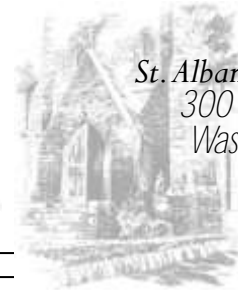


St. Alban's Chronicle

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



A Bold Blue Benefit: Bags for Humanitarian Relief

By Jim Tate

Like many members of the St. Alban's, community I have been lucky enough to travel to many points around the globe. Sometimes through my work, sometimes for family reasons, and sometimes to hunt, fish, and bird-watch, my travels have taken me to many countries and every continent except Africa and Antarctica. Thirty years ago I began taking extra things with me for the local people I would be meeting and working with on my travels.

At first my extras were simple: some pens and pocket notebooks or some school supplies. Later I would pack extra fishing supplies, shirts or shorts for my guides, or a stack of tee shirts for the kids. But recently I became aware of a humanitarian relief project for remote communities where I could deliver the contents of a large Blue duffle bag of donated materials as part of my normal travels.

Beginning in 1996, Safari Club International (SCI) began a humanitarian program under the trademark SafariCare for the delivery of mosquito nets and other medical supplies to villagers in remote areas of Namibia by SCI members engaged in hunting and nature travel trips to the area. This inaugural step started a volunteer healthcare outreach program serving people in need of services in remote communities that became known as the Blue Bag program.

Typically these Blue Bags are filled with medical, educational, and other relief supplies, clothing and toys, which are then taken to remote areas by travelers who have planned excursions in these regions. The supplies are delivered directly to villages, clinics and schools for doctors, teachers and villagers to utilize.

In 2006, program participants took 51 "Blue Bags" overseas (up from 19 in 2005) as part of their luggage, thereby avoiding shipping costs as well as preventing theft of contents before they reach the intended recipients. So far, in 2007, the rapidly-growing "Blue Bag Brigade" has delivered more than 84 bags.

So, I wrote up a proposal for the St. Alban's Africa Roundtable and the DC Metro Chapter of SCI to jointly fill and deliver as many as ten Blue Bags in 2008. Although pre-filled bags are available for about \$200 from Safari Club, I proposed that we fill bags directly through donations and volunteer time of the St. Alban's Youth Group, Africa Roundtable members, SCI members and others. Some items may need to be purchased if not available through donation. And some items are purchased in the destination towns before travel to the remote locations.

Continued on page 8

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
10:30 am.....Holy Eucharist
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 Loren B. Mead, Honorary Associate

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Carolyn Seaton, Chaplain, American University

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Ron Hicks, Parish Verger
Benjamin Huelskamp, Parish Intern
Vilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs
Sonya Subbaya Sutton, Director of Music
Dr. Norman Scribner, Director of Music Emeritus

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Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden; Jim Sottile, Junior Warden; (pending), Secretary; Christopher Holmes, Treasurer

VESTRY MEMBERS

Nathalie Bramson; Bill Edgar; Andrea Farr; Marc Fetterman; Kammie Hedges; Chuck Holmes; Keith Jones; Danette (Dani) Kauffman; Sam Lewis; Eric Melby; Jennifer Thorson Martin; 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

A Legacy Gift for St. Alban's—A Role Model for All of Us



You may have seen the tribute in the *Washington Post* several weeks ago about the story of Mary Elizabeth Ford, a talented writer, newspaper columnist and Washington native who died just months before her hundredth birthday. She outlived her family, contemporaries and others who could tell us about her life and loves and connection to St. Alban's.

Mary Elizabeth Ford left a portion of her estate to St. Alban's. She actually did what so many of us promise ourselves we must do "one of these days"—make decisions about what to do with our possessions at the end of our life. We do this because, as a great teacher at St. Alban's used to remind us, "A shroud has no pockets."

Mrs. Ford is a role model for planning her gift. She remembered her care giver and St. Alban's, dividing the value of her Glover Park home so that both benefitted. We can learn from her example to remember both dear individuals as well as our church.

We have few facts to piece together about Mary Elizabeth Ford's connection to St. Alban's and what motivated her to leave a lasting, generous gift to our church. Previous rectors, our former music director and numerous longtime, active members have no recollection of her. An extensive search of our parish registers and other records conducted by Ruth Cline, our historian, and Ron Hicks, Parish Verger, showed no mention of her.

Ruth Cline offers us a thoughtful perspective on Mary Elizabeth Ford and her legacy gift to St. Alban's: "She falls into the category of someone whose life was touched by our church in some unknown way. As a journalist and music enthusiast, she would have been well placed to follow our outreach and Norman's spectacular career. The Revs. Dr. Charles T. Warner, Mr. Robert S. Trenbath and Dr. E. Felix Kloman [St. Alban's rectors 1912-1969] and their wives Elsie, Edith and Olivia had many connections and admirers in all ranks of society, and we may be reaping the benefits of their good work.

St. Alban's is a place where the Holy Spirit moves, and ordinary actions by ordinary people trying to lead good Christian lives can have the most unexpected and far-reaching impact."

Even though we know very little about her life and ties to St. Alban's, we remember Mary Elizabeth Ford for her legacy gift, far-reaching impact and for serving as a valued role model. [Read the May 6, 2008, Washington Post article](#)

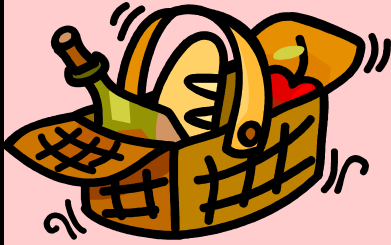
--Danette Gentile Kauffman

A Reflection on Youth Sunday 2008 by The Reverend Erin Hensley

Liturgy is the work of the people; liturgy is something we do together in community. On Sunday, May 18, young people led this work in numerous and meaningful ways. Colin Mahaffey, Anna Thorson, and Chase Felker, members of Every Given Sunday, prepared meaningful sermons. Rite 13, youth finishing sixth and seventh grades, chose the hymns for the morning services. J2A, youth finishing seventh and eighth grades, wrote the prayers of the people. Senior youth, those in tenth and eleventh grades, assisted as readers and chalcists. Youth from all groups served as acolytes and ushers. Sonya Sutton gathered members of J2A and Sr. Youth together for a musical offering for the 11:15 service. The hymns were thought-provoking, the preachers wise, the prayers earnest and joyful, the youth ensemble's offering full of the Holy Spirit. The morning was a time to be open to perhaps different ways to give thanks and praise to God.

I invite you to join me in giving God thanks for our youth, their parents, their leaders, and members of the Youth Ministry Committee. I also ask that you hold the seniors in high school (Lindsay Brewster, McKenzie Cato, Keith Cowdrey, Grace Critchfield, Matt Edwards, Chase Felker, Leslie Kirk, Colin Mahaffey, Brittany Price, Barrett Sanford, Cynthia Slemmer, Anna Thorson, and Caroline Whitehouse) in your prayers. The brief biographies and pictures below offer a glimpse of who some of these young adults are; may we send our prayers with them as they grow more fully into their adulthood.

Summer Is Coming



Parish Picnic
Sunday June 22nd
After the 10:30 Service



Come experience the thrill of the grill, music, fun for children of all ages, face-painting, bocce ball and great food!

Special note: Percussionist Tom Teasley will join us for St. Alban's festivities, playing for the 10:30 service. During the picnic afterwards Tom will lead a session of community drumming with children of the parish (and probably any others who are young enough at heart to beat a drum with abandon) involving all kinds of percussion instruments. Spread a rumor - St. Albanites have rhythm!

To volunteer to help, to bring a side dish, or for more information contact Kathryn Zoeller. 202-342-6440 or katzoeller@aol.com.

Dear fellow parents and parishioners,

Several of you have contacted me and expressed your interest in expanding and enriching a program for our children to participate in outreach and service efforts. For those of you who have contacted me and offered comments or support, thank you. Gratefully, the idea of expanding our children's involvement in outreach and service seems to hit an interested chord among several parents. Several of you have shared some great ideas. I've have begun keeping them on a list.

I thought it might be helpful to offer some of my thoughts and curiosities as we prepare to gather. For those of you who are able to meet on June 8, maybe this will trigger some thoughts for our conversation. For those of you who are interested in this initiative but unable to join us on June 8, I hope it will trigger some thoughts that you will share with me.

Here are some of my ponderings.....

Could this initiative become a way for both kids enrolled in Catechesis and those not to connect that otherwise might not spend time together?

With multitudes of ways to help others, how would we pick the right amount and types of activities?

How would we integrate the role of outreach and service with the teaching of Christ - particularly in Catechesis?

While the parents could certainly create, support and lead initiatives, would it be possible to create a setting where the older children (level III - 8?) become the leaders of this program?

One way to organize efforts might look like this:

On-going service (knitting; grate patrol; sugar packets for seniors, and similar initiatives)

Collections (books; children to children penny collections; etc..)

Bigger scale events (walk-a-thons; play?)

How and when would we meet?

When would we introduce this initiative? Summer camp? At the beginning of next year's program year?

How might this initiative coordinate with other parish outreach ministries?

What roles would the parents play - as we begin this initiative? as we continue large roles?
small roles/ intermittent roles?

—The Reverend Harriette Sturges

Worship this Summer at St Alban's

Throughout the summer months, our Sunday schedule is changed slightly. Please make note of this schedule from May 25 through Labor Day weekend.

8:00 am	Holy Eucharist
9:15 am	The Alban Course (Warner Rectory living room)
10:30 am	Holy Eucharist (with Children's Chapel – childcare available also)
11:45 am	Sunday Forum (in Trenbath)
5:30 pm	Holy Eucharist

At the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist this summer we will sing more parts of the Eucharistic Rite. These parts include Gospel responses, the Memorial Acclamation in the midst of the Eucharistic Prayer, the Great Amen that concludes the Eucharistic Prayer, the Lord's Prayer, and the Anthem sung at the Breaking of the Bread. St. Alban's is a parish where music is a central part of our common prayer and worship. We hope this additional music in our liturgy will add to the richness of our worship life.

Also, at the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist, we will use an inclusive language Eucharistic Prayer from the Episcopal Church's *Enriching our Worship* series. The Church and our own Bishop have authorized this Eucharistic Prayer for trial use. The Church grows liturgically as we try new liturgies that proclaim and celebrate our ancient faith. After you have had an opportunity to worship this summer, please let the clergy know your thoughts and experiences with this trial liturgy. We can then share our collective thoughts with the national Church's Commission on Liturgy & Music.

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. Please join us during the summer months.

Time & Talent Pledging

Equally important to our financial pledge each year is the 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 link for Time & Talent Pledging at the bottom of the home page. 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 your pledge is completed, staff and volunteers will enter it 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 prayerfully consider pledging your time and talent for Christ's ministry at St. Alban's.

Welcome to Summer Intern Benjamin Huelskamp

This summer we welcome Benjamin Huelskamp as our parish intern. Benjamin is a rising junior at the University of the South. He has served as a Cantor, Catechist, and Lay Reader at his home parish and at the university. While a history major, Benjamin is also an accomplished singer. He comes to us as part of the Lilly Endowment's *Pathways to Ministry* internship program. This program helps college students test and discern possible calls to ordain ministry. Benjamin will be with us from Sunday, June 8 through the third week in July. He will engage in a variety of ministries while with us. Please take some time to greet him and welcome him to St Alban's Parish.

St. Alban's Parish

High School Seniors

Lindsay Brewster

Lindsay will graduate from Holton-Arms School in June and will attend Miami University of Ohio in the fall. She plans to study history and criminology. Lindsay enjoys Irish Step Dancing, sewing, reading, and playing with her birds Bunny and Sunshine. She has also served as the President of the Gay-Straight Alliance at her school for the past two years. Lindsay was baptized at St. Alban's 18 years ago and has been active in the youth programs. Her favorite St. Alban's memory is her pilgrimage to Greece with her youth group, Every Given Sunday. Lindsay would like to thank St. Alban's for being so supportive throughout her life.



Colin Mahaffey



Colin has just finished his 7th year at St. Anselm's Abbey School and is looking forward to Carleton, where he is undecided with regard to his major, though is pretty sure it will be somewhere between philosophy and biochemistry. At his final year at St. Anselm's he has developed his interest in Ancient Greek and tutored students at St. Francis de Sales. Colin is also rounding off his 18th year attending St. Alban's parish, where he was a member of the St. Cecilia and Junior choirs, and is currently an acolyte and representative to the Youth Ministry.

Chase Felker

Chase has attended St. Alban's since he was born. He has regularly served as an acolyte and usher at the 9:15 service since 4th grade. He will particularly remember the three mission trips he completed with his youth group and the pilgrimage to Belize. Chase would like to thank J. Connell and the other youth leaders for their dedication, and the vestry for in-



viting him to serve as youth representative this year. After graduating from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in June, he will attend Grinnell College in Iowa in the fall.

Cynthia Slemmer



Cynthia has been a member of St. Alban's since she was an infant. Her first memories are of being in Children's Chapel. She remembers in Sunday school laughing and coloring with friends. She was "volunteered" to be an acolyte when she was in middle school. Cynthia really enjoyed the Journey to Adulthood program because it was less structured and allowed the group to get to know each other well. She felt that the leaders couldn't have been better and were very supportive. For Cynthia, the mission trips were a time to reflect on her spiritual relationship with God and to become closer as a group. Her pilgrimage to Greece was one of the most interesting experiences of her life. Belize and New Orleans were her favorite trips, because all worked together to improve the community and had fun while doing it. After she graduates from high school, she will attend the University of Greenwich in England. She can't wait to move forward in her journey of life.

Summer Choir: one service, one choir

Beginning June 8, there will be a 9:15 rehearsal to prepare for the 10:30 service each Sunday through Labor Day. It's a low-commitment way to sing with a choir for the one musical service we'll have on summer Sundays. We'll prepare a simple anthem and learn the hymns and service music to lead the congregation throughout the summer. Come once, come every Sunday, come when your schedule allows. Families with teenagers can sing together, experienced and inexperienced singers alike are welcome. If you have questions contact Sonya Sutton at SonyaS@st-albans-parish.org or 202-363-8286, ext. 205.

Torture Awareness Month

St. Alban's Church will be displaying a large black banner with white letters that say "Torture is Immoral" during the month of June. June has been declared Torture Awareness Month by the National Religious Coalition Against Torture or NRCAT. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship is a member of NRCAT. We showed the movie "The Ghosts of Abu Ghraib" at St. Alban's last October as part of NRCAT's program.

Why Torture Awareness Month? Doesn't the White House proclaim that "we don't torture?" In March of this year the President vetoed legislation that would have made the Army Field Manual language binding for all government agencies, including CIA and "enemy combatants" such as those held in Guantanamo. The Army Field Manual forbids torture. In addition, memos written by former Justice Dept. attorney John Yoo defending the notion that executive power included the right to torture came to light. The current Attorney General exempted water-boarding from the definition of torture.

Christians must speak out against torture under any and all circumstances. International treaties signed by the United States forbid it. We citizens of the District of Columbia, where the seat of government is housed and where foreign embassies are stationed, will make our voice heard with the display of this banner right off Wisconsin Ave.

Helma Lanyi
Episcopal Peace Fellowship DC

The Healing Ministry at St. Alban's: What's That?

The healing mission of the Church begins with Christ's command to his seventy followers, "Go your ways ... heal the sick and say unto them, 'The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you'" (Luke 10, 3-9 KJV). St. Alban's has followed this healing commandment of Christ for many years in the Wednesday morning healing Eucharist; about twenty years ago a study group grew out of that service. Led by clergy, it was dedicated to exploring healing in the Church today; Jim Glennon's classic books *Your Healing Is Within You* and *How Can I Find Healing? Guidelines for Sick and Worried People* were the primary focus of the group. Eventually a small band of lay healing ministers was commissioned from this group to assist in the Laying on of Hands at the Wednesday Eucharist and to lead brief healing services in the chancel once a month after the 11:15 service on Sunday. From this modest beginning grew the lay healing ministry whose members St. Albanites now see at the prayer desks during the Eucharist at most Sunday services. Healing and wholeness is God's will for all his people, and healing prayer belongs with the Eucharist, Christ's greatest healing gift of all.

What really happens during healing prayer? In the deepest sense, this is known only to God and to the person who comes forward to pray with a healing minister for the special needs in his or her life regarding self, friends and family, or this suffering world. The healing minister does not heal, but rather puts

words around the request shared at the prayer desk, listening for the voice of God within and offering a voice and a touch to open a connection with God. It is God's healing power that operates through the "telephone" of the healing minister. 99% of the power of healing prayer comes from the willingness of the one who comes forward to ask God for healing and wholeness.

What the healing minister hears at the prayer desk is kept in absolute confidentiality. In the monthly meetings of the healing team, neither names nor identifying characteristics of those who have come to pray are mentioned. Healing ministers, like telephones, do not later raise questions or offer advice to those who have requested healing prayer, although they may pray again internally for a situation that has returned to mind. At St. Alban's the healing ministers serve only during regular services, while our faith community gathers to worship and pray together.

New healing ministers are commissioned at the clergy's discretion, usually after completing an education and discernment series based upon *Stretch Out Your Hand: Exploring Healing Prayer*, by Tilda Norberg and Robert Webber. All are welcome to explore the healing ministry in this series, whether or not they see themselves as potential healing ministers. Members of the healing ministry share the role of facilitator in the education and discernment series, which will next be offered this fall. Healing ministers also participate in occasional Parish Forums on healing prayer and the healing ministry as well as lead "Christmas Losses, Christmas Light: An Advent Service of Anticipation." This service is offered every year in late December for those who are grieving or who feel isolation or sadness during what is a season of joy for others.

You are invited to experience the wonder of Christ's healing touch through the ministry of healing prayer every Sunday at St. Alban's and to let "the Kingdom of God come nigh unto you."

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.



FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

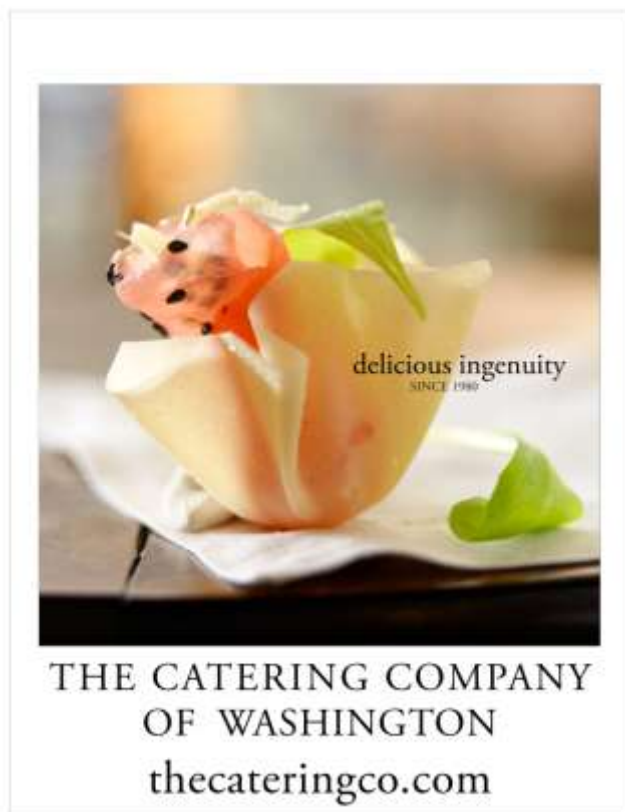
On Saturday, April 26th, a sold-out crowd gathered for the Annual Gala Parish Dinner. Produced and donated by parishioner Elizabeth Petty, principal of *The Catering Company of Washington*, the dinner featured an array of fabulous food, exquisitely presented, preceded by a champagne reception. Elegant table cloths, paired with reversible napkins, and soft votive candles transformed Satterlee Hall into a lovely and congenial venue for conversation and elegant dining, and for musical entertainment by the St. Alban's singers under the direction of Sonya Sutton, with dancing later on with music provided by Phillip Haughton. The specialty of this award-winning catering company is *designing the complete occasion – one that begins with the unique ambiance of the right location, rises through the flavors of a sumptuous meal, and continues to delight with the stylistic expressions and enriching textures of linens, flowers and music -- and so it was!*

The Gala raised over \$18,000 in celebration of our feeding ministries – Grate Patrol, SOME and Christ House – and the Crossroads Shelter, which this year were the combined beneficiaries of this fund-raising event.

A special feature of the Gala was the Silent Auction, chaired by Jonell Easton and Robin Rudd, who gathered over 30 imaginative and special items donated by clergy, staff and parishioners. These included holiday parking spots from the wardens, lunch with Scott Benhase, computer services from Ron Hicks, a gourmet dinner for six from Chef Neil & Emma Wilson, a Gallery tour from Wendy Wicks Reaves, an exquisitely carved stone cross by Edmund Frost, time & music from Sonya Sutton, and four vacation home stays: in Hilton Head from Mary Sivertsen; in Rhinebeck, N.Y. from the Sottiles; on Nantucket from the Morrises; and Tim Boggs' cottage on the shores of Blue Hill Bay, Maine. Other donors included Annie Bissell, Jim & Mary Shaffran, John & Ellen Villa, Didi Smith, Aaron Deadman, Lois Stratton, Katherine Krile & Jonnie Sue Hicks, Deborah Ramsey-Moor, Susan Coco, Bruce Barrow, Hubert Steinhauser, Dani Kauffman & Diane Adams, and Katie Wilson.

Many, many people brought the evening into being, including:

Kitchen:	Don Durkee, Jean Fairman
Greeters:	Nancy Cummings, Catherine Davis, Sheila Iskra, Sam & Sallie Lewis, Mary Sivertsen, Lois Stratton, Harriette Sturges
Place cards:	Lacey Gude
Table linens:	Ann Price of Table Manners
Flowers:	Rebecca Marchand of Flowers Unique
Hors d'oeuvres passers:	Ann-Louise Oliphant, Julie Russell and daughter, Charlotte Scott
Servers:	Youth: Elizabeth Petty's son, Sam O'Brien; Susanah Hair, Jamie Large, Channing Foster, Andrew Thorson Adults: Lee Foster-Crowder, Lisa and Peter Feibelman, Ashley and Greg Hair, Erin Hensley, John O'Brien, Michael Oliphant
Bartenders:	Jean-Michel Eid, Wayne Iskra, Michael Morris, John O'Brien
Set-Up:	Nathalie Bramson, Russell Eckel, Kristi Hassett, Barbara Yeomans
Graphic design:	Richard Barnes, Margaret Georgiann
Angels:	Parishioners, unable to attend, who supported the Gala financially



Clergy and staff were helpful and enthusiastic participants, especially Tim Boggs, who served as Master of Ceremonies, David Johnson, Eric Gustafson, Armando Pineda and Virginia Muñoz. We all are especially grateful to the Gala Planning Committee, chaired by Susan Morris, and congratulate her fellow members: Lacey Gude, Kammie Hedges, David Johnson, Sandra Loftin, and Diana Smith. Many thanks to all for an evening to remember!

—Nathalie H. Bramson

“Humanitarian Relief” continued from page 1

The proposal contemplated that the filled bags would be provided on an as-needed basis to SCI members, St. Albans parishioners, and other trusted persons planning a trip to selected destinations. Typically, under the existing program, excess baggage costs are waived by the airlines for humanitarian purposes, assumed by the traveler, or the traveler consolidates their baggage to essentials in order to make room for Blue Bag contents.

The Blue Bags are then delivered by travelers in the course of their existing and preplanned travel. The project would take advantage of an already established program and develop a partnership between the St. Alban’s Africa Roundtable (ART) and the Washington D.C. Metro Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI Chapter). I am pleased to say that my proposal was accepted by both St. Alban’s and the SCI Chapter. Using funds provided by these partners it will be possible to provide up to ten bags of medical, hygienic, school, and sewing supplies this year to remote and underserved communities.

The Africa Roundtable at St. Alban’s has been seeking effective ways to deliver humanitarian aid to selected countries where an established relationship already is in place. These include Zimbabwe, where in 2005 St. Alban’s provided a truck to the St. Faith’s Mission. This year St. Alban’s provided the proceeds from a Mustard Seed offering to provide new tires, maintenance and insurance for the truck. In addition, with the help of Lukas Katenda, ART is in the process of establishing a relationship with the Anglican Diocese of Namibia through various forms of assistance, such as providing books for the library at the theological training center Lukas will direct in Namibia after he finishes his studies at Virginia Theological Seminary and returns to work as Secretary-Treasurer for the Diocese of Namibia in early summer of 2008. Also, in Kenya St. Alban’s, through ART, has helped contribute to the Ndhiwa Parish and its core objectives of mission and evangelism, care for AIDS widows and orphans, and economic development.

The Washington D.C. Metro Chapter of Safari Club International (SCI Chapter) maintains contacts with outfitters, and tour companies throughout the world, including African countries where the ART actively provides humanitarian relief. In addition, many of its members travel to African nations for hunting, bird watching and ecotours. Also maintained at the Safari Club International headquarters is a list of travelers who are sometimes available to carry a Blue Bag.

I hope you will join us in the delivery of a Blue Bag the next time you plan to travel. Contact me at: Jim Tate, 202 841-2056 or jim@tate-tate.us enough in advance that we can fill a bag and register its contents before your trip. I will provide you with guidelines and contacts so that your delivery will be successful. We will ask you to commit to a short write-up of your delivery for future promotional uses.

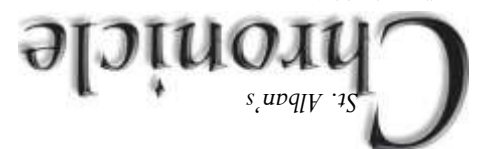
Please join us on Sunday, June 29, 2008
*for Erin Hensley’s ordination to the priesthood
here at St. Alban’s Parish.*

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.

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

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