded by requiring sprinklers on the lower and upper levels of Nourse Hall and in the church balcony. DC did not require fire sprinklers on the main floor of Nourse Hall or on the main floor of the church. We then learned that St. Alban's has insufficient water pressure for a fire sprinkler system because we are on one of the higher hills in the city. For our water pressure to be sufficient for fire sprinklers, we will need a fire pump, a fire service water line with a concrete

vault, and additional electrical capacity to power the pump. The placement of the fire pump in the basement requires design adjustments.

4. For the above reasons, the Building Committee also felt that it would be wise to maintain a higher margin for contingencies.

### Options

Marc Fetterman explained that when the drawings were approximately 60 percent complete in mid-December, the Building Committee, concerned over new information, asked the architects to pause while the documents were priced. The resulting estimates caused the committee to spend additional time studying the project and developing options with the architects, engineers and project managers. Several value-engineering options that could lower costs have been proposed:

1. Maintain Nourse Hall lower floor level and install trenches for mechanical systems beneath the floor in lieu of lowering the floor. Maintaining the existing floor will result in 7-foot 8-inch ceilings in most areas, with bulkheads in some areas reducing ceiling heights to 7 feet. It was originally hoped that lowering the floor by 2 feet would produce 9-foot ceilings in the flower and choir rooms, but much of the added space would have been offset by overhead mechanicals, and this is now viewed as too costly.
2. Defer purchase of elevator equipment (the cab and motor) but construct the shaft and pit. Due to the need to dedicate sufficient electrical power to the fire pump, additional electrical service will be required when the elevator is installed.
3. Simplify some mechanical/electrical systems and defer some mechanical/electrical systems.

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4. Reduce allowances in the contractors' general conditions that our project managers feel are high.
5. Simplify interior finishes.

The Schedule

The current schedule has all documents ready to file for building permits in late April, bidding by contractors in early June, presenting bids to the vestry in early July and receiving permits in late July. If authorized by the Vestry, construction could begin in early August.

The Finances

Rick Dirksen, a CFO on the Finance Committee, addressed the financial picture this new information presents. He reviewed the increased costs, the escalating cost of construction (estimated at 0.8% to 1% per month), and the need to carry the increased contingency funding. Below is a chart that details the budget as conceived in September 2005, and how it looks now.

It was noted that these budget estimates do not reflect the potential savings from the options mentioned earlier.

<b>St. Alban's Parish Capital Campaign</b>	<b>Total Project Budget</b>	
	<i>Concept Budget 9/25/05</i>	<i>Design Development Budget 2/15/06</i>
<b>Income:</b>		
Gifts and Pledges	\$3,900,000	\$3,757,000
Interest and other income	0	100,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3,900,000</b>	<b>\$3,857,000</b>
<b>Expense:</b>		
Transformation Grants	\$500,000	\$500,000 <i>(\$131,000 spent as of 12/31/05)</i>
<b>Building Project:</b>		
Design & Engineering	369,800	511,000
Construction Costs	2,535,000	3,531,000
General & Administrative	203,000	203,000
Other Owner's Costs	192,200	165,000 <i>(some costs still to be negotiated)</i>
<b>TOTAL BUILDING PROJECT</b>	<b>\$3,300,000</b>	<b>\$4,410,000</b> <i>(includes 15% contingency)</i>
<b>Fund Raising Expense:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$100,000</b> <i>(estimate through FY 2009)</i>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$3,900,000</b>	<b>\$5,010,000</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$1,153,000</b>

Rick elaborated with the following comments:

1. To date, the Capital Campaign has raised \$3.75 million in gifts and pledges, which is \$150,000 shy of the budget reviewed in September 2005.
2. Of this, 70 percent has been received, and interest earned has more than offset the fundraising costs. The remaining \$1.1 million in pledges was recently confirmed to be received between now and 2009.
3. The renovation project, planned last September at \$3.4 million, has grown to approximately \$4.4 million. Of that amount, about \$650,000 will have been spent by the time we complete and bid the construction drawings in June-July.
4. Our parish assets are about \$1.6 million, including building reserves, endowment, and Transformation Grant funds. Good stewardship requires that approximately \$800,000 be retained to

secure the operating budget, including the transitional costs of welcoming the new rector, fund Transformation Grants, and protection of long-term investments. The remainder could be made available to help finance the building project, but any additional balance would require financing from an outside source.

5. Any borrowing, internal or external, will add interest expense to the finished cost of the project, but the financial question for the Vestry will be whether the costs of delaying the project are likely to outweigh those added interest costs.
6. Between now and August, the Finance Committee will develop a financing strategy for this project, designed to minimize the total outlay of capital funds over the next 5 years while maintaining the security of parish

operating reserves and its long-term investment portfolio.

7. Regardless of how the project is financed, fundraising plans must be developed to repay all borrowed monies over the next 5 to 10 years.

Vestry Action

Junior Warden Kate Bouvé told parishioners that Vestry discussion of this information resulted in the resolution that was made available the previous Sunday; the resolution was then passed out again. The resolution reads:

- u Whereas the Vestry approved the plan for the renovation of Nourse Hall and the Narthex as presented to the parish on September 25, 2005; and
- u Whereas the Building Committee project architects, engineers and managers proceeded with design

development documents and a cost estimate based on these documents; and

u Whereas the cost estimate exceeds the project construction budget by approximately \$1,000,000 due to inflation of the cost of construction materials, the booming construction market, new costs of complying with D.C. building code requirements, and prudent reserving for contingencies, the Vestry therefore now resolves:

- ~ To authorize the Building Committee to complete the construction documents and seek bids from construction companies in order to obtain a firm cost estimate by August 1; and
- ~ Ensuring the careful stewardship of campaign funds, to task the Building Committee to explore alternative approaches to improvements to Nourse Hall within the current capital campaign construction budget; and
- ~ To authorize the Finance Committee to assess options for funding the shortfall and the impact of each on parish operations; and
- ~ To present the status of the building project to the parish at forums on Sunday, March 5, 2006 after the 9:15 and 11:15 services with the assistance of the building and finance committees and to receive feedback from the parish as part of continuing, candid communications; and
- ~ At the completion of the above steps, to review information regarding project scope, costs, funding options, and other demands on parish finances and to determine how to proceed.

Parishioner comments

Included here are some of the comments made by various parishioners at the two forums. Comments are not verbatim, but we have attempted to capture their messages. (Audiotapes, which would provide a more exact accounting of the reports and comments, are available from the church office. In some cases, the

sound quality of the comments and questions from the floor are difficult to hear.) In no particular order, the following ideas were expressed:

*I'm concerned for a new rector coming to a parish with a debt.*

*We should wait until the new rector arrives and can participate in the decision-making regarding the scope of the project and debt.*

*Many large, urban churches that grow and succeed take risks - including taking on debt - and invest in the future.*

*As we contemplate taking on debt, we should look broadly at our other financial obligations - the operating budget; long term capital improvements, especially in Satterlee Hall, and the transition costs for a new rector including assisting her/him with housing.*

*Going forward with the project, even if it means going into debt, is a faith decision. We need to have faith in ourselves and in the mission of St. Alban's.*

*We shouldn't go into debt for this project if we have trouble raising money for the operating budget.*

*Maybe some people will not fulfill their pledge if we go into debt.*

*I would be willing to extend our pledge for another year.*

*Consider a scaled down project and do the essentials: replace the HVAC and the bathrooms, paint and re-carpet Nourse Hall.*

*We need changes to the West End so that the church is more functional for gathering, communicating.*

*Keep on reaching. Trust the vestry, building committee, finance committee and believe the puzzle pieces will come together.*

*Why bother with lower level improvements instead of creating the gathering space.*

*The vestry said "no borrowing" in September/October. We should not go back on that decision. What confidence can we have in the Vestry?*

*Might there be other surprises lurking (in this old building) as significant as the water pressure and sprinkler system?*

*The scaled back approach would be just a maintenance project, not a visionary project.*

*We need to have more faith in ourselves and our future. We should go forward with the full plan. Don't be afraid of the money thing.*

**Next Steps**

The vestry appreciates the many comments from parishioners who have expressed both concerns and support. Because exact construction costs will not be clear until we have firm bids from the construction companies, the vestry has voted to authorize the architects to continue with the construction drawings that will form the basis of the bids. The building committee will continue to investigate where costs may be saved by value engineering and/or reducing the scope of the renovations. It has been made clear that doing nothing is not a prudent option; work thus far has illuminated some deterioration that must be addressed to maintain building integrity and meet current DC code.

The finance committee will also investigate the precise details of borrowing and debt repayment, assessing all options for funding the shortfall and the impact of each on parish operations. When these details are known, the vestry will make a decision as to what the next steps will be.

There will be regular opportunities for parishioners to receive updated information from the building and finance committees, and to continue the dialogue. All candidates for rector are being made aware of the renovation project situation. In the meantime, we can be grateful for the considerable experience, skills, and hard work of the committee members, and for a parish committed to finding the path that God has prepared for us.

On Sunday, April 2, members of the Building Committee will be available for conversation between services from 8:45 am to 1 pm in the Rectory Library.

# Easter Services

## HOLY SATURDAY

April 15, 8 pm

### *Great Vigil of Easter ~ Holy Eucharist Rite II with Holy Baptism*

The Easter Vigil retells the story of salvation from creation to Resurrection. In the early Church, Easter marked a time of baptisms, and we will be faithful to that tradition. This is the first Eucharist of Easter, so bring a bell to welcome the return of the glad *Alleluias*. An Easter reception follows in Satterlee Hall.

## THE SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION

April 16

### *Festival Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord*

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| 7:30 am * | Holy Eucharist: Rite I, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill<br>with music                                     |
| 9:15 am   | Holy Eucharist: Rite II, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill<br>St. Alban's Parish Choir<br>Children's Chapel |
| 11:15 am  | Holy Eucharist: Rite I, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill<br>St. Alban's Senior Choir                       |
| 5:30 pm   | Holy Eucharist: Rite II, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill<br>with music                                    |

\* Note earlier start time.

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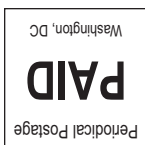
Submit articles for the *Chronicle* to: [JaneV@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:JaneV@st-albans-parish.org)

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

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

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

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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. Volume 152 ~ Issue 6

**Chronicle**  
St. Alban's