

St. Alban's Chronicle

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

God's People are a Gifted People

We have recently been reminded that there is no doubt that God's people are a gifted people. God loves us beyond measure and has expressed that love in the gifts of abundant life that we are constantly being given. And because of this we are called upon to be gifting people ourselves, and to joyfully be Christ's companion and body in this world.

We certainly hope that by now you have received in the mail your letter from the Co-Chairs of the 2009 St. Alban's Annual Pledge Campaign. And we hope that you have begun your reflection, prayer and decision-making over this profoundly important appeal. This letter from Nathalie Bramson, Sandy Loether and Bob Pettit invites you to make your annual pledge of financial support for God's work here at St. Alban's. This wonderful trio of parishioners has agreed to lead us through our 2009 campaign, and their energies and faithfulness are an inspiration. If you have any questions about the 2009 pledge campaign, please contact them, a Vestry member or me. And if you did not receive your pledge packet, please pick up one in the Church narthex or call the parish office at 202-363-8286.

As you probably know, the pledges of the St. Alban's family provide the essential ingredient of the annual operating budget of the parish. Pledges pay for all of the salary, education, music, maintenance and utility expenses, as well as an important part of our outreach and shelter ministries. Pledging is the very best way to make your financial contribution to the parish because it permits the Vestry to carefully plan your parish budget. Pledges are essential to anticipating income and projecting expense limits. And your 2009 pledge will go toward the third balanced annual budget in a row!

As our Co-chairs noted in their letter, over the past few years, we have been together on a parish journey into territory that in some ways has been new and unknown. We reflect upon this in song, prayer, study, action, worship, care and fellowship. And we enjoy the great privilege of each other's company and love in this journey. What a blessing it has been to travel together! And some of our recent parish milestones are worth keeping in mind as you consider your personal pledge.

- Great strides have been made in 2008 in stimulating fresh St. Alban's ministries of hospitality, outreach and stewardship, with new and active Commissions leading the way in welcome, hope and care.
- The Rector and the talented, diverse and stimulating clergy have fully transitioned into their dynamic ministries with wonderful, spirited results.
- The music program is thriving with fresh energy, talent and joy.
- Important stewardship of our buildings and facilities is underway, caring for what we have while prudently studying future needs and challenges.
- Similarly the Rector and Vestry continue to be fine stewards of our resources, committed to balanced parish budgets.
- Our parish administration and communications have reached a greatly improved professional standard, while maintaining a joyful and compassionate touch.
- Our ministries for children and youth are flourishing.
- We continue our commitment to take great care with supporting one another in the complexities and needs of life.
- Our future dreams are the subject of an on-going intensive parish-wide planning process led by our Senior warden and dozens of lay leaders.

continued on the next page...

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
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 S. Hensley, Assistant Rector for Youth & Young Adult Ministries
The Reverend Timothy A. Boggs, Assistant Rector for Stewardship & Outreach Ministries
The Reverend Harriette H. 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
Wilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs
Sonya Subbayya Sutton, Director of Music
Dr. Norman Scribner, Director of Music Emeritus

VESTRY OFFICERS

Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden; Jim Sottile, Junior Warden;
Stephanie Kinney, 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.st-albans-parish.org

The elected Members of the Vestry have already made their personal pledges for 2009. This 100% commitment serves as a powerful model of timely and purposeful generosity. With sacrifice and prayer, they are moving their pledges toward a proportional model of giving in which the Biblical example of the tithing is understood as a personal aspiration.

As always, your pledge will be treated completely confidentially, the amount of each pledge known only to Vilma Smith, our Financial Director, and me, your Assistant Rector for Stewardship and Outreach.

The Co-Chairs, the Vestry and the clergy are very sensitive to the fact that our world is in considerable turmoil, much of it financial and employment related, some of it too close to home. There are those at St. Alban's who are hurting and will not be able to make their normal generous pledge this year. So every pledge will be of particular importance, and if you are able to increase your pledge it will help significantly.

We often think of our personal pledges as an expression of our hopes, our hopes for this parish and our hopes for who we as God's people are becoming. Pledges are indeed about looking forward in faith. Looking forward to the next year at our parish, of course, but also reaching into the life in Christ we have been given. And as we reach forward we stretch and grow. We ask you to consider a gift this year that reflects this. You have received your 2009 packet and now is the time to pray and to pledge. Blessings and thanks!

—Tim Boggs

IDEAS ALIVE! @ 10:30

"A savior? Who says we need a savior?"
Four great teachers; four great preachers.
Four points of view. Four Sundays.

Here's an early heads-up to St. Albanites, so everyone can make plans to attend our Ideas Alive! programs for the Advent season.

Why do we need a savior? Beginning with that question, your Sunday Forum Committee has fashioned a series of four talks by as many distinguished faculty members from Virginia Theological Seminary.

Special thanks are due committee member Cynthia Cohen for doing much of the work in lining up our speakers. We think you will want to make as many of these sessions as possible.

Here's the Advent lineup:

November 30 -- The Very Rev. Dr. Ian Markham (Apologetics): "The Savior -- An Answer to the Problem of Evil." Why does God allow suffering? This is a question that haunts the Christian tradition. In this forum, we shall look at the ways in which Christians have seen the suffering Savior as an important part of the response to the problem of evil and suffering.

December 7 -- Dr. Timothy Sedgwick (Moral Theology): "Jesus and Healing the Cycle of Revenge." This session will explore the human problem of revenge and of revenge cultures and the need of salvation as given in the law (lex talionis) and in forgiveness.

December 14 -- The Rev. Dr. Katherine Grieb (New Testament and Theology): "Framing a Biblical Christology." The practice of New Testament writers of describing Jesus of Nazareth as the Christ, using Old Testament categories and titles, will be the focus of this program.

December 21 -- The Rev. Dr. Roger Ferlo (Religion and Culture): "For The Time Being: Waiting for the Savior in Postmodern Times." In a tumultuous era of faux-messianic politics and postmodern apathy, does it still make sense to look for a savior? Come meditate on W. H. Auden's great mid-20th-century Advent sequence.

Ann and Andrew Ramsey-Moor,
Co-Chairs
St. Alban's Sunday Forum Committee

Don't forget to turn your clocks
BACK an hour
Saturday night, November 1!



PARISH OFFICE: 202-363-8286

Holiday Events and Worship Services in the Fall of 2008 & the Winter of 2009

- **Tuesday, November 11**, 7:30pm, Kristallnacht service at St. Alban's Parish
- **Thursday, November 27**, 10:00am, Holy Eucharist followed by a Thanksgiving Day dinner with Church of the Annunciation and Washington Hebrew Congregation, hosted by Church of the Annunciation
- **Sunday, November 30**, 4:00pm, wreath-making in Trenbath, 5:30pm Service of Advent Lessons and Carols in the sanctuary
- **Friday, December 5**, 7:00pm, Latino Ministry Christmas celebration in Nourse Hall
- **Sunday, December 7**, 6:30-8:00pm, Newcomers Dinner in Trenbath
- **Friday, December 19**, 6:00pm, light supper; 7:00pm, Christmas Losses Service including Holy Eucharist
- **Sunday, December 21**, 6:30pm, Christmas caroling, meeting in Trenbath, going into our neighborhood, and returning to Trenbath for light refreshments
- **Wednesday, December 24**, Christmas Eve, Festival Eucharists at 4:00pm in the little sanctuary of St. Albans School; 5:30pm, Christmas Pageant in the sanctuary; 8:00 and 11:00pm services in the sanctuary with choral preludes beginning at 7:30 and 10:30pm
- **Thursday, December 25**, 10:00am, Holy Eucharist followed by Christmas Day Community Dinner in Trenbath at St. Alban's Parish
- **Sunday, December 28**, 9:15 and 11:15am, Holy Eucharist including Christmas Lessons and Carols
- **Sunday, January 4**, 5:30pm *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, Gian-Carlo Menotti's Christmas-tide opera



Kristallnacht Observance Tuesday, November 11 at 7:30 pm

The term "Kristallnacht" ("Night of Broken Glass") refers to the organized anti-Jewish riots in Germany and Austria, November 9-10, 1938. These riots marked a major transition in Nazi policy and were, in many ways, a harbinger of the "Final Solution." Kristallnacht was more than the shattering of windows and illusions. It portended the attempted physical destruction of European Jewry. As such, this commemoration must be observed both as a memorial and as a warning. This year we gather at St. Alban's Parish with our sisters & brothers from Annunciation Roman Catholic Parish and Washington Hebrew Congregation to liturgically observe and remember. We invite you and your friends to join us.

Memory Loss, Confusion, Alzheimer's: Information To Help Ourselves And Those We Love

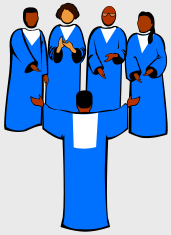
Saturday, November 8 at 10:00 AM

St. Alban's Stephen Ministry presents this two-hour workshop (in Nourse Hall) to help us understand these cognitive changes. The interactive program will cover a range of patient and caregiver issues, com-

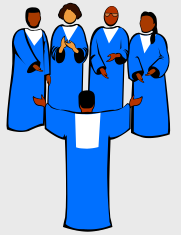
munication challenges, financial and legal concerns, and available community resources. This workshop is open to the parish and the community at no charge; please RSVP so that we can plan appropriately. 202-363-8286 ext. 219, or email jot@st-albans-parish.org.

Inviting our Neighbors to Worship through Song Christmas Caroling on the Fourth Sunday of Advent

On Sunday, **December 21**, after the 5:30pm service, we will walk to nearby apartment buildings, sing Christmas carols, and leave lovely postcards that include the dates and times of our special Christmas and Epiphany worship services. We will gather in Trenbath Assembly in Satterlee Hall to divide into groups, distribute song sheets, and talk about "talking points" for after our singing. After the Christmas caroling, we will meet up again in Trenbath for fellowship, hot chocolate, hot cider, and some tasty treats. During November we'll be reaching out to see which apartment buildings would welcome a visit from us. We need a group of 6-8 people to help with initiating these relationships in our neighborhood. If you're interested in being a part of this working group and or singing on the 21st, please contact Erin Hensley at erinh@st-albans-parish.org or 202-363-8286,x207. We hope parishioners young and old can be part of our first adventure of letting the neighborhood know we're a vibrant faith community that is looking for more people to share in our journey of discipleship.



The Gift of Music



Did you know that over 70 people are involved in the music program at St. Alban's? And that doesn't even include the many musicians who assist with Children's Chapel. This is a church that loves music and supports music-making in every way, including, for many, making the enormous time commitment to be in one of the choirs.

Save the date and plan to join us for an E piphany celebration
and performance of
A mahl and the Night Visitors
Sunday, January 4, 2009 at 5:30 pm

**A bit of fun before
members of the St. Cecilia
Choir and St. Alban's
Choristers spent a
Friday evening together
on retreat.**



Making music at St. Alban's – let me count the ways

Sonya Sutton, Director of Music

We at St. Alban's are extremely grateful for the musical gifts which many of our parishioners share with our community on a regular basis. I believe that many would say the music and the camaraderie of the group are thanks enough for their efforts, but the Chronicle's Editor has asked for a more public statement of gratitude and I am most happy to oblige (with the usual caveat that any list of participants is sure to leave someone out by mistake).

As of September 15, the following people are involved in the choirs here at St. Alban's:

St. Cecilia Choir

(named for the patron saint of musicians and church music)

Barry Gilmore	Corinna Gilmore
Jamie Hassett	Natalie Keating
Liam Moynihan	Emily Oliphant
Tucker Sutcliff	Addison Van Namen

St. Alban's Choristers

(using the traditional name for young singers)

Camille Blum	Jacob Donoghue
Noah Donoghue	Katie Farr
Matthew Farr	Will Gerson
Harriet Matthews	Stephen Shaffran
Catherine VanDongen	

Canterbury Choir

(named for Canterbury Cathedral in England)

Gordon Avery	Richard Barnes
Bruce Barrow	Betty Buchanan
John Buchanan	Marina Buhler-Miko
Sue Coco	Mark Edwards
Stephanie Faul	Elizabeth Fisher
Ed Frost	Margaret Georgiann
Anita Goldshine	Warren Goldshine
Abigail Greene	Katherine Krile
Richard Leland	Sandy Loether
Helen Matthews	Joe McLean
Bob Pettit	Joan Phalen
Wendy Wick Reaves	Noell Sottile
Lois Stratton	Anton Vanterpool
Linda Wilson	Sandy Wilson

Salisbury Choir

(named for Salisbury Cathedral in England)

Jane Bonin	Emily Cherry
Lindsay Crosse	Marianna Dunn
Twyla Fultz-Attwood	Cindy Gady
Stephanie Kinney	Daniel Replogle
Jo Turner	

Alban Singers

(named for our patron saint)

David Caleb	Doug Dykstra
Karen Florini	David Geyer
Laura Geyer	Francesca Kelly
Jim Shaffran	Mary Shaffran
Rich Turner	John Wiecking

Angelus Ringers

(named for a devotional practice that is said three times a day at the sound of a bell, named the *Angelus* bell)

Peter Albert	Michelle Bond
Eliot Edgar	Cindy Gady
Kendall Montgomery	Woody Pierce
Jan Young	

My biggest thanks of all go to the two people who are helping to keep me organized: Barbara Morrison, who has spent more than a year creating a database for the music library, and Anton Vanterpool, who takes care of the day-to-day business of keeping music filed and sorted.

If you are interested in adding your name to the roster, and more important, your voice to the choir, you are welcome. We are especially in need of adult singers for the 11:15 service's *Salisbury Choir* and another bell ringer or two would be good news - but new faces in any of the choirs are welcome.

In addition to all of this, a group of teenagers, unimaginatively called the *St. Alban's Youth Choir* are rehearsing for three Sundays this fall and singing on November 2, and doing the same next spring. Singing teenagers - I will find you, but you can find me first if you're interested.

Upcoming Musical Events

The Feast of All Souls: A Requiem Liturgy

On **November 2**, the evening of All Saints' Sunday, St. Alban's Parish will solemnly observe the Feast of All Souls at 5:30 p.m. A Requiem by Canadian composer Eleanor Daley will frame this special liturgy. Daley's Requiem uses an inventive mix of texts, including poetry by Carolyn Smart, the Latin *Missa pro Defunctis*, a Russian benediction, the Book of Common Prayer, and Psalm 130. Members of the Alban Singers and the Salisbury Choir will perform this requiem. With Daley's Requiem framing the liturgy, we will also read aloud the names of those who have gone before us in faith.

St. Alban's Choral Scholars, November 2 at 9:15

Back by popular demand, a choir of teenagers will sing music of Dirksen, Byrd and more. If you are in 9th-12th grade, plan to join this group for their next appearance on May 17.

Christ the King Sunday, November 23

The choir will sing the *Missa festiva* by Alexander Gretchaninov (1864-1956) as part of the 11:15 service on the Last Sunday after Pentecost, also known as Christ the King Sunday. Gretchaninov's music is largely in the Russian Romantic tradition of his good friend Rimsky-Korsakov. His gifts as a composer were recognized by the last Tsar, who gave him an annual pension. Gretchaninov then left Russia a few years after the Revolution, spending his last years in New York City.

Advent Lessons and Carols November 30 at 5:30



St. Alban's choirs will be featured singing music of the season during this service of Lessons and Carols in the tradition of Kings College.



Alexander
Gretchaninov

Mini Walk for Homelessness on Sunday November 2nd

Walk in love as Christ loves us.

Participating in this walk is a great way to honor loved ones who have died. Make a contribution of at least \$5 in their name, pay the registration fee and fill out a registration form. After our 9:15 service on November 2nd, there will not be educational programs. Instead, we are having a reception to honor those baptized that day. At 10:45 join us for the walk- stroll if **you're walking a baby. The route is simple. We'll begin in Nourse, walk up Massachusetts toward Woodley, turn right and walk around the block.** Join us for all or part of the walk.

This walk is geared for the youngest and oldest of our congregation and anyone else who wants to join us. Our Kids Reaching Out program headed by Ann Morrison is organizing a group for the main walk on November 22nd. Contact Harriette for details for the MINI-hsturges@st-albans-parish.org or 202-363-8286.

Save the Date

Our Next Newcomers Dinner is Almost Here

On **Sunday December 7** from 6:30-8pm all are welcome, both newcomers and members, to gather together for great food and fellowship. Newcomers dinners provide opportunities to share what we love about St. Alban's Parish, how we found our way here, and where God is calling us in our ministries. The evening begins with introductions in the large group, then continues with a blessing, the main course, and we close our time together with questions and answers during dessert. Please join us for this important time of connection in the life of our parish family. Also, if you are a member, please consider helping to host the celebration by helping set up, bringing a dish, or helping clean up afterwards. For more information, contact Erin Hensley at erinh@st-albans-parish.org or 202-363-8286,x207.

ROOM IN THE INN?

The Reverend Geoffrey Calvert, Vicar of St Augustine's Parish, Luton, in the Diocese of St Alban's, England will be coming to Washington next August 10-24. He has a limited budget and would like to know if there is anyone in our parish who might need a house-sitter or who might have a spare room. He is glad to pay for the room. If you might be able to accommodate him, please contact him at:

gr.calvert@dsl.pipex.com

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

Articles for the December 2008 *Chronicle* must be received by November 15, 2008

Articles for the January 2009 *Chronicle* must be received by December 15, 2008



Chronicle
St. Alban's

St. Alban's Chronicle (USPS 560-600) is a periodical published once-monthly (with a special issue at Easter and at Christmas) by: St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Washington, DC. Postmaster: send address changes to St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 3001 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20016-5099.

Volume 107 ~ Issue 11