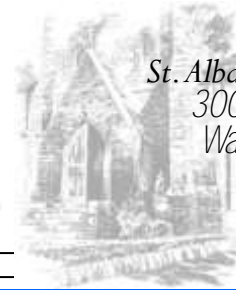


# St. Alban's Chronicle

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



## St. Alban's Parish Planning Retreat - Goals Identified

In May, over 50 parishioners participated in the Parish Planning Retreat. Through a lively process of brainstorming and prioritizing and the presence of the Holy Spirit, the group reached consensus on goals in six areas. Since the retreat, our job is to communicate with the parish about the retreat outcomes and invite the participation of the whole parish in action planning and implementation. If you have questions or if you are interested in playing a role in achieving these goals, please contact me or any Vestry member. Together we can achieve God's plan for our parish.

### Space Utilization / Facilities

- Improve parish facilities for use by the disabled
- Adopt 'green' practices that lower utility costs and provide training for parishioners for at-home conservation
- Complete plans for renovation of Satterlee Hall and the Rectory that include fund raising plans and parish-wide acceptance
- Determine the feasibility of establishing a café at St. Alban's that would provide light refreshments, outreach opportunities, revenue generation, job training, and fun

### Incorporation (welcoming newcomers)

- Develop and carry out an external recruitment program
- Create a Parish Welcome Center
- Sharpen the parish's identity in the local community
- Encourage all parishioners to intentionally greet newcomers and visitors

### Stewardship / Resource Development

- Develop an effective data base/information management system that is regularly used and maintained
- Increase pledges for the operating budget to \$2 Million within three years
- Create a formal endowment and related communication plan and grow the endowment to \$2 Million
- Manage parish resources transparently

### Program Management

- Achieve effective coordination of parish programs
- Establish standards for evaluation of parish programs and consolidate programs if appropriate
- Provide technology that supports parish programs
- Develop a small number of signature programs

### Outreach

- Increase participation in outreach programs to 50% of the parish
- Coordinate pastoral care ministries using relationships with community resources; support parishioners in need
- Increase funding for outreach to 30% of total budget; to be divided between outreach and inreach
- Increase number of persons in need who are served by St. Alban's ministries

### Children and Youth Ministries

- Increase participation of leaders, create succession plans, train leadership
- Provide accessible, appropriate spaces for all programs
- Provide consistent communications about the Parish's children and youth programs that include feedback and effective evaluation
- Increase inter-generational participation in youth and children's programs as well as parish programs generally

Yours in Christ,  
Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden

### 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](mailto: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 EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES
- Carolyn Seaton, Chaplain, American University
- PARISH STAFF
- Eric Gustafson, Parish Administrator
- 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

VESTRY OFFICERS

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

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Web site: www.Alban'sDC.org

# Ideas Alive Forum A Roman Adventure Sunday July 13, 2008

Music Director Sonya Sutton, members of our parish choirs, and their fellow pilgrims reported on the very successful pilgrimage they made to Rome and Assisi this past February. Although technical difficulties prevented all but brief tantalizing snippets of the video footage with concert recording accompaniment filmed and narrated by the Right Rev. Eugene Sutton to be shown to the assembled crowd, the pictures painted by the descriptions and comments of the travelers made it clear that the trip was a musical and spiritual success and lots of fun too.

Sonya reported that it all started with a suggestion from a tour company. She wondered if she was crazy even to consider taking a choir on a singing tour. But she received an enthusiastic response to the feelers she put out, and soon not just a singing tour, but a singing pilgrimage was in the works, supported by the parish at large. The singing pilgrims bonded as they organized a very successful yard sale fundraiser last summer (if you haven't seen the photo of Sonya holding a yard sale treasure on a plate, you are encouraged to venture down to the choir room and take a peek) followed by a wonderful silent auction and Italian gala dinner later in the year. Finally, on the weekend before their departure, the pilgrims gave a preview concert at St. Alban's of the music for their trip, and on Thursday evening February 21, they were off to Rome!

The itinerary included a concert for the city of Rome on Saturday evening Feb. 23 in the Basilica di S. Ignazio; the Sunday morning service at St. Paul's Within the Walls, the American Episcopal church in Rome; singing at the last Mass of the day at the high altar in St. Peter's Basilica later that day; a private Commemoration of All Faithful Departed service in the catacombs of St. Domitilla; a festive final dinner in Rome where all were feted and entertained by strolling musicians who inspired our music director and spouse to dance (!); morning prayer by the grave of St. Francis in the lower Basilica of St. Francis in Assisi followed by an impromptu performance of a few pieces in the upper Basilica; and a final concert in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore. All of the music was sung a cappella

(without instrumental accompaniment) and ranged from 16th century to African American Spiritual through 20th century; Spanish, French, English, and American. The repertoire was challenging, requiring a commitment from the singers of months of rehearsal preparation. Some of the music was tested on the parish in regular Sunday services (did anyone notice that the choir music was mostly a cappella last Fall and Winter?).

As one of the pilgrims eloquently stated, pilgrimage is both personal and corporate, and the experiences the travelers shared in the forum were of experiencing God privately in the holy places visited and in each other as all shared a common experience. The youngest singing pilgrim was in her 20s and the oldest in his 80s—a broad spectrum of the St. Alban's family! John Buchanan summed it up by saying, "Going on this pilgrimage with all of you was a privilege and a pleasure we will never forget. Indeed, I am continuing to wear my [pilgrimage] cross under my clothing, next to my heart, as a reminder not only of this journey ... completed with you, but also that life itself is a Pilgrimage, and every day can become another step forward toward " the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." All of the pilgrims were grateful to have had this opportunity which was both musically and spiritually



enriching and it seemed they all were ready to do it again, but as one member of the audience asked—can we find a way to take the whole congregation?

*Hear the voice and prayer of thy servants that they make before thee this day.... Laudate Dominum in sanctis eius. Laudate eum in firmamento virtutis eius... Notre Pere qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifie...The Lord is my shepherd, I have all I need... Cantate Domino canticum novum cantata...For God alone my soul in silence waits...*

-- Noell Sottile

# Vietnam observations

Our adopted daughter Rosemarie and I just returned from visiting her birth country, Vietnam. She left the orphanage in Saigon as an infant 33 years ago, just before the North Vietnamese communist government took Saigon. I was nervous initially about how I would be received. But today, the U.S. and Vietnam are trading partners. Vietnam is one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia. Everyone with whom we talked bemoans the fact that visas to visit their relatives in the U.S. are so hard to come by.

While Rosie relished being surrounded by "people who looked like her," I saw people whose parents' generation had fought in the "American" war. This war was also a civil war that pitted north vs. south. Like so many others, I protested the war at the time. I was a young faculty wife at Princeton and, with my oldest son in a stroller, stood every Saturday with other Fellowship of Reconciliation members in the town square. Anyone who lived through that time knows the story of our country's involvement in Vietnam. We must remember it goes all the way back to French colonial occupation after WWII. Ho Chi Minh began to fight the French occupation in the 1950s, so Vietnam's experience of war lasted two decades. From 1956 to 1975 there has been so much "sorrow of war."

Parallels with Iraq abound: Just as President Bush lied to the American people about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, President Johnson rallied support for the war in Vietnam by alleging an act of aggression in the Gulf of Tonkin. This resulted in the congressional "Tonkin resolution" authorizing the use of military force. Sound familiar? What if our elected representatives, the media, and yes, we practiced a healthy skepticism when we are asked to rally for war?

For years after the war ended in 1975, while Vietnam was under a communist collective economic order, the country did not thrive. After 1990, when the Soviet Union was no more, economic communism was abandoned and free enterprise and personal ownership was encouraged. "Communism is dead," proclaimed a fellow tourist. I wondered. Flags with the Hammer and Sickle insignia are everywhere. There is no opposition party and no elections. Writers complain about censorship. We perceived a different, more defiant mood in Hanoi from the friendly openness in Saigon. The Hanoi immigration officer spoke to my daughter sternly in Vietnamese, which she does not speak. Fewer people smiled at us than in the south. Hanoi is less eager to please: Here communism was never challenged.

While we were there, we heard of the continued effects caused by Agent Orange and other deadly poisons, such as dioxin, used during the war. This has left a legacy of birth defects. The cancer rate is abnormally high in Vietnam. The Vietnamese are asking for compensation from the U.S. President Bush has promised \$3 million to help, but it has not yet been delivered. .

Today, the Vietnamese are proud of who they are. "You like my country?" asked my taxi driver. Yes, we liked this country and its friendly, busy people with their shrines to Buddha in every corner in every home, restaurant, and shop, and their resourcefulness to forge a life for themselves within a communist system.

**Helma Lanyi**  
**Episcopal Peace Fellowship DC**

# Preparing for a new training class of Stephen Ministers

Parishioners who participated in the recent planning retreat talked a lot about outreach – a rich tradition at St. Alban's. As important, and not entirely separate from our service to others, is "inreach," caring for and supporting members of our St. Alban's family. We cannot reach out to a needy world if we do not spiritually nurture our fellow parishioners. When we can accept the unconditional love



of God during difficult times and when we have a chance to bear witness to this love for each other, we are a community of faith in the truest sense.

If you have a longing to walk the walk of faith with someone who may need your strength, you may want to consider the Stephen Ministry. 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 through regular visits. Although their work is invisible to the congregation at large because of confidentiality, they are an integral part of pastoral ministries at St. Alban's. Our current Stephen Ministers can attest to the blessings of this ministry and that they receive as much – or more – than they give!

The 2008 Stephen Ministry training series begins Tuesday, September 9, and continues Tuesday evenings and one Saturday morning each month until early December. (The exception is Election Day, November 4; we'll meet Wednesday evening, Nov. 5 instead.) By the time they are commissioned in December, these Stephen Ministers will receive 50 hours of training in many of the challenges that parishioners may face, such as illness, estrangement, loss of home or job, loneliness and grief. They will enhance their already evident skills in listening, maintaining confidentiality, and identifying other community, spiritual and mental health resources.

During August, Stephen Leaders David Johnson and Jo Turner will receive applications and meet with parishioners who wish to explore this ministry. If you would like to learn more about the ministry, the 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](mailto:davidj@st-albans-parish.org) and [jot@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:jot@st-albans-parish.org).

*If you think you could benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the clergy or a Stephen leader.*

— **SAVE THESE DATES!** —

- AUGUST 3** - TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY: BAPTISMS  
LATINO MINISTRY: CALL & CHALLENGE\*
- AUGUST 10** - FAITH, ELECTIONS & PUBLIC POLICY\*
- AUGUST 17** - WHAT WE SAW IN CUBA\*
- AUGUST 24** - GLOBAL WARMING\*
- SEPTEMBER 7** - ST. ALBAN'S MINISTRY FAIR
- \*SUNDAY PARISH FORUM - "IDEAS ALIVE AT 11:45!"

On September 14  
We welcome Dr Kenneth Leach  
(Urban Ministry)  
to our morning services

## Vacation Bible Camp Past and Future

St. Alban's Parish celebrated the "Voyage of the Dawn Treader and the Kingdom of God" during our July VBC for 6-9 year olds. Our 10 year olds with a little adult supervision led this group. Hopefully you noticed THE SHIP imagined and built by the Oliphant family. We have lots of further plans for this creation. We celebrated water, boats and baptism and the many gift of God concluding with an amazing talent show, which highlighted the incredible gifts. One of the memorable times for me was during prayer time when the children spontaneously gave thanks for those who built this church for them. How wise they are.

Beginning August 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:30, St. Alban's Parish will host a camp for 4 and 5 year olds. We'll be celebrating "Winnie-the-Pooh and the Kingdom of God." Invite neighbors, god-children, grandchildren and even come yourself for a dose of energy. The camp is from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:30 and includes supper. Register with me please at [hsturges@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:hsturges@st-albans-parish.org) or by calling 202-363-8286 extension 203. I'd like to know name, emergency contact, allergies, and grade in school. -- Harriette Sturges



[FOR VBC 2008 PHOTOS FOLLOW THIS LINK](http://www.st-albans-parish.org/children_youth/Photos/)  
[http://www.st-albans-parish.org/children\\_youth/Photos/](http://www.st-albans-parish.org/children_youth/Photos/)

Submit articles for the *Chronicle* to: [EricG@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:EricG@st-albans-parish.org)

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