

# St. Alban's Chronicle

St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
3001 Wisconsin Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20016  
January 2009



## Senior Warden's Report on St. Alban's Parish Strategic Plan Progress Report December 2008

In May 2008 a group of more than 50 lay leaders and St. Alban's clergy participated in a 3-day strategic planning retreat. Six key areas of performance were identified that shaped the planning effort and action plans:

- Facilities / Space Utilization
- Incorporation / Welcoming the Newcomer
- Stewardship
- Program Management
- Outreach
- Children and Youth Ministries



In the course of communicating retreat outcomes to the parish at large, it became clear that worship and spiritual formation should be explicitly incorporated into the parish plans. Addressing these elements would deepen the experience of parishioners working in each of the six areas.

A follow-up workshop involving 50 parishioners and clergy was held in late September. The objectives were to build on the work of the spring retreat, assess progress, and refine action plans for the next eight months. For each area, a Big Hairy Audacious Goal – the outside-the-box dream – was identified as well as short term goals and action items. This is a report on the action items and progress toward the Big Hairy Audacious Goals (BHAG's).

*(continued on page 2)*

## Parish Staff News

The Rector is pleased to announce that **Tim Boggs**, as of January 1, has been promoted to Associate Rector of St. Alban's Parish. Tim's leadership is an invaluable contribution to the ministry of the parish. We all look forward to Tim's continued priestly leadership in the parish.

With **Erin's** upcoming departure to become Assistant Rector of St John's, Roanoke, the Rector has initiated a search for a new Assistant Rector. During the first few months of the year, he will survey parents and teens about the youth ministry at St Alban's and also have conversations with young adults in the parish and leaders of our Hospitality Commission to get their input. Lay leaders of these various ministries will advise him on the selection of a new Assistant Rector, whom we hope to have in place sometime this summer. During the interim Scott and Tim will provide oversight for the ministries that Erin oversaw.

Due to **Vilma Smith's** illness, the Rector hired **Douglas Dykstra** as the interim Finance Director for the parish in November of 2008. Doug will continue in that role in 2009 until the situation is resolved. Doug is superbly qualified and is doing an outstanding job.

We also welcome **Sophia Vastek** as our new Parish Music Intern. Sophia will serve in this capacity for the first half of the year. She is a recent graduate of the Indiana University School of Music and will enter graduate school in the fall. The Rector, in consultation with Sonya Sutton, our Director of Music, has developed this position in order to provide much needed support to our vast music ministry. It is also an opportunity for St Alban's to help train and form potential future musicians for the Church. This summer a new Parish Music Intern will be chosen by Sonya and the Rector to serve from September 2009 until May 2010.

### 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  
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, Associate 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  
Vilma Smith, Director of Financial Affairs  
Doug Dykstra, Interim 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;  
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;  
Joanne Brainard, 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

**Facilities / Space Utilization**

**BHAG – Complete a feasibility study for St.Alban's Café**

*Committee formed comprised of experts in food service, restaurant management, staff training, etc. Ensure we are asking all the right questions; then get answers. (Watch the Chronicle for details.)*

**90-Day Goals**

Contract for solar power generation on Satterlee roof.

*Proposal with two options received. Satterlee roof to be assessed to determine if it can support solar panels.*

Handicapped access ramp to sanctuary

*Detailed plans being readied for bids. Project may qualify for a grant from a local family foundation; exploring possibilities.*

Implement readily available green practices.

*Receptacles for waste – cans, mixed paper, trash, etc. – clearly marked and placed.*

Improve sanctuary sound system to include the ability to make good quality recordings of services.

*Cost effective options are being explored.*

**Incorporation / Welcoming the Newcomer**

**BHAG – More parishioners at Newcomer Dinners; a live receptionist; outreach to our neighbors (apartments, colleges, etc.); Each One Bring One (every parishioner brings one person to St. Alban's)**

**90-Day Goals**

Welcome Center in Narthex

*Planning well underway for new bulletin boards, tract racks, welcome packet of information. Greeters recruited for each service each Sunday.*

*Newcomers Dinner – December 7<sup>th</sup>  
Signs in Op Shop inviting customers to come to St. Alban's services  
Christmas caroling in nearby community - Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>*

**Stewardship**

**BHAG – Budget large enough to support growth and developed through year-round conversations; stewardship representing a greater portion of the parish community**

**90-Day Goals**

Complete Every Member Pledge (EMP) Campaign by 12/31 so Vestry can set 2009 operating budget in January 2009

*EMP well underway*

Create funds within the parish Endowment to support specific ministries

*Established by Vestry action 11/18/2008: Margaret Parker Youth Ministry Fund, Nourse Family Fund for Music, St. Alban's Columbarium Fund*

**Program Management**

**BHAG – Update and maintain accurate parishioner data base; compile comprehensive inventory of parish activities and participation**

**90-Day Goal**

Design and implement plan to acquire and maintain accurate data re parishioners

*Plan in place to work with office to capture basic information about the congregation after the first of the year*

**Outreach**

**BHAG – One-third of parishioners involved in outreach/inreach ministries; theological imperative to “seek and serve Christ” in all persons effectively communicated**

**90-day Goal** – Outreach Commission to compile and publish (Web and brochure) information on outreach ministries, numbers served, and outcomes/impacts

Developing proposal for 2009 Operating Budget that expands outreach efforts

Gathering information on all parish outreach activities

## Children and Youth Ministries

**BHAG – Program in place to recruit and develop new youth/catechesis leaders including non-parent participation**

### **90-Day Goal**

Educate parish about children and youth ministries

*Forum on children and youth ministries led by Erin Hensley and Harriette Sturges – October 19<sup>th</sup> Number of catechists (adults working with the children) in the Good Shepherd program has increased from 6 to 12. Kids Reaching Out is new program that empowers 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> graders to make a difference through outreach projects. Youth deliver messages at services about fund raising activities in support of June pilgrimage to Northern Ireland.*

Clearly, many creative, hard working parishioners have made St. Alban's a very busy place. It is with a sense of deep gratitude that these efforts are recognized.

All parishioners are encouraged to review the full reports of the spring retreat and the September workshop. Contact any member of the Vestry or the Wardens if you have questions or comments about the parish's long or short term goals. And all are invited to be actively involved in the work of the parish; being the body of Christ in this world.

Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden



## Advent Wreaths and Saint Nicholas and Lessons and Carols

Oh it was fun! The smell of evergreens, the singing of children, the feel of community it generated. I'm speaking of our beginning of Advent here at St. Alban's Parish. It started in Trenbath with boxes of greens, bare wreaths and empty shoes. As the wreaths took shape over conversation and with people we don't often have time to chat with, the children took off their shoes in anticipation of St. Nicholas. St. Nick did arrive in his miter and great white hair and beard, carrying a plastic bag with chocolate coins. Next year I'll remember to give him a proper sack. While the children listened to his story, their shoes were mysteriously filled thanks to the generosity of Doug and Dee Dykstra, who found me bags of chocolate coins so I had enough for St. Nick and the shoes. Jeff Harwood pitched in and played the piano so the children could sing some advent songs. It was great and we had new families participating. I hope they enjoyed the fun and got to meet other families. It looked like they did.



For those who could stay longer, there was a magnificent Advent Lessons and Carols service of Evensong. Sonya wove music and songs from many ages and traditions together with the reading of scriptures from beginning to end. Well, not the whole Bible but the story of the need for a savior, the prophecies, and finally the annunciation. There were bells and drums in addition to the organ. With over 40 in the choir the rafters were lifted in praise. Plus the children, the children sang their hearts out. Talk about intergenerational. Talk about community. Talk about fun and worship. It just doesn't get any better than this. Save the date for next year—always the first Sunday in Advent.

## The Washington Window

The Washington Window is our diocesan newsletter that goes out to all members of the Episcopal Church in this diocese. It's free and full of good information. I have wondered how many of you receive it or would like to. It's listed on [www.edow.org](http://www.edow.org), but if you have a problem, call me.

Every month there is a movie review with information that parents might need in choosing films to let their children see.

There are often recipes. In December there was a recipe called "Bread from Heaven." It sounds a lot tastier than the fabled manna in the wilderness. Besides bread there is much food for thought. Our Bishop John Chane, Martin Smith and Peggy Treadwell have columns each month and all are worth reading. There's a calendar of events around the diocese and reports on what our churches and diocese are doing. I recommend it. We are after all not independent parishes but belong to a diocese and a national church.

—Harriette Sturges

# Personal Reflections

## A Letter to the People of St. Alban's Parish

As many of you know, I have accepted a call to serve as Assistant Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in Roanoke, Virginia. I want you all to know that I was not looking to go elsewhere. I was contacted by the Roanoke parish and discovered the position was in line with my own evolving sense of call, namely to hospitality, teaching, and outreach. After much discernment and prayer, I accepted this new call.

My last Sunday at St. Alban's will be January 25, 2009. In the meantime, the Youth Ministry Committee, the Hospitality Commission, the staff, and I are working to ensure that youth, young adult, and hospitality ministries will continue moving forward. We are especially working on the pilgrimage, recruiting Journey to Adulthood leaders for 2009-2011, and the welcome center for our narthex. The Rector and Wardens are meeting to plan for the transition. I ask for your patience as well as your prayers during this time of transition for the parish as well as Sam and me.

I am extremely blessed and a better priest for serving with you all. As Scott says at newcomers' dinners, St. Alban's isn't really a place; St. Alban's is a people. In my time with you, I have certainly experienced this. St. Alban's is a people with a giving, thoughtful, and compassionate heart. I trust that the love of God in Christ Jesus will continue to shine through your ministries in this parish and the world. I'd like to especially thank the staff of St. Alban's for their constant support; their faithfulness to Christ Jesus and to their ministries is a model for me.

I realize that the people of St. Alban's have had to say numerous goodbyes these last years. Please know this goodbye will be hard for me, too. Still, I think this move is what is best for Sam and me at this point in our life.

Our God is a God of transformation. As Paul writes, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17)." I trust that all will be well during this time of change and beyond. Please know that I leave with great thanks and I will take your love with me.

—Faithfully, Erin

## Dear Sisters and Brothers of St. Alban's

For many months, you have been praying for my son David Bouvé who has been stationed at a Naval Air Facility in Atsugi, Japan, a town not far from Tokyo. I'm very happy to report that David, my daughter-in-law Lara, and my granddaughters Lyndsey and Abbey returned to the States on December 4th. David's next tour is at a joint command unit in Colorado Springs, CO. I know that David joins me in thanking you for your prayers and support. It has meant so much to me to know that the power of your prayers was directed to David and his family. I am deeply grateful.

—Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden

## A Letter from Abroad

**One of our parishioners Jennifer Gartin with her husband and daughter Audrey have moved to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for two years or so with the foreign service. They plan to return to St. Alban's in between assignments. They like it here and want a church home. I promised we'd stay in touch and continue to support them in their life in Christ no matter where they were. Jennifer has written and will be writing a series of reflections on her new life. They are frank, funny, and full of feeling. She admits to homesickness and culture shock but also determination and humor. I hope they will encourage you to pray for all in foreign service and all away from home. If you have comments, I can forward them to Jennifer. Blessings, Harriette**

From Jennifer:

Here is a list of things that I will try not to take for granted: Internet, phones, electricity, water from the tap, fruits and vegetables that are pretty clean even if there is a little bit of pesticide, well installed car seats, English, my dad and all of our family and friends.

I am so very sorry that we have not been in touch until today. We have been here two weeks, but left two and a half weeks ago. We have not had the Internet until today. First, it was just a matter of getting the installers to come out. Not such a very big deal, but that took a while to arrange. Then there was apparently some sort of "accident" involving the phone lines here. Something about a truck or car hitting something. So the Internet was all ready to go, but we had no phone line, so the DSL wouldn't work. But when I checked again this morning everything appeared to be working. Wahoo! Everything except our electricity.

Now I have to say that we are incredibly fortunate. When the power goes out here--which is daily, as there is a real energy crisis here--we have a giant generator that kicks in. Power goes out, one to two minutes later we have power. Very good. But today when I woke up only half of our power is working. If it plugs in we're fine. If it's on a switch not fine. Those of you mechanically or electrically inclined may be saying to yourself, well maybe it's a circuit breaker or some such thing. Perhaps. But it's the whole house. So why don't I call someone and see if they can tell me what's going on. Good question. I have no phone.

Are you ready for it? I dropped my phone in the toilet. (How this happened doesn't really matter.) My one connection to the outside world. Where people speak English and can help me. In the toilet. Doesn't work. So why not use Brian's? Another good question. Brian is gone. Won't be back until tonight. With his phone. The phone dropping in the toilet happened yesterday afternoon around 3. When our guard arrived (we have a guard overnight) I went out and pantomimed (I had practiced this earlier) "my phone is broken because I am an idiot; may I please borrow yours so I can call my husband so he doesn't freak out and think I have been bridenapped when he calls to check in

and I don't answer." The other possibility is that Brian would think I had picked up Audrey and headed for the Bishkek airport for the first flight out of here. Hahahahahahah. Ha.

I have lots and lots of email to read and respond to and look forward to hearing from all of you. The important thing to know is that we are all well, arrived safely, and are adjusting to our new life here. Slowly.

Much love,  
Jennifer

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## In the Community

### The Alban Course

Being an adult member of St. Alban's Parish means that each of us takes personal responsibility to grow in our faith. 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. 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. All people desiring membership at St Alban's are invited to participate in the Alban Course. Sessions meet conveniently on Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. in the Old Rectory living room.

#### January & February 2009 Alban Course Offerings

- January 18 - How we understand & interpret the Bible: An Anglican Narrative Hermeneutic
- January 25 - How we understand Human Nature and our Formation in Christ
- February 1 - Keeping Sabbath
- February 8 - Christian Virtues: Incarnating Forgiveness
- February 15 - Hospitality & Household Economics: Ordering our Households
- February 22 - Living Eucharist in our daily lives

## Save the Date! Job Seekers and Mentors; ...It Takes a Parish...

On Sunday, January 25, 2009, we will have a second Employment Work Shop, to be held after the 11:15 service (approximately 12:30) in Satterlee Hall. You are asked to bring a sandwich; drinks and chocolate provided. We plan to have a panel and plenty of time for questions. Those who are unemployed or are concerned they may become so, come with your résumés and business cards. Those who are in a position to be a mentor – whom we will call Church Elders, though age is not necessarily a factor – are asked to join the session, bringing their cards/contact information. Mentoring can mean simply sitting in a corner at coffee hour and chatting for 15 minutes; having a conversation, in any venue, on the profession you are in or have retired from; up to an active role in helping someone network – a wide range and degree of commitment.

Even if you do not think you have much to contribute in this regard, an invitation for lunch is a great morale booster. In the Mormon Church no one is unemployed unless they wish to be; parishioners make sure that each finds work. While one might not expect such fervor and zest here – after all we are *Episcopalians* – we can do a good job. It takes a parish; it takes *this* Parish. Information/questions: Nathalie Bramson: [nathaliehb@mac.com](mailto:nathaliehb@mac.com), who will stay as long as anyone wants to talk. If you know of any especially good web sites or references, please send them in advance so they may be included in a handout.

### St. Alban's J2A hosts the



## Superbowl Sunday Chili Sale

Pints of vegetarian or meat chili \$6.00  
Quarts of vegetarian or meat chili \$12.00  
Corn Bread \$3.00 (four corn muffins)

Family pack  
1 quart and four muffins -- \$15.00

J2A will be taking orders January 11, 18, and 25.  
Orders can be donated to SOME (So Others Might Eat).  
Pick up will be on Sunday, February 1 in Satterlee Hall.  
Proceeds go to support J2A's pilgrimage in the summer of 2009.

## St. Alban's Early Childhood Center or SAECC

One of our best ministries and best-kept secrets from those who aren't in the parish hall during the week is our incredible Early Childhood Center. St. Alban's Parish began this ministry about 40 years ago. We have 55 children ages 2-5, located on the top floor of Satterlee Hall, who participate in a program fully accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This quality-based program provides children with a renowned early childhood curriculum, The Creative Curriculum, that emphasizes development in the areas of language and literary, physical, cognitive and social-emotional development. Learning is achieved through hands-on experiences and well-planned activities that are created by highly skilled early childhood professionals in a well-equipped child centered classroom setting. To reinforce these experiences, the program offers many enrichment experiences, including formal Spanish instruction, creative movement, yoga, international music, and the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. The program is in operation for 12 months a year, Monday through Friday, 7:00am-6:00pm.

The Mission of the Center is "To maintain a student body and staff that reflects the diversity of the greater Washington metropolitan area." Therefore, we have a mix of children from different economic and ethnic backgrounds. Admissions into the program is conducted on a rolling basis, with peak enrollment occurring late spring through the end of summer. Although the program is well sought after (a waiting list of 135 families), parishioners have an edge, since they are considered first among others.

As an edge feature, the teaching staff provide regular observations of children. Assessments are conducted three times a year. Findings are discussed with parents in a formal parent teacher conference. If concerns are shared through parent consent, SAECC secures the support of a CORE specialist who provides additional screenings in the areas of speech/language, behavioral, occupational, and or physical development. A written evaluation with results and recommendations is given to the parents and staff to address concerns. If services are secured, the program has a play space designated for intervention services. In addition, classrooms are designed to promote inclusionary practices.

Although SAECC is a separate independent entity of St. Alban's parish, many parents choose SAECC over other programs because it is church-related. Moreover, there are always parishioners on the Board. At present Eve Zartman-Ball is the President, Stephanie Curcuru is the Treasurer, and Jeff Harwood, Jane Karas, Nick Karas and Harriette Sturges serve on the Board. Any of them would be happy to give you more information.

To learn more about the program, feel free to attend an information session on any Friday at 11:00am. The sessions last an hour and include a tour of the facility. Please know all are welcome, but tours must be arranged through the business office with Business Manager Christopher Moore, as spaces are limited to four families per session.

Lastly, we encourage you to attend SAECC's annual board meeting. This year the meeting will be held on January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm in Trenbath. There will be a panel of speakers discussing the topic, "The advantages and disadvantages of private and public school." Dinner will be served, and child care will be provided. For more information please contact Christopher Moore at 202-363-7380 or email him at saeccbmanager@yahoo.com.

## More on "Time & Talent"

As part of this effort, we would like to establish a talent bank. Differing from the talent sheets many have completed that indicate the areas/efforts/committees at St. Alban's with which you want to help, this will provide information on what parishioners have done/are doing professionally or in volunteer roles. The reasons this will help the Parish are several-fold: if St. Alban's needs advice or guidance in a particular area, it can quickly determine someone to ask; if a newcomer joins the church and is in such-and-such field, the Hospitality Commission can promptly introduce them to someone in their field (This is a, not the only, way of helping newcomers meet other parishioners.); if the Career Transition Group has someone attending meetings who needs contacts in a profession they are in or aspire to, the appropriate people can be found. And more.

*(continued on page 8)*

# An Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 4, 2009  
5:30 p.m.

## *Amahl and the Night Visitors* by Gian-Carlo Menotti

*A heart-warming tale of a poor crippled boy  
and the miracles that occur on that first Christmas night*

featuring

Joan Phalen • Richard Turner • James Shaffran • Richard Dirksen  
and Will Gerson as Amahl

with members of all the St. Alban's choirs

A brief Epiphany service begins the evening.

All are welcome.

Admission is free.



*Time and Talent continued from page 6...*

Please send your c.v. to a newly established email at St. Alban's: [talent@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:talent@st-albans-parish.org). If you don't have a c.v., please write an email (or snail mail) briefly summarizing professional experience and volunteer interests (outside St. Alban's). You can mention serious hobbies. If you (probably female) have, for example, run anything like the Beauvoir auction or Landon's Azalea Festival, this is an important element of your experience (indeed, if you have, you are qualified to do anything). Please include educational institutions, no dates needed; and NO SALARY information, please. If any of your contact information has changed, please so note and parish records will be adjusted accordingly. This is, of course, voluntary. Questions: Nathalie Bramson: [nathaliehb@mac.com](mailto:nathaliehb@mac.com).

## *The Lord is my shepherd. It's all I want.*

This "mistake" in Psalm 23 was made by a child and really sums up the entire psalm.

Jesus, as the Good Shepherd who cares for his sheep, calls them each by name, doesn't run away in the face of danger, but who protects the sheep, became the basis for the program we use for our children's formation. Sophia Cavaletti chose this parable for the three-year-old child, sensing that if the child had this image of Jesus, he had a solid foundation for faith.

Somewhere between the ages of 4 and 5, the child comes to understand that she is a sheep who is called by name, beloved, cared for and protected by Jesus. We never have to explain this to the child; the understanding comes naturally, organically. Thus a deep core of love is established that will take the child through the ups and downs of childhood, the questioning and doubting of adolescence and the decisions of adulthood.

This deep core is not magic. It doesn't occur in an instant. It takes root slowly like the mustard seed in the parable, very small at first but finally a great tree that can share its gifts with

others. It needs nurturing and care. There is something about the atrium environment that centers on this formation alone that fosters this deep understanding for both child and adult. There is something about the intentional atrium community where we share in a common religious journey into the heart of God that provides the nutrients needed for this growth. School can't do it. Sports can't do it. Family doesn't always do it. Ongoing formation in the atrium can and usually does. Bring your child regularly to the Good Shepherd. It's all she wants, all he wants.



## *Are you a lost sheep?*

If you made a financial pledge to St. Alban's for 2008, but have not yet made your pledge for 2009, you fall into a category we have traditionally called Lost Sheep -- and we hope you will soon be found! Each year dozens of parishioners wait until this time of the annual pledge drive to make their pledge for the coming year, and each year we worry about whether we can count on their continued commitment to the ministries of St. Alban's. If you are one of these good folks, and would like to become a found sheep, please send in your 2009 Pledge Card today. As you know, our operating budget is funded almost entirely by our annual pledges, and the Rector and Vestry are busy at work drafting next year's balanced budget, but they cannot proceed without knowing your plans for pledging. If you have misplaced your pledge card or have a question about your pledge, please contact the parish office. Pledge packets are also available in the narthex.

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

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*St. Alban's*  
**Chronicle**

