

From the Rector

L. Howard Maltby+

I am excited to be using some of my Continuing Education time in a couple of weeks. What excites me is what I will be doing that week. I was fortunate to find two short events which filled the week in the same vicinity.

The first half of the week I will be at Virginia Theological Seminary attending a conference on Sabbatical Planning. I don't know how many of you are aware that under the terms of most clergy "Letters of Agreement," provision is made for a sabbatical. I had such a provision at my previous church, but there was never any funding for one.

When I arrived at St. Alban's, and the same language was used in my letter, we also developed a plan to fund a sabbatical. The agreement is that after five (5) years as rector, I may take a two (2) month sabbatical. My five year anniversary was March 1, 2007. Over the last five years the parish budget has included a line item for the sabbatical and I have been matching that amount. I don't know if that will be enough money until I know what I want, or can, do. That is the rationale for attending a conference on planning a sabbatical.

The second half of the week I will be at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. The conference I will attend is "Church for the 21st Century: A Gathering to Envision, Encourage, and Energize Renewing Congregations." "Authors, scholars, and theologians – Diana Butler Bass, Michael Battle, Marcus Borg, Barbara Brown Taylor, Fred Burnham, Carmen Gurrero, Tony Jones, Phyllis Tickle, Cathedral Dean Sam Lloyd and others – will reflect on the direction the church is taking." "The gathering of mainline and emergent Christians will talk about the best practices within their ministries and how these practices are addressing a new set of cultural conditions in the 21st century." Much of our time will be spent in small group workshops with individual leaders, and some time in plenary sessions.

I feel called to attend this second conference because of the many changes in our lives at St. Alban's in the present, and more importantly, in the future. No one needs me to tell them of our Lexington community's significant population growth. Is St. Alban's prepared and equipped to participate in this growth? If so, how? Hopefully I will return with some ideas about that.

We are already of a mindset to welcome new people, and having three services on Sunday is part of accommodating such increased attendance. Since the inception of the "new" schedule there has been a modest increase in average Sunday attendance. To go from modest to substantial is possible with attention to a number of things too lengthy to be detailed in this article.

Another thing which got my attention recently was the results of a national survey of Episcopal Churches in 2005. On behalf of St. Alban's, I answered the questionnaire. What I learned from the compilation of national statistics is how much we are atypical – and in a good way. For example, of the churches reporting: less than half (39%) report attendance at the service with the largest attendance to be more than 60% of seating capacity, and 12% at more than 80% of capacity [we fluctuate between 60-80%]. We are in the minority of virtually all the calculations related to the age breakdown of membership, in that we have so many more youth and children than the average Episcopal Church. Although at the time of the survey I was the only priest here, we are now a minority with 19% of churches having multiple priests on staff. We have a larger budget which corresponds with being larger in number than the average.

Lastly, we do reflect most Episcopal churches in responses such as: "is like a close knit family," "celebrates its Episcopal heritage," "desires growth in attendance and membership." "Growing congregations were more likely to strongly agree that they have a clear mission and purpose, are spiritually vital and alive, change to meet new challenges and are a fun place to be." I realize that many many changes have taken place around St. Alban's just in the past year. The fact that we have weathered these changes with minimal conflict is a sign of a healthy approach to new opportunities. I do not want to see us become the "church of what's happening now." Nor do I want to isolate myself, or this congregation, from the vitality of how something may be done differently, praying all along that it is the work of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray for the good health of our congregation in every manner of how that can be understood.

From the Assistant Rector

Karen F. Humbert+

A colleague of mine once said, "if want to know how your ministry is going look at your preaching." It is a daunting thought for those of us in the ordained ministry who risk standing before a crowd of witnesses to bear our all. When preparing a sermon under the best of circumstances you use all the gifts God has bestowed upon you. Setting the academic process aside, sermon preparation is also prayer work. The statement my astute colleague made has implications on one's prayer life – spiritual implications.

Those implications are a heady reminder for preachers of the call to be faithful followers. Spiritual health is not only important, but also necessary. What most of us in the profession realize is that somewhere between the utterance of the sermon manuscript and it's hearing the word of God is loosed upon willing ears. To invest in the process is to take responsibility for one's spiritual health. On the best and worst of my days every sermon is like the process of giving birth, a period of gestation and delivery with the outcome always uncertain. The spiritual implications of that delivery are what drive the need for self-care much like perinatal care. To follow Jesus is to also take time for prayer, and rest. Jesus often went off to the mountain to pray alone.

The opening acclamation throughout Eastertide – *Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.* – reminds me that I am joyfully celebrating the resurrection of Jesus. Weariness obscures my ability to access the joy abundantly given. Joy presumes a balance of rest, work and play all of which contribute to the many aspects of spiritual health. The human condition is predisposed to suffering and after a lengthy time spent inwardly reflecting under the heavy cover of Lent a little lighter period of jubilation is a welcome respite. You may have even noticed the omission of the confession from our worship services. Eastertide is a time for joy, for living life into the risen Christ. The old has passed away and the gift of new life is now upon us. The whole of creation blooms with new life wooing you to open the gate in delight. Jesus said, "The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep." Following has spiritual implications, indeed.

Soft Ball News

Steve Senf

On April 17, the team rallied behind Rick "strike-em out" Hiers to come back from 5 runs down to win 15-14. On April 24, the news is not as good. The diving stop and throw to second for an out by Melissa Senf and the precision hitting of all the women were not enough to pull us to victory. We are now 3-2 and are by far the best looking team with our hats (donated by Joe Reed) and our new jerseys.

United Thank Offering

Rose Braddock

Thank you everyone for your support of the United Thank Offering Ministry. The Spring Ingathering raised \$672.35, to help those in need.

Name Change?

Mother Karen Humbert

You may have noticed that the classrooms in the church have new names. With the growing use of our church facility comes demands for careful calendar planning. While Jean, our church secretary runs a tight ship in keeping up with parish events, the problem arose what to call the space where an activity was to occur. The happy solution was that there are lots of saints who have gone on before us and have shown us the way. The Vestry approved the idea of naming the rooms after various saints and so your clergy went about the task of matching the best saint for the job determined by what primary group met in each space.

Godly Play Level 2 is now St. John, the Evangelist and storyteller; Yoga has St. Luke the Physician; EYC has St. Mark whose symbol is

that of a winged lion symbolizing his account of John the Baptist's cry in the wilderness; The Edge Sunday School class has St. Matthew who taught duties towards one's neighbors, family and even enemies; The Adult Sunday School room has St. Paul apostle and missionary to the Gentiles; The Nursery has St. Mary mother of Jesus; and the Godly Play Level 1 has St. Teresa one of few Doctors of the church so named for her teaching.

Please look for these name changes on the monthly calendar when you have an activity in one of the classrooms.

Fellowship Pot-Luck

Marie Barron & Mike Gearon

The next Fellowship Potluck will be Sunday, May 6, following the 10:30 AM service. The Vestry is responsible for clean-up.

African Team Ministry Jewelry Sale

Rose Braddock

The Episcopal Church Women will be selling craft and jewelry items made by women in Africa on May 6, after each service. The profits from the sale of these items supports children in Africa who are orphaned by AIDS. (Remember Mother's Day is May is May13.)

Episcopal Church Women Evening Guild

Mary Cochran

The Evening Guild of ECW will conclude the season by meeting at Travinia's Restaurant on Highway 378 @ 7 PM, on Monday, May 7.

If you plan to attend, please contact Tracie Ifkovits or Mary Cochran for reservations. This will be the last time we will see Karen Roberts before her move to Jacksonville, Florida. Please join us if you can.

Deadlines for The Alert

Jean Testruth

Tuesday, May 8, will be the deadline for the mid-month issue of *The Alert*. Please have your articles into the Parish Office by this day.

Deadline for the June issue of *The Alert* will be Thursday, May 24. These articles and items for the calendar need to be sent to Dr. Dan Lawther, Editor, at stalbandsalert@hotmail.com. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Brotherhood of St. Alban

Bill Cochran

The Brotherhood did not have a formal meeting for April as we were hosting the Agapé dinner on Maundy Thursday, April 5. Thanks to everyone for your efforts.

Another point of interest, the schedule is now available on our web site www.stalbanschurch.net Go to the home page and choose "Brotherhood" and click on the Adobe icon to load the schedule. You can print a hard copy or read it on line.

The next meeting will be held May 10, @ 6:30 PM in the fellowship hall. FOOD – TEAM 5: Lewis Brunson; Michael Kleinfelder; Wayland Hiott; Gregg Vaughn; PROGRAM – TEAM 4:

Blake Amick; Bobby Dial; David Kleinfelder; Lindsley Humbert.

An email is sent to the brotherhood prior to the meetings. If you would like to be on the mailing list please let me know. Any information on the meetings or schedule can be directed to Bill Cochran @ 957-4424, email wcochran@sc.rr.com. I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETING!

"Circle of Friends"

Mother Karen Humbert

"Circle of Friends" will meet in the home of Cynthia and Joe Reed on Friday, May 11, 2007 at 7PM. The entrée will be barbeque ribs and chicken, tossed salad and dinner rolls. Anyone looking for fellowship, food, and fun is welcome; please plan to bring a side dish to share. Directions to the Reed's home will be posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex. Newcomers are especially welcome!

Daughters of the King

Irene Ballington

The DOK will have their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 17, @ 6:00 PM in the Parish House. At that time, we will welcome three new members: Cheryl Riddick, Melissa Senf and Cynthia Reed.

Our program, led by Mother Karen, of studying the book *Heart Whispers* will continue.

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meet following dinner, while the V.B.S. program for children is underway.

"Theovision"

Fr. Howard Maltby

The next "Theovision" gathering will be Friday, May 18, @ 6:45 PM. Our hosts will be Mary Townhill and Libba Rhoad, at the home of Mary Townhill. The main course item will be "Angel Hair Shrimp Bake." All who attend are encouraged to bring something to go with the provided main course. The movie being discussed with be *The Queen*.

Due to Vacation Bible School, there will not be a monthly gathering of "Theovision" in June. Please see the article about the movies for discussion during V.B.S.

The Diocesan Leadership Conference

"The Healthy Church Initiative: Nuts & Bolts"

Give a person a fish and he or she will not be hungry for a day. Teach that person to fish and he or she will not go hungry for a lifetime.

Come be empowered to give your congregation the gift of priorities, vision, and mission effectiveness. Sound fishy?

At this year's leadership conference everyone is invited to participate in a "nuts and bolts" discernment process that results in a shared sense of direction and priorities. Participation in this process will benefit congregations, vestries, committees, and even your personal life. Come experience this essential first step

in becoming a healthy church!

Registration available online.
Deadline to register is May 13.

Last Day of Sunday School

Mother Karen Humber

Please mark on your calenders that we will end Sunday School (Godly Play 1 & 2, The Edge, Youth, Adult and Doughnut Club) on Sunday, May 20.

Merry Widows

Doris Drake

Our next luncheon will be on Tuesday, May 22, @ 1 PM at Fatz Café on Highway 1.

Vacation Bible School – Adult Program

Fr. Howard Maltby

It is gratifying to see a program sustain interest over a few years of Vacation Bible School, and then grow into a regular monthly gathering. As you may have already learned, the schedule for V.B.S. this year is slightly different from recent years. The nights for V.B.S. are Monday through Friday.

The schedule of movies to be seen in advance and discussed are:

Monday - *The Good Shepherd*
Tuesday - *Charlotte's Web*
Wednesday - *Freedom Writers*
Thursday - *The Last King of Scotland*
Friday - *Cars*

All of the selected films should be available for rent locally. The movie discussion group will

May Birthdays

- 1 Bubby Pinckney
- 2 Kathy Keith
- 3 Maddie Barefoot; Karen Billesbach
- 4 Roz Chandler
- 5 Joe & Edna Bedenbaugh
- 6 Jean Hiers; Margaret Stafford
- 7 Doris Walker
- 8 Robert Sears; Donald Walker
- 9 Melanie Dunnagan; Jessie H. Helms
Carl McMillan
- 10 Nathaniel Allen; Nancee Arnold
Doug Catoe; Anna Reider
- 11 Lynn Benasutti; Christine Merkel
- 13 Janis Parker
- 14 Holley Brown; Ben Cochran
Pratt Mounfield; John Nowakoski
Reese Wilkins
- 16 Nancy Lind; Brenda Turner
- 17 Chuck Watts
- 18 Rose Wilkins
- 19 Johnny Clemens; Tommy Stafford; Sarah
Weiss
- 20 Kay Frank; Irene Wehle
- 21 Jim Cornwell; Cynthia Reed
- 22 Seth Dunnagan; Kelly Holliday
- 23 Austin Monts; Katelynn Monts
- 24 Tyler Frost; Catherine Pickett;
Corey Sturkie
- 25 Sarah Cooper; Stephanie Langford
Kori Lorick
- 26 Gary Baker
- 27 Suzanne Mathis
- 30 Joanne Duncan

For A Birthday

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May Anniversaries

- 6 Warren & Dawn Mock
- 12 Dean & Kathy Keith
- 16 George & Debbie Murray
- 20 Jeff & Mary Wachowski
- 25 Pat & Jennifer Clemens
- 26 Brian & Terriann Smith
- 31 David & Elaine Moseley

For a Wedding Anniversary

O God, you have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oats, Wagon wheels and Horseshoes!

Pat Ellis & Cheryl Banks

Horses and hardtack, chuck wagon beans and lassos, ranch hands and wranglers, cooks and cowpokes . . . sound interesting? Be a part of our Vacation Bible School this year. We need volunteers to help for one day, several days or the entire week. If you are willing to help as a volunteer, please contact Cheryl or Pat. A list of craft items and supplies will be posted on the church bulletin board by May 19, if you would like to donate items. Vacation Bible School is **Monday, June 18 – Friday, June 22**. Mark your calendar!

SC Day at the National Cathedral

Kathy Hunter

Got your calendars marked? Sunday, July 15, is South Carolina Day at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. Several St. Alban members have expressed interest in going. Look for details in *The Alert* mid-May issue. If you haven't done so already, mark your calendars and plan on attending a truly memorable service at the National Cathedral.

“Walkway of Faith” Bricks **Pat Ellis**

Every couple of years we offer St. Alban's members and friends an opportunity to purchase bricks for the “Walkway of Faith.” This year we will accept orders from now until the end of June. The bricks will be ordered and installed in the

walkway before cold weather. The bricks are \$50 each. The order forms are on the table in the narthex. Please be sure to print clearly and include your phone number in case there are any questions.

The form and the check can be placed in the offering plate or they can be mailed or dropped off at the office. Any proceeds from the sale of the bricks go to the Building Fund. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at 359-9615.

Congratulations are extended to . . .

Kevin & Lisa Kempf on the birth of their son, Ryan Walter, on April 13. Ryan weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and was 19 and one-half inches long. All are doing well.

Megan Price Keisler and Matthew Thomas Jaco who were married Saturday, April 17, in Las Vegas, Nevada. Matthew is the son of Tommy and Linda Jaco and the nephew of June Mattox. Congratulations to the bride, groom and all the Jaco/Mattox family.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to . . .

Ian and Alex Braddock on the passing of their maternal grandmother, Evelyn Jackson Foster, on Sunday, April 15. **“Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord; and let light perpetual shine upon her.”**

in my name, I am there among them.” Matt. 18:20
Members: Claire A., Edna B., Wyatt B., Mary Anne C., Jim C., Kay F., Kim F., Jessie H., Allison J., Myrna J., June M., Janis P., Carolyn R., Joe R., Ethel S., Barbara S., Kim V., Stone V., Bob W. **Friends:** Helen A., Helen B., Herb B., Perk B., Karen B., George B., Jeff C., Ardrey C., Dan C., Kristen D., Caroline D., Jimmy F., Norma F., Alex G., Alonie G., Sara G., Peter G., Bob H., Harold H., Lee H., Elliott H., Bill H., Craven H., Mal H., Spence H., Gerri I., Jane J., Barbara J., Betty J., Bobby & Mary Price K., Walter K., Phil L., Bill L., Karen M., Mae M., Olive M., Billy M., Mary Ann M., Mary M., Doris M., Thomas M., D.J.M., Frances M., Leigh Anne M., Dan & Amy N., Joe P., Joe R., Justin R., Kevin R., William R., Cass R., Time S., Kenny S., Ruth S., Ryan T., Ed T., Valerie T., Ronnie T., Gail W., Christopher W., Becky W., Eddie Y., members of the Armed Services.

St. Alban's Coffee Mugs

Mike Gearon & Joe Reed

The white mug features the St. Alban's Beacon Light as soon on the church banner. The cups are \$7 each, or 2 for \$12. This is a fund raiser to keep the roof on the church.

Yoga at St. Alban's

Kathy Hunter

Two weekly yoga classes were held during Lent. One on Monday mornings, and one on Tuesday evenings. This was a trial period and an introduction to yoga and its health benefits.

We are going to continue the Tuesday evening hour-long class. The class will begin promptly at 5:45 PM in the St. Luke room. If you haven't

Intercessors Wanted . . .

Mother Karen Humbert

You may wonder what is an intercessor? Intercessory prayers are those offered on behalf of others. An intercessor is one who offers those prayers. Beginning in May, the “Prayers of the People” will include the names on the parish prayer list read aloud during the 9:00 & 10:30 AM Sunday services.

In an effort to keep the parish prayer list current, the names on the list will be removed at the end of each month. This will begin in June. Please call or email the church office with the names of those you wish to be included on the parish prayer list. Please resubmit names for ongoing prayer needs.

Additionally, the current prayer list will be published monthly in *The Alert*. [Please note: The Daughters of the King maintain a confidential prayer list and welcome additions at any time for those whose prayer requests are confidential in nature. Please use the forms attached to the Blue Box by the door to the church.]

The “Prayers of the People” are truly prayers from the people and ideally are led from the congregation. Vesting for this ministry is not required. Anyone who would like to be an intercessor, and lead the Prayers of the People from the center aisle during either service time is encouraged to contact the church office [359-2444], Father Maltby, or Mother Karen.

St. Alban's Families and Friends in Need of Prayers... “For where two or three are gathered

already tried yoga, please do! We'd love to have you. You help make St. Alban's a healthy church!

We thank Tibby McLendon for being our instructor.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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Parish Office: 359-2444 * Church Phone & FAX Line: 359-589

St. Alban's Website: <http://www.stalbanschurch.net>

The Rev. L. Howard Maltby, Rector, rector@stalbanschurch.net * 808-7340 (home)

The Rev. Karen F. Humbert, assistantrector@stalbanschurch.net * 358-9166 (home)

Jean Testruth, Parish Administrator, secretary@stalbanschurch.net * 957-5620 (home)

Charles T. Owings, Director of Music, maestrocto@charter.net * 864-862-1393

Dan Lawther, Editor, *The Alert*, stabansalert@hotmail.com * 808-3869 (home)

Michael Kleinfelder, Youth Minister

WEEKLY/MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Education for Ministry, Sunday, 5:45 P.M.

Youth Groups, Sunday, 6 P.M.

Canterbury Way, Wednesday, 6 A.M.

Centering Prayer Group, Wednesday, 5:30 – 6:45 P.M.

Holy Eucharist with Healing Service, Wednesday, 7:00 P.M.

Choir Rehearsal, Wednesday, 7:30 P.M.

Youth Bible Study, Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Fellowship Pot-luck Luncheon, 1st Sunday

Episcopal Church Women, Evening Guild, 1st Monday, 7:00 P.M.

Oakleaf Village Healing Service, 2nd Tuesday, 10:30 A.M.

Brotherhood of St. Alban, 2nd Thursday, 6:30 P.M.

Daughters of the King, 3rd Thursday, 6:00 P.M.

Episcopal Church Women, Morning Guild, 3rd Saturday, 9:30 A.M.

Merry Widows Luncheon, 4th Tuesday, 1 P.M.

VESTRY

Mike Gearon, Senior Warden

Tom McCants, Treasurer

Frank Braddock, Junior Warden

Kathy Hunter, Clerk

2008

Pricilla Brabham

Kathy Hunter

Bill Linder

2009

Nancee Arnold

Mike Gearon

Tom McCants

2010

Frank Braddock

Bill Cochran

Pat Ellis