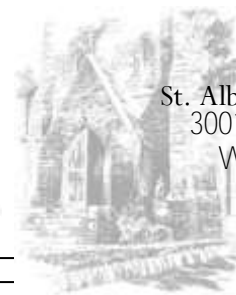


St. Alban's Chronicle



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

April 2008

St. Alban's Gets a New Umbrella

The St. Alban's Parish Outreach Commission, created by the Vestry in 2007, is hard at work to strengthen and expand the outreach ministries of the parish and to develop a coherent, collaborative, and comprehensive approach to better support and stimulate the outreach ministries of the entire St. Alban's community. With its fresh approach of purposeful collaboration, it is hoped that the efforts of the Commission will give us all a clearer picture of how the Parish can best use its many gifts, including financial resources, to respond to the call to "be doers of the Word and not hearers only..." (James 1:22)

The Commission believes that a transparent, well-publicized and carefully coordinated Outreach effort will enjoy greater understanding and support throughout the parish. Also, with better communication to the outside world, St. Alban's will be an even better model of a parish committed to doing our part to build up God's world.

St. Alban's Parish budget currently supports four ministry groups: feeding ministries (SOME casseroles, Grate Patrol, and Christ House); The Crossroads Shelter; Seniors program (Super 60's salary support); and Institutional Grants, which are funds given to outside groups doing superb outreach ministry in our community and the wider world. A contribution to the global Millennium Development Goals has been added to the 2008 parish budget. The 2008 Outreach Budget is \$71,810.

After working with all concerned, the Commission recommended to the Rector and Vestry that the parish draw upon its five traditional outreach funding sources to collaboratively support the Outreach ministries at St. Albans in 2008. This is a new approach that breaks down historic decision-making "silos" and calls on all parish outreach leaders to work more closely together. The funding sources are:

- Pledge income
- Workers of St. Albans (WSA) Grants, raised from The Opportunity Shop proceeds
- The Transformation Fund, a part of the Capital Campaign funding
- Mustard Seed Offerings, and
- Special Fundraising Events, such as the Golf Outing and Spring Gala and concerts.

This approach will bring all our outreach work under one common St. Alban's umbrella, while honoring the independent and creative judgments of these parish outreach funding groups. We're already off to good start with good spirited collaboration between groups and lots of healthy dialog.

The Commission will continue to meet throughout the year to monitor the actual expenditures of the outreach ministries; to consider how the Parish can better support its outreach activities; to publicize how deeply the Parish is committed to reaching out to the needs of the world beyond Mt. St. Alban; and to provide guidance for new ministries that may develop.

The Outreach Commission is Chaired by Kammie Hedges and assisted by Assistant Rector Tim Boggs. Members include Maria Estefania, Lauri Fitz-Pegado, Joanne Brainard, Peter Spalding, Susan Morris, Lisa Birchard, Jeff Harwood, Jane Schubert, Mary Jane Shackelford, and Charlotte Morris.

Annual Gala Dinner to Benefit St. Alban's Feeding Ministries and the Crossroads Shelter

Highlight your calendar now for the evening of Saturday, April 26, for the not-to-be missed annual spring event, "Food Glorious Food," the Gala Dinner to benefit St. Alban's feeding ministries, and the Crossroads Shelter. Tickets go on sale following each of the services beginning March 30th in the **Wade Room**. Look for the ticket tables also on April 6, 13, and 20th but remember there are limited seats available and they go quickly. Black tie is optional.

Tickets are \$55, with open seating at tables set for 6 and 8 guests. Place cards will be available beginning at 6:00 pm., at which time you may position them at your desired dinner table in Satterlee Hall. At 6 pm a champagne reception and silent auction will be hosted in Nourse Hall, so plan to arrive early and bid, bid, bid. Successful bidders will be notified individually at dinner.

At 7:30 in Satterlee Hall, enjoy a fantastic spring dining experience catered by St. Alban's parishioner, Elizabeth Petty of The Catering Company, and again ably served by our young parishioners. Coffee and dessert will also feature a performance of some of our selected St. Alban's vocal talent. Then we will dance the night away with the music of the popular DJ, Phillip Haughton. Please bring wine as desired.

Volunteer opportunities are still available so please consider donating your time, talent, energy, money, and wines or other goodies. Questions? Please contact the Gala Planning Committee or Susan Morris at (301) 718-9379 or SRM3108@aol.com.



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

8:00 am..... Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 9:15 am..... Holy Eucharist, Rite II
 9:15 am..... Children's Chapel
 9:15 am... Teen Service / Holy Eucharist
 11:15 am..... Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 5:30 pm..... Holy Eucharist, Rite II

MONDAY

12:05 pm..... Noonday Prayer

TUESDAY

7:30 am..... Holy Eucharist

12:05 pm..... Noonday Prayer

WEDNESDAY

12:05 pm..... Healing Eucharist

THURSDAY

12:05 pm..... Noonday Prayer

FRIDAY

12:05 pm..... Noonday Prayer

CLERGY

The Reverend Scott A. Benhase, Rector
 The Reverend Erin Hensley, Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Ministries
 The Reverend Timothy A. Boggs, Assistant Rector for Stewardship & Outreach Ministries
 The Reverend Harriette Sturges, Deacon, Coordinator of Children's Ministries
 The Reverend Lukas Katenda
 The Reverend Loren B. Mead, Honorary Associate

EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Carolyn Seaton, Chaplain, American University

PARISH STAFF

Shirley Dickey, Receptionist
 Eric Gustafson, Director of Parish Administration
 Ron Hicks, Parish Verger
 Vilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs
 Sonya Subbaya Sutton, Director of Music
 Marcia Welch, Communications Coordinator
 Dr. Norman Scribner, Director of Music Emeritus

VESTRY OFFICERS

Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden; Jim Sottile, Junior Warden;
 Andrea Farr, Secretary; Christopher Holmes, Treasurer

VESTRY MEMBERS

Nathalie Branson; Bill Edgar; Marc Fetterman;
 Kammie Hedges; Keith Jones; Dani Kauffman;
 Sam Lewis; Susan Morris; Jon Sawyer;
 Mark Shima; Bob Witten; Bob Woolfolk
 Chase Felker and Colin Mahaffey, Youth Representatives
 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

Confirmation Retreat for Adults on Saturday, May 10

As we know from the Catechism, an outline of our faith, "Confirmation is the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop" (1979 BCP p.860).

On Saturday May 17, confirmands from around the diocese will be confirmed at the National Cathedral at 10 am. If you are an adult who wishes to be confirmed on May 17, please contact Eric Gustafson, our parish administrator, as soon as possible and save the date of May 10.

You can reach Eric via email at ericg@st-albans-parish.org or by phone at 202-363-8286. On May 10, beginning at 9am and ending at 3pm in Nourse Hall, adult confirmands will gather with clergy to prepare for this sacrament.

We will open and end with prayer, share a meal together, discuss the Book of Common Prayer, sacraments, and Church polity. We look forward to helping you prepare for and supporting you in your public affirmation of faith.

Africa Roundtable: Untold Stories

Sunday, April 20, 12:30 pm, Satterlee Hall

On Sunday April 20 at 12:30 pm the Africa Roundtable hosts a lunch and also a talk by parishioner Jon Sawyer.

Jon directs the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, a non-profit center that supports coverage of under-reported issues and places around the world and also education and outreach initiatives to engage more Americans on global issues.

At the lunch on April 20 Jon will discuss the Center's recent reporting initiatives in Africa – on the rehabilitation of ex- child-soldiers in Liberia, health care challenges in the eastern Congo, the return of "Lost Boys" to southern Sudan, and the water crisis in Ethiopia. He will also share short video documentaries the Center has recently produced for the public-television program *Foreign Exchange*.

All are welcome. For more information contact Jon (jsawyer@pulitzercenter.org or 202-362-4924) or Frank Rambo (202-249-9820 or frank.rambo@bakerbotts.com).

The Vestry approved the following budget for 2008 at its February 19 meeting. For a more detailed explanation of these individual line items, please see the Stewardship Board in the Church's narthex or speak directly to the Rector or a member of the Vestry.

ST ALBAN'S PARISH BUDGET - 2008

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>
Pledges	\$1,278,000	\$1,360,987
Collections	\$55,000	\$55,647
Contributions	\$60,000	\$59,825
Transfers from Other Funds	\$70,000	\$62,650
Designated Income	\$63,300	\$62,869
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,526,300	\$1,601,979
<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>2008 Budget</u>	<u>2007 Actual</u>
Personnel	\$873,000	\$914,074
Diocesan Support	\$144,400	\$140,000
Outreach	\$71,900	\$77,063
Parish Ministries	\$60,000	\$85,824
Building & Grounds	\$307,000	\$321,948
Parish Office	\$40,000	\$62,620
Finance	\$30,000	\$4,216
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,526,300	\$1,601,531

Senior Youth Explore the Sacrament of Confirmation

On Sundays in April and the first two Sundays in May, Senior Youth of St. Alban's will explore confirmation. Together with the help of their leaders, teens will delve into what it means to be a child of God, a Christian, and an Episcopalian. Beginning and ending their time in prayer, they will look at baptism and confirmation as beginnings, what faith and worship are about, church history and polity. These classes, as well as a longer session in May, will help teens make informed decisions about publicly affirming and continuing the baptismal vows made on their behalf when they were younger. None of these teens have to be confirmed, but the exploration is offered to help them make informed decisions about confirmation. Please hold the senior youth leaders and the teens in prayer as they wrestle with important questions together. The last line of the prayer after the baptism of a candidate offers some guidance in our prayers for the senior youth: "Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works" (1979 BCP p. 308).

The Diaconate in the Episcopal Church

Our Catechism asks: Who are the ministers of the Church? The response is: The ministers of the Church are laypersons, bishops, priests, and deacons. This means that about 99% of our ministers are laypersons and 1% is ordained. It also means that the basis of all ministry in our branch of Christ's kingdom is based on our baptism into the Body of Christ. At baptism we become servants of Christ and a part of the priesthood of all believers. You may want to read the section of our Catechism that pertains to Ministry that begins on page 855 in our Book of Common Prayer. It goes on to explain the differences in the offices. However, each ministry is to "represent Christ and his Church."

From the earliest times in the Church, there evolved three distinct ordained ministries. As the disciples increased in number, the apostles felt they would be neglecting the word of God if they had to wait on tables, so they appointed deacons to care for the Hellenistic widows while they continued in prayer and serving the word. In 1st Timothy, chapter 2 the office of bishop and deacon are differentiated. As the Church continued to expand, there were not enough bishops, so presbyters or priests were ordained to stand in for the bishop. Some centuries later, one was ordained a deacon before one could become a priest. The diaconate as an independent order all but disappeared. In the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, one was ordained to the inferior order of deacon for a year and if his manner of life was exemplary, he could be ordained to the priesthood. The Canons (governing rules of the church) now require 6 months instead of a year and the word inferior has been dropped.

By the 1950's the role of deacon as an independent order has been brought up and reviewed numerous times resulting in a two-deacon system (excluding, of course, Baptist Deacons and Demon Deacons of Wake Forest University). "The restoration of the diaconate is directly linked to a renewed self-understanding of the church as a servant body given by God to the world for purposes of revealing God's love to the world and the calling of the world

into relationship with God's own self." (quote from the Diocese of Washington's paper on the Diaconate).

A person who has a priestly vocation and is approved by the church still must serve as a deacon for at least six months. During this time the deacon-to-be-priest is not allowed to do the ABCs of liturgy. ABC is shorthand for the absolution, the blessing and the consecration of the elements at communion. They do have pastoral and other duties in the church according to the need of the congregation and the gifts of the person.

Others are called to remain deacons, so never absolve, bless or consecrate in the liturgy. What do they do? During the liturgy they lead us in the confession, set the table as a symbol of servant-hood, read the gospel as a symbol of their engagement with the world and dismiss the congregation to disperse into and minister to the world. They also have other duties assigned to them to assist bishops and priests in their roles. They serve under their bishop and are assigned to a congregation with the permission of the rector and vestry. The Church usually does not pay deacons to serve in the liturgy or in a congregation in the role of deacon, although provision should be made for expenses and discretionary funds.

The Diocese of Washington has allowed deacons to serve but has only ordained transitional deacons who later would be ordained to the priesthood. Now the Diocese has established its guidelines and process for those who have a vocation to the diaconate. According to the Diocese, "these guidelines draw heavily on the ancient model of the deacon, with its emphasis on the relational role of the deacon to both the laity and the bishop as emissary of the church's mission to reconcile the world to Christ and Christ to the world.

I would suggest anyone interested in exploring the ministry of deacon to go to the diocesan website www.edow.org and read the guidelines. There have been meetings throughout the diocese to discuss these, and another will be on Saturday, April 12th at St John's, Beltsville. I also suggest you read the Ordination of a Deacon in the Prayer Book beginning on page 536 and the Catechism on Ministry found on pages 855-856. There have been meetings throughout the diocese to discuss these. St. Alban's Parish is named after a deacon.

Will this new emphasis on deacons inspire us? Should we be leaders in this effort because of our namesake St. Alban, deacon and martyr? Surely with all our outreach ministries we are a servant church to the world and individually serve in many serving capacities. How may a deacon help? Can a deacon be of service here? This could be a lively discussion.

Be a ROMEO!

A chapter of the national organization of **ROMEOs (Retired Old Men Eating Out)** is being established at St. Alban's. There is no constitution, no by laws, no Roberts Rules of Order, no dues, no program – just a bunch of men having lunch together once a month or more if they like. It provides an opportunity for men to get out, meet old friends, make new friends and chew the fat about most anything that comes to mind. If you are interested, call the office and leave your name, telephone number, and email address. Once we know how many are interested, we'll pick a place and a date for the first meeting. If you have questions, contact Dave Johnson on Tuesday, Friday, or Sunday. Church phone: 363 8286; home phone: 202 966 0087; church email: davidj@st-albans-parish.org.

Three Pilgrimages

Italy was a choir tour for some 40 singers; it was also three pilgrimages for the singers and the 11 of us who were along as “chaperones/guardians/groupies.” After all, St. Alban’s was sending these Innocents for the first time into the land of the Romans. It was also a pilgrimage on behalf of all of St. Alban’s.

There was excitement from the day we landed in Rome. We first saw these posters in a walk around the city the first day. There they were in St. Peter’s Square, with an angel logo at the top, an advertisement for this choir from “Stati Uniti.”

*Con il patrocinio della Associazione Internazionale
Amici dell Musica Sacra*

Basilica di S. IGNAZIO DI LOYOLA
CONCERTO

The Choir of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church
Washington – Stati Uniti

Direttore: Sonya Subbayya Sutton

Programma;
brani di Rachmaninoff, Britten, Poulenc
E altri autori di musica sacra



“Direttore Sutton.” And, boy, did she “direttore” that choir around Rome and Assisi. They sang in Latin, French, Spanish, and English. The entire repertoire was some fifteen pieces. All were sung a cappella. Cindy Gady, in the alto section had the responsibility of piping the pitch notes for each piece and she didn’t miss, not once.

Interesting, and almost fascinating, was that the spokespersons who introduced the choir at the Church of St. Ignatius, Rome, and the Church of St. Mary Major, Assisi, as well as the Cardinal Celebrant who acknowledged the choir at the end of the Mass at St. Peter’s, all could not pronounce “Alban.” Is the name translated differently in Italian? Our able Roman, English-speaking tour guide could pronounce it quite well and never suggested a different Italian pronunciation. It’s as if they didn’t know he existed. Hey, Fellow Romans, Lend Me Your Ears. Alban, circa 209, was a Roman and he was also Your Saint. You canonized him. Well five sites, including St. Peter’s, now know who he is. So it was a pilgrimage on behalf of all of St. Alban’s Church.

Audiences were stunned by the music and our choir, who sang in Latin, French, Spanish and English. The applause (even at end of the Mass in St. Peter’s) was loud. Did I need to add that “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel” was a show-stopper at all sites where it was appropriate to perform it? The Schutz “Cantate Domino,” prompted a one-person-led standing ovation in the middle of the concert in Assisi. Certainly the Romans and Assisi had never heard our 150th year commission, Davison’s “Most glorious Lord of Life.” Indeed it was a pilgrimage for the choir.

But above all, it was a pilgrimage to holy sites in two cities led by the Reverend Canon Eugene Sutton. He was stunning in his insights into the discipline of a pilgrimage. We had devotions, prayers, exercises in humility in knee-climbing the steps of the Scala Santa, and an occasional homily. He chose wonderful settings -- the mundane and the glorious -- for his disclosures. We had daily prayers from the interior of our tour bus. The low ceiling, dark and confining closeness of the Catacombs of St. Domitilla, amidst all those burials, brought very close the ashes to ashes, dust to dust of Lent and the grief of loss. Then, the next day, we were in the sunlit and subtle magnificence of a Basilica of St. Francis, Assisi. There we were, chanting a Lord’s Prayer that was interspersed with Eugene’s reading of St. Francis’s introspections on the Prayer. The range of settings reminded us that God’s Presence surrounds us wherever be our physical and spiritual location.



The pilgrimages were not without their humor. There was much kidding of Sonya for an offhand recommendation at a pre-tour choir practice for daily gargles of hydrogen peroxide. Also, before our private service with music in the Basilica in Assisi, Eugene was asked by one of the local priests if he “was Catholic,” and the implication was that if he and we were not, we would have to move on. Eugene answered a forthright, “Yes!” After all, he said later, the priest didn’t ask if I was Roman Catholic.

It was all rather glorious and indeed a pilgrimage on the three fronts. Exhausting physically and emotionally? Yes. But also, “yes” to renewing and energizing spiritually. We should do it again. As the legion of Bogart and Bergman fans might put it, “Play it, again ... [Sonya].”

--John Daniel Reaves

Members of St. Alban's Choirs in Italy:

When In Our Music God is Glorified --420, The Hymnal

Powerful moments --

We choir-tourists entered the upper basilica of St. Francis of Assisi, marveled at the story-in-fresco of the life of this simple man of God, and Sonya whispered, "We were just told we could sing, if we'd like to." Quickly gathering before the altar, we sang "Notre Pere," the Lord's Prayer in French, and "Most Glorious Lord of Life," the beautiful anthem that was commissioned for St. Alban's recent sesquicentennial. In the previous hour, we'd listened to our local guide tell us about the humble monk who treasured all of God's creation, and learned that he became known as Francis, the "French boy," because of his mother's nationality. And here we were, praying with Francis in French and offering up the anthem of our home church. The sounds hung in the air and mixed with the prayers of the thousands who had gone before us. There are no words...

No less moving was the simple service we'd just had in the basilica's crypt, prepared and led by Eugene Sutton. As we prayed and sang at that simple burial site, brothers and nuns drifted down to listen and join us in worship. We experienced a pure awe and were reminded what it means to be the small-C-catholic church.



And so it was for the more than 50 singers and excellent "groupies" that received *and* gave gifts of music and spirit on the February pilgrimage. Beginning in Rome, we packed in an astounding amount of sightseeing around an ambitious singing schedule. (An unplanned appearance of the Pope in St. Peter's Square even found this group of Episcopalians cheerfully waving to the passing pope-mobile.) Our "Concert for the People of Rome" at St. Ignatius Church on Saturday night was a great success -- this Baroque beauty had an acoustic we will long remember. A fine audience responded enthusiastically, some even wanting to have their pictures taken with us -- imagine! In such a place, it was easy to sing with joy and for the love of God.

We were welcomed as the choir for a Sunday service at the American Episcopal church, St. Paul's Inside the Walls. Surveying the splendid architecture and mosaics, we were surprised to learn that the building is actually younger than St. Alban's. St. Paul's has a vibrant program, including a support center for political refugees and economic migrants, and it was wonderful to add our heartfelt singing to their worship.

Our service in the Catacombs of St. Domitilla, far underground in a small earthen room, was another profound experience. Eugene prepared readings and a Lenten homily on "the shadow of death" that touched us all, including several still grieving recent losses. In this place, we sang to each other, to the departed in our hearts, and to the Lord who saves us and is with us until the end of time.

Of course, we also immersed ourselves in antiquity, partied well, and enjoyed a particularly entertaining wine-tasting -- and yes, we sang there, too! Mostly, we will remember that we've never sung *so much* in one week. In small ensembles, Jim Shaffran's solo offering, or as the whole choir, we filled large spaces and small (there was a tiny gem of a church in Assisi that had a tiny gem of an audience) with concerts both long-planned and spontaneous. We sang to praise God, we sang to love each other, we sang to learn and we sang to offer the best we had.

The largest space for singing was St. Peter's Basilica (is there *anything* bigger?) where we were the principle choir for an evening mass. As we returned to our hotel from that experience, our Roman guide congratulated us on having sung in "the most important church in the world."

Dear people of St. Alban's, we disagree. The most important church in the world is where each of us, individually and collectively, find God and live out our faith. It is not among towering marble and gold-dipped cherubs' wings. It is the family of faith in musty catacombs, on buses and planes, and on Wisconsin Avenue in worship, rehearsals, vestry meetings, kitchen sandwich makings, and the gathering of our young.

We thank fellow singers who were unable to join us for holding down the fort, and for the many of you who supported us in making this journey. We believe the spirit of this pilgrimage will be part of our music ministry here for a long time to come. And we'll be glad to give you our first-hand accounts with little encouragement.

--Jo Turner

Bible for Brunch, Wednesdays at 11 a.m. this Spring

Please join the Rector for a study of St. Paul's *Letter to the Romans* this Spring at St. Alban's. We will gather each Wednesday from 11 a.m. until noon in Nourse Hall. This particular study will go for nine weeks from April 2 until May 28. Please feel free to bring a friend.

Easter flowers

This year's Easter flowers were spectacular, thanks to the Flower Guild Flower Memorial Coordinator Adelaide Brown, and to you—all of you who contributed in memoriam or thanksgiving for loved ones. If you made a contribution but have not yet sent in your check (or have yet to contribute for earlier memorials), please be sure you mail your payment, made out to St. Alban's Flower Guild, to :
Carl Ackerman
4000 Cathedral Ave. NW, #654B
Washington, DC 20016

Kelly Benhase on DC Schools

How does one who feels called to teach in an urban public school cope with a mixed bag of positive challenges and major obstacles to learning and teaching? On October 7, Kelly Benhase delineated for us the shape of her work as an English teacher at DC's Eastern High School. For many years, Eastern -- housed in a beautiful building with a sundial over the front facade -- was "a star" with, among other things, a highly regarded music program. But of late, with nine principals in ten years, it has experienced serious, seemingly intractable difficulties.

According to Ms. Benhase, the press and the general public scarcely comprehend the conditions and problems with which DC teachers routinely cope. Journalists questioned DC Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee and Mayor Adrian Fenty about the goal of air conditioning every classroom by this spring, wondering whether it wasn't a "wasteful" use of funds. Yet students regularly fall asleep on account of the extreme heat. Gaping holes in ceilings or walls can go unrepaired for years, endangering health and safety.

But, noted Ms. Benhase, there are even larger issues than those of crumbling buildings and obsolete resource materials -- among them, attendance. "How," she asked, "do you teach kids you're responsible for when they don't show up in class?" Using her first-period class as a case in point, Ms. Benhase described a "trickle in" situation where, of thirty-two students, only four were in their seats when class started at 8:45 am, and only fifteen had arrived by the tardy bell at 9:15.

Weighing teachers down in the face of all this is the issue of educational standards and assessments. Chancellor Rhee's business model, which would measure student learning to determine how effective teaching is, is a distinct improvement over the old factory model that sees children as widgets. However, there is still relentless pressure to improve test scores. (Eastern's principal fears she will be fired if tenth-grade test scores don't go up within the year.) Ms. Benhase acknowledged that "it's hugely stressful when you don't know what your students need to know," and when the range of ability among students is so wide.

Even in the midst of this embattled situation, one can still find pleasure and promise. Ms. Benhase teaches poetry (from a book by

Billy Collins) every Wednesday, "even though scrambling from one day to the next." And she has experienced "virtually nothing but support" from Eastern's parents -- African Americans largely from the pink-collar sector -- who often share with her "the overwhelming challenges of their lives."

Summing it up, Ms. Benhase puts it this way: "We're in for some tough times with DC schools. But the stakes are enormous!"

-- Ann Ramsey-Moor

St. Alban's Hosts Event on the Importance of Early Childhood Education in DC Annual Meeting Hosts National Première Specialists

At the end of January, the St. Alban's Early Childhood Center (SAECC) hosted their annual meeting and proved to be a testament to the program's quality through its speakers and its participants. In addition to reporting the state of the center and announcing slate elections of the directors, the event hosted two of the most well-regarded early childhood advocates in all of Washington, and was attended by anxious parents, media outlets, educational experts and authors, and parishioners and community at large.

St. Alban's Board President and Parishioner, Eve Zartman-Ball, proudly stated that "DC is really starting to take education seriously, realizing it is an essential element of a viable city. We were here long before the term 'early childhood education' was mainstream, and a great deal can be learned from DC survivor programs like SAECC who have quietly and consistently produced a solid starting ground for thousands of children across the city for generations."

The first speaker at the event was Craig Ramey, PhD, who is the Director of the Center for Health and Education at Georgetown University. Over the past 30 years he and his wife have conducted research involving 14,000 children and families in over 40 states. He has authored more than 225 publications (including 5 books) and is a consultant with governmental and private organizations as well as news agencies. They currently oversee multi-million dollar research portfolios and work on grants from NIH and have earned many prestigious awards.

Following Dr. Ramsey's presentation was the recently appointed Deborah Gist, the State Superintendent of Education for the District of Columbia. Ms. Gist's career has evolved from school teacher, designer of service programs for city and national level to--most recently--Serve DC, where she was Executive Director. All of the local DC Board of Superintendents and their staffs who were present engaged in active Q&A discussions during and after the presentations, which helped parents navigate the intricacies of deadlines, borders and choosing the right schools for their children.

"I really felt like they were listening and maybe someone could help us," said one mother of a toddler new to the area and already dismayed with the competition and confusion the area had to offer. In addition to the parents, the local media of the Georgetown Northwest Current arrived for photos and articles, which have already run, and we hope to see stories continue to percolate about in the months to come.

The Board was elected by the membership at this meeting, and serving on the Board from the parish are Rev. Harriette Sturges, Jeff Harwood, Jane Karas, Nick Karas and Eve Zartman-Ball. Accomplishments over the past year have included: ensuring fiduciary health through investments and development; beginning to develop Long-Range Planning; and most importantly, the hiring of a new Executive Director Donna Mason. Donna comes to the center with over 20 years of early childhood teaching and management experience and has already helped the center to achieve a position as one of the first reaccredited NAEYC Centers in the country, which is an accomplishment years in the making and achieved by few.

The speakers this year reflected the quality of center that SAECC now is. The center would not be what it is without the dedication of parishioners like you, who have supported the Center for the past 35 years and helped thousands of children begin their educational careers ready to learn. St. Alban's parishioners were clearly ahead of their time in knowing the need in the evolving home/work place for full-time & year-round quality daycare services that does not distinguish between full-pay and DHS (more than 20% below the poverty line), but rather focuses on equal treatment of all the children to encourage them to be the best they can be. What better place to start life than the supportive environment we all know and love as St. Alban's.

SALON ST. ALBAN'S / Rev. Martin L. Smith

Salons of the 17th and 18th Centuries were held by leaders in social, art, political and intellectual life who assembled for an exchange of minds on contemporary topics.

SALON ST ALBANS is a 21st Century development initiated by a small group of parishioners who believe others would care to join them for informal discussions of mutual interest: *An unusually thoughtful essay by one, the formative book or books upon which a parish or staff member built his/her lifetime, the challenges faced by one or another of representative generations, a continuing discussion of a Forum presentation -- Marina Buhler-Miko's recent one, a personal reflection on Desmond Tutu's Truth & Reconciliation Commission, comes to mind.* The possibilities are limitless. The plan is to provide a time and place for those interested to meet occasionally for a Salon consideration. **The Reverend Martin L. Smith** will be the first convener for a Salon discussion on Sunday, April 27, at 1 p.m., following the 11:15 Service. We will meet for lunch, two blocks down Cathedral Avenue at The Westchester, 4000 Cathedral Avenue. This is an easy walk from the Church or, one may park on the grounds. -- \$25 - soup or salad with entrée, dessert & coffee, tax and tip included. Cash bar.

Reverend Smith is well known throughout and beyond the Episcopal Church as a writer and teacher exploring a contemporary Christian spirituality that emerges from new knowledge and the riches of mystical theology and tradition. Trained as a theologian at Oxford, he spent most of his ministry within the Anglican Communion's oldest religious community for men, the Society of St. John the evangelist. Currently he is known to many of us for his work with our fellow congregation, St. Columba's, where he is Senior Associate Rector. He travels widely, teaching and leading retreats. Martin Smith is the author of widely read books on spirituality including *The Word is Very Near You, A Season for the Spirit, Reconciliation*, and his recent collection, *Compass and Stars*, from the column he writes for Washington Window.

Over lunch on April 27, Reverend Smith will lead Salon participants in a discussion of:

Sacraments and the Scandal of Intimacy with God

The gospel brings out our ambivalence about closeness; intimacy is what we both desire and fear. The Sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist are shocking assertions of God's desire to be in our lives. Our salon conversation may touch on ways in which our attitudes to them reveal both our longing for union with God and our resistance to it.

Reservations necessary. Call: Joanne Brainard – 301-365 3647 Elizabeth Desan – 202-338-4929 or Amanda Hobart – 202-333-2024

(continuation from p. 8) Section 3. Wardens, Terms and Eligibility for Office.

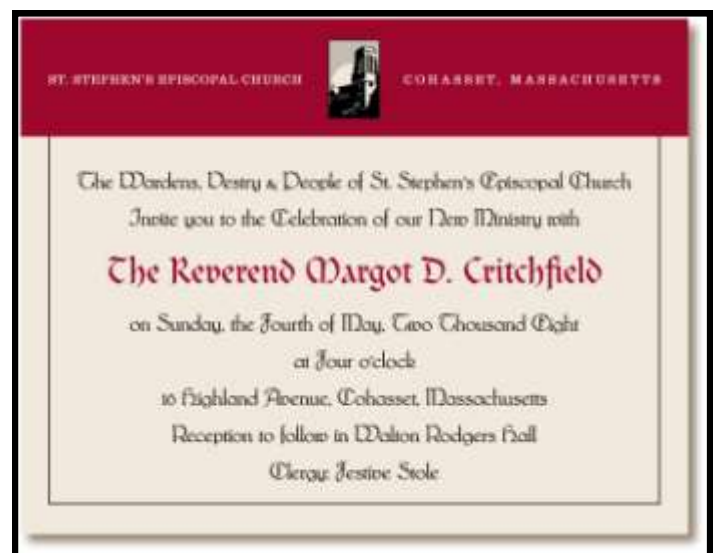
Wardens shall hold office for a three-year term, or until their successors have been elected and qualified, except as otherwise herein provided. Wardens may serve for two successive three-year terms if so elected. No Warden having served for two successive three-year terms, or if elected to either of said terms fails for any reason to serve any part of either term, shall be eligible for election to the same position as Warden until the lapse of four years after the date of his election to the term or any part thereof which he has served; provided, that any Junior Warden serving any of said terms shall be eligible for election at any annual Parish Meeting to the Office of Senior Warden, and may serve as Senior Warden for two successive three-year terms if so elected, but thereafter shall be subject to the aforementioned lapse of four years from the date of his election to either term before becoming eligible again for election as a Warden.

[Junior Wardens and Senior Wardens shall each be elected for a three-year term. At each election, two candidates will be presented for both Junior Warden and Senior Warden. If either a Junior or Senior Warden is so nominated and elected, they may serve for one additional term after which an interval of six years is required before they are once again eligible for these offices. Further, an outgoing Junior Warden may stand for Senior Warden, requiring the same process of nomination and election as would otherwise be required.]

Section 6. Nominating Committee.

At the stated meeting of the Vestry in January, the Rector *or in his absence the Senior Warden* [and both Wardens], with the approval of the Vestry, shall appoint a nominating Committee (from qualified parish voters), composed of *not less than two Vestry members other than Vestry members eligible to be candidates at the next succeeding annual Parish Meeting for election to vacancies on said Vestry and among the Lay Delegates.* [outgoing Vestry members, outgoing Diocesan Delegates, and such other Parish members as the Nominating Committee shall choose. It is understood that potential Nominating Committee members should decline if considering standing for any of the vacant offices being considered.] The Rector, *or the Senior Warden in his absence*, [and both Wardens] will designate one of the Vestry members to be chairman of the committee. The Rector shall make provision to announce to the Parish the names of the members of the Nominating Committee and its purpose during the succeeding months. At the next stated meeting of the Vestry following appointment of the Committee, the chairman shall report to the Vestry:

a. A list of *not less than one and no more than two* candidates for each vacancy to occur among Wardens and Vestry members and shall designate these candidates specifically selected as candidates for Wardens, further assuring the Vestry that all such candidates have indicated their willingness to be nominated and to serve if elected;



IMPORTANT OFFICIAL NOTICE TO THE PARISH

At its meeting on March 18, 2008, the Vestry approved amendments to the Parish By-Laws. The amendments will be considered at the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2008, following the 11:15 service. The By-Laws require that the parish have 30 days notice of proposed amendments to the By-Laws. Three changes are proposed:

Election of Wardens

The current practice is for two candidates to be nominated to stand for Senior Warden. The candidate receiving the most votes becomes the Senior Warden, and the candidate in second place is appointed Junior Warden. The proposed new language calls for separate election of the Senior Warden and the Junior Warden with two candidates to be nominated for each position. Candidates for Senior Warden would be required to have at least two years experience as a Vestry member (including service as Junior Warden).

Hiring of Assistant Clergy

St. Alban's current By-Laws state that the Rector hires assistant clergy with the advice of the Vestry. This is inconsistent, however, with Diocesan Canon 25 which states that assistant clergy shall be nominated by the Rector and selected by majority vote of the Vestry. If approved, the amended language would make St. Alban's practice consistent with the Canons.

Age Qualification for Wardens, Vestry and Diocesan Delegates

Currently, the By-Laws require that Wardens, Vestry Members, and Diocesan Delegates be 21 years of age by the date they assume office. The change is to lower the age requirement to 18 years of age.

Deleted text is indicated by italics, and new text is indicated by bold brackets.

ARTICLE III

The Vestry

Section 4. Selection of Rector and Hiring of Assistant Clergy and Staff.

b. The Rector, with the advice of the Vestry, is empowered to hire such assistant clergy and lay employees as are required for the administration of the Parish within the limits set by the Vestry. The Rector is further empowered to set the tenure and duties of said assistant clergy and lay employees.

[b. The Vestry shall, by majority vote of the whole Vestry, elect assistant clergy from among the clergy of the Episcopal Church or other clergy authorized by the canons of the General Convention to officiate in the Episcopal Church. This election shall be at the nomination of the Rector after consultation with the Bishop in conformity with the canons of the General Convention.

Assistant clergy shall serve under the authority and direction of the Rector, who sets their tenure and duties.

c. The Rector, with the advice of the Vestry, is empowered to hire such lay Employees as are required for the administration of the Parish within the limits set by the Vestry.

Lay employees shall serve under the authority and direction of the Rector, who sets their tenure and duties.]

ARTICLE IV

Election of Wardens, Vestry Members and Lay Delegates to the Diocesan Convention.

Section 1. Qualifications for Office.

Wardens, members and Officers of the Vestry and Lay Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the Diocesan Convention must be qualified voters as prescribed in Article II, Section 3, except that they shall have reached their *twenty-first* [eighteenth] birthday by the date they assume office; and be either confirmed or received in this Parish or shall have submitted thereto a letter of transfer from another Episcopal church.

[Candidates for Senior Warden must have completed at least two years of Vestry service either currently or in the past.] **(continued on p. 7)**

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

Articles for the May 2008 *Chronicle* must be received by April 15, 2008

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