

St. Alban's Chronicle

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

January 2007

Hope for Recovery: Ministering to Addicts and their Families

SALLY CRAIG, PARISHIONER

Hope for Recovery is a new ministry at St. Alban's, offering hope to those who are addicted, to those who fear they may be, and to those who love them. Hope for Recovery can provide help in many forms: Personal testimony and support from recovering persons, educational programs for members of all ages, a resource guide for professional help and interventions, and referrals to 12-step meetings and treatment programs.

On two Sundays this past August, a survey about addiction issues was handed out after services. Ninety-three surveys were returned. More than fifty-percent of respondents said they have a family member affected by some kind of addiction (alcohol, drugs, food, gambling, shopping, etc.), while around 10 percent identified themselves as recovering. Eighty-five percent respondents strongly favor our church reaching out to those suffering from addiction.

In September, six of us who now form the nucleus of the Recovery for Ministry team received three days of training by the Rush Center of the Johnson Institute (www.rushcenter.org). We have been meeting regularly since then, gathering resources, planning our offerings and praying for guidance and support. Many, though not all of us, are in recovery ourselves.

On Sunday, January 14th, St. Alban's will celebrate Recovery Sunday with a 12-step Eucharist, sermons that engage both scripture and recovery, and a Sunday Forum to introduce you to the Hope for Recovery ministry and its team-members. We hope some of you will discern a call to join our team, and even more importantly, will be moved to seek help if you or someone you love is struggling with addiction.

A number of St. Albanites have found their way into the Sunday pews by discovering faith in a "Higher Power" at 12-step meetings here. St. Alban's has been host to 12-step meetings for more than 60 years. Every Wednesday night lives are being redeemed by the grace of God's love in our own Saterlee Hall, where folks in recovery from all over the city gather to share their experience, strength and hope with each other. And this is just one of eight 12-step meetings that St. Alban's hosts each week! In the years ahead, Hope for Recovery hopes to build on this wonderful tradition of offering recovering addicts and alcoholics a safe place to ask for, and receive, help

In the parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke's gospel, when the wayward son finally "hits bottom," and humbly turns toward home for help, his father welcomes him with open arms, rejoicing that the one who "was dead has come to life," and the one "who was lost has been found." We hope you will support this new ministry as we build on St. Alban's long tradition of being a safe haven where the "dead" among us can find new life, and those "lost" to addiction can be found at last.

The Feast of the Epiphany

Join us on Twelfth Night for the Holy Eucharist as we celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany.
The liturgy begins at 7 p.m. on Friday, January 5.



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
9:15 am Teen Service with
Holy Eucharist, Rite II
11:15 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
5:30 pm. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

MONDAY

Noon Noonday Prayer*

TUESDAY

7:30 am Holy Eucharist
Noon Noonday Prayer*

WEDNESDAY

Noon Healing Eucharist

THURSDAY

Noon Noonday Prayer*

FRIDAY

Noon Noonday Prayer*

* If it is a Major or Lesser Feast Day,
we will Celebrate Holy Eucharist.

CLERGY

The Rev. Scott A. Benhase, Rector
The Rev. Margot D. Critchfield, Senior Associate Rector
The Rev. Douglas A. Greenaway, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Loren B. Mead, Honorary Associate
The Rev. Lukas Katenda, Deacon

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY CHAPLAIN
Carolyn Seaton

DIRECTORS

Ron Hicks, Director of Facilities
Dr. Norman Scribner, Director of Music
Wilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs
Sonya Subbaway Sutton, Director for Parish Music Ministries
Jane Volkema, Director of Parish Administration

OFFICE STAFF

Shirley Dickey, Receptionist
David Johnson, Volunteer
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

Rector's Winter Bible Study – The Acts of the Apostles

Beginning on Wednesday, January 10 at 11 am and Thursday, January 11 at 7 pm the Rector will lead a study of the Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke's second book describing the ongoing life of Christ in the early Church. The class will have 11 sessions concluding the last week of March, right before Holy Week. The Wednesday "brunch" study covers the same material as the Thursday evening study, so feel free to attend the one that is most convenient for you. The Wednesday study will meet in the Rectory basement and the Thursday study in Trenbath. This is open to anyone and everyone, so feel free to invite a friend.

Sunday Parish Forums

Satterlee Hall at 10:30 am

JANUARY 7

No forum. Baptisms.

JANUARY 14

St. Alban's Team, "Hope for Recovery"

Hope for Recovery is a new ministry at St. Alban's, offering hope to those who are addicted, to those who fear they may be, and to those who love them. It offers help in many forms: personal testimony from recovering persons; educational programs for our youth and their parents, as well as our older members; support for interventions and a resource guide and referrals to 12-step meetings and treatment programs. Members of the team, which includes Sally Craig, Linda Bickford, Anne Nix, John Nickum, Janet Flaherty, and Margot Critchfield, will present the results of the parish survey on addictions, as well as share their plans for this ministry.

JANUARY 21

Roger Wilkins, "The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Citizen"

Roger Wilkins, Robinson Professor of History and American Culture at George Mason University, will talk about his recollections of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at this forum. Dr. Wilkins fought to win passage of civil rights and voting acts during his service in the Kennedy and Johnson administrations. He was the first Black columnist at the New York Times and won a Pulitzer Prize, along with Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, and cartoonist Herb Block for Washington Post editorials about the issues related to the Watergate scandal. Dr. Wilkins is a major commentator and analyst on American public policy and social justice issues and is especially known for his work in addressing problems faced by African-American citizens who live in the inner city and have limited access to healthcare and quality education.

JANUARY 28

"Ask the Rector" and fellowship with Scott

Come chat about what's on your mind with our rector, Scott Benhase, and enjoy getting together with others at St. Alban's at this informal forum and fellowship! It will provide us with a time to talk with Scott, asking questions and raising issues about any subject – although Scott says that he'd like to stay away from questions involving the Redskins' porous secondary.

From the Rector

This new year will bring a few changes to our parish staff. As you know, the Reverend Louis Wheeler has left the parish to pursue another call and Day Dodson, our Director of Children & Youth Ministry has left to become the Executive Director of the Evangelical Education Society. Due to current budget constraints, I am not able to replace those two positions. Also, due to budget constraints, a few of our part time support staff will no longer be working here at St Alban's in 2007. I am hopeful that we will soon be able to have a full staff again to provide excellent oversight and support for our many ministries. It is my fervent hope that I will be able to hire a new Director of Children's Ministries and a third priest by this summer. All of that, of course, is dependent on the financial pledges people like you and me make.

Since the deadline for this issue of *The Chronicle* came before Christmas, I am not able to give you the most recent news on where our budget stands for 2007. As of this writing, not all of the pledges have been made. So far the pledges that have been received show an amazing amount of commitment and faithfulness. The majority of pledges received have sizable increases and we have over 50 new pledges for 2007! But

we are still waiting on quite a few pledges. Unless those pledges come in, I will need to lay off other staff. We simply cannot fund our mission and ministry here without a clear idea of our income. And we will not operate with any more deficits.

I want to be clear with you. I am astounded and overjoyed with the response we have received so far. People are giving generously and joyously. We, however, still have a ways to go. Please, if you have not yet made your pledge, do so today. You can call Vilma Smith in the parish office at 202-363-826 or email her at vilmas@st-albans-parish.org. No one wants to move beyond talking about parish finances more than me. There is so much for us to do together. God continues to have great plans for St Alban's Parish.

Yours in
Scott +

A special service and liturgy for the Rite-13 youth



SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, DURING THE 9:15 AM SERVICE FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY

Rite-13 celebrates the individuality of each young person and their creative potential. The program helps youth explore the many facets of adolescence and offers a chance to discover how faith can guide and shape the journey to adulthood. The Rite-13 program prepares youth for a special service of affirmation, The Rite-13 Liturgy, which formally marks and celebrates in a worship service each youth's entrance into the journey to adulthood.

Our Rite-13ers will host Fellowship Sunday at 10:30 am in Trenbath Assembly.

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Rite-13 is one of the three groups in our youth Christian education program, The Journey to Adulthood (J2A). J2A is a complete youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries, and both serious and playful activities to offer a deep and rich base for the formation of young adult Christians in the church.

Our J2A program is divided into three different age groups: Rite-13, J2A and Senior Youth. Each group has its own team of adult mentors, its own Sunday morning classes during the 10:30 am education hour, its own gathering space, community-building retreats, outreach opportunities, and various special events. Each group endeavors to create and sustain a Christian community where youth can feel free to explore the many physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges they face during adolescence.

November 2006 Financial Report

Total Income	\$ <u>1,115,977.61</u>
Personnel	885,220.63
Outreach	192,499.84
Parish Programs	79,467.02
Building & Grounds	281,223.80
Office Expenses	<u>63,981.41</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>1,502,392.70</u>
Difference Income/Expenses	- \$ <u>346,415.09</u>

Parish Forum Reviews

NOVEMBER 19, 2006

DIANA SMITH

"Pilgrimage to the Holy Land"

In the first two weeks of September, parishioner Diana Smith joined a twenty-three member pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Canons John Peterson and Eugene Sutton. The group almost immediately came upon the Wall of Separation built by the Israelis (to keep out possible attackers) and felt its impact on both Palestinians seeking to live a normal life and Israelis wanting to protect themselves. If the pilgrims had an Israeli local tour guide, and not an Anglican Palestinian, they would not have been able to see Jesus' birthplace.

The pilgrims did walk around Bethlehem and saw the church of the Nativity. Other highlights included a visit to Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found, and a boat trip on the Sea of Galilee – along with a Eucharist by its shore. The pilgrims even walked the Palm Sunday route and the Way of the Cross.

Diana shared some impressions of the trip with St. Albanites. For instance, in the Church of the Nativity, she gained insight into the coexistence of rationality and faith as she put her hand on the star marking the place where Jesus was supposed to have been born. She and the other pilgrims also noted that, on Palm Sunday, Jesus had to walk out of his way to stay with his friends at Bethany. They then asked themselves whether they too would "go that extra mile or so" for their friends. Finally, Diana reported feeling very sad for Jerusalem, "this city which has never known peace, despite the psalmist." The trip altered the pilgrims' world view as they promised to tell the story of the Wall at Bethlehem.

— Christine Oblitas

DECEMBER 3

LAWRENCE HYMAN

"The Christmas Story in Art"

Lawrence Hyman, of the Smithsonian Institution, brought together and explained the implications of many early paintings, medieval manuscripts, Renaissance altarpieces, decorative arts, and other forms of Western art depicting the Christmas story.

In early Christian art, the story of the Magi, as expressed in the Gospel of Matthew served an important role in the spread of the Christian message. By the later Middle Ages, the story of the adoration of the shepherds and the birth in the manger, as recounted in Luke, became equally popular. Both stories were used in medieval art, along with other stories of the Bible, for educational rather than devotional purposes. While most artists depicted the Nativity story as it is presented in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew, apocryphal stories and other legends also found their way into religious art depicting the birth of Christ.

Around 1400, changing devotional patterns led to changes in the depiction of the Christmas story. The body of the infant Christ became an object of devotion in its own right, and Renaissance artists turned to the Christmas story as a central devotional motif for altarpieces and other important works. These artists incorporated much of the medieval symbolism that had grown up around the Christmas story. The three Magi, for instance, represented the three ages of man in one work of art, old age, middle age, and youth.

Gradually, a new emphasis on individualism took hold and paintings came to offer a new feeling for personal devotion. A painting by Rembrandt, for instance, emphasized the humility of the Christian experience with kneeling shepherds, and the symbolic ox and ass, but no angels.

— Cynthia B. Cohen

DECEMBER 10

SONYA SUTTON

"The Music of Advent:

Preparing our Hearts and Minds"

St. Albanites who braved the chill often associated with Advent and church renovations were treated to a forum that brought those who attended in the from the cold in more ways than one.

St. Alban's Director for Parish Music Ministries Sonya Subbayya Sutton led us through a forum that featured a brief historical look at how Advent came to be observed and its traditions passed down over centuries.

Sonya said she enjoys Advent as "a season of opposites" that offers us a chance to "repent and be rebellious." She urged us to adopt a similar approach.

We can be quiet and meditative in what for Northern Europeans is a season of darkness and cold in anticipation of Jesus' birth and second coming. In both senses of the season we prepare to open our hearts to receive what God has in store for us. And we can be gleeful in living this season counter to a prevailing culture that is rushed, excessive, and commercially driven.

To prove her point, Sonya brought copies of many pages from The Hymnal 1982 for us to sing. And sing we did. We made it through at least one verse of a dozen or so of the great Advent hymns, winning Sonya's praise for our sight reading abilities along the way. Sonya punctuated all this at the end by having us sing three appropriate numbers: "I Want to Be Ready," "Rockin' Jerusalem," and "My Lord What a Morning" from the Episcopal Church's collection of African-American hymns, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." She noted that the concept of Advent had to be different for persons of faith who had been enslaved for generations. Rather, she said, the focus of their hopes and expectations, very much reflected in their hymnity, was in "longing for freedom and a better life."

— Andrew Ramsey-Moor

Film Recommendation

DANI KAUFFMAN

“Live and Become,” the magnificent, epic story of an Ethiopian boy who is airlifted from a Sudanese refugee camp to Israel, in 1984 during Operation Moses. Schlomo is plagued by two big secrets: He is neither a Jew nor an orphan, just an African boy who survived and wants, somehow, to fulfill his Ethiopian mother’s parting request that he “go, live, and become.” Buoyed by a profound and unfaltering motherly love – both in his memory and in the arms of his adoptive mother – he ultimately finds an identity and a happiness all his own.

Showing through January 6 (and probably longer) at The Avalon, 5612 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20015; 202-966-6000, or www.theavalon.org.

A stirring message for all believers, especially those committed to betterment of the situation in Africa.

Singing A - Z

Singing A - Z cordially invites you to Take the “A” Train, a generation-spanning concert on Saturday, February 3, 7 pm, at St. Alban’s Church in Satterlee Hall. This season’s traditional American music repertoire represents our multi-cultural heritage and includes historical American folk songs, jazz, spirituals, calypso, and music of American Indian, Jewish, and Hispanic origins. Singing A - Z is the proud recipient of a St. Alban’s Transformation Fund Grant. This concert gives us a chance to share with friends our vision of ministry to elementary school children and to seniors in our community. Please come and bring your friends and family. There is no charge for admission!

Bokamoso Youth Theater Returns to St. Alban's

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 AT THE 5:30 SERVICE

This group came to St. Alban’s last year to great reviews on their performance and message. All are invited to the 5:30 pm service on January 21. If you haven’t seen them before you are in for a wonderful experience.

The Bokamoso Youth Theater was created to empower youth to speak with courage and clarity through art to their desparately poor township named Winterveldt 40 kilometres north of Pretoria, South Africa. The Bokamoso (means “Future” in Tswana) Center was created to counter the crime and despair destroying their community where schools are overcrowded and inadequate, there is 60% unemployment , and a 25% HIV infection rate. It is a part of the Pretoria Anglican Diocese’s Tumelong outreach program.

The hundreds of youth that have entered the Bokamoso program receive empowering counseling, job training, educational

tutoring, art and recreation opportunities, family intervention, AIDS Education, and free health care. After they graduate from the three months of intensive work, they either return to school, or move into child advocacy or job internship programs. They re-enter their community ready to make powerful, positive contributions , having been mentored by strong adult leaders.

The Bokamoso Youth Theater created the musical play “Won’t Happen To Me” in 2001 with Roy Barber. It is an outcry of warning, hope, and compassion from the youth at the epicenter of the AIDS crisis. They began performing it around their Gauteng Province, and in January of 2003,with the support of Seekers Church, brought it to Washington, where they were in residence at St. Andrews Episcopal School in Potomac, working with the Race and Culture class there. They worked with students at high schools and universities in the area, as well as with a variety of church youth groups including St. Alban’s.

During the summer of 2003 Horizons Theater Director, and Chair of the Department of Theater and Dance at George Washington University, Leslie Jacobson joined Roy Barber and the Bokamoso Youth to create “Family Portraits: The Door is Open,” to describe the healing of broken families from domestic violence as the youth begin to create their new South Africa.

In 2005 the same team created a musical play called “A Tree Must Learn to Bend” which addresses changing gender roles in a rapidly transforming country.

This month...

- 1 New Year’s Day, *office closed*
- 2 Funeral for President Ford, *office closed*
- 5 The Feast of the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist at 7 pm
- 7 Holy Baptism
- 14 Recovery Sunday
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr
birthday, *office closed*
- 16 Vestry meeting
Deadline for articles for *The Chronicle*
(February issue)
- 21 Bokamoso Youth Theater at 5:30 service
- 26-27 Diocesan Convention at
the Cathedral
- 28 Rite-13 Liturgy
Fellowship Sunday hosted by Rite-13

New Staff Responsibilities

St. Alban's is in the process of developing a strong focus on stewardship, which among other things includes utilizing our gifted staff members in the best way possible by allowing them to focus their ministries on the things at which they excel. The Rector has recognized that the staff will need to be smaller due to budget constraints. At the same time, we still have a need to provide for the needs of the parish. The Rector hopes the following two changes will assist the parish in this time of transition as we await more news of the parish's financial support:

Jane Volkema who has served as Director of Communications & Evangelism will become the *Director of Parish Administration*. This is an important need we have. Our database needs a lot of work. Bob Woolfolk, Barbara Manard and others have graciously volunteered their time in the new year. They will spend the first few months of 2007 getting the database up to date and accurate. Jane will then administer it. That means Jane will take over responsibility for all membership information and the scheduling of baptisms, weddings, and funerals. It is important that we have one person who coordinates all these things so people do not have to go to different staff to get the basic information or answers they need. She will still edit a monthly issue of *The Chronicle* and be responsible for keeping the website updated.

Ron Hicks will have a new job title: *Director of Facility Operations*. As many of you know, Ron has really done several full time jobs as Director of Operations. This has been unfair to Ron and has caused him to work inordinate hours. His new responsibilities will focus primarily on our parish facilities and systems. He will continue to schedule groups using our facilities and be responsible for the maintenance of our buildings and technology.

Those are the major changes in job titles and responsibilities. Since we do not yet have the final pledge figures, we do not know if there will need to be further changes or staff reductions. As the Rector and Vestry get more information, they will communicate it to the parish.

Millennium Development Goals

ONE *Episcopalian*™ is a grassroots partnership between The Episcopal Church and the ONE Campaign to rally Episcopalians – ONE by ONE – to the cause of ending extreme poverty in our world and achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals, and ways in which the Episcopal Church is committed to their realization, are the focus of a 10-part series of announcements you will find in our Sunday bulletins beginning January 7 through March 11.

First among the mission priorities that the Episcopal Church adopted at its General Convention in June is justice and peace work, framed by the MDGs — an eight-prong declaration that has at its core the eradication of extreme poverty by the target date of 2015.

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT:

- **ONE Episcopalian**
<http://www.episcopalchurch.org/ONE/>
- **DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade, Africa)**
www.data.org
- **Educational resources from Episcopal Relief and Development**
http://er-d.org/programs_36756_ENG_HTM.htm
- **United Nations Millennium Development Goals**
www.un.org/millenniumgoals/
www.millenniumcampaign.org

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

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