

# The Alert

Mid-April 2007

## **Coffee Hour Hosts**

**Mike Gearon**

Hosts are needed for the 7:45AM; 9 AM; and 10:30 AM services. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thanks!

## **"Circle of Friends"**

**Mother Humbert**

The next "Circle of Friends" gathering will be on Friday, April 13, @ 7 PM at the home of Peggy Samotis, with Pat Ellis serving as the co-host. The main course is "picnic," meaning fried chicken and barbecue. Please bring a side dish which seems appropriate for a picnic menu, and join in an evening of pure fellowship and fun. Newcomers are especially welcome!

## **Softball Team**

**Steve Senf**

All games are on a Tuesday at Pine Grove Sports Complex, on field #2, unless otherwise noted, on Old Barnwell Road.

The schedule for April, May & June is:

4/17	8:30 PM	4/24	6:30 PM
5/1	7:30 PM	5/8	9:30 PM
5/15	No Game	5/22	9:30 PM
5/29	7:30 PM	6/5	9:30 PM

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> the team won twice! The first by the other team forfeiting and the second from scrimmaging the same team after they recruited two extra players.

On April 10<sup>th</sup> our undefeated run came to an abrupt end. Mother Humbert's prayer, Keith Frost's home run and Doug Deaderick's unassisted double play were not enough to earn a victory. We still had fun. We are also open to a team nickname. So far we have heard the Bears (Good News and/or Bad news), the Lions, and the Pelicans.

## **Deadline for May Newsletter**

**Dr. Dan Lawther**

Deadline for the May issue of *The Alert* will be Thursday, April 19. Any article or item for the calendar need to be sent to Dr. Dan Lawther, Editor, at [stalbansalert@hotmail.com](mailto:stalbansalert@hotmail.com). Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

## **Our deepest sympathy . . .**

Our St. Alban's family extends its heartfelt sympathy to Peggy Moseley on the death of her mother, Idessa Smith; Mary Anne Chaplin and family on the death of Ray Chaplin; and to Lindsley Humbert, Mother Humbert and Austin, on the death of Lindsley's mother, Jean. Mr. Humbert's address is William F. (Bill) Humbert, 2080 Royall Drive, Winston-Salem, N.C., 27106 **"Give to the departed eternal rest; Let light perpetual shine upon them."**

## **"Theovision"**

**Father Maltby**

The movie selected for the next "Theovision" discussion is *Amazing Grace*. This movie is currently in the theaters.

The dinner and discussion will be on Friday, April 20, @ 6:45 PM, at the home of Lewis and Benie Brunson. They will be serving a smoked salmon & asparagus pasta dish. Please bring a dish to compliment this entree.

## **Fund Raiser for Habitat for Humanity**

There will be a Wine & Cheese Fund Raiser for Habitat for Humanity on Friday, April 27, @ 6:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

Tickets are now available at a cost of \$10 each. Come and join us for an evening of fellowship, good food and lots of fun.

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## ***Christmas in Lexington County***

**Mark FitzMaurice**

St. Alban's will again be participating in the annual Christmas in Lexington service project. We will be building a wheelchair ramp for a senior citizen in Swansea. The project will start with the Kick off Breakfast at Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 28, @ 7 AM. If we have enough volunteers, we should wrap up the project by early afternoon on that day. Call or see me to let me know of your interest.

## ***United Thank Offering*** Rose Braddock

The Spring Ingathering of the United Thank Offering is Sunday, April 22, 2007.

Please remember your blue boxes with your offerings, or if you are not using a blue box, attached to this newsletter is an envelope for your use. (Removing your coins from the blue box and putting them in the blue envelope for collection is very helpful.)

The United Thank Offering is a ministry run by the Episcopal Church Women. Twice a year I ask you to contribute to this ministry, and every time I am overwhelmed by the generosity of my fellow parishioners. The majority of the overhead costs for this ministry are covered by an endowment and the money you contribute is given directly to a worthy ministry.

If you are moved to start an outreach ministry at St. Alban's, but are afraid to do so because of the cost, remember that funds could be available through this program. The United Thank Offering grants money to worthy outreach programs all over the world, even in our little corner of the world.

The tradition of the blue box is a long-time tradition of the Episcopal Church Women. Every evening we put coins in the box and say a small prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings that we are given. The coins allow us to share those blessings collectively with the less fortunate. Please

consider this worthy ministry for your dollars. You can make checks payable to St. Alban's, notating "UTO" in the memo and the funds will be collected and sent to the United Thank Offering.

If you have any questions concerning the United Thank Offering, please contact me.

## ***From the Music Director***

**Charles Owings**

What a joy it has been for me to be a part of the ministry of St. Alban's. I look forward to a long relationship with you.

As the parish grows, so does the music department. Several have expressed interest in music for the children. I am beginning a study on forming a choir for children. I need your input. On Sunday, April 22, I would like to meet with the parents of all of St. Alban's children. The meeting should last only about 15 minutes or less and will be just an information gathering meeting. Mark your calendars and come meet with me in the choir room at 12:15.

I am still discovering musical talent in our parish. Please, if you play an instrument, know someone who can play, if you sing, or just want to rat on someone who can, give me that information.

There is always room in our choir for additional voices. Now is the perfect time to join. Easter is over and we will begin planning for Christmas in the near future. There is no requirement for joining except that you are able to sing a note that I can find somewhere on the organ. We will help you learn to read music and give you the opportunity to serve God and the parish through music.

Thanks again for all of your support.

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## **Merry Widows**

**Doris Drake**

The Merry Widows will meet @ 1 PM. Tuesday, April 24, at Applebee's, on Highway 378.

area after our May meeting to live closer to her grandchildren in Florida. We will miss her a lot and wish her much happiness in her new home.

## **African Team Ministries**

**Rose Braddock**

April seems to be the month of activities for the Episcopal Church Women.

On two Sundays, April 29 and May 6, 2007 the ECW will be selling jewelry and other craft items made by African women. The profits from these sales are used to assist the children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Please consider purchasing some of these items to support this cause. (Remember Mother's Day is May 13th.)

The 85th Diocesan Convention, Part I,  
**The Diocesan Leadership Conference**  
**"The Healthy Church Initiative:  
Nuts & Bolts"**

(Part II coming, October 26-27)

Christ Church, Greenville, May 19

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!

## **Fellowship Potluck**

**Marie Barron & Mike Gearon**

There will be a Fellowship Potluck luncheon following the 10:30 AM service on Sunday, May 6. Bring your favorite dish and join in the fellowship and we always manage to have a little fun too.

ALL ARE WELCOME! Registration available online. Questions and additional information? Contact Canon Clevenger's office, 803.771.7800, ext. 24.

## **ECW Evening Guild**

**Mary Cochran**

The April meeting of the Evening Guild of ECW was marked by the election of Tracie Ifkovits as Facilitator, Cindi Gearon as Secretary and Rose Braddock as Treasurer. They will assume their offices starting in August of this year. Thanks to all three for assuming this responsibility.

The last meeting of this season will be our May 7, meeting which will be an "evening out" at a local restaurant. Watch for details in the next *The Alert* and the church bulletins. We will resume in August.

Karen Roberts will be leaving the

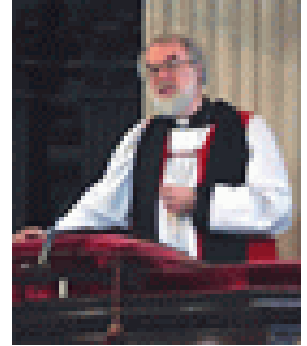
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## THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S EASTER SERMON

*From the Anglican Communion News Service*

### *"Human failure is overcome by God's love"*



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams says that the whole weight human failure cannot extinguish the creative love of God. In his Easter sermon, to be preached at Canterbury Cathedral Sunday, 8th April, Easter Day, Dr Williams says that conflict and failure are part of the human condition, but that Jesus' death and Resurrection turns that on its head:

"We share one human story in which we are all caught up in one sad tangle of selfishness and fear and so on. But God has entered that human story; he has lived a life of divine and unconditional life in a human life of flesh and blood."

He recalls a visit to the Solomon Islands in 2004 when one of the leaders caught up in the islands' recent civil war took public responsibility for failure:

"He said 'I want you to bless us; I need to say in public that we were responsible as well as the people on the islands...' Here was a politician representing a community that had suffered greatly and inflicted great suffering as well saying 'We were all wrong. We needed healing and forgiveness...' And it was as if for the first time you could see the bare bones of what reconciliation means."

The lesson, he says, can be learnt in other conflicts when people learn to listen to stories other than their own:

"...going forward requires us all to learn a measure of openness to discovering things about ourselves we did not know, seeing ourselves through the eyes of another. What they see may be fair or unfair, but it is a reality that has been driving someone's reactions and decisions. We'd better listen, hateful and humiliating though it may be for some of us."

In Northern Ireland, he said, progress towards reconciliation had made it possible for people to start to hear each other's histories; this meant that they needn't be bound by the past:

"Everyone in this history made decisions, some shockingly evil, some tragic, some foolish [but] those decisions and the sufferings that came from them don't have the power to tell you what decisions you have to make today."

The Easter story, he says, provides comfort and encouragement:

"If we can accept the unwelcome picture of us and our world that Good Friday offers, we are in the strangest way, set free to hear what Easter says. Give up the struggle to be innocent and the hope that God will proclaim that you were right and everyone else wrong. Simply ask for whatever healing it is that you need, whatever grace and hope you need to be free, then step towards your neighbour; Easter reveals a God who is ready to give you that grace and to walk with you."

"When in our world we are faced with the terrible deadlocks of mutual hatred and suspicion, with rival stories of suffering and atrocity, we have to pray for this resurrection message to be heard."

