



ALIVE! *Wire*

Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically

Fall 2006

President's Message

Being President of ALIVE! has been such a help to me in becoming more active in my faith. Do you feel like you are active in your faith? Mine has always been important to me, but I felt I was not very active in pursuing it. I was passive. I kept waiting for opportunities to present themselves instead of seeking them out.



Here's what I mean. I kept waiting for God to give me what I needed, when all the time it was there for the taking. "God, I am waiting for you to give me a sign", that's passive. "God, show me what you want me to do with my life"; that's also passive. "God you owe me a stretch of good luck". That's passive too.

Now I feel differently. ALIVE! has given me a totally different outlook. I feel I owe the world and God a life lived out. Now that's active.

I love the recklessness of faith. First you leap, then you grow wings. It is here at ALIVE! that I have started to grow wings.

What I love most about ALIVE! are its people. The chance to serve, to grow, and yes, perhaps sometimes to lead. Volunteers are truly amazing to me. Their commitment, their dedication, their selflessness. But I am most inspired by those who we serve. The downtrodden. The family who simply caught a bad break. The family about to become homeless who knows that ALIVE is there for them and they will not be out on the street. They have more faith than I do. But my faith is growing, and it does each passing day as ALIVE!'s President.

I often ask members of my congregation a question I often ask myself: What is faith? I think I know, but thanks largely to my ALIVE! experiences. Faith

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Mayor Euille Joins ALIVE! for United Way Campaign Kick-Off

The United Way Campaign for the City of Alexandria was officially launched on September 26, here at ALIVE!. The campaign kick-off, hosted by ALIVE!, was emceed by Allen Lomax, Regional Chair of the United Way, with City Council member Tim Lovain serving as Campaign Chair and Mayor Euille making the first, very generous, pledge commitment.

Make a real difference in the Alexandria Community by designating **ALIVE! # 8352** as your UW/CFC campaign agency choice.



Mayor Euille addressing crowd at UW Campaign Kick-off.

Don't hesitate –
DESIGNATE!
ALIVE!
 United Way
 /CFC #8352



Notes from the Executive Director

The weekend after the 2007 Fiscal Year got under way with the September 5, Board Meeting, a very thorough Orientation for new Board Members (Elected Officers and Congregational Representatives) was held. Everyone was welcomed, of course, old and new, but the intention was to introduce newcomers to ALIVE! and to its many programs. Thanks to all of the Officers who gave up their Sunday afternoon to do the presentations. The feedback was very positive and it was suggested that an orientation such as this be made mandatory.

The ALIVE! Board of Directors is a bit different than most Boards of non-profit organizations. Back in 1969, when ALIVE! was founded, the Board was intended to be the true "operating unit" of ALIVE! In describing the Board responsibilities, the Bylaws state they should: "attend all meetings..., publicize and promote the programs..., encourage other members..., actively recruit volunteers..., and solicit contributions of money, food, furniture, and housewares..."

Our Board Members have important responsibilities and that is why this year we will be renewing our efforts to ensure that all member congregations have active representatives and that all of our Board Members understand the significance of their roles and have the tools to carry them out effectively. This is the only way we will stay ALIVE!.

Ken



*Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s
Executive Director*

ALIVE! House Seeks New Resident Manager

ALIVE! House, a small shelter for women and families in Old Town, is seeking a Resident Manager. The candidate must be accountable and able to provide a safe, clean supportive, environment for residents, identifying structural or maintenance problems, insuring compliance with House rules and keeping an inventory of supplies. An apartment, utilities and a stipend are offered in exchange for evening and weekend hours. Fax resumes to 703-684-1431.



Goodbye Bonnie!

After five years as Resident Manager of ALIVE! House, Bonnie Meyer is moving to Fairfax County. At ALIVE! House, Bonnie has been a jack-of-all trades, from replacing light bulbs to fixing residents' cars, to listening to their stories - sometimes very late at night. All the while, she has held a full-time job and attended college. Her move will bring her closer to both work and to classes at George Mason University. Athletic and outgoing, Bonnie can be counted on to bring much enthusiasm to any undertaking. See photo of Bonnie in action at the annual Sidewalk Sale in May. We are sorry to see her leave, and wish her the best of futures.

*"I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?
Then said I, Here am I; send me." Isaiah 6:8*



ALIVE! CDC Director Pam Allen with Johnny Dixon T.C. Williams student who volunteered with the CDC last spring. Dixon played with the children and assisted with meal set up and clean up.

CDC Happenings

CDC sends a heartfelt thank you to the volunteers from APTA who took time out from their busy schedules to paint ALL of the CDC classrooms and hallway in time for the start of the school year. APTA's generous volunteers also treated the CDC staff to a delicious lunch.

September was busy with new students arriving, the monthly Parent Circle meeting and even pony rides for the children.

In October the CDC will host an Open House for the parents to visit their child's classroom and meet with their teachers. School pictures are also on the CDC agenda in October. The children will take a fun field trip to Cox Farm to pick pumpkins. On Halloween the children will celebrate at a classroom costume party and share their fun with patients at nearby Woodbine Rehabilitation Center.

November will feature Ms Cathy, a storyteller coming in to share her fall themed stories with the children. She provides a hands-on approach with costumes for the children to wear and participate in the storytelling activity

CDC Welcomes New Family Support Worker

ALIVE!'s new Family Support Worker is Hope Schutte. Born and raised in the midwest, Hope is familiar with Northern Virginia, having raised her two grown sons, ages 25 and 30, in Falls Church. She earned her MSW from Virginia Commonwealth University and has spent the past four years working with children and adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral problems at a non-profit treatment foster care agency (DePaul Family Services of Charlottesville). Hope also writes professionally on a freelance basis. She is currently a member of St. John's United Church of Christ in Richmond but is considering rejoining Mt. Olivet United Methodist Church, the church to which she belonged prior to moving to Richmond to attend VCU. Hope loves to advocate for her clients and looks forward to working very closely with the parents of the children at the Child Development Center in order to help them best fulfill their needs.

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is being held. Faith is making eye contact with the eyes of the poor and knowing that you are not turning your back. Faith is being taken over by the power of love. This all happens when you volunteer for ALIVE! And that makes my faith stronger. Here I have found a way to live out my faith.

So I have taken the leap of faith here at ALIVE!. It has not been a leap of thought, but rather a leap of action. You know, in most things in life, we have to see them before we do them. Before you go somewhere in your car, you need to know what route you're going to take. When you drive, you have to see the road ahead before you drive on it. In matters of faith, it's different; first we must do and then we will see. First we act, and then we know God better. First we must be, and then we can see. You have to dare to act with your whole self and your whole heart, and without absolute certainty where you are going. It's reckless faith.

It is a priceless gift to serve ALIVE! Won't you consider enlisting in one of ALIVE!'s many volunteer programs? Check out our website at [www. Alive-Inc.org](http://www.Alive-Inc.org) or call us at 703-837-9300. If you do, I can almost guarantee that your vision will improve.

Gerry Hebert

Help the Homeless! Help ALIVE! House

The leaves are falling and ALIVE! House hopes are rising that the annual Help the Homeless Campaign will be a success. This Fall fund-raiser brings in about one-fourth of our yearly income - so we need everyone's support to make it a success. How can you help? Join the Walkathon on the National Mall on Saturday, November 18th. Register on line at www.helpthehomelessdc.org. Can't walk? Sponsor an ALIVE! House resident or former resident, \$15 for 25 and under; \$25 for 26 and older. Send checks made out to HtH to ALIVE! House 125 South Payne Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 Call us: 703-684-1430 for more information, registration forms to mail in or bring with you, or to schedule a visit. Please encourage participation from your church, association, or any group you're involved in.



Thanks Giant!

ALIVE!'s Last Saturday Food Distribution Program would like to send a big thanks out to Dawn Lungerbeam at Giant Store #752. Located at 425 E. Monroe Avenue. The store donated much needed bags for food distribution when the Cora Kelly site ran out.



The Family Emergency Program did not take a summer vacation. However, the volunteers did take time to celebrate with a tasty BBQ/Pot Luck dinner.

Mark Your Calendars!

ALIVE!'s Annual Volunteer Recognition and Recommitment Dinner will be held on **Tuesday, November 14** at Immanuel Church on the Hill. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Rosemary Sullivan. This evening is about thanking all of our volunteers and congregational members for their year round support of ALIVE!. We would not be who we are without our members so please join us. Look for your printed invitation in the mail or contact ALIVE! at 703-837-9321 for more information.

ALIVE! House Wish List

- Laundry detergent - small sizes
- Dish detergent - small sizes
- Toilet paper
- Alarm clocks -
- Bus Tokens
- Metro Cards
- White copier paper -
- Gift Cards: Shoppers, Target, Old Navy, Ross
- Hand-cranked radio - with AC adaptor
- Plug Ins - 4
- Shower Caddy - 2
- Wall clocks - battery operated, to go on light blue & green walls - 2
- Quilt covers for beds

Ten Thousand Villages Event To Benefit ALIVE!

Just in time for your holiday shopping needs - ALIVE!'s Ten Thousand Villages shopping night is scheduled for **Sunday, December 3rd**. Come down to 915 King Street in Old Town and check out this amazing store. A portion of the sales from this event will be donated to ALIVE!'s programs. See you there!



Wow! Here Comes Downtown Baptist Church!

by Mike Diffley

As chairman of the furniture committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the beautiful souls at Downtown Baptist Church who joined the furniture committee for the first time on August 12th and 26th. You were (and are!) magnificent!

On the 12th, I was with a crew of completely positive men who wouldn't give up. Our last stop was to deliver furniture to a recently-arrived Guatemalan family in Arlandria. Earlier, we had picked up a platform bed in a dozen pieces without assembly directions. When we arrived at the home to deliver the furniture, it was immediately apparent that the young women would not be able to assemble the bed on their own. It was not at all apparent that the ALIVE! team would be able to assemble it either! ... unless, of course, you understand the chemistry of a team from St. Mary's Catholic and Downtown Baptist Churches.

It was late, after a hard morning delivering furniture, but those patient souls labored to put what amounted to a giant puzzle together, even though the time was ticking and many of the volunteers had commitments for the afternoon. We succeeded; and by the time we looked up from our efforts, the apartment had filled with its other occupants -- a dozen good souls, thankful for our efforts ... a sweet moment.

The 26th of August was a hoot! On the truck that I was driving, I was joined by Charles and Kim, two adult coordinators of the youth ministry at Downtown Baptist Church, and Allie, one of their young charges. Allie was the hoot ... a fountain of positive energy. So, maybe it isn't so surprising that two young Mormons on their mission noticed us and offered to help ... just as we were getting to the thousand-ton dresser that needed to be delivered. What happened was another magical ecumenical moment as Baptists, Catholics and Mormons labored together to unload the truck. An ALIVE! Moment!

As I reflect on these last several weeks of furniture deliveries, filled with the good will of faith-filled Americans, I start to understand the shape of the ultimate anti-terrorist weapon. So, terrorists, beware because here comes Downtown Baptist Church! and, here is ALIVE!

MONSTER MUSIC

Puts the Fun in Fundraiser

Sunday, October 29, 2:00 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, will have a Concert For Children. They will feature child appropriate "Monster Music." Children are encouraged to wear their costumes and enjoy "Tricks and Treats" after the concert. Benefits ALIVE! Child Development Center.

31st Annual Turkey Trot!

November 23, 2006, 8:30-11,
Cora Kelly School (out & in back)



Sponsored by Potomac West Business Association D.C. Road Runners Club and the City of Alexandria Runners are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods for ALIVE! ALIVE! needs volunteers to pack and sort the food, call Mike Oliver at (703) 683-3547, if you, your friends and family can help!

Run fee: \$10 Register on line or \$15 on race day
Details of cost of t-shirts & prizes, records etc: at
<www.pwba.org/events-1/31st-annual-turkey-trot>



Songs to Chill and Thrill

a Concert for Children

to benefit

Beacon House and ALIVE!

Sunday, October 29 • 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall, UUCA

Bring Your Friends!! • Wear Your Costumes!!

"Tricks" and "Treats" following the Concert

Inspiration

by Mike Diffley, Chairman, Furniture Committee



I'm not a self-starter. I rely on others for inspiration, and I've had an opportunity to reflect on that fact lately.

Last week, I brought one of our box trucks in to have "Joe and Alice Krafft -- Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community" painted on the doors. ALIVE! recently initiated the tradition of recognizing Furniture Committee "Hall of Famer's" by painting their names on the sides of ALIVE!'s two box trucks. Joe and Alice join Will Willis (Alfred Street Baptist Church) and Don Mela (Beth El Hebrew Congregation) on these "Doors of Fame" ... for good reason.

Joe was there at the beginning of the Furniture Committee. One Sunday, nearly 40 years ago, Joe heard a call from Monsignor Quinn at Blessed Sacrament for volunteer drivers. As Joe and Alice relate the events, the monsignor and other key spiritual leaders like Reverend Carl Beyer (Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) had recently agreed to pool their resources to assist neighbors in need within the City of Alexandria. They were responding to the plight of the poor that had been raised to the forefront of the American conscious by the demonstrations and marches of the 1960's. Less than a year earlier, rioters in Washington, DC had looted and burned several city blocks and spread chaos throughout the city.

Stirred to action by the events of the mid-to-late 1960's, many civic and religious leaders were eager to help the poor in Alexandria. However, the task of providing significant assistance to families in need in the City of Alexandria was beyond the resources of any single congregation in the city; so clergy and lay leaders from a handful of Alexandria congregations agreed to work together. For its part, Blessed Sacrament had a pickup truck that could be used to deliver donated furniture to families in need. But, as we all know in ALIVE!, it's all about volunteers. Resources notwithstanding, the vision shared by a few good souls is for naught unless they are joined by others willing to share the vision -- and the work. Joe was willing.

When Monsignor Quinn put out his call for volunteers, Joe was an engineer/physicist exploring problems related to "Fracture Mechanics" at the Naval Research Lab (NRL). I'm sure he was a busy man; but not so busy that he would ignore the monsignor's call. Joe was on the very first Saturday run of the Furniture Committee. He was soon joined by others like Jack Huber (The Church of St. Clement), Will Willis, Don Mela and Bob Ruskin (Fairlington United Methodist Church) who happened to be an officemate of Joes' at NRL. Most importantly, he was joined by Alice soon after her retirement in 1985 from 17 years as a teacher, first at Blessed Sacrament, then in Arlington. Twenty years later, Alice continues to serve today as one of the committee's warehouse persons ... a very tough job, as any on the committee can attest. Alice has also served for years as a volunteer at the desk for ALIVE!'s Family Emergency Program.

So, you see, it's ok that I'm not a self-starter. By the time I joined the committee, Joe had been delivering furniture for nearly 20 years. I didn't need to be my own source of inspiration. I just needed to get connected with Joe, Alice, Jack, Will, Don, Bob and the dozens of others who have done so much in ALIVE! If that doesn't provide you enough inspiration, your heart isn't beating.

The Poor and Hungry are Without Food!

Do you find this hard to believe in our well-to-do community? Unfortunately, it's true. ALIVE! has experienced a huge drop in donations and we are now turning away hungry people because we do not have enough money to buy food from the Capital Area Food Bank, and because we have depleted the nonperishable food (canned goods) in our food pantry. We buy canned food for 7¢ on the dollar, so imagine how much food your contribution could buy!

The situation is desperate—ALIVE! made 124 deliveries of food in August of this year, - up from last August's number of 90 deliveries. There were 121 deliveries in September and the requests keep pouring in. Our volunteers become so disheartened when they get a request from someone who is hungry and they cannot help. They usually reach into their own pockets and buy food, but this can't happen all the time.

But you can help. Empty your food pantries, or buy canned goods at the grocery store and bring them to First Christian Church (2723 King Street). Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. Please make checks payable to ALIVE!, and mail them to ALIVE!, 2723 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302. Donate by credit card or PayPal on our web site at www.Alive-Inc.org.

Bikes for Kids

ALIVE! is collecting used bikes and helmets to distribute to needy families throughout the year. We will only accept bikes that are functional (i.e., not ready for bike heaven) and we hope to distribute 100 bikes in the first year. The idea for the Bikes for Kids project originated out of Fairlington United Methodist Church. A special thanks to **Spokes** on Quaker Lane for recently doing some bike repairs for free to help launch this project. If you have a child's or an adult's bike in good working order and want to donate it to ALIVE!, please email John Philibin at insanecyclist@gmail.com.



Make a Difference in a Young Woman's Life

Mentors/Designers and other Volunteers Needed

SOHO---Space Of Her Own

An art-based mentoring program for at-risk pre-teen girls, "Trading Spaces-style". A collaboration between The Art League and Alexandria Court Services. The 2-night orientation will be held 10/12 & 10/19 from 6-8 PM @ The Art League Annex on 1 Duke Street

Visit www.alexandriava.gov/soho

RSVP via e-mail to soho@alexandriava.gov

Military Officers Serve Again

Once again, the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) sought to serve their community by hosting a special campaign on behalf of ALIVE! This unique charitable campaign is held annually by MOAA in Spring/Summer so as not to compete with the United Way campaign and it is devoted exclusively to ALIVE! The 2006 effort produced more than 50% participation by MOAA employees and a contribution of over five thousand dollars.

Thank you MOAA for your generous, continued support!



Ken Naser, ALIVE!'s Executive Director accepts a check from John Davis, MOAA's Campaign Chair.

Officers & Chairs 2006-2007

President

Gerry Hebert - Fairlington UMC

Vice President

Diana Day - Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington

Recording Secretary

Jann Masterson - Recording Secretary, Fair-Park Baptist Church

Corresponding Secretary

Vivian Webb - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

Treasurer

Rick Glassco - Immanuel Church-on-the-Hill

Treasurer (CDC)

Ellen Brown - Community volunteer

Asst. Treasurer (CDC)

Linda Oliver - St. Clement Episcopal Church

Asst. Treasurer (General Fund)

Laura Rogers - Good Shepard Lutheran Church

ALIVE! House

Susanne Arnold - St. Rita's Catholic Church

Child Development Center

Allen Sadler - Community volunteer

Congregational Rep

Beth McFarland - Fairlington Presbyterian, (cochairs)

Family Emergency Program

Pam Goodell - Fairlington UMC (cochairs)

Linda Coleman - Trinity United Methodist Church (cochairs)

Food

Maureen Franks - Fairlington UMC (cochairs)

Food (asst. chair)

Jean Moore - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

Furniture

Deborah Patterson - Washington Street United Methodist Church

Housewares

Mike Diffley - St. Mary's Catholic Church

Personnel

Addie Hebert - Fairlington UMC

Publicity

Cathy Thompson - Blessed Sacrament Catholic Community

Volunteers

John Fitzpatrick - Old Presbyterian Meeting House

Pam Goodell - Fairlington UMC

ALIVE! Wine

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www.alive-inc.org
E-mail: alivetoo@aol.com

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ALIVE!
is a nonprofit organization founded in 1969 to help Alexandrians facing emergency situations become self-sufficient community members. ALIVE! has grown from a handful of organizations and volunteers to a vigorous organization of 41 congregations and many volunteers. ALIVE! offers needy Alexandrians help through ALIVE! House Shelter, Furniture, Housewares, Food Pantry, Family Emergency, Child Development Center and Last Saturday Food Distribution Programs.

Contact ALIVE! at
703- 837-9300
E-mail : AliveToo@aol.com
www.alive-inc.org

Fall 2006 Calendar

October

- 3 **Board Meeting – Church of St. Clement**
- 28 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise.
- 29 **Monster Music Concert (see page 5)**
Food Collection: Alexandria Church of the Nazarene, Beth El Hebrew, Del Ray UMC, Fairlington Presbyterian, First Christian Church, Meade Memorial, St. James UMC, St. Mary's Catholic
Furniture Collection: Fairlington UMC, St. Joseph's

November

- 14 **Volunteer Recognition & Recommitment Potluck Dinner at Immanuel Church on the Hill**
- 18 **Help the Homeless Walk (see page 4)**
- 23 **Turkey Trot (see page 5)**
Food Collection: Blessed Sacrament Catholic, Christ Church, Church of the Resurrection, Fair-Park Baptist, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Grace Episcopal, St. Paul's Episcopal, St. Josephs Catholic, Trinity UMC, Westminster Presbyterian
Furniture Collection: Christ Church, Church of St. Clement

December

- 3 **Ten Thousand Villages Event (see page 4)**
- 5 **Board Meeting Beth El Hebrew**
- 10 **Last Saturday Food Distribution:** Church of the Resurrection, Cora Kelly Recreation Center, and Ladrey Senior High Rise. **(Combined Nov. & Dec.)**
Food Collection: no food collections
Furniture Collection: First Christian, Del Ray UMC, Good Shepherd Lutheran