

St. Alban's Chronicle

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

October 15, 2006

Inside

Sunday Parish

Forums

Rector's Aid Bake
Sale

Walk to help the
Homeless

Evenings of
Ignatian Prayer

Café St. Alban's

Hermitage

Ensemble

Stewardship
Gatherings

From the Rector

Hermitage
Ensemble Concert

Kristallnacht

Commemoration

Parish Forum

Reflection

A Work in Progress

*"Are any among you suffering? They should pray.
Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise,"*

James 5:13

Barbara Conyers

Peace is the church's business. These were the words on the button that I wore Tuesday, September 26 as I joined others for the Declaration of Peace Campaign to End the War in Iraq. Other Episcopal peace fellowship participants could be identified by these buttons and by their place in the procession behind the Episcopal Peace Fellowship banner. It had been years since I had participated in a protest and I had ambivalent feelings initially. Should I go? No one will know that I am there. What good will it do? But as I prayed my daily prayer, "Lord, what would you have me do this day?" I found myself feeling excited and eager to go.

Now I know why. The Lord was in our midst. I ran into Helma Lanyi and several others at Union Station and we walked to the Upper Senate Park on Constitution Avenue. This was the gathering place for the Faith Community. It was a gorgeous autumn day. A day in which God's beautiful sunlight revealed the spectrum that made up God's vineyard: The Shalom center, the United Church of Christ, The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, The Methodist Federation for Social Action, American Friends Service Committee, The Peace of Abraham, Hagar and Sarah, The World Sikh council, A Buddhist group, The Lutheran Peace Fellowship, the Virginia Theological Seminary and the Episcopal Peace Fellowship.

I recognized immediately our song leader. She had grown up in St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church, my old parish. She led us in singing many songs including Siyahamba, a Swahili chant which means we are marching in the light of God. How special it was to be able to join hands with her in prayer. It was also very special to be a part of that community whose members were not all followers of Jesus.

One of the very young speakers was a native of Iraq. He told us that he was not a member of a faith community. He was secular. He felt that he had the right to be there, however, because he wanted the war to end in Iraq. He wanted justice for his people. The rabbis told us that they were part of a new initiative of Muslims, Christians and Jews. They have a multi religious prophetic concern for peace. They greeted us with "shalom, salaam, peace," and after making remarks, blew the shofar. The Buddhist chanted their prayers for peace. Others in the group also expressed their desires for peace. My momentary anxiety over the make-up of the group and its successful mission disappeared.

Jesus was in our midst. He welcomed all. I felt comfortable that the speakers and their sentiments reflected his love. One African theologian who spoke realized that all who were present did not fit under the umbrella known as the community of faith. So he invited all of us to stand up to our individual pharaohs and not back down until the war is over. We processed to the Senate Building. Many wanted to speak with their senators. When confronted by authorities, they chose civil disobedience and were arrested. Others chose to display support by praying. Similar protest were held throughout the country. They will continue until the war is over.



"....The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." James 5:16

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

Noon Healing Eucharist

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 Subbayya 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

VESTRY MEMBERS

Paul Brewster; Bob Dunn; Diana Dykstra; Marc Fetterman,
Cay Hartley; Kammie Hedges, Sam Lewis, Susan Morris,
Jon Sawyer, Mark Shima, Bob Witten, Bob Woolfolk;
Allan Thorson, Youth Representative;
Mary Jane Shackelford, WSA Board Representative

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

Sunday Parish Forums

10:30 am in Trenbath Assembly

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.

October 22 - The Hon. John Buchanan and Alex Netchvolodoff

"Christian Discipleship and Public Life: Views from the Hill"

Former Congressman John Buchanan will discuss his commitment to the inalienable rights of humankind at home and abroad and his belief that our faith should guide us in every aspect of life. However, he will maintain that that no one is authorized to speak for God in American politics. Alex ("Netch") Netchvolodoff, former chief of staff to Senator John Danforth and former senior warden at St. Alban's, will respond to John.

John is "an Abraham Lincoln Republican" who was the first of his party to represent Birmingham in the House. An ordained Baptist minister, he also served churches in Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama and the District of Columbia.

Netch worked with Senator Danforth from 1976 until 1991. Prior to that time, he served as the chief administrator to Jack when he was the Attorney General of Missouri. Netch is currently Senior Vice President for public policy at Cox Enterprises, a media company with a variety of newspapers, TV stations, radio stations, cable customers, and the largest auto wholesale auction facility in the country.

October 29 - Fellowship Sunday, no forum

November 5 - Holy Baptisms, no forum

November 12 - Ida Sawyer

"Charity for Peace: A Parishioner in Northern Uganda"

Ida Sawyer speaks about Charity for Peace, the Ugandan nongovernmental organization that she's been working with to set up education and health programs for residents in the camps for internally displaced persons in northern Uganda. Ida spent the summer in Gulu working with Charity for Peace to initiate the program, which was originally supported by a St. Alban's Transformation Fund grant and is now supported by the parish's Africa Roundtable. She will speak about what a difference the St. Alban's-backed program has made in the lives of Northern Ugandans and in her own life, too. Ida is a lifelong St. Albanite who is pursuing a Master's in international relations at Columbia University.

Rector's Aid Bake Sale

- WHO: You
- WHAT: St. Alban's Celebrated Rector's Aid BAKE SALE
- WHERE: St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Satterlee Hall
- WHEN: Sunday 22 October 8 am - 1 pm. Donations and purchases accepted on Sunday 22 October, from 8 am - 1 pm.
- WHY: You help provide funds for the parish work of the Rector's Aid ministry.

Please donate baked goods; and/or, purchase and enjoy delicious baked goods and sandwiches, note cards, aprons, tote bags, and cook books.

Fall is a beautiful season of harvest, thanks, and giving. In advance, we extend our appreciation to the parishioners, newcomers, and visitors who make this ministry possible. We look forward to greeting you on Sunday 22 October 2006 at the Bake Sale!

Walk to help the Homeless

St. Alban's to hold "mini-walk" on October 22

Thousands of people in our area lack something most of us take for granted: a place to live. Help them find their way to a home of their own by participating in the annual St. Alban's Help the Homeless Mini-Walk on October 22.

The mini-walk is for everyone in the parish, young and old, parents and kids. It's fun and easy to do. All we ask is that you register and join the group at the Peace Cross at 11:30 am, immediately after church school.

Why register? The mini-walk is held in cooperation with the Fannie Mae Foundation, which provides matching funds for every walker. You must be registered for your participation to count. Pick up registration forms in the Narthex beginning Sunday, October 1. Forms also will be available the day of the walk. Just fill out and sign a form for every walker regardless of age, and if possible, pay the registration fee: \$15 for children and \$25 for adults. We'll order T-shirts for everyone who pays the full fee. We also welcome contributions to sponsor other walkers. Please note that every walker under 18 must have a form signed by a parent.

Where does the money go? The funds we raise will go to support groups like Samaritan Ministry, which is celebrating its 20th year of helping the homeless find jobs and housing.

Please mark your calendars now, and let's have a big turnout on Sunday, October 22. We'll walk around the Cathedral Close and regroup at St. Alban's for snacks and a forum on homelessness, concluding by 12:15 pm. For more information, contact, Deborah Potter 301-652-6066 or potterwitten@comcast.net.

Evenings of Ignatian Prayer

These evenings offer an opportunity to explore a scripture-based method of prayer suggested by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Attend as many, or as few evenings, as your schedule allows. Led by the Rev. Margot Critchfield and meeting in the Rectory from 7 - 9 pm on: October 24, 2006; November 28, 2006; January 23, 2007; February 27, 2007; April 24, 2007 and May 22, 2007. Contact: the Rev. Margot Critchfield, 202-363-8286, ext 202 or margotc@st-albans-parish.org

Café St. Alban's

Sunday, October 29, 8:30 am - 12:45 pm

It's ba-a-a-ck—Northwest DC's hottest brunch sensation! On Sunday, October 29, bring your spare change to church to support St. Alban's J2A as they raise funds for their pilgrimage next summer. Cafe St. Alban's fare includes fresh fruit, baked goods, scrumptious egg dishes, sausage and a waffle bar. You may linger for the morning or grab a quick bite on your way to services. St. Alban's J2A will don their signature red aprons and prepare a feast for you, serving all morning from 8:30 till 12:45. As always, St. Alban's J2A is thankful for the generous support of the parish.

Stewardship Gatherings

Sign up for one of the several meals hosted by the Stewardship Committee this fall. These gatherings are crucial for our life together in the coming year. At them, we will all have an opportunity to give voice to our hopes, listen to the Rector and other parish leaders, and become better informed about our real challenges and opportunities. Please make every effort to join us.



You can sign up in the Narthex on Sundays, you can call the Parish Office at 202-363-8286, or we will call you and help you select the gathering that works best for you and your household. The gatherings will be held at St. Alban's, dates and times for these meals are:

October

- Dinner—Wednesday the 18th, 6:30–8 pm
- Dinner—Saturday the 21st, 6:30–8 pm
- Dinner—Saturday the 28th, 6:30–8 pm

November

- Dinner—Wednesday the 1st, 6:30–8 pm
- Lunch—Saturday the 11th, 11:30–1 pm
- Dinner—Wednesday the 15th, 6:30–8 pm

From the Rector

Dear People of St. Alban's:

As we get to know one another better, I want us to begin having a dialogue about the challenges ahead of us, both as a parish and as the Episcopal Church. In an effort to begin our conversation and relationship, I want to offer the following reflection on our future together in ministry.

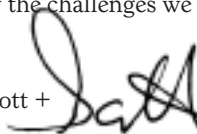
I think the first challenge we all have is to remain authentic to our identity as disciples of Jesus, the one we call Christ. In an increasingly diverse social and religious landscape, this will continue to be a big challenge. We will need to remain authentic to our discipleship and mission while staying open to the voices of other religious traditions and to the larger culture. In other words, we must remain rooted in the Gospel of Jesus while not being afraid of what others can reveal to us and teach us. We do not hold a monopoly on truth. We worship and follow the One who we believe is "the way, the truth, and the life," but we ourselves are not God. We must remember what Vaclav Havel, the former President of the Czech Republic noted over a decade ago, not long after many of the former Easter Bloc countries gained their freedom. He said that the biggest challenge facing the West was "to remember that we are not God." Our culture is becoming increasingly narcissistic and xenophobic. And since our faith communities are deeply interwoven with the culture, it is hard for us not to be affected by this. So, the challenge is to remain faithful to our baptismal identity and the One we follow while also remaining humble in our relationships with those who believe differently than we do.

Another challenge lies in interpreting the Good News we proclaim to other people in our polyreligious and spiritualized culture. I think that secularism, for the most part, is dying. Maybe it is already dead? The tired arguments of the last century are over. Many people who claim no religious affiliation these days still describe themselves as "spiritual." They may not see the need or the purpose of being in a particular religious community or in a set religious tradition, but they do recognize a spiritual or religious core to their lives. Yet, as I listen to them, they describe it in terms that are quite different from traditional religious language. If the polls are right, these people are primarily under 40 years old and the church has not done a good job in proclaiming the Gospel to them because we don't understand their questions. Or, sometimes, we try to answer questions they are not even asking. So, the challenge for us here

is to listen and learn and then to present the Gospel to them in terms they can understand and appropriate. I happen to think that the Episcopal Church is quite suited to welcome these people in our community of faith. We are a church with both breadth and depth. We will see if we are up this challenge.

And still another challenge is to transcend the belief wars that plague us. Such wars plague the larger religious community as well. They even plague the culture in which we live, but the terms used to describe them get stripped of their religious veneer. In the larger culture, they are often referred to as culture wars. These wars are fought over the issue of who has the correct belief on a given topic. And the logic goes something like this: "If I can convince you that I have the correct belief, then whether or not I act on that belief is unimportant. Whatever I do or do not do has to be correct because I have the correct belief." It is the somewhat logical extension of 300 plus years of the Enlightenment. It all started with the Cartesian claim: "I think therefore I am." And it ends up focusing what we hold most dear to be in our heads – what we think. I am sure that some enterprising scientist who is an expert in working with apes will one day soon teach them to speak human language. And soon after that some well-meaning person will teach them to say: "Jesus Christ is my Savior." But what will that prove? You see, we face the challenge of getting out of our heads and into the heart of the matter. Spouting propositions about Jesus means nothing if there are not also corresponding practices that go with such propositions. Our challenge is to reclaim the ancient Christian practices; practices such as community discernment and common prayer, keeping disciplines such as forgiveness, compassion, and justice, and celebrating God-centered worship. My hunch is that people both inside and outside the church are longing to belong to a community of people that engage intentionally, faithfully, and humbly in these disciplines and practices. Our challenge together will be to shape and reshape a Christian community that is centered in these practices and disciplines. If we do, I am convinced that we can transcend the belief wars by helping people focus on something far deeper and more important: living out our beliefs in concrete ways that resonate the truth of the Gospel.

We live in interesting times. One thing we can be sure of – it will not be boring! I hope you are as excited and awed as I am by the challenges we will face together.

Scott + 



Hermitage Ensemble

Professional male choir from St. Petersburg, Russia

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Wednesday, November 1 at 7:30 pm

Freewill Offering

PARISH WEB SITE: WWW.ALBANSDC.ORG



“The
Night of
the
Broken
Glass”

Kristallnacht

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Dianne Harrison Ferro

The Interreligious Council, composed of members of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, the Church of the Annunciation, and St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, sponsors a commemorative Kristallnacht Service every year. Each year, the service location is rotated among the three congregations. This year, the 68th Anniversary Kristallnacht Commemoration will be held at The Church of the Annunciation, on Wednesday, November 8, at 7:30 pm. The Church of the Annunciation is located at 3810 Massachusetts Ave., NW, at the corner of Massachusetts and 39th streets.

Kristallnacht, or the “Night of the Broken Glass,” occurred during the evening and into the early morning of Nov. 9-10, 1938. The name Kristallnacht refers to the shattered windows that the Nazis broke in Jewish homes and shops during that time. Kristallnacht marked a sharp escalation in the Nazi violence against Jews and brought their plight to international attention. People around the world protested against the atrocities being committed by the Nazis, but many governments were silent and did nothing. However, there were groups and individuals that risked their lives to rescue Holocaust victims. Their bravery and decency serve as an example for us in our world today.

The Kristallnacht Service provides our community with a chance to remember in a religious setting the best and the worst of human behavior. We relive the worst when we listen to the narratives of concentration camp survivors and read about the abominations that human beings suffered at the hands of the Nazis. We remember the best when we read or hear about those people who risked everything to rescue Nazi victims.

During the weekly services at St. Alban’s, we pray for peace and the healing of racial divisions. We pray for our world leaders to have tolerance so that they may govern wisely. We pray for the life of our community, and we pray for hope.

The Kristallnacht Service serves as a special guide for our prayers and remembrances. It combines the music and litanies of three religious traditions into one special liturgy. Choirs from each congregation prepare music for the event, while other congregants read passages from the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures and historical texts. A Holocaust survivor speaks about his or her experiences. Those who attend the Service pray, remember, and sing together. It is not only a moving evening, but a joyful one, as we keep alive the faith and hope that is so integral to being human.

The Interreligious Council looks forward to having you there. The service is followed by a reception.

Parish Forum Reflection

Noell Sottile

On Sunday September 24, six members of the Senior Youth Group presented a forum on their trip this past June, to St. Bernard’s Parish, one of the areas most heavily damaged by hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. They worked with Habitat for Humanity gutting flood-damaged houses.

At the forum, the youth and their leader J. Connell and parent Carolyn Seaton, who accompanied them to New Orleans, showed a video of their experience and spoke of various aspects of the trip.

The group worked very hard, rising at 5:15 am every day, donning steel-toed work boots, hard hats, masks, and work gloves and putting in a full seven hours of heavy labor with pick axes, sledge hammers, crow bars, shovels and wheelbarrows before returning to Camp Hope to recover, relax and gather energy for the next day.

Habitat for Humanity has 2,500 houses on its list of those needing restoration in St. Bernard’s Parish, and as of mid-September, 1,747 had been gutted and are

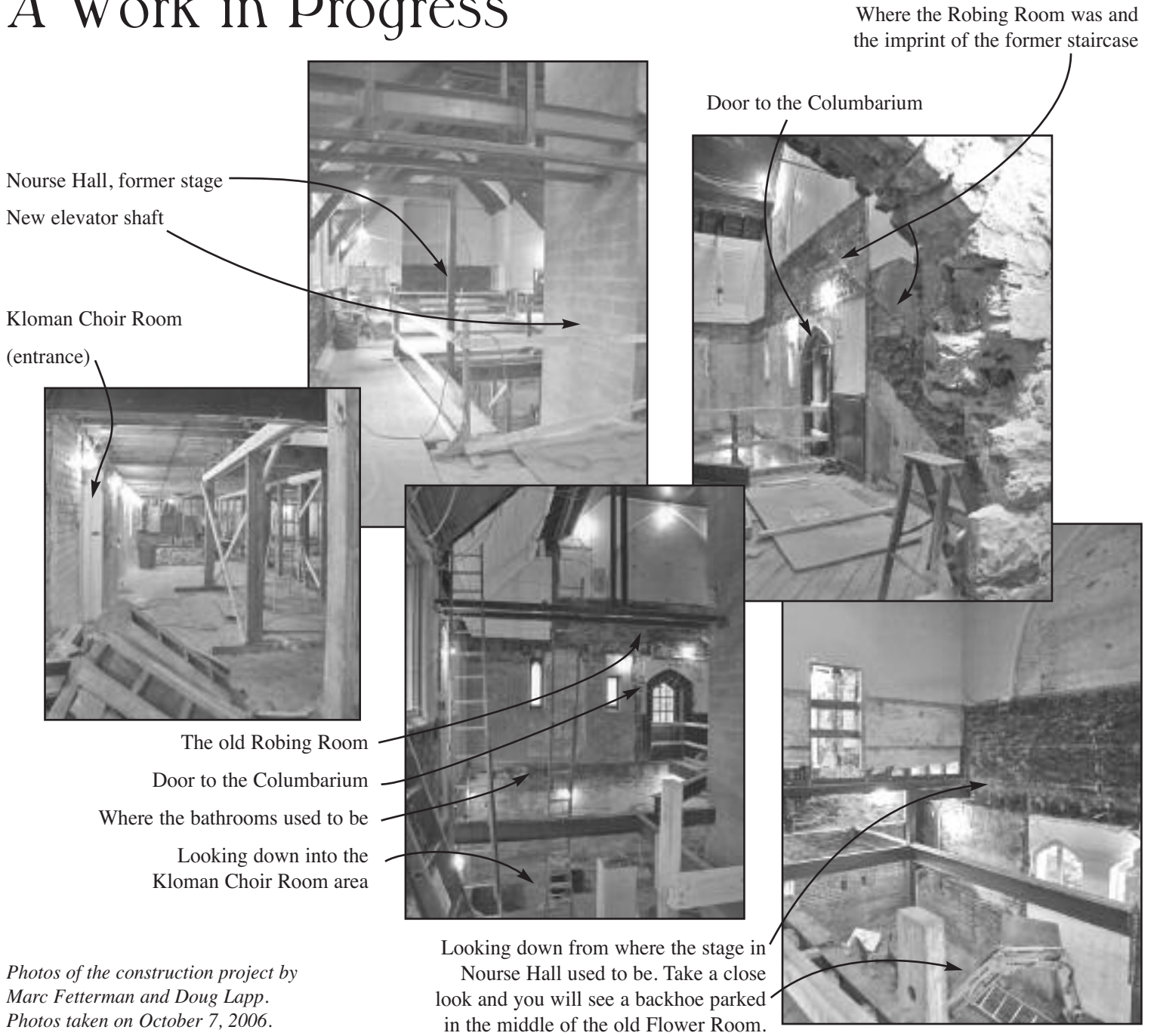
ready for repair. In the six days our Senior Youth group was there, they gutted two houses ripping out everything down to the studs—furniture, fixtures, windows, wall board, paneling, flooring, carpet, ceiling, venting, electrical wiring. They created four separate piles of debris—general, hazardous, electrical, and, personal items like pictures and mementos that folks might want to save.

When asked if they felt they had made a difference, the immediate response from the group was no, because the devastation there was so complete—all of the houses were empty, only three businesses had re-opened. There were crushed buildings and cars, trucks and boats lying in the streets still, after 10 months of clean-up efforts by many people. However, upon reflection, the youth said they *had* made some difference, because without help from volunteers like them, the homeowners (mostly middle and lower middle class) would have had to spend the limited rebuilding funds they were given on the gutting and initial cleanup and would have very limited funds left to rebuild/repair their houses.

Each of the young people said that Camp Hope and St. Bernard’s Parish had made a difference in them. They were struck by the outlook of the residents, which was surprisingly optimistic—not asking for sympathy, not angry, just grateful. They were also impressed by Camp Hope, which is the center for all volunteers in that part of New Orleans—200 people working to serve in a place the size of DC without any infrastructure and still managing to house, feed and entertain folks from all over—even a volunteer from Wales. The St. Alban’s youth found this trip very different from the pilgrimage they had taken a year earlier. They said that both trips involved spiritual growth, but on the pilgrimage they were focused on themselves, while in doing this kind of mission work they focused on ministering and serving others.

For more information on Camp Hope and the work in St. Bernard’s Parish, see www.habitat-nola.org or talk to the youth group volunteers: Jimmie Sottile, Lily Ickow, Grace Critchfield, Kathleen Hall, Julian Eid, Anna Thorson, Chase Felker, or Tor Travis.

A Work in Progress



Photos of the construction project by
 Marc Fetterman and Doug Lapp.
 Photos taken on October 7, 2006.

Looking down from where the stage in
 Nourse Hall used to be. Take a close
 look and you will see a backhoe parked
 in the middle of the old Flower Room.

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

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

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



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 17

Chronicle
 St. Alban's