The Red Door
St. Alban’s Episcopal Church

The Mission of St. Alban’s Parish is to exemplify Christ’s love, using our gifts to connect people to God, each other and creation through worship, service, education and outreach.

The Merry Month of May!

April 30 - May 2: Rummage Sale!

Come join in celebrating a St. Alban’s tradition since 1925. Our annual rummage sale has been a great way for parishioners of both services to get to know each other and also help to raise money for outreach ministries.

Sunday, May 3: Through the Red Door Concert: Illuminati, 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 10: Youth Sunday (and Mother’s Day)

*Starting this year, we are dividing into two Sundays the celebration of our children and youth. May 10 will be Youth Sunday with a focus on St. Alban’s youth in 6th grade and above. In particular, this is the Sunday our graduating Seniors will be recognized.

Sunday, May 17: Children’s Ministries Sunday

*This Sunday focuses on our kids and adults who participate in ARK, MAC, Children’s Chapel and the nurseries. Please join us to thank our teachers and to hear Mort’s Alleluia Chorus.

Thursday, May 21: Ascension Day Creole Dinner, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 30: Early Communion Class, 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Sunday, May 31: Youth Planning (Grades 6-8), 9:15 a.m. Pentecost

Graduating High School and College Seniors

On Youth Sunday, we would like to give special recognition to our graduating high school or college seniors. Please call or email the church office with the name of your graduating senior and the school from which he or she is graduating. Please feel free to share other information about the graduate’s plans beyond graduation and let us know if he or she will be able to attend the service on May 10.

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Worship Schedule

Sunday
Holy Eucharist Rite I
8:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:15 a.m.

Wednesday
Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
10:30 a.m.
In the Transition

Reflections on THE RUMMAGE SALE & STEWARDSHIP

There are many, many ways of thinking about and living into “stewardship thinking” that take us far beyond just the annual gathering of pledges to support the next year’s parish budget. Stewardship has to do with what we do with what we have. Or - to be more biblically and theologically accurate - stewardship has to do with what each of us does with all that God has given us. Looking at stewardship that way makes it clear that all of life is about stewardship! Look at the Rummage Sale as an example:

1. The Givers of Rummage: I look around my house (and garage) and ask “what is it I really need and use in my life and what is just cluttering it and perhaps even holding me hostage? What can I “let go” of? What might others be able to use that would benefit them and the church?

2. The Organizers: How do we receive the gifts that are given with appreciation and display them to express such a “thank you?” How do we best organize and use the gifts of the volunteers? How do we best support them with training and appreciation? How do we best handle what is left at the end of the sale? (The organizers do a very good job here in donating all of it to other important giving agencies such as Volunteers of America).

3. The Volunteer workers: How do I best use my time and talent? How do I take the best care of myself so that I relate patiently and well to the organizers, the other volunteers, and the public on behalf of St. Alban’s? Am I thinking about who might succeed me when I no longer wish or can do this work for the rummage sale? (Succession is a very big stewardship issue in all families and organizations).

4. Buyers! Do I really need this? Can I look around and appreciate what is really going on here (i.e. all of the above) and my important part in it? How do I best express that appreciation by the way I am present and relate, not only to the things on sale, but to all the people present in the room?

All of the above can be wrapped up in the question “How do I want to relate to everything that shows up in my life ‘in all times and all places’ – to people, things, the earth and all of creation?” That is the stewardship question.

- Michael Jupin

Transitional rector Michael Jupin will be in New Orleans May 3-14 serving as a vocational faculty member for a CREDO II clergy conference until May 11, and then with Barbara for a little R&R the next couple of days. During those latter days together Barbara and Michael will be “checking out” the living quarters for Mission Trip participants and things to do in their off hours in the neighborhoods and beyond.
Caring and Sharing

Judith Lockhart-Radtke, a founder of The Circle of Women, will be with us on Sunday May 3 to address the parish at the time of the sermon at both 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. about her work with indigenous women in the state of Oaxaca, Mexico. She will also be selling shawls made by the women with whom she works. The Circle of Women is the recipient of the “Caring and Sharing offering” for the month of May.

The objective of The Circle of Women is to contribute to creating self reliant women among the older indigenous woman in the villages of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Unable to survive growing coffee for export because of a catastrophic drop in coffee prices about ten years ago the women returned to weaving on the traditional back strap loom of their Mixtec culture. The Circle joined with the elderly eight women by providing a capitalization loan so they could pay themselves as they produced their weavings and thereby not having to wait for sales as the business blossomed. The Circle also provided sales support, administrative help and workshops in dyeing and fringes.

Having helped launch the weaving project the Circle turned to educating the weavers, now grown to thirteen, with ten who were totally illiterate. After three years twenty-six women in the village speak, read and write Spanish, as well as their original Mixtec language. Patty Tovar, PhD, a Mexican anthropologist designed and taught the program using indigenous teachers. The program relies heavily on the arts which are then coded into picture—letter—sentences. The literacy program is now being taken to small children, another village and the women’s prison in Oaxaca City. The women have also designed a health program around educational seminars focused on issues the women have chosen and delivered by a Mexican woman physician.

A more detailed biography of Judith can be found on the Circle’s website: www.thecircleofwomen.org.

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Parishioners Caught!

It’s true! St Alban’s parishioners have been caught performing Random Acts of Stewardship! You might have seen them. Or you might even be one who performs them.

Perhaps they serve as ushers. Or they updated the Rummage Sale yard signs. Maybe they committed to going on the Mission Trip to Louisiana. You might have observed them preparing the sanctuary and altar for a worship service. There are numerous examples. All involve parishioners willingly volunteering their time, talents, or treasure.

Most would say its nothing out of the ordinary, but they represent stewardship at St. Albans. Won’t you participate, too?

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Adult Education in May

Round Table Discussion of one of Friedman’s Fables

Rabbi, Dr. Edwin H. Friedman, a student of Dr. Murray Bowen, developed and taught a new way of thinking based on Dr. Bowen’s Family Systems thinking in which the family or group and not the individual person is the primary unit for understanding human behavior. Rabbi Friedman developed a number of fables aimed at getting at this different way of thinking.

On each of the Sundays in May participants will hear and follow a written script of a recording of one fable read by Dr. Friedman followed by a discussion of questions created especially for the particular fable presented.
Rob's Reflections...

I wrote this poem as an Easter message for my wife, and also used it in my sermon on Sunday, April 19, when Zoe Allen Brown was baptized. I share it with you as an Easter reflection.

surprised by Love

children grow through surprise
unexpected awakenings
light
wind
voice
the feel of Love

coming into being
more aware
surprised by Love in many forms
voices familiar and strange

One comes to surprise us
again and again
for as children we grow
through surprise

unexpected awakenings
empty tombs
meals together
visions shared
life abundant

surprised by Love

May we find ourselves surprised by Love this Easter Season!

Rob +

Early Communion Class

Early Communion Class for young children who have been or are ready to begin receiving communion will be held on Saturday, May 30 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. We will recognize the early communion children at the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, May 31 - Pentecost. In addition to teachings and activities about the sacrament of Holy Communion led by the Rev. Rob Matheus, we will share in a "passover meal" recalling the Last Supper. We ask that each child be accompanied by at least one parent. If interested please contact Diane Goodney (diane@stalbansbexley.org) or Fr. Rob (associate@stalbansbexley.org).

Thursday, May 21
5:30-7:00 p.m.

Ascension Day Creole Dinner

To benefit the 2009 Mission Trip

Jambalaya and Pralines!
Live Dixieland Music!
Kid’s Activities!
“Block O” Quilt Raffle!
Silent Auction for Beach House!
MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

Music Notes

*Through the Red Door: Concerts at St. Alban’s* presents

**Illuminati**

The renowned sacred ensemble of the
* Columbus Gay Men’s Chorus
Sunday, May 3 at 4:00 p.m.
Admission is free; childcare will be provided.
Please join us for the final concert in this series.

LOOKING AHEAD...

The choir has a real need
of some new voices in the fall.

- The choir is open to anyone high-school aged and older;
- No audition is required;
- Rehearsals are on Thursdays from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m., and the choir sings for the 10:15 celebration of the Eucharist on Sundays

If you can read music and have an hour and a half to spare on Thursday evenings, I hope you might consider singing with the choir as part of your ministry at St. Alban’s. I would love to talk with anyone who is interested – give me a call at the church (253.8549), on my cell phone (507.5917), or drop me an email (sara@stalbansbexley.org).

All blessings,

Sara

The Home Stretch!

Aaron Gerlach, our seminarian for the past two years, is coming to the end of his seminary work and graduates on May 23rd. The commencement Eucharist will be at 10:00 a.m. in Gloria Dei Chapel, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, with Commencement at 2:00 p.m. in Mees Auditorium on the campus of Capital University.

Aaron will preach on his final Sunday at St. Alban’s, May 24th. Please join us that weekend to say goodbye and to offer our best wishes in his journey ahead!

Coffee Hour Hosts

A sincere thank you to all who have volunteered as coffee hour hosts this year and contributed to creating a welcoming atmosphere for fellowship after our worship services each Sunday.

There are still openings for hosts this spring — Nothing fancy required!
Please consider hosting one Sunday in May, or co-host with a friend!
Sign-up is on the door to the Living Room.

MULCH BUYERS

Do note that $1.75 per bag can be treated as a charitable gift for income tax purposes.
May 2009

Notes from the Senior Warden

A few days ago a parishioner told me that the Maundy Thursday service is her favorite service of the year. I was embarrassed that I did not even remember the last time I had attended the Maundy Thursday service. How many of us attend all or most of the Holy Week services? Certainly far fewer than the nearly 270 faithful that attended at 10:15 on Easter Sunday this year.

During an Easter Week meeting, I shared with Michael Jupin how I was struck by the Good Friday service and the Holy Saturday Easter Vigil. It is no surprise that the Holy Week services are the most powerful and provoking services of the church year, but have you actually attended the Easter Vigil service lately? I had not, until this year. The Easter Vigil is a dramatic first celebration of the Eucharist during the Easter season, symbolizing the movement from the despair and darkness of Good Friday to the hope and light of Easter. At St. Alban’s, it features not only a congregational procession with handheld candles and the ringing-in of the Alleluias! but also the censing of the altar and congregation and the (startling) asperses after the renewal of the baptismal vows. The Easter Vigil is not to be missed!

Without the context of the other Holy Week services we are time-warped from the too-brief Palm Sunday story, through the passion story read on Palm Sunday, directly into Easter. I recommend instead taking the opportunity we have to savor together the measured unfolding of events over Holy Week baked into our ancient traditions, to stimulate your mind and your heart in your journey of faith.

As we are put in mind of the earth-shattering historical events of almost 2,000 years ago, our faith’s sequence of services and remembrances also instructs our lives as metaphor.

Palm Sunday was the first anniversary of Michael’s time with us at St. Alban’s. I am grateful for his ministry with us and my impression from you is that I am not alone in my feelings. That Michael arrived with us on Palm Sunday reminds me that his time with us as our Transitional Rector is intentionally temporary. We know we will have a “last supper” with Michael when we call our new Rector, and we can anticipate that we will feel loss when he and Barbara leave us at that time; but we also know that we will have our own form of resurrection when our new Rector joins us—and we draw hope and courage from that knowledge. But let’s not rush our uniquely extended “Palm Sunday time” with Michael!

Returning from the realm poetic: I acknowledge those of you who attended the April 5 open forum with the Wardens, continuing the conversation about our primary transitional ministry objectives--stewardship education and development, new member incorporation, and leadership development for current, new and potential leaders in the congregation. There is much that needs to be done if we are to be in a strong position to call a new Rector in 2011. Michael, Tom and I appreciate hearing your concerns and suggestions. If you were not able to attend please do not hesitate to share your ideas with us.

Also, I wish to thank the donors to our Memorial Garden project and those who have remembered their loved ones by sharing over the years with the Memorial Garden Fund in our endowment. Specifically, of the $145,806 total project cost, we received $88,878 in the form of contributions, gifts in memory of Jane Brown, Jack Klages and David White, and a bequest. The $56,928 balance was paid from the Memorial Garden Fund in our endowment. The financial contributors were joined by the steadfast dedication of the committee who undertook the leadership of this work--Sue Altmaier, Jim Crane, Dick Dyer, Jack Farrar, Bob Livingston, Gail Smith, David White (now deceased), and, especially, Kay Holley. As a community, we are grateful for the stewardship of time, talent and treasure made manifest in this restoration project. Without their generosity and commitment to St. Alban’s the project could not have happened.

As the Memorial Garden project work has progressed, our contractor has determined that our existing irrigation system in the Memorial Garden is not salvageable. We now need a new irrigation system in the Memorial Garden, which will cost $10,450. We do not have sufficient monies in the Memorial Garden Fund in our endowment to cover this cost, nor do we have available funds from operations. (Continued on page 8)
The Mission Trip to New Orleans: An Update

by Barbara Jupin

At the time of this writing we have twenty-one St. Alban’s members committed to the June 13-21 Mission Trip with an age range of fourteen to seventy plus years. This is the largest (and most diverse) group ever! You can help support our group in a number of ways:

• make an offering to help with trip expenses;
• purchase “Block O” raffle tickets @ $1 each or six for $5 (at table in living room);
• bid on the Florida Beach front vacation (also at table in living room);
• give a sewing machine for the Sewing Machine Project (see below);
• attend the May 21st 5:30-7:00 p.m. Ascension Day Creole Dinner (also see below).

The Sewing Machine Project, conceived in early 2005 following the tsunami in SE Asia, shifted focus to New Orleans in September 2005 after Hurricane Katrina. The sewing machines will be distributed to individuals as well as community centers. Recipients will use them not only to rebuild their lives but also to start small sewing-related businesses. Drop them off in Michael’s office and let us know if you need a tax-write off statement.

The May 21 Ascension Day Creole Dinner, akin to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, will be a fun event for all ages and will include: jambalaya & pralines, live music, a brief Ascension Day liturgy, kids’ activities, and the “Block O” quilt raffle. A freewill donation will help finance our trip.
"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"  The Baptismal Covenant, *The Book of Common Prayer*, page 305.

**B.R.E.A.D. = Building Responsibility, Equality And Dignity**

B.R.E.A.D.’s justice focus for 2009 is neighborhood blight. Imagine living on one of several streets in Franklin County where 1 in 5 houses is abandoned. These 5000-plus abandoned homes serve as magnets for crime and other problems, especially for families with children.

Join other parishioners and the members of more than fifty other congregations of faith to attend B.R.E.A.D.’s key justice event of the year, the annual Nehemiah Action Meeting at Veterans Memorial Auditorium, Monday, May 4th. Learn how B.R.E.A.D has worked with key public officials to develop plausible solutions to neighborhood blight for action and follow-up. Also, learn of B.R.E.A.D.’s progress on other recent justice initiatives: truancy, healthcare, payday lending, and drug court.

We will gather at St Alban’s at 6:00 p.m. to carpool to the auditorium. (Some may prefer to meet us there. To join other parishioners, look for someone with a St Alban’s sign at the concession stand just before entering auditorium seating). The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. and end promptly at 8:30 p.m. Parking is free.


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**Notes from the Senior Warden (Continued from page 6)**

More generally, I have previously noted our challenges in addressing capital needs. We have no operating budget for capital expenditures. But, of course, we do have capital needs. For example, we now must replace the lower south windows in the Ed Building ($9,000), along with a substantial portion of the heating and air conditioning units in the Ed Building ($12,000). The interiors of both of our buildings are long overdue for painting and refreshing. Also, our organ requires repairs expected to cost $44,000 to maintain functionality, and, ideally, additional repairs and refinements that could add another $50,000 to the cost. This list is daunting. The challenge is to secure funding. We do not have sufficient monies available in those of our endowment funds permitted to be used for these items, and moreover I think it is short-sighted to use so much of our very limited endowment funds, especially with endowment investment values so depressed. The Wardens and Vestry, with Michael’s help, are considering how best to confront these circumstances in the time ahead. We will call on you for your help and ideas.

I would like to bring to your attention a few important events:

May 1-2  —  Rummage Sale (join your friends and volunteer)
May 10  —  Youth Sunday recognizing graduating seniors
May 17  —  Children’s Ministries Sunday
May 21  —  Ascension Day Creole Dinner

So that we have an accurate and complete list of our 2009 graduating seniors (high school and college) for the May 10 Youth Sunday service, please provide to the church office written or emailed information including the full name of your graduating senior and the school from which he or she is graduating. If the graduate will be going on to college or graduate school, or if you would like to share any other information about the graduate’s future plans, please indicate this as well. We would like to individually recognize all of the graduating high school seniors as part of the service, so please also indicate whether or not the graduate will be able to be present.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time. My telephone number is (614) 464-8294 (day)/(614) 236-8369 (evening) and my e-mail address is rrrosler@vorys.com.