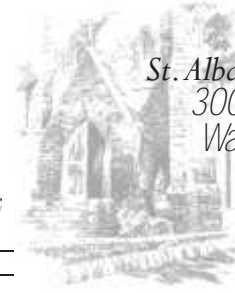


# St. Alban's Chronicle

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



## Human Beings and Human Doings

It has been popular in recent years to focus in the Church on the “being” side of our faith. So, we hear catchy slogans like: “We are not human doings, we are human beings.” This slogan is usually used in the context of trying to help all of us move away from defining our self worth by the output of whatever we produce. It is good advice. It is good theology as well. God loves us not because of what we produce or accomplish, but because it is God’s very nature to love what God has created. We are loved by God for being human, not in spite of the fact that we are human. Humanity is not a disease from which we need a cure. So we are the beloved of God for our human being, not our human doing. In the traditional language of the Church: “We are saved by grace, not works.”

It is, however, not faithful to conclude that our doings do not matter to God. One of my favorite Oak Ridge Boys’ songs is provocatively titled: “You’re so heavenly-minded, you’re no earthly good.” If our faith life is stuck in the ether somewhere, if it is primarily theoretical or propositional, if it is not grounded in particular ways or practices in our everyday lives, then maybe Karl Marx was right when he said that religion is the “opiate of the people.”

One of the recurring teachings of Jesus throughout the Gospels is his commandment to go and “bear fruit.” Just about every parable he tells ends with something akin to this. Whether it is the talent buried in the ground or the command at the end of the story of the Good Samaritan to “go and do likewise,” Jesus consistently expects those who seek to be his disciples to *do* the work of the Gospel. The Gospel is not a theory about God and humanity. It is a true story that defines and shapes our identity and purpose in God’s world.

We at St Alban’s are human beings like everyone else. Yet we know that God has placed the Gospel of Jesus on our hearts. But the Gospel does not remain there. It moves to our arms, hands and legs and compels us to go into God’s world to make a difference. This is the great Gospel adventure you and I share at St Alban’s.

Scott+

### 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 Timothy A. Boggs, Associate Rector  
The Reverend Harriette H. Sturges, Deacon,  
Coordinator of Children's Ministries  
The Reverend Loren B. Mead, Priest Associate

EPISCOPAL CAMPUS MINISTRIES

Carolyn Seaton, Chaplain, American University

PARISH STAFF

Eric Gustafson, Director of Parish Administration  
Ron Hicks, Director of Facilities, Parish Verger  
Doug Dykstra, Director of Finance  
Sonya Subbaya Sutton, Director of Music  
Dr. Norman Scribner, Director of Music Emeritus  
Ashley Allen, Parish Secretary  
Angela Butler, Music Intern

VESTRY OFFICERS

Kate Bouvé, Senior Warden; Jim Sottile, Junior Warden;  
Jim Tate, Secretary ; Christopher Holmes, Treasurer

VESTRY MEMBERS

Nathalie Bramson; Ruth Cline; Bill Edgar; Andrea Farr;  
Chuck Holmes; Keith Jones; Danette (Dani) Kauffman;  
Jennifer Thorson Martin; Eric Melby; Richard Parkins;  
Ann Ramsey-Moor; Eve Zartman-Ball;  
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](http://www.st-albans-parish.org)

## Choir Yard Sale

Saturday, September 12, 9am-2pm  
(rain date: September 13, 1-5pm)

It's time to clean house, pare down, de-clutter - and we're here to help.

Start looking around and making a pile of things to bring to church after September 1 for a yard sale sponsored by the choirs at St. Alban's. This event will help to raise money that will be used for financial aid for singers participating in the June 2010 choir pilgrimage to Prague and Austria who would not otherwise be able to go.

Furniture, electronics, toys...anything but clothing and books (please donate those to the St. Alban's Opportunity Shop). We'll store items in the rectory's garage, beginning in September.

## Fall Bible for Brunch, The Book of Job, Wednesdays @ 11 a.m. in Nourse Hall

Using works like William Blake's illustrations of the Book of Job, the rock band U2's song, "Ultraviolet," Elie Wiesel's book, Night, John Prine's song, "Bruised Orange," and Ralph Vaughan Williams' composition, "Job: A Masque for Dancing," the Rector will leader a study of this Biblical book that has challenged Christians for generations to struggle with the existence of evil and the problem of suffering. This study is open to anyone who wishes to join. It is a great way to introduce new people to our life at St Alban's, so please participate and bring a friend. The class begins on Wednesday, September 9 at 11 a.m.

## Vocational Ministry Retreat September 18-19, 2009

The next Vocational Ministry Retreat sponsored by the Commission on Ministry is set for Sept. 18-19 at the St. Mary Seminary Continuing Education Center in Baltimore. The retreat will be led by Marjory Zoet Bankson, writer, teacher and former executive director of Faith at Work. This retreat is designed for all those seeking to discern God's call in their lives, as well as those considering a call to ordained ministry. The cost is \$120. Register at [www.edow.org/events](http://www.edow.org/events)

## *Pastoral Care at St Alban's*

Pastoral care is how the Christian community cares for one another. At St. Alban's Parish we have an interconnected web of pastoral care for one another. This web includes: the parish clergy, Stephen Ministers, Healing Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and our Prayer Chain. In times of medical or other crisis, please contact the parish office as soon as possible. One of the parish clergy will come to the hospital or meet you where you are to pray with you.

The clergy may, if appropriate, offer you the ministry of one of our trained Stephen Ministers who are skilled, confidential caregivers. Stephen Ministers can walk with you through your time of trial and provide spiritual friendship while you are in need.

If you or a loved one cannot be present for the Eucharist on Sunday, please contact the Reverend Harriette Sturges in the parish office. Harriette will make sure that a Eucharistic Visitor comes to your hospital room or your home so that you can receive the sacrament.

We also have a network of prayer through our Prayer Chain. Members of the Prayer Chain will pray for you or your loved one's needs in time of crisis.

Our parish pastoral care is greatly dependent on our communication with one another. We cannot care for one another unless we know who is in need of care. Please never assume that the parish clergy know of particular pastoral needs in our parish family. St Alban's is a diverse parish spread across two states and the District of Columbia. We can only know when you make us aware of the need. Feel free to call us anytime.

## *The new and improved 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*, our 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. *The Alban Course* is not just designed for new people to the parish. It is a comprehensive course on our tradition's faith and practice. It is for anyone who desires to deepen their faith journey in clear and tangible ways.

Sessions meet conveniently on Sunday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. ***Now meeting in Nourse Hall for even greater convenience!*** Here is the September schedule:

Sept 6 - The Church: The ongoing Body of Christ

Sept 13 - Reconciling & Restoring our Lives

Sept 20 - Understanding & Interpreting the Bible

Sept 27 - Human Nature & Formation in Christ

## ***Catechesis of the Good Shepherd***

*This is our children's program for ages 3-12. Children who will be turning three can begin in September. Check with Harriette if you are not sure.*

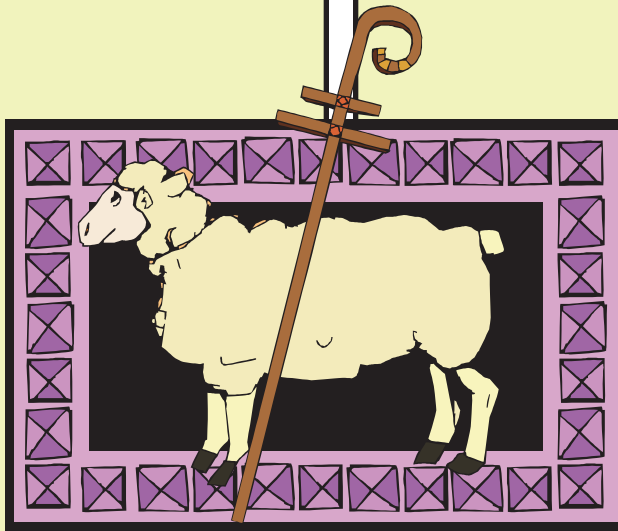
We begin with classes on September 20 at 10:30. Children 3- 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will be downstairs in Satterlee. Our preteens in 4-5<sup>th</sup> grade will be upstairs in Satterlee in Sullivan, which is the room off the mezzanine. Parents need to attend the forum that Sunday, as it's about the program by a great speaker, Catherine Maresca, author, CGS catechist and trainer and founder of the Center for Children and Theology here in Washington.

Please register your child. If you were here last year, I only need name, grade and birth date with any updates like new allergies, new address, email or phone numbers. There will be forms outside the rooms or you may email me - [hsturges@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:hsturges@st-albans-parish.org).

See the website for more information or come by to see the rooms. I'll be sending out emails with more information. Pamela Hudson, Molly Buck, Christopher Moore and I will be attending training for Level One starting in September. It will be my third go round and I'm looking forward to it. Let me know if you are interested.

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**Kids Reaching Out** - This amazing group of leaders ages 9-12 will again be having a busy year planning, praying, and preparing projects



for outreach. Last year they cooked, walked, knitted, collected, laughed and played with incredible results. Come join them by September 27<sup>th</sup> in time for the installation. Contact Ann Morrison at [annmorrisondc@mac.com](mailto:annmorrisondc@mac.com). Everyone is welcome.

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**BABIES, BABIES, BABIES** - Babies are great, but sometimes parents need a breather or some adult company. We're working on a get-together group for pre-school children. Contact Harriette for the organizational date. In the meantime remember we have the greatest nursery on Sundays from 8:30-12:30.

**BAPTISM** and children are an important part of our ministry here at St. Alban's. We take our responsibility seriously as we support the children in their life in Christ. Therefore, we ask that you contact Harriette, our coordinator of children's ministries, when you feel you are ready to have your child baptized or have questions. We follow this format:

- Fill out form online or come by the church to get one.
- Contact Harriette for an appointment. Really not hard, as she's always relaxing.
- Put 3 dates on your calendar: 3 weeks before the Presentation in the church; Saturday before from 9:30-12:30 for the retreat and rehearsal and Sunday for the baptism--unless of course it's the Easter Vigil on Saturday evening.
- Plan to come to church regularly, become a part of your community if you are new, and enjoy.

## *Herding Cats: Cats and the Kingdom of God*

The August VBC is for our 4-5 year olds with those 7+ helping as counselors. A few young-at-heart adults participated as well. We explored cats, lion, lynx, puma, tabby, tiger and all other domestics. We learned about St. Julian and her cat and St. Jerome and his lion. We had a cat hunt in the church--actually only the paws are there. We have two windows with cat paws. See if you can find them. If not, ask a child.

We celebrated the 7<sup>th</sup> birthday of leader Miles Bocock. Sang, prayed, practiced courtesy, ate, cleaned up and played. But we also examined gifts: the gifts cats give us and gave Julian and Jerome, the gifts God gives us, and the gifts we have to give God. The gifts may come in all shapes, sizes and colors but, instead we all have the same Spirit and same Lord. We are all needed for the Kingdom.

## *Journey to Adulthood Resumes!*

Fall rapidly approaches, and with it comes the return of St. Alban's youth programming. Journey to Adulthood is for youth ages 13-18 and occurs in three 2-year intervals: Rite 13 (Junior High), J2A (Early High School), and Senior Youth (Late High School). If you have a child in any of these age groups and are interested in their continued Christian formation as they journey toward adulthood, then please contact the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson and come to the Journey to Adulthood Open House, September 13, at 12:00 (following the 11:15 Eucharist, and in conjunction with the Parish Ministry Fair) in the Old Rectory. During the Journey to Adulthood Open House, there will be a chance to ask questions and to sign up to participate.

## *Bible Study Reconvenes*

10:00 AM Bible study will reconvene on September 16.

We will study the book of Joshua, which tells of the conquest of Palestine following the Exodus from Egypt.

## *The Young Adults are Back!*

St. Alban's 20s-30s Group is back in action starting **September 13<sup>th</sup>** with the resuming of **the Young Adult Book Study at 6:30 PM.** This fall's study meets every other Sunday following the 5:30 PM Eucharist with a simple meal, prayer, and study, and will convene **in the Old Rectory.** The topic this season is "The Groaning Earth" a look at Christian responses to the environmental crisis. Authors we will consider include: Larry Rasmussen, Willis Jenkins, and Wendell Berry among others.

Our first gathering on the 13<sup>th</sup> will be to discuss books to order, to raise possible ministry opportunities for young adults through St. Alban's Parish, and finally to discuss potential other ideas for the 20s-30s group. Please Come!

The 20s-30s group will also recommence meeting for Pub Quiz on **Wednesdays at 8:30PM at Ireland's Four Fields @ 3412 Connecticut Ave., NW.** Gather for a night at the pub, exercise your brain, make friends, and hoist a pint or two. This social event has been a long time staple of 20s-30s fun at St. Alban's. There is also potential to alternate Wednesdays, having one be quizzing, and the other could be a Bible or theological study/discussion at the pub. Come to the Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> gathering and tell us what you think.

## ***What is Stephen Ministry?***

### **What is the Difference between a Stephen Ministry Relationship and a Friendship?**

Stephen Ministers have a lot in common with close friends. You can depend on them; you can trust them; you know that they'll keep confidential whatever you tell them. They'll be there for you and help you through a rough time. But the Stephen Minister's role is different from the role of a close friend.

**A Stephen Ministry Relationship Isn't a Mutual Relationship** – Close friendships are mutual. Friends are there for each other; they share their good times and bad times and support each other. A Stephen Ministry relationship is one-sided. Stephen Ministers listen, reflect thoughts and feelings, and care. They focus only on the care receiver's issues, and they bring in their own experience only when they sense that they might be able to shed some light on the care receiver's situation.

### **A Stephen Ministry Relationship Is Intentional**

– The relationship has been established for a reason -- so that the Stephen Minister can walk with the care receiver through a difficult time. The Stephen Minister knows this, and the care receiver knows this. The relationship has been established with a clear purpose in mind.

### **A Stephen Ministry Relationship is More Objective**

– Friends often aren't very objective. If someone's hurting, a good friend usually hurts with that person. Their friendship might cloud their judgment at times. A Stephen Minister certainly empathizes, but he or she needs to stay more objective than a friend. By maintaining objectivity, the Stephen Minister can provide balance and perspective that a friend might not.

### **A Stephen Ministry Relationship Is More Formal**

– Stephen Ministers go through 50 hours of training, regular continuing education, and

twice monthly small group peer supervision. They are trained caregivers – very highly trained caregivers. They have skills in active listening, dealing with feelings, Christian caregiving, setting boundaries, relating assertively, process-oriented caring, crisis intervention, and ministering to a wide range of situations. Their care isn't casual, as a friend's might be.

### **Stephen Ministers Provide Distinctively**

**Christian Care** – Most importantly, Stephen Ministers rely on God to direct their actions and help them as they care for their care receivers. Stephen Ministers pray for their care receivers and may pray with them when they welcome prayer. Friendships may have a spiritual perspective, but Stephen Ministry relationships always do. The Stephen Minister is always sensitive to the care receiver's needs in this aspect, never forcing prayers or Bible verses into the relationship.

### **Stephen Ministry Relationships End**

– Friendships can be forever. Stephen Ministry relationships aren't. The time will come when the care receiver no longer needs a Stephen Minister, and the relationship will close. Of course, once the Stephen Ministry relationship is over, the relationship between the Stephen Minister and care receiver may blossom into a friendship.

*Beginning in September, Stephen Leaders Dee Dykstra, Ada Kugajevsky and Dick Parkins will receive applications and meet with parishioners who wish to explore serving St. Alban's as a Stephen Minister. If you would like to learn more about the ministry, training program or time commitment, please contact Dee at 703-971-5795, Ada at 202-333-2631 or Dick at 202-244-3798. Stephen Ministry information materials are also available in the Wade Room.*

## ***Loss and Grief: Understanding our feelings, helping others***

Saturday, October 3  
9:30 a.m. – 12 noon  
Nourse Hall, St. Alban's Church

Although grief is the normal response to loss, it can feel like a difficult, lonely journey. We experience a variety of losses in our lives – jobs, relationships, homes, dreams – but when people we love die, we may struggle to find the path through our grief. There is no single roadmap for grieving, but there are familiar signposts, and there are helping hands along the way.

Come, listen, ask questions. Find out how we experience grief and how we integrate loss into our lives. Learn ways to care for our grieving selves. Explore ways to help others. Become aware of the resources in our community.

Clinical social workers Cay Hartley, LICSW, and Elizabeth Dietel, LICSW – both experienced in grief work – will lead this informative session, open to the community. Caring for each other and ourselves is part of our walk in faith. Bring a friend!

FREE!! – But please tell us you're coming!  
RSVP 202-363-8286 x219



Presented by St. Alban's Stephen Ministry  
Leaders: Dee Dykstra, Ada Kugajevsky, Dick Parkins

## ***An In-Depth Look at Hate Crime***

by Marina Bühler-Miko

The July 12 Ideas Alive! session featured sociologist and social psychologist Dr. Howard J. Ehrlich of The Prejudice Institute, based in Baltimore, where he led a talk on his most recent book, *Hate Crimes and Ethnviolence*, which discusses at length the social forces that contributed to recent hate motivated murders.

Dr. Ehrlich's research shows that there are over 250 designated "hate groups" in this country. He cites the yearly figure for legally recognized hate crimes as between 6,000-10,000, but notes that places like the Southern Poverty Law Center estimate the figure to be 15 times higher. Under-reporting of these types of crimes seems to be endemic, partly because police are not trained to recognize them. Dr. Ehrlich stressed the need for law-enforcement training in this area.

Dr. Ehrlich spoke about cultural groups within our society that feed prejudice and discrimination and pass these elements on to their children at a young age. He attributes the growth of "ethnviolence" -- his term that encompasses far more than physical violence -- to the rapid societal changes caused by the influx of immigrant populations. He touched on the expansion of corporate power, and the inequality of wealth and resentment this has caused. How many feel the loss of control as companies and employers move corporate operations to the global market, thus avoiding local control or state regulations. Leading employers to treat their employees as nonpersons in a hierarchy where only a few exercise power and authority.

Continued on the following page

Against this background, the motivation for hate crimes is deep and multifaceted. There are situations that come under the heading of "recreational violence" -- where a crime is committed against a weaker individual for "fun." There is also "collateral" motivation, where a hate crime is committed to gain acceptance by a particular group, such as a gang. On the other end of that spectrum, Dr. Ehrlich pointed to the psychopath, who has no recognizable feelings or commitments but commits a hate crime and cites reasons for doing so without emotional involvement.

So what can be done immediately? Dr. Ehrlich and his colleague, Dr. Patricia Webbink, both spoke eloquently about the need for educational "interventions." They urged working with children as young as 10 to help them understand and explore the nature of their own prejudices and to teach them tolerance. He then stressed the need that as a church we should focus on what he called "those elements which constitute a good society." He suggested that positive thoughts in such a direction get lost amid media coverage of hate crimes when they occur.

Dr. Ehrlich's book, *Hate Crimes and Ethnoviolence: The History, Current Affairs and Future of Discrimination in America*, is published by Perseus Books Group ([www.westviewpress.com](http://www.westviewpress.com)), and is still available at a discount through the Forum Committee book table.

## **PARISH OPERATING FINANCES THROUGH JULY**

The chart appearing on the opposite page provides a quick summary of the parish's 2009 operating finances through July 31st. With the first seven months of the year completed,

income is running 4% behind what was expected while expenses are slightly over budget. Overall, the operating budget continues to be in decent shape, but a manageable deficit continues to exist.

Similar to last month's report, most of the deficit is directly attributable to lower than anticipated income. Through the first seven months of the year, pledge income was down 1.6% to budget, plate collections were off budget by 4.2% and miscellaneous contribution income was also under budget. The remainder of the deficit is the result of both higher than expected utility costs as well as servicing costs of the parish's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

(In the mid-year report last month, you were told that the parish locked in a new contract rate that should reduce our natural gas costs by nearly 50% over the next twelve months, as of July 2009. This month, the parish was able to negotiate a new contract rate for electricity that should reduce these costs by nearly 20%, as of September 2009.)

Thank you to everyone who has made contributions to the parish during the first seven months of the year. If you are behind in your 2009 pledge, please consider making a payment soon to help us reduce and eliminate this deficit. And for those who have not made a pledge for 2009, it's not too late. Pledge cards are available in the Wade Room outside Nourse Hall.

If you have questions about the finances of the parish and/or pledging, including matching gifts, foundation grants and gift transfers of securities to the parish, please contact Doug Dykstra, Director of Finance, at 202.363.8286, ext. 209 or email at [DougD@st-albans-parish.org](mailto:DougD@st-albans-parish.org).

ST. ALBAN'S PARISH

2009 January - July Financial Overview of Operating Fund (as of August 11, 2009)

	2009	2009	2009	
	Jan. - July	Jan. - July	Variance	
	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>to Budget</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>
<b>PARISH INCOME</b>				
Pledges (incl. Foundations/Matching Gifts)	\$648,473	\$658,772	(\$10,299)	-1.6%
Contributions: Facility Use, WSA, Flower Guild	\$25,412	\$50,667	(\$25,255)	-49.8%
Collections: Plate, Parish Support, Special	\$22,782	\$23,779	(\$997)	-4.2%
Transfer: Naselli Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Transfer: Endowment Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Designated Income	\$59,121	\$54,333	\$4,788	8.8%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$755,789</b>	<b>\$787,551</b>	<b>(\$31,762)</b>	<b>-4.0%</b>
<b>PARISH EXPENSE</b>				
Personnel (Salaries/Benefits)	\$485,173	\$489,039	(\$3,866)	-0.8%
Parish Outreach	\$91,749	\$104,417	(\$12,668)	-12.1%
Parish Programs	\$38,462	\$30,502	\$7,960	26.1%
Buildings & Grounds	\$214,949	\$184,247	\$30,702	16.7%
Parish Office	\$36,686	\$44,661	(\$7,975)	-17.9%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$867,019</b>	<b>\$852,865</b>	<b>\$14,153</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
<b>2009 Income-to-Expense Variance</b>	<b>(\$111,230)</b>	<b>(\$65,315)</b>	<b>(\$45,915)</b>	

## 2009-2010 Music Events

*that go beyond Sunday morning*

### ***Music for and by women***

**Tuesday, September 15                      Noon**

#### **Freewill Offering\***

Musicians from St. Alban's will present a concert of music by Lili Boulanger, Amy Beach, Emma Lou Diemer and others  
Noon at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G Street NW

### ***The Sacred Art of Chant:***

#### ***Preparing to Practice***

**Saturday, September 26                      9:30-2:30**

**\$30**

A workshop with composer and performer  
Ana Hernandez.

A day of singing and learning and praying open to all.  
Lunch is provided.

Trenbath Assembly, Satterlee Hall

### ***Choral Evensong for All Saints' Day***

**Sunday, November 1                      4:00**

#### **Freewill Offering\***

The Alban Singers will sing a service of choral Evensong for All Saints' Day, including the *Mount Saint Alban Service* by David Hogan

### ***An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan***

**Sunday, November 22                      7:00 pm**

**\$20\***

Led by Dr. Barry Talley (retired Director of the Naval Academy's Glee Club), St. Alban's singers will entertain you with choruses and scenes from Gilbert and Sullivan's musicals. A reception follows the concert.

Trenbath Assembly, Satterlee Hall

### ***A Concert for St. Nicholas Day***

**Sunday, December 6                      4:00 pm**

**\$10\* (under 12 are free)**

Celebrating the story of St. Nicholas is the perfect way for young and old to enter the Advent season. The program will include Benjamin Britten's cantata *St. Nicolas* and sing-along opportunities for the audience. St. Nicholas himself will make a special appearance.

### ***Preludes for Christmas Eve***

**Thursday, December 24                      7:30 & 10:30 pm**

During the 7:30 prelude to the 8:00 pm service, the Canterbury Choir will sing Vivaldi's ebullient *Gloria*. The 10:30 prelude to the 11:00 pm service will feature the Alban Singers and Salisbury Choir singing the first portion of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*.

### ***An Evening of Viennese Waltzing***

**Saturday, January 2                      7:00-10:00**

**\$25/person\***

A festive evening that begins with a lesson in waltzing, before we dance the night away.

Desserts and coffee will be served.

Trenbath Assembly, Satterlee Hall

### ***Service for Epiphany***

**Wednesday, January 6                      7:00 pm**

#### **Freewill offering**

Eucharist service to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, with music that includes the Epiphany portion of Bach's *Christmas Oratorio*

### ***St. Alban's Abbey Choir of Men and Girls***

**Wednesday, April 7                      7:00 pm**

#### **Freewill Offering\***

The choir from our mother church, the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Alban's in England, will make a stop at our own St. Alban's during their U.S. tour.

### ***Choir Tour Send-Off Concert***

**Saturday, June 5                      7:00 pm**

#### **Freewill Offering\***

Help to send the choirs of St. Alban's Parish off on a pilgrimage of singing and prayer to Vienna, Salzburg and Prague as they present their tour program in concert.

\* Money raised at these events will be used for financial aid for singers who would not otherwise be able to go on the June choir tour.

## ***Concert at Church of the Epiphany*** ***Tuesday, September 15, noon***

A program titled "By and for Women" will be presented by musicians from St. Alban's Parish on the Tuesday Concert Series at Church of the Epiphany, located on G Street between 13th and 14th Streets, Northwest in Washington. Sonya Sutton, together with singers Mary Shaffran, Joan Phalen, Donna Simonton, Karen Florini, Cindy Gady and Katherine Krile will perform a 50 minute program of music by women composers and poets, including settings of poems by Emily Dickinson and Christina Rossetti, as well as music by Lili Boulanger and Amy Beach. This noontime concert is free and open to all, though donations will be happily accepted and used to support our 2010 choir tour.

## ***Welcome to our new Music Intern***

We are delighted to welcome a new Music Intern, Angela Butler. Her name does not give away the fact that Angela was born and educated in Russia, a graduate of the renowned Moscow Conservatory with degrees in music theory and piano. She came to the U.S. in 1993 and has been working since then as a member of the Washington National Opera Chorus and as a private piano teacher. Angela expressed an interest in further developing her organ and conducting skills, and will be assisting with the St. Cecilia Choir, the Choristers, the Angelus Ringers, as well as singing with the Alban Singers and the Canterbury Choir. Though she'll be with us just 12 hours a week, her presence at St. Alban's will add as much to our music program as I hope she'll take away from her experience here.

## ***Episcopal Church Musician to Lead Workshop***

Ana Hernandez, known throughout the Episcopal Church for her creative exploration of how singing builds community, will lead a workshop, "The Sacred Art of Chant: Preparing to Practice" with other musicians from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sept. 26 at St. Alban's, D.C. This day of singing, learning and praying is open to all. Lunch is provided. To register, contact Sonya Sutton at 202/363-8286. For more information about Hernandez, visit [www.anahermusic.com](http://www.anahermusic.com). Hernandez also will lead the worship at All Saints in Frederick, Md., (106 West Church Street) on Sept. 27.

## **Music Program**

**St. Cecilia Choir** (2nd and 3rd graders) - rehearsals on Wednesdays at 3:30, beginning Sept. 16

**Choristers** (4rd-8th graders) - rehearsals on Wednesdays at 4:15, beginning Sept. 16

**Salisbury Choir** - adults and teenagers, by audition, rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30, beginning Sept. 10

**Canterbury Choir** - adults and teenagers, no audition necessary, rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30, beginning Sept. 10

**Alban Singers** - professional adults, by audition, rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30, beginning Sept. 10

**Choral Scholars** - teenagers, by audition only (small stipend), rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:30 (twice a month)

**Angelus Ringers** - adults and teenagers, rehearsals on Tuesday evenings at 6:00, beginning September 22

A few changes from previous years:

- Choir for the youngest singers, the St. Cecilia Choir, will begin with 2nd graders this coming fall. It's very helpful if the children are beginning to feel more comfortable reading, and that seems to happen more often by second grade.
- A newly formed program for Choral Scholars invites musically experienced teenagers to audition for a paid position with the Salisbury Choir.
- The handbell choir, Angelus Ringers, will rehearse on Tuesdays at 6 pm, rather than Saturday mornings, which might appeal to a few new ringers out there.



## *St. Alban's historic baby shower*

Nathalie Bramson would like to thank all those who planned, prepared, brought, and served food, and arranged flowers, and those who cleaned up after the most fun shower anyone can remember: Kelly Benhase, Mary Grace Benhase, Kate Bouvé, Sally Craig, Dee Dykstra, Eliot Edgar, Andrea Farr, Sallie Lewis, Katie Stacey, Linda Vitella and Sharon Whitehouse.

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

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