

# Meet your Candidates here ...

*and at the  
Parish Forum  
Sunday, April 20  
10:30 am  
Satterlee Hall*

Vestry members and Diocesan Delegates will be elected at St. Alban's annual meeting on May 4 following the 11:15 service. Those who serve on the Vestry and as delegates play an important leadership role; your choice of individuals to represent you can help determine the future life and ministry of our parish. To get to know your candidates, come hear them speak.

The Nominations Committee is grateful to all who volunteered thoughts and recommendations during the candidate selection process, and to those who have agreed to stand as candidates.

The elections on May 4 will choose four new Vestry members and two Diocesan Delegates. The following Vestry members will continue in office: Kate Bouvé (St. Warden), Jim Sottile (Jr. Warden), Christopher Holmes (Treasurer), Bill Edgar, Marc Fetterman, Kammie Hedges, Keith Jones, Danette (Dani) Kauffman, Sam Lewis, Bob Woolfolk, and Mary Jane Shackelford (WSA Board Rep). Ed Frost, Barbara Manard and Amy Slemmer continue as Diocesan Delegates.

Susan Morris, Jon Sawyer, Mark Shima and Bob Witten are completing their terms on the Vestry.

## Voting

Voting on May 4 will begin at 8 am and close when the Annual Meeting begins. There will be no voting while worship services are in progress.

## Vestry

This year, four candidates will be elected to the Vestry. The four top voter-getters will serve three-year terms.

**Sandra Barker**



I was received into the Episcopal Church at Christ Church Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in 1973. Since that time, the Episcopal church has been a fundamental part of my life. Throughout the years, I have been very involved in numerous church activities and ministries. As I look back on these activities and ministries, I realize I have chosen these activities and ministries based upon where my life was at a particular time. When my two children, Lori and Doug, were young, I was a Sunday school teacher at my church in Miami, Florida. When my children became teenagers, because we did not have a youth group at my church, I started a youth group.

I was active in youth ministry in Florida for 14 years. When I moved to Washington DC in 1994 and joined Saint Alban's, I continued my commitment to youth ministry and was a youth leader for five years. During these five years, I helped bring the Journey to Adulthood Program to Saint Alban's.

As I have passed from mother to single person and grandmother, I have found myself active in a variety of

St Alban's educational, community-building, and outreach ministries. These have included active involvement in the Adult Forum Planning Committee, the Catechumenal Baptismal Committee, Grate Patrol, the Crossroads Shelter, the Sunday Night Live Planning Committee and the Africa Roundtable. For four years, I was involved in starting and leading the DOCC program, a spiritual development and community-building program for St. Albanites. For the past three years, I have represented St Alban's as Diocesan Delegate. I also serve as an acolyte at the 11:15 services.

For my own spiritual development, I have participated in Education for Ministry ("EFM"), Bible Study, the Wednesday Theological Book Group, retreats and pilgrimages, and theology programs both at St Alban's and at the National Cathedral.

Professionally, I am an attorney. I am Vice President / Chief Legal Counsel for Chevy Chase Bank's Mortgage Division in Bethesda, Maryland. I received my Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University, my Masters from the University of Michigan and my J.D. from the University of Miami. I currently reside in a home in AU Park when I am not traveling to see my three grandchildren, Connor, Sydney, and Kieran.

**Joanne Brainard**



Six years ago Alfred and I came to St. Alban's where we found a vibrant spiritual community, an incredibly welcoming church, opportunities to learn and grow, kindred souls and friendship beyond imagining. This has become a much treasured community, and I have become deeply involved in the life of the church as lay reader, acolyte, usher, greeter, member of the Outreach and Hospitality Commissions, the WSA board, and parish representative to Episcopalian Senior Ministries. To further my spiritual education, I will soon finish the third year of the four-year Education for Ministry (EFM) course.

I was honored when asked to stand for the vestry and believe my service at St. Alban's and my professional and life experiences have prepared me for this ministry. Having lived and worked in Europe for over 25 years as a Foreign Service spouse, manager, director and international educator, I am no stranger to diverse cultures and hostile attitudes. In my professional life, I learned the wisdom of listening to all voices before acting, the value of consensus and conciliation, the importance of fiscal discipline,

## If you are not able to vote on May 4 ...

Stop by the Parish Office weekdays between 8:30 and 4:30 pm for an absentee ballot. Results of the election will be announced during the Annual Meeting and posted on our website by 5 pm, Sunday, May 4.

close budgetary oversight and attention to detail. As a member of the vestry, my priorities would be the well being of the entire parish community, keeping St. Alban's a warm and welcoming church, promoting outreach locally and further afield and attracting the next generation of committed St. Albanites.

### **Andrea Farr**



As parish Secretary I have had the opportunity to follow this year's developments very closely, and I am energized by what I have seen and heard. I know there are passionate opinions concerning the issues that face us, as we continue toward realizing our tremendous potential as a parish. As we make changes that build on what we have already accomplished, there must be open communication within the parish, so that important decisions are made with input from as many parishioners as possible. In this way we can minimize surprises and hard feelings, and maximize the effectiveness of and support for the results of sometimes tough choices.

I am particularly interested in: the continued growth of our children's programs, our relationship with the Cathedral, and continued careful fiscal stewardship. I am also excited about the Planning Weekend and the possibility of taking a longer view of our goals.

In the fifteen years since my now in-laws invited me to Easter Sunday at St. Alban's, I have served on a facilities committee, as a participant and later a lay leader in an Inquirers' Class, on the Newcomers' Committee, on a discernment committee and as Secretary. Alec and I were married here, and our children Katie and Matthew were baptized here. St. Alban's is my parish home and is precious to me. If given the opportunity, I would do my best to listen to you,

to distill information and to exercise prayerful and careful judgment as a member of our Vestry.

### **Chuck Holmes**



It didn't take long for my family and me to fall in love with St. Alban's Parish when we moved here after living abroad for seven years. What a blessing it was. Since 2000, we've relished the wonderful clergy and warm congregation who make this our spiritual home.

I was baptized and confirmed in the Episcopal Church in my native Tennessee. Sarah and I were married in her family's Episcopal church in Tallahassee, Fla. When my job as a journalist took us overseas, we worshipped at St. George's Cathedral in Jerusalem, making our Anglican connection in the Holy Land.

But St. Alban's and its people have strengthened my faith and have transformed me in a way I never could have imagined. The ministries I've been called upon to serve have confirmed an enduring truth — in the process of giving you get much more than you give.

I spent five years as a leader and storyteller in Children's Chapel, watching — literally — the parish grow and seeing firsthand the nurturing effects on our daughter, Katie. I was a Rite 13 leader for two years and came to know a terrific group of teens and their parents. SOME and Grate Patrol have been rewarding and sobering reminders of the important work we do as a parish and that there is so much more work to be done.

I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve as a member of the Vestry and do my best to uphold the spirit and mission of St. Alban's Parish.

### **Stephanie Kinney**



As I explained to Bob Smith, at the risk of becoming the Harold Stassen of Saint Alban's, I am, nonetheless, honored to have been asked again to stand for the Vestry. Those who know me know that St. Alban's has been a thread in my life since 1994, when I was posted to the US Embassy in Copenhagen and St. Alban's Anglican Church warmly welcomed this American Episcopalian. Serendipitously, my husband Douglas and I "discovered" St. Alban's Abbey in England two years later, and upon our return to Washington found ourselves again drawn to St. Alban's through the magnetism of Frank Wade and the amazing community that marks this parish church. Participating in Foyers, Bible Study, serving as a greeter for the 11:15 service and as Secretary of the WSA Board have enriched my commitment to and engagement with St. Alban's in Washington. Organizing History Day to help welcome Scott to the parish deepened my knowledge and appreciation of the legacy St. Alban's continues to honor as it moves into a new era of its ministry. Becoming a member of the Salisbury Choir this past fall has engaged me to another important dimension of this church — its musical tradition — not to mention the astounding talents and commitments of all those who make this possible.

I am deeply drawn to the challenge of helping St. Alban's navigate a crucial transition to a new chapter in parish life, as we fully embrace the challenges before us. I especially look forward to working with Scott and his team in this regard, believing that no one can become a good leader without responsible, committed followers. Experience as a diplomat, strategic planner and change management consultant prepare me to learn

from and grow with other leaders in our diverse and evolving church community. My prayer is for a community energized and nourished by a robust younger generation while it remains nurtured by the wisdom and caring of those who make St. Alban's all that it is today.

### **Jennifer Thorson Martin**



There is no place in my life that means more to me than does this church. I consider you my family. Together we rear our children, cope with life's troubles, share our blessings, and find meaning and purpose. We strive to understand God's call and to answer it. Because of Saint Alban's, I live more joyfully. I am honored to again be asked to stand for election to the Vestry.

Since joining St. Alban's in 1990, I have served in a variety of roles, long enough to have difficulty remembering exactly what and when they were. With each experience, I develop a deeper appreciation for the commitment, courage and love evident in this parish. We are by no means perfect, but we get a lot done with tremendous grace.

I last served on the Vestry in the late nineties, after working as the Church School Coordinator for several years. In addition, I have taught Sunday school, organized bazaars, celebrations, and gatherings, and served on a variety of committees. Currently I am a part of the Commission on Stewardship, a group charged with improving our efforts to effectively solicit and manage contributions of all kinds to the parish. If elected to serve as a Vestry member, I will work to balance practical concerns with spiritual needs in the parish and our community.

## Gray Maxwell



I am a life-long Episcopalian; my active involvement in our Church began at the Kent School, which is an Episcopal boarding school, where I was confirmed as a teenager. Over the past 24 years, I have worked for a total of eight different Senators, Republicans and Democrats. Most recently, I have served as the legislative director to Senators Moynihan, Feinstein, Lautenberg, and Cardin.

My wife Eileen and I joined St. Alban's parish 15 years ago. I have been a lay reader and an usher, participated in Adult Catechism classes and Lenten discussion groups, and served on two discernment committees, including Tim's. In all candor, St. Alban's has given much more to me than I have given back. A desire to balance the scales, a love for my spiritual home, and the hope that I can help other people experience the joy I feel as a Christian, Episcopalian, and St. Albanite motivate me to run for the Vestry. We shouldn't be diffident about evangelizing – we have a wonderful message, faith tradition, and parish to share.

We are called to ministry by virtue of our baptism, to live purposefully so that our words and actions proclaim God's truth, whether we are at home, work, or church. To me, this means we are charged with spreading the good news of the Gospels, welcoming the stranger, being agents of reconciliation, and pursuing social justice. This belief would inform my service on the Vestry if I am privileged to be elected. I hope to bring people together, both to our community and within our community.

## Eric Melby



When Frank Wade asked me to chair the EMP campaign, my reaction was "why me?" I was comfortable just sitting in a pew on Sunday. I consulted two colleagues, both active Episcopalians, expecting them to offer a graceful way out. Instead, they said that if I respected the rector, I had no choice. I found the assignment a rewarding challenge, getting to know many parishioners for the first time. (It is easier to ask for money if you learn someone's name.) Subsequently, I honed my solicitation skills as a co-chair of the Capital Campaign, although I did begin to wonder why few would sit with me on Sundays.

When asked if I would stand for the Vestry, I had another "why me?" moment. But respecting the person who asked, as well as our rector Scott Benhase, I agreed after careful consideration. My family and I have attended St. Alban's since returning from France in 1985. Our daughters Alexandra and Sarah learned much at St. Alban's. As a youth usher, Alexandra encouraged me to become an usher, an experience I have found quite rewarding. When she became a youth lay reader, however, she did not encourage me to emulate her! Sarah became the first youth member of the Flower Guild, learning many things about the parish while mastering flower arranging. My wife Pamela has been active in the Altar Guild and Grate Patrol. If this smacks of 'resume padding' on my part, it is also an indication of the role St. Alban's has played in our family life.

Outside of St. Alban's, I am a partner at The Scowcroft Group, an investment advisory firm focused on emerging markets. Previously, I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in the Philippines (along with Pamela), and have worked at AID,

the State Department, the International Energy Agency, and on the National Security Council staff.

If elected to the Vestry, I will endeavor to listen to the concerns and views of the parish before expressing my opinions, a habit that, if mastered, will doubtless stand me in good stead outside St. Alban's as well.

## Diocesan Delegate

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

The top vote-getter will serve a three-year term. The second top vote-getter will serve as alternate for one year.

## Diana Dee Dykstra



I have been a member of St. Alban's for more than 25 years. I first experienced the warmth of our parish in the fall of 1981 as Doug Dykstra and I prepared to celebrate our wedding day. Since then, St. Alban's has been a very special part of my life. It has been the blessing of you, your generous kindness and prayer that has made a difference in my life in both the good and challenging times.

Over the years, I have had the honor of serving St. Alban's in a variety of ministries. This past

December, I was installed as a Stephen Minister after completing an intensive training program led by David Johnson and Jo Turner. Last spring I was chair of Norman Scribner's Retirement Celebration Committee. I served three very special years on the Vestry. I have also enjoyed singing in the choir, supporting the work of Samaritan Ministry, ushering, serving on the Altar Guild and as a verger for weddings.

For the last 22 years, I have had the privilege of working at Pepco where I am currently Manager of Sourcing Technology. I serve as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Cathedral Choral Society and chair its Development Committee.

I would be very proud to serve you, my St. Alban's family, as one of our Diocesan Delegates. Please know that I would work very hard to ensure that our parish is represented in an outstanding manner.

## Mark Edwards



The Edwards family was blessed in 1999 when we found St. Alban's, upon return to the Washington DC area after four years in Atlanta. My wife Sue and I searched for many months to find a church home for our young family, consisting at that time of our son, Matt (then 8 years old) and daughter Caitlyn (then 6 years old). Through an introduction by our special neighbors Joan Phalen and Chuck Cowdrey, we came to a number of services and experienced the powerful and deeply moving sermons of Rev. Frank Wade. Surrounded by glorious historic architecture and beautiful music, we were smitten. St. Alban's became our faith home, and has been ever since.

While I have become good friends with a number of you, many pa-

rishioners may not have any idea what I do for a living. Unlike the many doctors, lawyers, and other government professionals who grace St. Albans, I am employed as a senior heritage preservation specialist with a large corporation that focuses on providing engineering, architectural, planning and scientific services around the world. Prior to the past eight years with this corporation, I worked for over two decades in state government with historic preservation agencies in Maryland and Georgia. Much of my current work focuses on providing environmental and historic preservation review services to unlock regulatory barriers that have impeded the delivery of over \$660 million in HUD funding to homeowners in the state of Mississippi whose homes were devastated by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2006. As strange as this may sound, I view this as God's work.

I am a firm believer that "works" are as important as "faith" in the Episcopal Church – or any church, for that matter. Through the years, I have had the opportunity to become more involved with different groups and service areas at St. Albans.

Since 2002, I have been privileged to sing in Sonya Subbaya Sutton's very special and wonderful choir (recently returning from our choir tour in Italy), learned much about thinking theologically through completion of two years of the Education for Ministry (EFM) curriculum under the incomparable tutelage of Pat Bleicher, and helped to shepherd our own children through the multi-stage Journey to Adulthood (J2A) program. Beginning in the fall of 2007, I began working with approximately twelve of our church's sixth and seventh graders and now serve with Anne Large as a Rite 13 Group Leader.

I am pleased to have been asked to serve in this new capacity, and would be honored to stand as a Diocesan Delegate to represent St. Albans.

## Bill Hall



After three years as a Diocesan Delegate, I feel that I am just beginning to understand how the Diocese, the Chapter and the Cathedral interact with one another and with the Parish. Since the end of last summer I have been a member of the St. Alban's-Cathedral Covenant Committee, charged with developing a charter to better define and formalize the ongoing relationship between the Parish and the Cathedral Congregation. This participation has given me new and broader insight into the functioning of the Diocese in the context of our neighbors on the Close. I would like to take advantage of the opportunity to serve a second term to build on both experiences for the benefit of the Parish. I also intend to volunteer for additional service opportunities at the diocesan level.

St. Alban's has been our family's spiritual home for 15 years. We have all been involved in parish life: Rachel, our sixth-grader, participates in J2A; Kathleen, our collegian, is a Journey to Adulthood graduate; Becky has served on the board of the Early Childhood Development Center. I was Vestry Secretary from 1997 to 1998, and a Vestry member from 1998 to 2001. While on the Vestry, I helped draft changes to our bylaws that make it easier for parishioners to vote in parish elections. I am a Eucharistic Visitor, and I continue as one of the group who regularly brings communion to people at the Washington Home. In 2001 I completed the Sewanee University's four-year Education for Ministry (EFM) program here at St. Alban's. If reelected as a Diocesan Delegate, I pledge to listen to the concerns of fellow parishioners regarding issues that relate to the Diocese and to represent those concerns. I will also report back to the parish on

the deliberations and decisions made at the Diocesan Convention.

## Cay Hartley



When my family returned in 1973 after 10 years of living overseas, we chose St. Alban's as a place for our daughters to be confirmed. The music was—and is—wonderful, and the church quickly became our home. Here are some of my activities at St. Alban's: three terms as Lay Reader Trainer/Coordinator, PCOM member twice, Diocesan Delegate, Region II's member of the Diocesan Transition Team that facilitated the arrival of Bishop Chane and celebrated Bishop Dixon's tenure when she retired, recent Vestry member, and a thankful EFM graduate. Currently, I am a lay reader alum and co-coordinator, substitute acolyte, and PVLEM. I most often attend the 11:15 am service.

But none of those activities properly express how I feel about St. Alban's. This congregation and clergy have supported me through the worst of times (when my husband died), and in some of the best (when my daughter and her partner named their daughter in the church, and my partner and I celebrated our commitment). I have strong convictions, but I am also a good listener and seeker of common ground. In spite of differences in how each of us stands on contemporary issues, I believe we have the opportunity to be generous in our differences and be that bright city on the hill; we have the opportunity to *celebrate* every sort of diversity and to live out the Gospel of love.

I am a clinical social worker in private practice, specializing in issues of trauma, loss and grief, and have years of experience facilitating groups and presenting

workshops in my field. I regularly lecture at the Foreign Service Institute on issues of managing in a crisis. Until this year, I was an adjunct faculty member at Catholic University's National School of Social Work. I believe my professional skills and experience, as well as my long tenure at St. Alban's, would be an asset as a Diocesan Delegate, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve.

## Call for Annual Meeting Reports

Due Friday, April 11

Send your report to:

[EricG@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:EricG@st-albans-parish.org)

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 4th. So it is time to get your reports written and emailed to me to be included in the Annual Report to the Parish. Reports are due to me no later than Friday, April 11th. It will be a big help if your report is created in Word and e-mailed to me as an attachment. In the past, reports included: Reports from the clergy, Senior Warden's Report, Junior Warden's Report, Treasurer's Report, Stewardship Pledge Campaign, Transformation Fund Report, Building Committee Report. This does not limit other groups, ministries or guilds from including a report. All reports are welcome. They do not have to be long; one page or less is usually sufficient.

Eric Gustafson, Director of Parish Administration