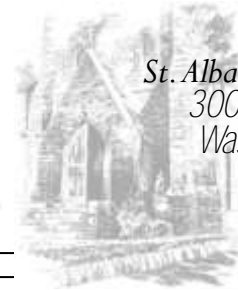


St. Alban's Chronicle

St. Alban's Episcopal Church
3001 Wisconsin Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20016
May 2008



May 18th at 5:30 pm
in cooperation with
The National Cathedral
St. Alban's Parish
will celebrate a
Special Evening Eucharist to Commemorate
Thurgood Marshall
on the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision re
Brown vs. Board of Education

**The Bishop-Elect of Maryland,
The Rev. Canon Eugene Sutton will preach
The Rev. Timothy A. Boggs will celebrate**

In 2006 The Episcopal Diocese of Washington passed a resolution asking the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to recognize Thurgood Marshall in the book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts, a place of commemoration and honor for leaders in Christian witness and sacrifice. This resolution also called for parishes throughout the diocese to remember Thurgood Marshall on a date near May 17th, the anniversary of the famous Supreme Court case he argued for school desegregation.

Thurgood Marshall was a grandson of a freed slave and rose to be appointed to the Federal Court by President Kennedy in 1963 and to the Supreme Court by President Johnson in 1967. Raised in Baltimore, Mr. Marshall had hoped to attend the University of Maryland Law School but was denied admission because he was African American. He attended Howard University Law School instead and became the first director of the Legal Defense Fund of the NAACP and a world-famous advocate for justice. The Diocesan resolution honoring him says, "Without regard for his personal safety and with immense energy, he tore down barriers... he was the author of major social change from which every person benefits."

Please bring your friends and family to St. Alban's Church for this special service held in cooperation with the National Cathedral May 18th at 5:30 PM.

SAVE A TREE!

The St. Alban's Chronicle is now available on our website BEFORE the printed copy reaches your doorstep. If you would like to be taken off of the "snail mail" list and access the Chronicle each month on-line instead (in living color!), please e-mail the Office at ericg@st-albans-parish.org to be removed.



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, Parish Administrator
 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 Bramson; 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



Growing the Stephen Ministry: Looking Ahead

Stephen Leaders David Johnson and Jo Turner will enlarge the Stephen Ministry fold this fall. The 2008 training series for carefully selected Stephen Ministers begins Tuesday, September 9, and continues on Tuesday evenings and one Saturday morning each month until early December.

By the time they are commissioned for their role in St. Alban's pastoral care, Stephen Ministers have received 50 hours of training in many of the issues that parishioners may face – such as illness, loneliness and grief – while honing skills like listening, maintaining confidentiality, and appropriate use of community, spiritual and mental health resources. Our current ministers will tell you that the training, developed from 35 years of best practices, is intense but well worthwhile! Continuing education in a variety of topics is part of ongoing supervision sessions for commissioned Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers are people of strong, mature faith who commit to being witnesses to God's unwavering love for their fellow parishioners in times of need. Although their work is invisible to the congregation at large because of confidentiality, they are truly the "Easter People" for those they serve.

If you would like to learn more about the ministry, the considerable time commitment, or your own yearnings to serve others, contact David or Jo. They can be reached by phone through the church office or at davidj@st-albans-parish.org and jot@st-albans-parish.org.

Celebrating Senior Youth's Commitment to Christian Ministry

On April 6 during the 9:15 a.m. Eucharist our Senior Youth participated in the "Claiming Your Ministry" rite. During their Rite 13 years these teens worked on understanding and building Christian community. In the second two-year section they focused on adulthood skills and a pilgrimage, and now in their final two years as Senior Youth they have been focusing on mission, ministry, and beliefs. In the Commitment to Ministry rite on April 6, the teens named the ministries they feel called to explore with the help of a ministry mentor, a wise adult who will serve with them and help them reflect on their service. Scott received the Senior Youth "as young adults, ready to represent Christ and his Church, to bear witness to him, to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world and to take [their] place in the life, worship and governance of the church." The teens themselves then offered symbols of their pledge of time, talent, and treasure in their chosen ministries. Last but not least, we pledged to support them in these ministries. The next time we do this liturgy there will be a hand-held microphone, so all can hear what mentors and mentees say. We learn about ministry as well as liturgical practices through experience.

Please pray in thanksgiving for those who made commitments as well as those continuing to discern their Christian ministries. Anna Hadfield will be serving with Jonnie Sue Hicks on the Mississippi Book Project; Briana Pegado will be serving with Helma Lanyi in Episcopal Peace Fellowship and other peacemaking efforts. Charlotte Morris will be serving with Peter Spalding in outreach ministries and David Sottile will be serving with Liz Leland on the altar guild. Jane Easton will be serving with Frank Rambo on the Africa Round Table and Oliver Eid will be serving with Molly Buck on the altar guild. Caitlyn Edwards, Gabe Maletta, Haley Dunn, John Master, Katy Wellington, Matthew Bond, Sidney Sands-Ramshaw, Zoe Tron, and Stefan Vastek are continuing to discern their ministries. Thank you for holding them all in the light, as they continue to grow on their journeys to adulthood.

Doing Spring Cleaning? Don't Toss, Save for the Sr. Youth Yard Sale!

On Saturday June 21, the day before our St. Alban's Day celebration, the senior youth will hold a yard sale to help raise funds for their 2009 mission trip. The sale will occur from 9am-3pm in the parking lot behind the old rectory. For early-bird buyers, we'll sell doughnuts and coffee beginning at 8:30am. As you are doing your spring cleaning at home or work, please save gently used items for the yard sale. Please drop off items after June 1 and before June 19. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Erin at 202-363-8286, x207 or erinh@st-albans-parish.org.

The 2008 Budget and Staff Changes

Each year the Vestry prepares the parish budget once it has a clear idea of the total pledges parishioners are making for that year. Due to a reduced number of pledges this year the Rector and Vestry had to make some very difficult decisions about where in the budget to find cost savings. There are few areas in any parish budget where there is much discretion. We have fixed costs like utilities and our support for the Diocese and the larger Church. The most discretionary areas of the parish budget are personnel and outreach. Like with most parishes, the largest percentage of our parish budget goes to personnel. In years past, our personnel costs had grown to 61% of the total budget (in 2005). In recent years, we have tried to keep the personnel costs closer to 57% so as not to adversely affect other important areas of our parish's ministry. In making personnel decisions for 2008, the Rector and Vestry again sought to keep our personnel percentage close to the 57% we allocated in 2007 while also trying to keep our strong commitment to outreach as an important percentage of our parish budget.

Even though our average pledge amount has risen remarkably in recent years (now approximately \$2800/household), the total number of pledges has declined. So, the Rector and Vestry decided to make some staff reductions effective half way through this year. This was a very painful choice. That means at the end of May we will need to say goodbye to our Receptionist, Shirley Dickey, and our Communications Assistant, Marcia Welch. Both of these dedicated people have made enormous contributions to the mission and ministry of St. Alban's Parish. They will be sorely missed by all of us. Both Shirley and Marcia are receiving one month's severance pay, so they will be compensated through June. They are also receiving time away from work, as they need it, to interview for new positions. The Rector and the rest of the staff are working on ways of sharing the increased workload they will need to assume as a result of these changes.

The Rector and Vestry hope that all parishioners will take time to personally thank Shirley and Marcia for their great contributions to our parish life.

St. Alban's Discerning Companionship with the Cuban Episcopal Church

At the end of June, members of our Parish's Overseas Mission Committee and members of our Senior Youth group will travel to Cuba to meet with leaders of the Episcopal Church there. For religious institutions to travel to Cuba, each institution needs a special religious license issued by the U.S. Treasury Department. St. Alban's was fortunate to receive one of these rare licenses last year. While in Cuba, our parish representatives hope to establish new friendships with our Cuban sisters and brothers and discern with them if God is calling us into companion relationship. The Vestry will be eager to hear from our representatives upon their return. Based on their recommendations, the Vestry will make a decision about our future relationship with the Cuban Episcopal Church. If you would like to know more about this new initiative, please contact the chairman of the Overseas Mission Committee, George Keys at: gkeys@jordankeys.com. Also, we are pleased to welcome Fr. Juan Exposito, a priest of the Cuban Episcopal Church, who will be with us at the Eucharist on the Feast of Pentecost, May 11. Fr. Exposito will be in the U.S. finishing his degree at the nearby Shalem Institute.

Time & Talent Pledging for the new Program Year (September 08 – August 09)

Equally important to our financial pledge each year is pledging of our time and talent to the mission and ministry of St. Alban's Parish. Time & Talent Pledging may be new to some people, so it might be helpful for you to read further for a thorough description of how it works.

The best and easiest way to pledge is to go to our parish website and click on the home page link for Time & Talent Pledging. Once there, review and pray over where God may be calling you to serve in the coming year. Check those ministries to which you feel called to serve and submit the pledge. You will receive an email confirmation of your pledge. Also, the leaders of the ministries to which you have pledged will also receive an email with your contact information indicating you have made your pledge of time & talent to that ministry. Those leaders will then be in touch with you before September of this year to help incorporate you into the ministries to which you have pledged.

If you prefer to pledge by using a hard copy, then those can be found in the Wade Room off Nourse Hall. Once completed, staff and volunteers will enter your pledge into our system and ministry leaders will contact you as described above.

Time & Talent Pledging is a way to open up the ministry of the parish to as many people as possible. It is a good way to be as inclusive as possible and to increase the number of people active in all our many and varied ministries. It is also an important means for each of us to contribute our part to the ministry of the whole parish.

Please take a few minutes to pledge your time and talent for the coming program year.

The Alban Course

Being an adult member of St. Alban's Parish means that each of us takes personal responsibility to grow spiritually. The parish provides many resources for everyone to do that. But there is no "one size fits all," because each of us is in a different place in our faith journey. So, spiritual growth and the development of one's faith is not a series of hoops to jump through, rather it is an intentional journey where one chooses to follow Jesus Christ in the fellowship of the Church.

For this journey we offer *The Alban Course*. This course comprises two 8-week series. One series is on the *Christian Narrative*, the story from God's Creation to our Consummation in God. The other series is on *Christian Practice*, how we live that story out in our daily lives. This summer (beginning May 25) we will continue to offer *The Alban Course* on Sundays from 9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Old Rectory living room. This will precede the 10:30 a.m. Summer Holy Eucharist.

When we return to the 9:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. schedule in the fall, we will offer *The Alban Course* only at 10:30 a.m. In the past we have offered it two times on Sunday morning, but this has proved to be too full a schedule for the leaders. As our leadership team expands, we hope to offer *The Alban Course* more often.

VBS Becomes VBC/ KRO Becomes Official

Don't panic—this is a change in name only. VBS stands for Vacation Bible School, but I have found that VBC—Vacation Bible Camp—describes the program more accurately and is probably more appealing to children on vacation. This will not in any way compromise the integrity of the program.

KRO stands for Kids Reaching Out. A friend coined this name and said we could use it also. This is an ongoing program with projects done by the children for others. So far we have raised money for the Bishop's program *Children to Children* during Advent and collected books for a destitute school in Mississippi. At present we are knitting squares for baby blankets for Native American families. We are also thinking of collecting stuffed animals for them and for family shelters and police who deal with children.

This summer we will have several opportunities for our children and supporting church family to participate in VBC.

There will be an evening program from 6-8 for rising first, second and third graders July 14-17th. The theology and theme will be based on *The Voyage of the Dawn Treaders*, part of the Narnia Chronicles by C. S. Lewis. Emma Morrison suggested this book and theme.

For our 4 and 5 year olds there will be a Camp on August 25, 26, and 27th from 5-7. Colleen Morrison suggested we use Winnie the Pooh as an introduction to the grace of God.

For **Kids Reaching Out** I will continue our knitting lessons for kids of all ages. The times will be adapted to suit small group schedules. If you are interested, contact me or organize a group with me. Suggestions for other offerings are most welcome.

As always with our programs at St. Alban's Parish, our children are welcome to invite friends and neighbors to come with them. There is no charge, but donations of food, supplies, and time are always welcome. Please contact me by phone 202-363-8286 or hsturges@st-albans-parish.org. Thanks as always. —Harriette

Women in the World but not of the World?

The following is an excerpt from an article posted by the Anglican Communion website. Here in the United States, all of us sometimes lose sight of others and forget that women and children elsewhere are lacking in basic rights. Please read the following and go to the website in order to better pray for our Communion.

A significant number of women gathered from across the Anglican Communion to provide input to the annual session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, meet with other NGOs, and meet amongst themselves.

What better occasion than to join our concerns for improving the lives of women and children, for the poor and oppressed, the hungry and sick, the abused and homeless with the concerns of the UNCSW to promote women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields? Their participation in the UNCSW sessions has heightened the perception of faith-based organizations by the UN and the NGO network alike. Daily worship and further discussions amongst themselves on the issues as they pertain to the various situations across the Communion and the work of the church, as well as workshops on such things as advocacy and designing effective programs, while sharing stories and forming friendships, have greatly strengthened the women and, through them, all members and the mission of the Anglican Communion.

To get the full story, go to www.anglicancommunion.org/acns/digest/index.cfm.

**ANNUAL
PARISH
MEETING
SUNDAY,
MAY 4,
AT 12:30 PM**

**LUNCH
PROVIDED
BY
AFRICA
ROUNDTABLE**

St. Alban's Forum April 6, 2007: A PICTURE OF GREAT NEED IN NAMIBIA (THE REVEREND LUKAS KATENDA)

The April 6 forum featured the Rev. Lukas Katenda discussing the needs of the Diocese of Namibia. This diocese, which covers the whole country of Namibia (population 2 million with 125,000 Anglicans), has only 21 priests, each handling up to 22 congregations. Namibia lies north and west of South Africa. Most of the people live in the northern regions where water makes agriculture possible. It has few natural resources. The most important need is one of connection between their Diocese and the western church. Lukas said that a person is a person only through human contact. He feels that it was not an accident that he was led to St. Albans; where he served as a deacon and priest, while attending Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS). God led him from being a nurse at St. Mary's Health Center in Obibo, Namibia, to VTS and the ordained ministry. He feels that God will lead him on to living and preaching the Gospel to his people in his home country.

Lukas has recently been appointed as the Secretary/Treasurer for the Diocese of Namibia. This responsible position has been vacant for three years, and Lukas faces many problems handling the financial and educational needs of a very poor diocese.

There are three pillars to the needs of dioceses: Preaching, Education, and Health Care. Lukas would like anyone who wants to come and help with these problems to contact him (lkatenda@gmail.com). They especially need anyone with skills in teaching, health care, and communications. St. Albans has formed a Namibia committee to help define a role for our parish in helping Lukas and his diocese. (Contact Frank Rambo, Chief Convener of the African Roundtable, at frank.rambo@gmail.com). For example, under the direction of the Rev. Russell Ayers, St. Alban's has collected some 800 pounds of books and several computers to be sent to the Dioceses. The need is great and the resources few in this very poor part of Africa. Can you help?

"Art of the Epiphany" moves from January Forum to June tour

Given that Epiphany fell on a Sunday this year, how better could we have experienced this confluence than with a celebration of the art of the season by St. Alban's parishioner and National Gallery docent extraordinaire, Dr. Nancy Cummings?

Nancy put together a Forum presentation featuring 45 slides with commentary on works by Van Eyck, Botticelli, Fra Angelico/Filippo Lippi, and many others. The connection between biblical stories -- the Annunciation, the Nativity, the Adoration of the Magi, and the Flight into Egypt, to name a few -- and masterpieces from Medieval and Renaissance art was explored. The audience was invited to enter into the paintings in order to understand how the perceptions and assumptions of the artists' own times influenced how Christ and others were depicted. Joseph, for example, often appears as a senior citizen, presumably to reinforce the notion that he was far too advanced in age to have fathered a child. Also, the symbols in these paintings are fascinating. For instance, a peacock in a Fra Angelico/Filippo Lippi painting of the Adoration of the Magi symbolizes both immortality and the Medici family.

Nancy's presentation, which she also offered near the beginning of Advent at St. John's, Georgetown, took us from the Annunciation to the Christmas story to arrive at Epiphany. But it doesn't end there. Parishioners who might wish to delve further into the subject of Nancy's Forum and see some of the actual paintings are in for a June treat. As promised at the January 6 event, Nancy has arranged to lead tours at the National Gallery on Wednesday, June 4, and Saturday, June 7, both at 11 a.m.

Tour groups are limited in size, so it will be necessary to sign up in advance. To reserve a space, e-mail your request, indicating which tour you prefer, to ngatour.saeedc@yahoo.com.

--Andrew Ramsey-Moor

Faith and Everyday Leadership

How can we better live our faith every day in our families, communities and places of work? Sixty-four parishioners at St. Alban's are engaged in a new ministry of study and discussion about doing just that with an enabling grant from the Transformation Fund. Our guide for living faith every day is the *Prayer Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi* which we undertake to say every day. It contains all the guidance we need, but it is not always easy to live by its tenets.

With the assistance of a curriculum and reading resources prepared by the Alban Institute, we are discussing our efforts to live our faith every day with each other, learning from our shared experiences and the course readings which cover an interesting range of examples and perspectives. Our sessions together have included personal faith narratives from Liz Leland, John Buchanan, Pat Petrash and Alexander Netchvolodoff in plenary session, and from all of the rest of us in individual small group discussions.

Our ministry is open to all in the parish who would like to participate or even just attend a session to find out what it is all about, and our next meeting is at 12:30 p.m. for lunch in Satterlee Hall on Sunday, June 8. This will be a particularly important session, since we will have both the continued sharing of our faith journeys in small groups and a total participant discussion of program development for next year based on reflection about the five meetings of our first year together. If you would like to come, please call me at (202) 530-3371 or e-mail tcoughlin@edgemoorinv.com.

--Tim Coughlin

Please join us on Sunday, June 29, 2008
for *Erin Hensley's ordination to the priesthood*
here at *St. Alban's Parish*.

The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, a renowned preacher and the Bishop of the Diocese of North Carolina, will be preaching in the morning and ordaining Erin in the afternoon. There will be a reception following the ordination. Erin looks forward to continuing to serve God with you all, as she enters this different phase of her ordained ministry. In connection with the Sunday ordination, there will be an Evensong service at 5:30 on Saturday, the 28th, with light fare afterwards. Please plan to attend this special event as well.



**Bishop
Chane
Visits
St. Alban's
April 9th
And
April 13th**

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

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

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