

# *Connections*

**July, 2008**

## **Staff Transitions**

### **The Rev. David E. Buck, Rector**

Hello, Everyone. Best wishes from the staff for a recreational and beneficial summer! Speaking of staff, you may have noticed some new faces around St. Alban's recently. We are thrilled to introduce you to three new members for our staff and ministry team, plus one visitor: Noreen O'Brien, Jim Erwin, Rebecca Yarbrough, and Sonia Richards.

**Ms. Noreen O'Brien** joins our staff as our new Financial Secretary, replacing



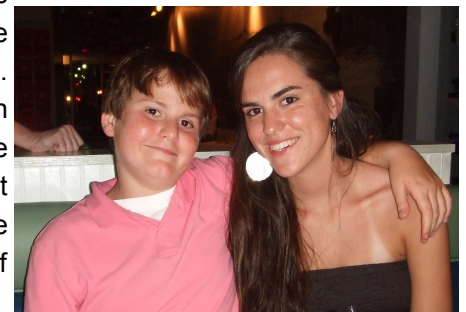
Debbie Tschudy who has moved to Mobile, Alabama. Noreen is originally from upstate NY and graduated from Binghamton University. She is married to Kevin who works with Lowes in Mooresville. They have three children: Katie (13) Connor (10) and Caroline (7) and a Golden Retriever named Molly. Noreen worked for Ernst & Young and UBS PaineWebber in NYC. The O'Briens moved to Charlotte in 2003. Noreen worked for University City United Methodist Church from 2004 to 2008. They moved to Davidson in 2007. When not at St. Alban's, Noreen can be found driving kids to softball, baseball and swimming! For the Summer months, Noreen will be working Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

**Mr. Jim Erwin** joins the team for the months of July and August as a third year



seminarian field education placement and candidate for Holy Orders. Jim is a senior at General Theological Seminary in New York City and lives in Charlotte when not attending seminary. He was born and raised in Savannah, GA and received a BA from the University of Georgia. For the past 23 years Jim has had a career in Advertising and Marketing and for the last 13 years, has been a partner in an advertising agency in Charlotte, Avery Erwin Bell Advertising. Jim has 2 children. (See photo)

His daughter Sydney is 19 years old and will be a College of Charleston sophomore. Son Trippe is 12 and will be a 7th Grader at Beck Middle School in Greenville, SC this Fall. Jim's sponsoring parish is St. Martin's in Charlotte. While at St. Alban's, Jim will be helping with the church and Canterbury at Davidson website and working with the various aspects of written communications of the parish.



**St. Alban's  
Summer Worship Times:  
Sundays at  
8:00 a.m. and  
10:30 a.m.**

**The Walsh Memorial  
Youth Bell Choir  
Performance  
Thursday, July 3 at 7:30  
p.m.  
See p. 7**

**SUPER Saturday  
was a great success!  
See p. 4**

**Lambeth Conference Info  
See p. 5**

**Episcopal Relief and  
Development  
Midwest Floods Relief  
See p. 6**

**Farewell Reception for our  
Costa Rican Deacon  
Sunday, July 6 at 9:15 a.m.  
See p. 7**

Fr. David continued from page 1...

**The Reverend Rebecca Yarbrough** joins the team

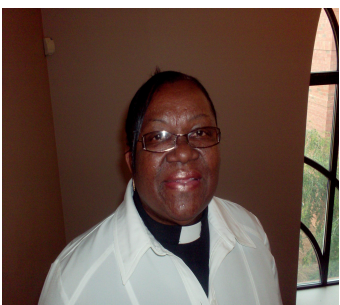
as a Vocational Deacon, will begin service on July 13. Recently ordained to the diaconate, Rebecca will have specific tasks in the worship services and work with our outreach initiatives.

Rebecca has been married to Dave for almost 33 years, and is the mother of Nancy and Kathryn (twins, age 17, rising high school seniors at Myers

Park High School. She is a Charlotte native. As a member of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Comforter, Rebecca has served as chalice bearer, lay reader, Christian Formation and VBS teacher, Room in the Inn monthly coordinator, Savanna Woods Christmas outreach coordinator, Outreach Committee member, and Eucharistic Visitor.

Rebecca was ordained to the Vocational Diaconate by the grace of God in June 2008. She coordinates outreach of the "Carolina Connection" of a number of churches in the diocese for Hurricane Katrina relief and rebuilding for Christ Church and members of the communities of Bay St. Louis/ Waveland, Mississippi. She is a past school volunteer, PTA president, and current swim mom. Her Diaconal focus is homelessness and housing, and underlying race/class issues that exacerbate them.

Rebecca is a regional planning and programs manager with 30 years experience in program development, grants preparation and management, goal-setting, and public input processes and facilitation. Twenty of those years were in emergency services planning and program development. She is retired from Centralina Council of Governments but is consulting with Centralina and Catawba Regional COGs on the CONNECT Regional Visioning Project for future sustainable growth. Rebecca received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Queens College, Charlotte, NC and American University, Washington, D.C.

**The Reverend Sonia Richards** visits us from the

Diocese of Costa Rica. After a three week visit with us, she will return home and will prepare for her ordination to the priesthood in the Fall. Our friend Bishop Hector Monterroso arranged for her and three other deacons/soon-to-be-priests to visit our diocese as part of

their preparation for ministry.

The Rev. Sonia Richards Wilson, was born in Port Limon, Costa Rica. She grew up and was educated in that same province of Costa Rica. She has a Masters of Education and is a Deacon of the Costa Rican Episcopal Church. She is a mother of four lovely children, three of her own blood and one that she adopted. She is also a grandmother of twelve grandchildren. She is currently sharing her life with her second spouse, The Rev. Donald Wilson, the Rector of the Saint Mary's Congregation in Squirres, Costa Rica.

The Rev. Sonia is a retired school teacher who worked 26 years with the Ministry of Education in Costa Rica. She had experience teaching many different levels: elementary, high school, university, and special programs for adults. Parallel to her profession as a teacher, she also took courses in designing and sewing. Her strength in this field was bridal gowns, graduation and sweet sixteen gowns (in Costa Rica is 'Quince Primavera's', for fifteen years). Unfortunately, in spite of a cervical injury she had to give up her sewing for more than thirteen years.

In November 2005 she was ordained as a Deacon in Costa Rica. Currently, she does not have a church under her responsibility but she shares and helps her husband. She coordinates the Bible Studies groups of her church. She organizes and leads spiritual encounters in the different regions of the diocese, and she is the Secretary of the Diocesan Committee and the Secretary of the Counsel of the Central American Region Anglican Church for more than twelve years.

While Sonia has been in our diocese, some of our members have asked what we can do for Sonia and her ministry. Some of the things that would be very useful to her in her ministry are: an updated laptop computer; a video camera; and a "Gloria" box for hymn accompaniment.

These three things will be well appreciated and they would be used in bible classes, spiritual encounter, and services. Please let Jonna or our Sr. Warden Peter Macon know if you are interested and able to help.

Join me in welcoming all four of these additions to staff and ministry team here. Speaking of people called to minister, and if I grasp the implications of Ephesians 4: 11-12 correctly (<sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.), then aren't YOU part of the ministerial team here at St. Alban's, no matter what your paying job might be? What is your niche of ministry, inside and outside the church?

*David+*

## Senior Warden's Notes

**Peter Macon**

St. Alban's -- our place of worship, fellowship, respite, and formation -- with friends and family, supporting each other in this life's journey.

We are blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit and our commitments to each other in our faith journey. I thank God each day for these blessings -- you all are in this prayer!

I recently had an opportunity to spend three days in Costa Rica -- visiting with Bishop Monterroso and his family, Roger and the diocese staff, and in worship with our companion parish in Heredia, Congregacion Cristo Resucitado.

The warmth of greeting to me, the intimate Nave, music accompanied with guitar, and passion of Jorge and Jesus in their preaching was humbling and inspiring.

As we participate with our Costa Rican friends in the planning and construction of a day care center and creation of programs to mentor and train young women I think of Katie and her commitment in mentoring women in a spirit centered life.

These opportunities are moments to make a difference; to be reminded of guidance each of us have received along the way. As we listen to Sonia, or participate in the planning of a Habitat home, or collect for other Outreach programs let's pause for just a moment -- and remember the love of a spouse, child, parent, friend -- by remembering we celebrate a life connected to ours and frame a new relationship connected in offering ourselves.

Let us walk in love along the way and enjoy the blessings of summer! See you at the Summit -- I'll have an iced coffee!

*Peter*

## Notes from the Associate Rector

**Meg Buerkel**

Here are two notes of gratitude from our Heredia Mission Team members -- thank you for your support of all of us!

Yours in Christ,

*Meg+*



*Dear Parish,*

*Thank you all for your overwhelming support in the Costa Rica loose plate offering! We have raised nearly \$1800 and could not have done it with out your donations. As a high schooler who has been scrounging for funds since late winter, I can tell you that you have caused a collective sigh of relief and thanks among the traveling youth! This trip would not be possible without your continued faith, prayer, and general support.*

*Thank you,  
Cameron Langford*

*Dear St. Alban's Parish,*

*Thank you all so much for your generous donations towards our mission trip! We are extremely grateful of your support and will be thinking of you during our trip. Your faith in us, as the youth of the church, helped to make this mission possible and we will look forward to sharing our experiences of God's work with each of you when we return. I feel honored and very blessed to represent St. Alban's knowing the kind of difference we can make in God's world and in particular to some families in Heredia, Costa Rica.*

*Chase Folmar*



## First Aid Supplies for Heredia, Costa Rica



Thanks to the many who donated supplies to Blythe McCoy for her Girl Scout project. Blythe sent 50 lbs. of first aid supplies down to Heredia with her father, Martin McCoy and with Fr. David when they traveled to Heredia in May.

Supplies are still being collected and it is hoped that another 50 pounds will be gathered and taken to Heredia in August when the youth make their mission trip on August 9. Please see the collection bin in the office hallway

## ECW July Picnic At Davidson Lake

Let's get caught up. Enjoy a relaxing picnic on the shore of Davidson Lake, **Tuesday, July 8 at 11:00 a.m.** Plenty of shade trees and outside patio with roof. Bring a dish to share and don't forget your chair. ECW Board will provide beverages, paper goods, and utensils. For directions and RSVP contact Alice Mietz at 704-896-9590 or [gamietz@bellsouth.net](mailto:gamietz@bellsouth.net).



## OutReach Team News

**Junior Youth Outreach Team** The JYOT met for the first time on the 17<sup>th</sup> and will have many projects during the upcoming year. It is a blessing to be able to include our youth in such an important ministry. Their first project is listed below as the **July Mission of the Month (MOM)**. All rising 3<sup>rd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to participate. There will not be a meeting in July but the JYOT will go to the Mooresville Soup Kitchen on Fri, August 1<sup>st</sup> to deliver and stock the items collected for the July MOM.

### Girlfriends Group

The very first meeting of the **Girlfriends Group** (for ladies 18-108) convened on the 19<sup>th</sup> and fun was had by all. It was a great evening to get together with ladies from all three services – new girlfriends from 8am, 10:30 or Celtic that otherwise would still be strangers. After only one evening together we already know something about each other. The GG will meet again on Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup> to begin planning on some service projects and continue the fellowship. The time has been changed to **7pm** and we will meet downstairs. Don't worry if you missed the first meeting – catching up will be easy! If you are interested in making Anglican Prayer beads at the meeting and did not receive a supply list and instructions please email Sharon at: [stalbandsoutreach@bellsouth.net](mailto:stalbandsoutreach@bellsouth.net).

### SUPER Saturday

Our first SUPER Saturday was a huge success! Thanks so much to everyone who donated items for this project. It was amazing the amount of clothing and household items that was collected. It is safe to say that if Lydia's Loft had been completely empty that day, the collection would have more than filled the entire shop. So many families will benefit from this day. The Habitat ReStore received many items as well. Soloman House received all the baby items. Please keep these places in mind when you have items that you no longer need – someone can surely use them !

### Lake Norman Children's Relief

The little girl that we are sponsoring from Afghanistan, Manija, age 10, arrived in Davidson on Thursday. She will be staying with the Ross family. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers.

**To all knitters and crocheters:** Manija will be here for 6 weeks and when she returns home it will be to a place with very cold winters. If you are looking for a quick summer project and would like to contribute a warm winter cap (any size especially childrens) to be taken back with

her to share with her family or neighbors – they will all be appreciated. Please leave completed caps in the Outreach box in the church office.

### July Mission of the Month

The JYOT will be collecting cans of any type of vegetable to be taken to the Mooresville Soup Kitchen. It takes 40 cans per vegetable served to prepare the lunches that are served to an average of 125 people each day. There will be an area designated outside the church office to place these items. Let's see if we can collect a weeks worth – 200 cans !

### Youth Trip to Heredia

The June 8th loose plate collected \$1800 towards this mission. If you missed the opportunity to contribute there's still time. Just make sure to mark "Youth Trip to Heredia" in the memo section of your check.

### Habitat for Humanity

If you are interested in joining one of the planning committees or would like to volunteer during the build please contact Fred Berta at 704 655 8901 or [fbretiredncr@aol.com](mailto:fbretiredncr@aol.com). This project will surely need lots of helping hands !

### **SUPER Saturday Collections!**





## A Letter from Bishop Curry on Lambeth 2008

9 June 2008

Columba, Abbot of Iona

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The late Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, former President of Morehouse College in Atlanta, often said in his sermons that “faith is taking your best step and leaving the rest to God.”

From July 16th – August 3rd, the Bishops of the Anglican Communion will gather with the Archbishop of Canterbury at the 2008 Lambeth Conference of Bishops.

My prayer is that together all of the bishops assembled will take our best step, opening our hearts to God and each other, and then leaving the rest to God. For in the end, the God you and I serve is the One of whom the old spiritual speaks when it says, He’s got the whole world in his hands.

As Bishop Gregg and I journey to the Lambeth Conference please know that we carry you with us in our hearts. Please pray for the Conference that the bishops gathered may truly be strengthened to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by leaving Lambeth as apostolic witnesses to the love of God that has been made known in our Crucified and Risen Lord.

Keep the faith,  
+ Michael B. Curry

“The Anglican Communion is one of the largest networks of human connection in the world. Churches are to be found beyond the ends of paved or dirt roads, ministering to and with people in isolated and difficult situations,” said Jefferts Schori. “That far-flung network is the result, in part, of seeds planted by a colonial missionary history. The fruit that has resulted is diverse and local, and indeed, unpalatable to some in other parts of the world.” “Our task at the Lambeth Conference is to engage that diverse harvest, discover its blessings and challenges, and commit ourselves to the future of this network,” she added. “We must begin to examine the fruit of our colonial history, in a transparent way and with great humility, if we are ever going to heal the wounds of the past, which continue into the present. With God’s help, that is possible. I ask your prayers.”

The Presiding Bishop suggested the prayer for the Church from page 515 of the Book of Common Prayer (below). The Executive Council also passed a resolution stating that its members “rejoice in the fact that Lambeth 2008 is designed to equip the bishops for leadership in God’s mission and strengthening the Anglican Communion through discussion and conversation grounded in the reading and study of Holy Scripture, invoking the presence of the Holy Spirit in all that they undertake, and respecting the Biblical admonition that we are all one in Christ Jesus (neither Jew nor Greek, male nor female, slave nor free).”

*Courtesy: Episcopal News Service*



## Lambeth 2008 Approaches Presiding Bishop Calls For Prayer

Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori, along with the Executive Council, has called the Episcopal Church to prayer for this summer’s Lambeth Conference of Anglican Communion bishops. The July 16–August 3

conference “represents one important way of building connections and relationships between churches in vastly different contexts, and reminding us of the varied nature of the Body of Christ,” Jefferts Schori said in a June 4 letter addressed to the people of the Episcopal Church. “I would bid your prayers for openness of spirit, vulnerability of heart, and eagerness of mind, that we might all learn to see the Spirit at work in the other. I bid your prayers for a peaceful spirit, a lessening of tension, and a real willingness to work together for the good of God’s whole creation.”

More than 650 bishops are expected to attend the decennial gathering at the University of Kent in Canterbury, England.

### A Prayer For Lambeth

“O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.”  
–*The Book of Common Prayer*

## Episcopal Relief & Development Responds to Flooding in the Midwest

Episcopal Relief & Development is providing emergency assistance to communities devastated by ongoing flooding across the Midwest. So far, the flood waters are responsible for killing 24 people, injuring 148 and displacing tens of thousands of others.

The damage to infrastructure and the agricultural sector is severe. In some areas, entire towns are completely inundated, their past existence confirmed only by a lone church steeple poking above the water line. Hundreds of thousands of acres of crops have been destroyed. The floods have inflicted up to \$1.5 billion in damage to Iowa's agricultural sector alone. This number will increase dramatically as loss is assessed in other states. The crisis is far from over. Rising waters have breached 20 levees across the region and officials fear that more flooding will occur as river levels climb in Missouri and Illinois.

Episcopal Relief & Development is responding to the needs of flood victims in the Dioceses of Iowa, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac and Indianapolis. The organization is standing by to provide assistance in Quincy, Missouri and other dioceses as the need arises.

In Iowa, Episcopal Relief & Development is working with its partner the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa to provide support to people who have been displaced from their homes. Mental health services will also be offered as the need arises.

In Milwaukee, Episcopal Relief & Development will partner with the Diocese of Milwaukee to assist people in rural counties. In northeastern Wisconsin, the agency is working in Fond du Lac to restock the food pantry at the Cathedral and provide temporary rental assistance to families as they clean up their flooded homes.

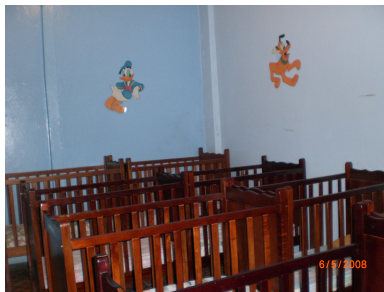
In Indianapolis, Episcopal Relief & Development will work with the Diocese of Indianapolis to provide rental assistance, food and water aid to families in communities that have no potable water.

"We hold in prayer all who are impacted by the flooding, all who are working tirelessly to prevent further flooding, and all who stand together to care for these people and communities as the waters recede," says Abigail Nelson, Senior Vice President for Programs at Episcopal Relief & Development.

Please make an immediate contribution to relieve the suffering of families impacted by flooding in the Midwest. To make a donation to Episcopal Relief & Development's "Midwest Flood Fund" online at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org), or call 1.800.334.7626, ext. 5129. Gifts can be mailed to: Episcopal Relief & Development "Midwest Flood Fund" P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

*Episcopal Relief & Development is the international relief and development agency of the Episcopal Church of the United States. As an independent 501(c) (3) organization, Episcopal Relief & Development takes its mandate from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25. Together with the worldwide Church and ecumenical partners, ER&D strengthens communities today to meet tomorrow's challenges. We rebuild after disasters and empower people by offering lasting solutions that fight poverty, hunger and disease.*

***These are pictures from Peter Macon's June trip to Costa Rica. The Diocesan House is currently being remodeled to accommodate the Bishop and his staff and also to provide more lodging for the groups from the United States. The children attend the daycare in San Jose.***



## Youth Hand Bell Choir to Perform at St. Alban's on Thursday, July 3



The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir from The Presbyterian Church in Morris Plains, New Jersey will perform in Davidson on Thursday, July 3 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Alban's Episcopal Church. A freewill offering will be collected at the door.

The Choir was established in September 1968 as a memorial to Rev. Joseph E. Walsh, pastor from 1928 to 1962. Dedicated to bringing the message of Christian love to others through *ringing praise with joy*, the Choir has continued this mission for 40 years. The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir is the concert choir in a program of one adult and three youth handbell choirs.

The current ringers are in grades 7 - 12, and most have been ringing since the fourth grade. The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir has participated in many Area and National Festivals sponsored by the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers and has made numerous mission concert tours throughout the United States and in Canada, England, Mexico, France and Germany.

This concert is a stop on their Summer 2009 tour of Delaware, Virginia and North Carolina.

## 65th Wedding Anniversary

**John and Catherine Crilly celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on June 27, 2008. They received a blessing from Pastor Meg during the service on June 22. They are pictured here with the altar roses arranged by Gail Goss of our Flower Guild. Congratulations to John and Catherine!**



## Reception for Sonia Richards on July 6



Join your fellow parishioners for a **Farewell Reception for Sonia Richards**, our visiting Deacon from Costa Rica. We will hold light receptions after each service on

Sunday, July 6.

Mina Price has graciously made a stole for Sonia that we would love for Sonia's St. Alban's friends to sign. Then Sonia may take a little piece of St. Alban's home with her to Costa Rica and wear us close to her heart.

Please plan to stop in July 6th after each service for fellowship and fond farewells.



### Wedding Bells

*We rejoice in the June 28th wedding of Mei Lawing and William Ellis.*

*Mei is the daughter of Bill and Cynthia Lawing and the sister of Gloria and Chrissy.*

*The garden wedding was held at St. Alban's because of Summer storms and was officiated by The Rev. Rachel F. Haynes.*

*We wish Mei and William God's blessings as they begin their life together.*



*"Connections" is published by St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Davidson, N.C. The name "Connections" reminds us that we are all intricately and splendidly connected to this place, to one another and to God, and that these connections strengthen and sustain us in leading lives of discipleship.*

## July Ingathering to be held on July 6th


Please bring *peanut butter, canned meats and veggies* and any type of *non perishable item* for the Ada Jenkins Loaves and Fishes food pantry to church on July 6th and throughout the month of July. Please bring only **unopened, new items** for the food pantry.

## Opportunities for Worship and Prayer

**Morning Prayer** is offered each Tuesday and Thursday at 9:15 a.m. in the nave.

**Centering Prayer** is offered on Thursdays at 7:00 a.m. in the nave.

## The Pines Holy Eucharist

 Each month on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 11:00 a.m., St. Alban's holds an Eucharist at The Pines Retirement Community in the upstairs living room in the main building. St. Alban's members are invited to attend this service along with the residents of the Pines. In July, Eucharist will be held on July 10 and 24.

## Mission Statement

*In joyful response  
to the message of Christ, we gather in  
community to worship God  
and to love and serve our neighbors  
as ourselves.*

The Right Reverend Michael B. Curry  
Bishop of North Carolina  
The Right Reverend William O. Gregg  
Assistant Bishop of North Carolina  
The Right Reverend Alfred C. (Chip) Marble  
Assisting Bishop of North Carolina  
The Reverend David E. Buck, Rector  
The Reverend Meg Buerkel, Associate Rector and  
Episcopal Campus Minister at Davidson College  
The Reverend Gary D. Steber, Rector Emeritus  
The Rev. Rebecca Yarbrough, Deacon  
Jonna Eichorn, Parish Administrator  
Meg McConnell, Preschool Director  
Noreen O'Brien, Financial Secretary  
Jim Erwin, Ministries Intern

The Vestry of St. Alban's  
Peter Macom, Sr. Warden  
Kevin Davis, Jr. Warden  
Michael Stenhouse  
Tim Jayne  
Steve Wacker  
Pat Baker  
Rhett Mabry  
Chris Melton  
Bill Hartwell  
Janet MacDonald  
Alison Boughrum  
John Swallow

**St. Alban's**  
Reaching Up and Reaching Out  
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