

# St. Alban's Chronicle

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

April 15, 2006

## Why I am leaving and when

*The Rev. J. Carlyle Gill*

Who would ever want to leave St. Alban's? This is a fabulous parish. No wonder clergy stay here a long time. In July I will have thirty years of what the Church Pension Fund calls "credited service" and will be able to retire. In retirement, I plan to lead centering prayer retreats, offer spiritual direction, travel with Carol, and spend lots of time at our beach house and on our sailboat.

The timing is perfect because I will be able to retire almost at the same time we hope a new rector will arrive. That new rector will need and should have the space to become your rector. Therefore, I will not be here once the new rector's tenure begins. I plan on leaving just prior to the new rector's arrival. We don't know the exact date of this transition, but my best guess is that I will retire sometime in late July and the new rector will arrive in early August.

In June we will have a party to celebrate our time together. I don't want to say good-bye to St. Alban's in late July when many of you are on summer vacation. You are too important to me—and saying goodbye *well* is too important for me to slip away during summer break. Party plans will be announced soon.

There is much to be said and done between now and then. But the bottom line for me is the fact that the most satisfying years of my ordained ministry have been with you and for that I will be forever grateful.

And there you have it!



## To note

**The Parish Office  
will be closed  
Holy Monday, April 17**

### **Fellowship Sunday**

The Sunday, April 23 Fellowship Sunday will be hosted by Worker's 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. Details on Page 3.

### **Vacation Bible School**

"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.

### **Congratulations to Benjamin Geyer**

Benjamin Gyer, son of David and Laura Geyer, is the District

Geography Bee champion for the second year in a row. A sixth grader at the British International School, Ben will compete in the National Geography Bee at the end of May.

### **Sunday Parish Forum Schedule**

April 16 Easter Sunday. *No forum.*

April 23 Fellowship Sunday hosted by Worker's of St. Alban's. *No forum.*

April 30 "Meet your Candidates" Meet those standing for Vestry and Diocesan Delegate.

May 7 Annual Parish Meeting at 12:30 pm. *No forum.*

May 14 Youth Sunday reception. *No forum.*

May 21 TBA

May 28 Fellowship Sunday. *No forum.*



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 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;  
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

# Poetry for all Seasons

*Come now and look upon the works of the Lord /  
what awesome things he has done on earth. Psalm 46*

The thing about poetry – the treasure of it – is that beginning with David and the Psalter, poets and poetry have reached across the centuries to celebrate the seasons of God's creation and the seasons of our lives. The poets testify to human place alongside rivers and oceans, mountains and deserts, stillness and wind. Their poems help us locate ourselves in rhythms of joy and heartache, fear and triumph.

In this season of spring, I hear whispers of verse – sometimes just one line or a phrase – proclaiming the renewal of life. Gerard Manley Hopkins, the 19th century poet and priest, is always the first I hear. Although never published in his too-brief lifetime, Hopkins left us with such enduring first lines as, *Nothing is so beautiful as Spring—and Glory be to God for dappled things—and The world is charged with the grandeur of God.*

The late Jane Kenyon, a poet and gardener, pitched her praise at a metaphorical level, drawing from a daily ritual: *When I take the chilly tools / from the shed's darkness, I come / out to a world made new / by heat and light.*

Next month, when my three-generation-old peonies bloom, I will think of Kenyon's heirloom plants; she and they are elegized by her husband, the poet Donald Hall, *Your peonies burst out, white as snow squalls, / with red flecks at their shaggy centers / in your border of prodigies by the porch. / I carry one magnanimous blossom indoors / and float it in a glass bowl, as you used to do.*

The reclusive poet Emily Dickinson found her company – and her religion – in nature. She tells us that, *Spring is the Period / Express from God. / Among the*

*seasons / Himself abide, / But during March and April / None stir abroad / Without a cordial interview / With God.*

Sometimes the poets protest the new season, unwilling or unable to let go of the winter of their lives—wanting the consolation of their sorrow. Dickinson says, *I dreaded that first Robin so . . .* Edna St. Vincent Millay wonders, *To what purpose, April, do you return again?* William Carlos Williams offers the most concrete image when he begins his poem “The Widow's Lament in Springtime” with, *Sorrow is my own yard.*

Sara Teasdale's nearly hundred-year-old poem “Spring in War-Time” asks a question still unanswerable today, *Oh, how can spring take heart to come / To a world in grief, / Deep grief? . . . Under the boughs where lovers walked / The apple-blooms will shed their breath— / But what of all the lovers now / Parted by Death, / Grey Death?*

As I walk the Cathedral Close this week in the solitary practice of Centering Prayer, I feel the company of many poets, and hold the tension of their exultation and lamentation. On the Cathedral College hillside, I experience Wordsworth's joy, *When all at once I saw a crowd, / A host, of golden daffodils; . . . Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.* Later, glimpsing the not yet flowering lilac as I round the corner between St. Alban's and Church House, I recall Whitman's season of grief that began so many Aprils ago. And, because he implored us to sing his leaves, like the psalmists sang their songs, I pause to say, *When lilacs last in the door-yard bloom'd, . . . I mourn'd—and yet shall mourn with ever-returning spring.*

—Kitty Bayh

# Meet your Candidates here . . .

*and at the  
Parish Forum  
Sunday, April 30  
10:30 am  
Satterlee Hall*

Vestry members and Diocesan Delegates will be elected at St. Alban's annual meeting on May 7 following the 11:15 service. The Vestry has an important leadership role, and your help in electing people to represent you can help determine the future life and ministry of this place. To get to know your candidates, come hear them speak.

The Nominations Committee has chosen a wonderful array of candidates for Vestry and Diocesan Delegates. Not all will be elected of course, but you should know that the Nominations Committee, in selecting these talented candidates, kept in mind that there are other important jobs to be filled outside of Vestry and Diocesan Delegates.

## **Voting**

To be a voting member at St. Alban's, you must have your baptismal records on file in the Parish Office. If you are not yet a voting member contact Ron Hicks, Director of Operations in the Parish Office at 202-363-8286, RonH@st-albans-parish.org.

Voting on May 7 will begin at 8 am and close when the Annual Meeting begins. There will be no voting while worship services are in progress.

If you are not able to attend the annual meeting contact the Parish Office for an absentee ballot

## **Vestry**

The Vestry is the governing body of St. Alban's Parish. It is made up of the Rector, the Senior and Junior Wardens, and 12 members of the Parish. Vestry members are elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, held each May, to three-year terms. This year, five candidates will be elected. The four top vote-getters will serve three-year terms. The fifth top vote-getter will served the remaining two years of a vacancy.

## **Marc Fetterman**



My wife, Nancy, and I were received into the Parish in 1993. Our son, Graham, was in the Junior Choir and Sunday school; he was an enthusiastic member of the Journey to Adulthood program; and he participated in the pilgrimage to Ireland. My association with St. Alban's began 40 years ago while a member of Boy Scout Troop 5, which met here. I worked at the Cathedral next door during and just after college; it was there that Nancy and I met and we were married. As an architect, focusing in historic preservation, I have worked on a variety of projects over the last 30 years but none have been more sustain-

ing than religious projects. I presently serve on the St. Alban's building committee and feel privileged to have been the architect for the recent chancel and organ renovation. Other volunteer activities include being a member of the Cathedral Foundation's Buildings and Grounds Committee and chair of the Diocese's Church Architecture Committee.

My work has taught me the importance of listening carefully and a vigorous respect for all points of view. This is an important time in our life as a community and I marvel at what has happened, and what can happen, here.

## **Kristie Hassett**



My family and I have been attending the 9:15 service at St. Alban's for about five years now. My husband Kevin and I have two sons, John who is almost eleven and Jamie who is four. John sings in the Junior choir and is an acolyte, and Jamie attends Children's Chapel.

My commitment to St. Alban's extends beyond worshipping on Sunday mornings. I am a member of the Stewardship Committee, but currently my heart and attention is mostly focused on our chil-

dren's programs.

This is my third year of teaching the 3 Year Old Sunday School Class. Last summer, I co-chaired our very successful Vacation Bible School program, and I am one of the VBS co-chairs for this year's program as well. (Shameless VBS plug: Mark your calendars for VBS 2006, A Holy Land Adventure, July 17-21.) In a much smaller role, I also help Sonya by organizing snacks for the Junior and St. Cecilia choirs.

I graduated from Swarthmore College in 1983 and obtained a J.D. from University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1986. Although I am now a stay-at-home mom, my life as an attorney included meetings, memos, decision making and deadlines, which would be relevant experience for serving on the vestry.

## **Kammie Hedges**



When I moved to Washington, almost thirty years ago, I began attending St. Alban's, decided to become an Episcopalian and was confirmed in our church by Bishop Walker. Over the years I have participated in a wide range of activities from chairing the

*Continued on next page*

Bazaar to serving on and leading the Altar Guild to cooking for the Grate Patrol. For ten years my husband and I coordinated the Sunday evening services at the Washington Home. In 1987 I began a three-year term of service on the Vestry. My experiences at St. Alban's have been enriching, helping me to grow in spirit and in love. I have found at our church not only a place to worship but also a caring community and many good friends.

In celebrating St. Alban's 150th anniversary last year, we acknowledged the church's firm foundation. Today we have a strong core of dedicated parishioners who are building on the legacy we have inherited. Working together, we are fostering our own development, serving the city and reaching out to a much wider community. Helping to shape the future of this Parish by serving again on the Vestry would indeed be an honor.

On a personal note, my husband Harry and I met at St. Alban's and were married here in 1988. My career has been in law librarianship. I am now Director of Library Relations for BNA, a legal publishing company.

**Voting will take place in Nourse Hall from 8 am to 12:30 pm**

## Stephanie Kinney



St. Alban's has been a thread in my life since 1994, when I was posted to the US Embassy in Copenhagen and St. Alban's Anglican Church warmly welcomed this American Episcopalian. Serendipitously, my husband Douglas and I "discovered" St. Alban's Abby in England two years later, and upon our return to Washington Found ourselves again drawn to St. Alban's through the magnetism of Frank Wade and the amazing community that makes up this church. Participating in Foyers, serving as a greeter for the 11:15 service and serving as Secretary of the WSA Board have enriched my commitment to and engagement with St. Alban's in Washington.

I'm surprised and honored to be considered for service on the Vestry. Deeply drawn to the challenge of helping St. Alban's navigate a crucial transition to a new chapter in parish life, I offer experience as a diplomat, strategic planner and change management consultant, as well as the desire to learn from and grow with other leaders in our diverse and evolving church community. My prayer is for a community energized and

nourished by a robust younger generation as it remains nurtured by the wisdom and caring of those who have shaped our parish life up until now and made St. Alban's all that it is.

## Samuel W. Lewis



Sallie and I found St. Alban's in 1974 after returning from Afghanistan, and have bonded more tightly with this remarkable parish family every succeeding year. We gravitated from lifelong Methodism via Frank's Inquiry Classes to pilgrimages with the Wades to Greece/Turkey, Italy, France, Spain, and Ireland/Wales/England/Scotland, discovering an ever deepening faith commitment. In between, I have served as a lay reader, acolyte, usher, Vestry Secretary, Diocesan Delegate, Op Shop cashier, turkey carver, Forum speaker, member of the Spiritual Journey Committee and of a parish Discernment Committee for candidates for ordination, and in the newly formed Disciples of Christ in Community group (DOCC) as well as other ad hoc activities, all of which exposed me to the myriad challenges our parish faces as we enter this complex year of transition to a new rector.

As a retired career diplomat whose last 30 years both in and out of government have been largely devoted to the frustrating search for Arab-Israeli peace and to the processes of mediation and international peacemaking, I am also now serving with a small group of advisors to help Bishop Chane work toward these same goals. My experience of three years as Diocesan Delegate would enable me to help our vestry to reconcile parish priorities more closely to the concerns of the Diocese and the wider church. If chosen, I would be honored to serve at this time of challenge and opportunity for our parish.

## Sylvia Mahaffey



My husband and I first came to St. Alban's as visitors in 1988 and found that we couldn't leave. The energy and excitement were contagious; they still are. The opportunities for learning, for growth, and for friendship were nearly overwhelming. I couldn't believe what I found – a place that welcomed all, regardless of where they were in their spiritual journey, but that challenged everyone to move forward in that journey. I became more active in the church, and over the

years, have served on the Forum Committee and in the Flower Guild, organized the Parish Weekend, taught Sunday school and, for many years, planned and organized the Advent Wreath making event. And through it all, coming to church kept life in perspective and reminded me of the things that are truly important.

St. Alban's has given balance and meaning to my life and the lives of my family. In this time of transformation, I would welcome the opportunity to contribute to that process. Recently, I left my law firm after 20 years because, after years of resisting change, I have learned that change is not only inevitable but valuable. As hard as change can be, the process has forced us all to think about what is important to us as a parish and what it is that makes St. Alban's so special that it continues to be filled with people who, like my family, came to visit and found we couldn't stay away.

**Results of the election will be announced during the Annual Meeting and posted on our website by 5 pm Sunday, May 7th**

## Becky Parks



I was baptized at St. Alban's in 1999, confirmed in 2000. From that beginning, the church has been central to my life. While I have evolved spiritually, so have my activities: I regularly attend the 9:15 Eucharist, I have been an usher at the 11:15 service, lay reader, Church School teacher of Grades 1-3, Education for Ministry (EFM) graduate, Healing Team Ministry member, verger, Pastoral Committee on Ministry (P-COM) member, and currently Facilitator for the Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC) Program St. Alban's is running with the Cathedral. I take pledging and finances seriously, therefore, was asked in 2004 to preach in support of the Every Member Pledge campaign.

My husband, Thai and a devout Buddhist and former Buddhist monk, understands the importance of St. Alban's in my life. He was witness to my important sacraments—baptism, confirmation, my mother's memorial service—and to the obvious changes in me as I participate in an active and nurturing church life.

In my professional life, I am experienced in human relations and

work groups. Many issues loom in St. Alban's future: our budget, our new Rector, our building maintenance and renovation. I believe my ability to work with groups, listening and helping to facilitate thoughtful decisions, would be a positive contribution to the Vestry as we move ahead.

My profession is occupational therapist, and I am Senior Therapist and researcher at the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center. I received my Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern California and my Master's from Columbia University. My husband and I live in a home in Rockville, where we are raising two Siamese fighting fish and lots of plants.

## Mark Shima



Life has its twists and turns. One of my happiest turns was joining St Alban's upon moving to DC in 2000. I came to manage global business for a large IT company, after previously starting and managing a technology consulting and training company for fifteen years.

These six years at St. Alban's brought many joys to life. First is our lively and very talented church family. Then while working in

Sunday School programs, I met Robin Boineau. Another joy at St. Alban's was our wedding in 2004.

Robin was a charter group leader in the J2A programs at St. Alban's (Journey to Adulthood), leading our teenage members on pilgrimages to Ireland and Greece. I joined on several activities, notably working with the kids on the Appalachian Service Program mission two summers ago, the week after our honeymoon. Our son Robby, who is eight, jumps out of bed to attend his Sunday School activities. More joys.

As a global manager I coordinate teams of people around the world. This requires consensus building, communication, listening and dedication. Frequently it requires toxin handling, solving problems that require diplomacy and tact, due to the sensitive issues. At work I am called in to handle our most difficult global situations, being able to work with and bring together many different types of talents and personalities.

These are skills I know also help on a vestry, having served two vestry terms at Christ Church, Bay St. Louis, Mississippi. I also serve as a trustee on St. Alban's Transformation Grants Committee. Here again we have a talented group of St. Albanites making investment decisions prayerfully and thoughtfully.

Finally, for those unaccustomed to the name Shima, it is pronounced in the European manner, with the "i" being a "long e" sound, as in "she". Shima is Bohemian, derived from the Hungarian word for "smooth" or "smooth running", like the way we want our vestry to run while transitioning to a new rector.

## Bob Woolfolk



As a member of St. Alban's for over ten years, I am delighted to be standing for vestry. We at St. Alban's are in a transition time facing many issues and I believe with God's help and a strong commitment we can solve all of them. I am committed to the building program and to a strong fiscal balance sheet at St. Alban's. I pledged my support to a strong youth programs and to a variety of worship experiences. In my life I have developed skills in listening and consensus building which will help with many of the difficult decisions facing the vestry and St Alban's. I am looking forward to the opportunity of working with the new rector.

My ministries at St. Alban's can be divided into three major areas: hospitality, leadership and pastoral care. For example, I am a

head usher (May-November team), foyers group leader, a shelter supporter (cooking and Shelter Open), and member of photo directory committee. My leadership role include, small group leader for Lenten programs, member of the parish forum committee, Parish Commission on Ministry (PCOM) convener, Disciples of Christ in Community (DOCC) facilitator. As a pastoral worker I am a care team member, a Visitation Lay Eucharist Minister (PVLN), and PCOM committee member. Besides regular attendance at worship services my spiritual life includes Centering Prayer, Wednesday Bible study, and many retreats. I am also a docent and a DOCC facilitator at the Washington National Cathedral.

**If you are not  
able to vote  
on  
May 7th...**

**Stop by the  
Parish Office  
weekdays  
between  
8:30 am and  
4:30 pm for  
an absentee  
ballot.**

## Diocesan Delegate

St. Alban's Parish currently has five lay delegates to the Diocesan Convention. Our delegates represent our parish at all Diocesan Conventions, advise the Vestry and parish of all resolutions to be taken up at each convention, seek advice from the Vestry and parish as to positions that might be taken, and report back to the parish after the Convention.

The two top vote-getters will serve three-year terms. The third and fourth top vote-getters will serve as 1st and 2nd alternates for one year, in the order of the number of votes received.

## Sally Craig



I have been a member of St. Alban's since 2000 when I was baptized and confirmed. A Quaker, and before that a Unitarian for many years, I found in St. Alban's the liturgy and Christian worship community I had been longing for. I've tried to take advantage of the wealth of learning, service and worship opportunities our church provides. I serve on the Flower Guild. As a recipient of a Transformation Grant, I've completed the Spiritual Guidance Program of the Shalem

Institute, and have begun to work as a spiritual director. I am currently the St. Alban's representative to the board of Community Council for the Homeless/Friendship Place, where I chair the Human Resource Committee. I've served as a lay reader, Lenten discussion group leader and I've helped to organize large parish events. I've

long been active in community affairs and local politics, working on political campaigns and serving in the city government. St. Alban's is my spiritual home. I would welcome the opportunity to bring my gifts of leadership, creativity and enthusiasm to the position of Diocesan Delegate.

## Ed Frost



I have been a member of St. Alban's for most of my adult life. Molly and I have raised four children here and I have participated in parish life in many ways including Parish Choir, lay reading, stone carving, and as a member of the vestry that called Frank Wade. I have also served as chair of the Christian Education Commission in the 1980's, participated in the founding of the Samaritan Ministry, and represented St. Alban's at the Community

Council for the Homeless as a board member, chair of the long-range planning committee and Co-President.

Looking toward the future, I want to encourage expanding outreach from St. Alban's to the whole community. I am working on plans to start a stone-carving school for young people with locations on both Mt. St. Alban's and in the inner city. I also want to hold up as an example St. Alban's positive experience in supporting a diversity of ministries.

As diocesan delegate I would work hard to listen to the whole St. Alban's community regarding the issues which we will be facing, and I would take care to report back and maintain a dialog about what is going on in the Diocese of Washington.

## Barbara Manard



When I grew up Episcopal in New Orleans, Confirmation classes meant memorizing the catechism at the back of the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and learning the exact moves expected for a First Communion at age twelve (pull up your socks and leave your white gloves in the pew when you go up to the altar). When I was

affirmed at the Washington National Cathedral two years ago, our class at St. Alban's used the catechism as just one of many references for wide ranging theological discussions led by our exceptional clergy.

I love both aspects of the Episcopal Church: the history, tradition, centuries old liturgical language and the shared, ongoing quest to discern the will and grace of God in an ever-changing world. This beloved character of our Church, as well as its practical operations, has been shaped by generations of Episcopalians, both proper and noisy, debating matters profound and mundane at proceedings such as the Diocesan Convention. I would consider it a great honor to represent St. Alban's in this important work.

In the 12 years that I've been at St. Alban's I've taught Sunday school, served as Co-Chair of the St. Alban's Day Parish Picnic, and as Secretary of the Overseas Mission Group, helping to organize several of our mission trips to Honduras. I am currently active in DOCC and Wednesday Night Theology and serve as Layreader Coordinator and Co-Chair of the Gulf Coast Revival group, organizing clean-up trips to New Orleans. Professionally, I'm a health policy researcher focusing on Medicare and Medicaid issues in aging services. I graduated from Vassar College and received my Ph.D. from the

University of Virginia.

Thank you for considering me for your representative to the Diocesan Convention.

## Pat Petrash



I am blessed to have been a member of St. Alban's since 1986. St. Alban's is a place where I first understood and experienced a relationship with God. From the baptism of my son to the present, the community of St. Alban's has been foundational in my life. At St. Alban's I helped develop a group for cancer survivors to explore and deepen their spiritual life, and was privileged to be part of the establishment of the lay healing ministry. I have been a lay Eucharistic minister and a member of the Way of Life Community. Recently, I was privileged to serve as the convener of group working with a parishioner to discern her call to ordination. Currently I am serving as a trustee for the Transformation Fund and am a member of a care team. I am a self employed clinical social worker. The opportunity to serve as a Diocesan Delegate ties together my love of church with my interest and training in the development and growth of the individual and the community.

# The St. Alban's Crossroads Shelter Opens 30 April

*Peter Spalding*

On 30 April, the St. Alban's Crossroads Shelter will open for its eleventh year when we welcome four homeless men who are on the road to independent living. The Crossroads Shelter bears witness to the fact that the parishioners of St. Alban's are "doers of the word and not hearers only." (James 1:22)

One of every 16 verses in the Gospels concerns the poor. One of the reasons the Bible mentions the poor so frequently is because God measures the justice of a community by its treatment of the most vulnerable and the worth of the church by its actions on behalf of social justice.

Jim Wallis of the *Sojourners* reminds us that the litmus test for God's voice is, "when the voice of God is involved on behalf of those who have no voice, then it is time to listen." It is also the time to consider offering meals to our shelter residents who rely on the Parish for their evening meals and breakfast supplies.

The Crossroads Shelter is located in the lower level of Satterlee Hall and is a comforting "home" that offers security and stability to men who would otherwise have neither. The men are referred to us by Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington and the Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place, two NGOs that serve the homeless in Washington.

The motto of the Crossroads Shelter is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews:

*"Fear not to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."*

Paul's words ring true every year. If you have any questions please contact the shelter coordinator: Peter Spalding at 202-337-0157 or PET202@AOI.COM

## "Thank You" and "Good-Bye" from Capital Interfaith

*Julie Murphy, Network Director, Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network*

On behalf of all the volunteers and the guest families of Capital Interfaith Hospitality Network, we want to thank St. Alban's for your many years of service to our organization. We offer shelter and meals to homeless families and St. Alban's and the Crossroads Shelter have been integral parts of this effort.

Most recently, the parish hosted three families in the shelter. They were able to come in each evening and find a comfortable and safe environment in the lower level of Satterlee Hall. Moreover, meals were provided by both St. Alban's parishioners and by congregants from other NW Washington churches. Volunteers and our families were able to share a meal, play games and establish meaningful connections across the

divide of those who are in need and those who want to serve.

Capital Interfaith is grateful for your support. We want to offer our appreciation especially to Peter Spalding, Ron Hicks and Shirley Dickey. They have all been responsive to our program and a welcoming presence to all of us at Capital Interfaith. Again, many thanks and best wishes.

## Mustard Seed Offering

The April 30 Mustard Seed offering will go to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) through their Alabama Baptist Convention to assist nine Alabama Baptist congregations whose church buildings were burned on February 3 and 6. Church World Service, a multi-denominational relief and development organization of which the Episcopal Church is a member, has recommended that financial support from all denominations be channeled through the SBC.

The rural Alabama churches are a diverse combination of both predominately white and black congregations. Some of them are affiliated officially with the SBC, while some may have more independent Baptist status. The SBC will be sending support to all of the congregations regardless of denominational affiliations. Several college students have been arrested in connection with the church arsons.



We at St. Alban's, who will celebrate Easter in our beautiful sanctuary, can reach across denominational and racial barriers by being part of this "some good" and assist our Alabama Christian sisters and brothers in the "resurrection" of their church buildings.

## Centering Prayer Post-Intensive Retreat

*Sunday, April 30 through Sunday, May 7  
Cathedral College*

This is a week long retreat of Centering Prayer, silence and Holy Eucharist. Led by the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill, we will enter into Centering Prayer three times a day. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated each day with lectio divina. And, there will be opportunities to meet for spiritual direction, one-on-one, with Rev. Gill.

Participants will stay at the Cathedral College, with meals included. Cost is \$875 for a single or \$800 for a double. The retreat begins Sunday, April 30, 7 pm, and concludes Sunday, May 7, shortly before Noon. Contact: Sara Thorne, SaraT@st-albans-parish.org or 202-829-0363.

## Search Committee is Getting Close

*Gordon B Avery, Chair,  
Search Committee*

The Rector Search Committee is intensively busy. We have completed our out-of-town parish site visits. We rejoined the Profile and Prospects committees to form the whole Search Committee for the balance of the search process. After Easter, the three final candidates will individually make incognito visits to Washington for interviews with the whole Search Committee, a session with the Bishop, and a social event with the Vestry. There will be a final discernment session of the Search Committee. Finally, the Search Committee will meet with the Vestry and make its recommendations, with full discussion. The Vestry will then meet and consider making a call. After whatever process the Vestry determines, a candidate will be selected, the Bishop's permission obtained, the candidate contacted, and, God willing, we will be able to announce a new rector for St. Alban's Church.

Praise be to God.

# 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 with music
9:15 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite II, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill St. Alban's Parish Choir Children's Chapel
11:15 am	Holy Eucharist: Rite I, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill St. Alban's Senior Choir
5:30 pm	Holy Eucharist: Rite II, the Rev. J. Carlyle Gill with music

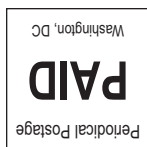
\* Note earlier start time.

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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