



St. Alban's Chronicle

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016
September 15, 2006

The Rev. Scott A. Benhase's first Sunday at St. Alban's *September 3, 2006*



Worship services were held in Trenbath Assembly, because of the construction going on in Nourse Hall and the Narthex of the church. The beautiful weather allowed everyone to meet Scott and enjoy coffee and fellowship on the front steps of Satterlee Hall.

Photos by Annie Bissell



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 SCHEDULE 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

SATURDAY

9:00 am Prayers for St. Alban's

CLERGY

The Rev. Scott A. Benhase, 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 & 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 & Evangelism

OFFICE STAFF

Shirley Dickey, Receptionist
 David Johnson, Community Life
 Marcia Welch, Communications Assistant

VESTRY OFFICERS

Gordon Avery, Senior Warden; Kate Bouvé, Junior Warden;
 Sylvia Mahaffey, Secretary; Christopher Holmes, Treasurer

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
 Web site: www.AlbansDC.org

Mustard Seed Offering: St. Alban's Helping New Orleans rebuild

At Katrina's one-year anniversary, one-quarter million of New Orleans' former residents have not been able to return and thousands of those who have are ill-housed in trailers, tents, and over-crowded conditions. Neighborhoods filled with flooded houses stretch for miles and miles, languishing for want of affordable workers to clean, gut, and rebuild them. St. Alban's, partnering with the Diocese of Louisiana's Office of Disaster Response (ODR), is helping to rebuild houses and lives, one family at a time. St. Alban's was instrumental in establishing ODR's Cleaning and Gutting program, providing the initial funds (from proceeds from sales of pralines at last year's Fair) to support (very modestly) Katie Mears (a young woman whom we brought down to Louisiana on one of our early trips) who has built the program for the Diocese of Louisiana. From this small seed of an initial investment by St. Alban's has grown an important part of New Orleans' recovery. In the program for ODR organized by Katie (now an employee of ODR), volunteers from St. Alban's (whose travel expenses are supported in part by a grant from the Transformation Fund) and others from all over the country have supplied over 220,000 hours of volunteer labor, helping nearly 400 families regain their homes. This month's mustard seed will be going to the ODR Cleaning and Gutting Program to purchase tools and building supplies critical to continuing the work of restoring lives and hope.



Sunday Parish Forums

Forum locations will be listed in the Sunday bulletin

October 1 - Healing Team

"Praying with Others for Healing"

Participants in the Healing Ministry at St. Alban's will discuss the tradition of praying for healing with others as we experience it in the Bible, in the Church through its history, and at St. Alban's. They will describe their own experiences of healing through prayer and what happens at the healing desk during Sunday services.

October 8 - David Smock

"Religious Peacemaking in Zones of International Conflict"

The Rev. Dr. David Smock will describe the role that religious institutions and organizations are playing to promote conflict resolution and peace in zones of international conflict, including Nigeria, Sudan, Israel/Palestine, Macedonia, and Iraq. Dr. Smock is Vice President of the U.S. Institute of Peace and Director of the Institute's Religion and Peacemaking Program as well as the Center for Mediation and Conflict Resolution. Prior to joining the Institute, he worked for such organizations as the Ford Foundation and lived for many years in Africa and the Middle East. He is an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ. Dr. Smock has written and edited several books including "Interfaith Dialogue and Peacebuilding", "Religious Contributions to Peacemaking: When Religion Makes Peace, Not War", and "Religious Perspectives on War".

October 15 - Walter Russell Mead

"Religion and U.S. Foreign Policy"

Walter Russell Mead a writer, teacher, and consultant in foreign policy, is the Henry Kissinger Senior Fellow for U.S. Foreign Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, will discuss an article of his entitled "Religion and US Foreign Policy," which appeared in the September/October issue of *Foreign Affairs*. Some copies of that article will be available at the forum. He is the author of "Mortal Splendor" (1987), "Special Providence" (2001), and "Power, Terror, Peace, and War" (2003). His next book will be published by Knopf in 2007.

Walter lives in Jackson Heights, New York, where he is currently senior warden of St. Mark's Episcopal Church. He also teaches at Bard College in Annandale-on-the-Hudson, New York. He is the son of Loren and Polly Mead, members of St. Alban's.

September 24 - Youth Group

"St. Alban's Youth in St. Bernard's Parish"

In June 2006, ten months after Hurricane Katrina, St. Alban's *Every Given Sunday* Journey to Adulthood group traveled to St. Bernard's Parish, just southeast of the City of New Orleans. The devastation they encountered was shocking, but the reaction of volunteers and the community was truly inspiring. Forget the political posturing and come hear what New Orleans is like from the people who swung the sledgehammers. The youth will give you a volunteer's eye view of the situation in New Orleans as well as the government and volunteer response.

Transformation Grant Update: *Building Hope for the Youth of Northern Uganda*

By *Ida Sawyer*

The Charity for Peace Foundation (CFP) works to protect children, promote peace, and build the capacity of the young people of northern Uganda. Joseph Kony's Lord's Resistance Army, the rebel force composed largely of abducted child soldiers, has waged a relentless war against President Museveni's government and the civilian population of northern Uganda for the past two decades. In one of the world's longest-running conflicts, young people have grown up knowing nothing but war, poverty, and displacement. Many children have begun to believe that the life they lead is the typical life of a child, a life of separation from their families and communities, of disrupted or no formal education, of little supervision or basic care – a life of fear. Based in northern Uganda's Gulu District, CFP works to break the cycle of violence, hatred, and despair by providing psychological, emotional and educational support to survivors of conflict.

With funding from a St. Alban's Transformation Grant, CFP recently started a Youth Education Program in two of the displaced persons camps in Gulu. The program caters to the disadvantaged youth, ages 15-20, who have either never attended school or stopped at the lower primary level, child mothers, and former child soldiers. I spent the past three months in Gulu helping with the selection and training of teachers, designing the curriculum, and working with the teachers and over 200 students during the first two months of classes. I was constantly amazed by the commitment of the teachers and the dedication and enthusiasm of the youth in the program who have lost so much but are now eager to take charge of their lives and see access to education as their main source of hope for the future.

In many ways, the young people of northern Uganda have faced the biggest obstacles in the conflict. They have been severely neglected and discriminated against – and will continue to suffer long after the war ends. Insecurity in the region has reduced

access to education, as schools have become targets for recruitment and abduction, teachers are unwilling to work in an insecure environment, and those who do struggle as classrooms have been destroyed or are severely inadequate. Many parents in the camps are discouraging girl-child education and forcing their daughters to marry at a very young age because of the bride price she will bring to the family. Former abductees in the rebel army have returned to their communities, but they have missed out on their education, are often severely traumatized and rejected by their families, and they have nothing productive to do in the camps.

Young people are also vulnerable to exploitation and defilement by adults who are idle and abusive. This is demonstrated by the steady increase in rape and sexual abuse of girls, not only by members of the rebel army but also by community members and by the Ugandan government soldiers there to protect them. As a consequence, young girls are becoming mothers at a dangerously early age, and they are at high risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections – while living in a community where access to testing, treatment, and counseling services is either non-existent or a luxury few can afford.

By providing informal educational opportunities for youth caught in crisis situations, and girls in particular, CFP is working to prevent some of the tragic consequences and help heal those who have suffered. Through classes on reading, writing, arithmetic, health education, traditional dances, art, drama, peace education, and business development skills, the program provides a sense of normalcy, routine, and hope for the future that is critical to the young people's emotional well-being. The goal is that by the end of the six-month program, students will be positive agents of change in their communities and will have the basic skills needed to go back to school or start their own income-generating activities.

Students also have access to psychosocial counseling after class. Many have persevered for years with no one to talk to about serious medical and psychiatric problems. Because of the lack of healthcare in the camps, we started a medical fund to take students who need further care to the hospital in Gulu town.

We have also incorporated an advocacy component into the program. In late July, we brought ten students (and two of their babies) to Kampala to represent the youth of their communities and meet with a number of government officials, diplomats, and representatives from United Nations agencies

and Makerere University. The students got their messages across, and the people we met with all learned something about the real conditions facing youth in the camps.

We are now raising funds to expand the skills training component of the program. This past month, thirty students completed training in paper bead-making, and they are now ready to sell their first sets of necklaces. The students will be able to use the money they earn to buy more materials, help meet household expenses, and hopefully send a number of them, and their children, to school.

The facilitators, teachers, and students are all extremely grateful for the support from St. Alban's. The project would not be possible without the Transformation Grant, and I know it has also had a huge impact on building the capacity of Charity for Peace as a local organization.

An entire generation of children is failing to receive the basic education that would equip them with the skills needed for a better future. Through the holistic approach of the Youth Education Program, CFP is working to make a concrete impact on the community and help ensure that the future leaders of northern Uganda are educated, informed, empowered, and ready to work towards rebuilding a peaceful Uganda.

Church School and Youth programs resume

Sunday, September 17th

Church School: Children age three years old through 5th grade meet Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am for Church School.

Journey to Adulthood (J2A): Journey to Adulthood is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th - 12th grades. Groups meet Sundays from 10:30 to 11:30 am.

Class locations will be listed in the Sunday bulletin.

Parish History Day

Saturday, September 16th •
Noon - 3pm

Changes – renovations – nostalgia – new beginnings – it's the history of this parish. Come to St. Alban's for a half-day of sharing in our rich and blessed story!

What has drawn you to St. Alban's? What do you look forward to in our parish life? It's all part of the collective fabric we continue to weave together. History Day is a great opportunity to introduce young people and newcomers to St. Alban's, to know where we've come from and anticipate the road ahead.

Opportunity-for-Ministry Fair

Sunday, September 17th

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in the Flower or Altar Guild? Or how to get involved with the Africa Roundtable? We will celebrate the beginning of the new program year at St. Alban's with a fair displaying the variety of ministries, guilds, and other service and worship opportunities available at St. Alban's. Set up your display on Saturday, September 16 from 4-6 pm and Sunday, September 17 from 10-10:30 am. We will have balloons and tablecloths available for your use. Questions, contact Lacey Gude at 202-833-3614.

Volunteers Still Needed

If you are 55 or older, it is not too late to sign up for tutoring or mentoring young children through Experience Corps. Just a few hours a week makes a big impact on a child's life. Training will be held at the Thurgood Marshall Center, 1816 12th Street, NW, in late September. Please call Lois Berkowitz, Volunteer Coordinator, at 202 797-1150.

Rector's Aid Luncheon

Friday, September 22nd, noon

This women's service organization meets throughout the year for fellowship and project planning. Proceeds from the sale of their Christmas cards, note cards, cookbooks, tote bags and aprons, and their bake sales are given to the Rector to be used for projects within the Parish. New members are always welcome. Lunch is \$10. RSVP to the Parish Office 202-363-8286.

Shelter Open Golf Tournament

Monday, September 25th

Each fall St. Alban's holds an annual golf tournament to raise money to help cover the cost of operating the Crossroads Shelter. Typically, tee off begins after lunch, followed by dinner, raffle, and awards ceremony. All are welcome to come and play. Volunteers are needed, e.g., at the registration table, to drive a beverage cart,

etc. Those who volunteer are invited to stay for dinner. The cost to play varies, but usually around \$125; hole sponsorship starts at \$250. The 2006 tournament is on Monday, September 25, to help, contact: Steven Fox 703-407-7424, sfox@fsavings.com

"An Inconvenient Truth" at St. Alban's

Sunday, October 1,
following the 11:15 am
service, Satterlee Hall Trenbath

Join us for a showing of Al Gore's documentary film, "An Inconvenient Truth" with a discussion afterwards. St. Alban's is one of more than a thousand churches around the country who will be showing this film the week of October 1-8 in cooperation with Interfaith Power and Light's, "Spotlight on Global Warming." Nearly 100 churches in the Washington area alone are involved in this effort. Popcorn provided! Contact: The Rev. Margot Critchfield at 202-363-8286 or MargotC@st-albans-parish.org

Katrina Cleanup Trip

October 4 though 9

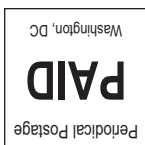
The St. Alban's Gulf Coast Revival Group and Washington Episcopalians Respond to Katrina (WERK), are sponsoring a trip to New Orleans from October 4-9 to help clean up affected areas. Contact Derrick Crowe at derrickccrowe at hotmail.com for more information.

Submit articles for the *Chronicle* to: JaneV@st-albans-parish.org

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

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