

SANCTUARY

Newsletter of St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Elberton, Georgia

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays,
10:30 a.m. SafeHouse Sunday
Nov. 9

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study, Mondays at noon

Nov. 7-8, Diocesan Council,
Marietta

Nov. 10, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

November Birthdays

Herschel Atkinson, 1; Charles
Romine, 5; Anne Jaudon, 7;
Henry Jaudon, 23; Suzanne
Moore, 28

Births and Deaths

Charles and Jenifer Duke's
grandson, Zipp, born Oct. 6

Billy Smith (father of Debra
Romine), died Oct. 31

Prayer List

B. J., Ben, Betty & Richard, Bill
& Beth, Christa, Dave, Jack,
Larry & Diane, Laurie, Lorie,
Paula, Suzanne, William, &
others in our hearts

Rector's Reflection



We are in the middle of Fall. It's hard to believe that the year is almost over and that we are making plans for 2015.

Time goes by, though, and we must plan, think, and pray for the new year that we will soon be a part of in our life together as Christ's Church.

Part of our planning, thinking, and praying is stewardship. It's time for all of us to decide what our pledges to our church will be in the coming year: what we want to do, who we want to be, what the Episcopal presence will look like in 2015 and beyond.

We are here today because those who came before us built an Episcopal presence here. We are reminded of that every day and especially every Sunday when we look at our church, at the building, at the stained glass at the altar and the other things that make us uniquely Episcopalians.

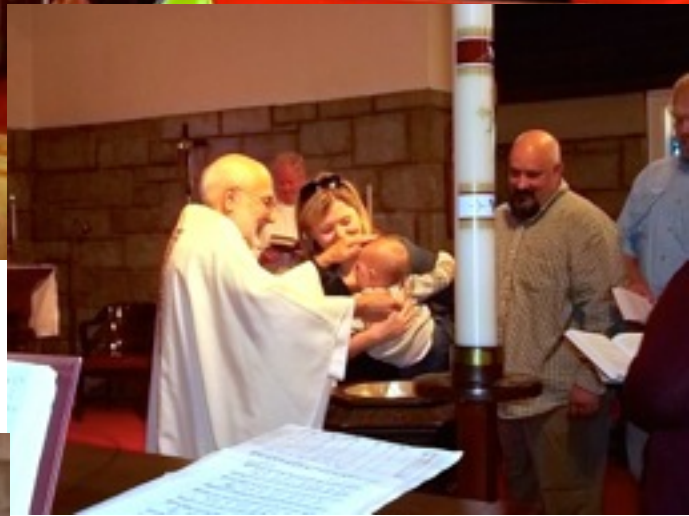
We are reminded of what those who came before us did, what they gave, what they worked to build for us. It is up to us to sustain what they built and not just to sustain what we have but to build on what we were given and pass it on to those who will come after us.

We are nearing the end of this year, getting ready for the one that is almost here. We are in the present, we have benefited from the past, and we have an opportunity to build for the future.

It's up to us.

Fr. John Keeler +

Baptism of William Haley Keeler



On October 19 Fr. John baptized the newest member of the Keeler clan, William Haley Keeler, in the presence of parents Owen and Tara Keeler, godparents Samuel Elliott Stewart and Tonya Renee Williams, other family and friends, and members of St. Alban's. It was a happy occasion.

More Photos Taken at Baptism



Natasha Clay (left) served as acolyte at the baptism service. Father William Feus (right) delivered the sermon; he is a candidate for the rectorship at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at Hartwell. (Middle) Carole Coggins and Mary Randall, eager to ring the bell for the service to begin.



Herschel at the Festival on his birthday.

Fall Festival

Steve Jenkins, Fr. John Keeler, and Allen Nicas encounter a cold, windy beginning to Elberton's Fall Festival on November 1. Our coffee was a very popular item. The banner in the photo is the one referred to in the Vestry minutes (see p. 4). Others who helped during the day were Carole Coggins, Robyn Keeler, Louise Martin, Mary Randall, and Marilyn Slocumbe.

For the SafeHouse Walkathon, held in conjunction with the Fall Festival, Bill Jenkins raised more than \$1,000 for a sponsorship in Marcia's memory. Betty Sweeny, Sara Baldwin's mother, was remembered in like manner among the sponsors.

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The Rev. John Keeler,
Rector
The Rev. Herschel
Atkinson,
Rector Emeritus

Carole Coggins,
Altar Guild Chair
Suzanne Moore,
Organist

Mary Randall, Verger

Vestry

Steve Jenkins, Sr. Warden
Charles Duke, Jr. Warden

Natasha Clay

Carole Oglesby

Debra Romine

Nancy Seymour

Robyn Keeler, vestry
secretary

Charles Romine,
treasurer

From the October 13 Vestry Minutes

Treasurer Charles Romine stated that members should be aware they can give to SafeHouse or other outreach ministries by making a check payable to St. Alban's and designating the ministry to which they want to contribute. If giving is done this way, it will be recorded on the member's parish contribution report, and the parish will also be given credit for outreach by the diocese.

Charles Duke and Steve Jenkins presented wardens' reports. The flowers are in and looking good. Mr. Duke has spray washed the outside walls and painted behind the building. Mr. Jenkins knows someone who can be hired to spread gravel around the flowers.

The vestry voted to spend \$100.86 for a 3- by 5-foot banner, which will feature the Episcopal shield and the name of St. Alban's.

The vestry also voted to contribute \$250 to Bill Jenkins's SafeHouse sponsorship in memory of Marcia Jenkins rather than use the money for a parish corporate sponsorship this year. [St. Alban's ended up on the sponsors' list anyway because of our consistent support.]

Rotary Hot Dog Supper

Fr. John and Nancy Seymour help with the annual Rotary Club Hot Dog Supper on Sept. 26. A yearly tradition, it raises scholarship money for Elbert County high school graduates pursuing further education. Steve Jenkins, Allen Nicas, and Joel Seymour are also Rotarians. Nancy is this year's president.



Fr. Jim Shumard

Fr. John is not the only priest with a connection to St. Alban's who has a baby in the family. Fr. Jim Shumard, rector of St. Alban's from 1998 to 2001, is shown holding Jamie Shumard Henry, his brother's grandson.

ER&D: Role of Church in Fight against Ebola

In Liberia and Sierra Leone, ER&D's local Church partners are leveraging their widespread presence and trusted reputation to alleviate suffering and contain the Ebola outbreak that has killed more than 4,500 people in West Africa.

"The situation is extremely dire, due both to the severity of the disease and the difficulty in containing it," said Abiy Seifu, Senior Program Officer for ER&D. "People want to care for sick family members at home, they are afraid to go to the clinics because so many are dying and there is a great deal of misinformation about how Ebola is spread. Fear about the disease is making the outbreak worse, and we are aiming to combat this fear with accurate information and support for basic needs." Volunteers are delivering food and sanitation supplies to homes, and demonstrating correct mixing procedures for different concentrations of bleach water for hand-washing and cleaning. The supplies also include a hand-washing station made by installing a spigot in a covered five-gallon bucket and a poster with accurate information about how to prevent Ebola and what to do if a family member presents symptoms of the disease.

Efforts in Liberia include radio messaging in local dialects through fifteen stations in nine counties and the distribution of bumper stickers with key messaging.

Contact tracing is one of the most important but often most difficult aspects of disease control, especially because the incubation period between when people contract Ebola and when they show symptoms can range from two to twenty-one days. Trusted local volunteers who are familiar with community members and their relationships and daily routines can be helpful, both in identifying cases and contacts, and in encouraging their neighbors to follow the correct procedure when someone is sick or has died, in order to prevent further infection. "Some of the biggest challenges in stopping Ebola come from hiding sick people and treating them at home rather than seeking isolation and medical assistance, patients escaping quarantine, and burial practices that do not contain the disease," Seifu said.

Restrictions on transportation and commerce due to quarantine are already causing shortages, but there may be a longer-term impact on livelihoods and food supply due to lack of market access and missed planting seasons. "One of the key strengths of our Church partners is that people know them and they can access areas that might be difficult for other organizations or even the government to reach," said Seifu. "I am very glad that the local government agencies have recognized this strength and that they can pool resources and expertise. . . . This partnership is important now and will continue to be as the region recovers from this disaster."

*You can donate to the ER&D response to crises around the world by U.S. mail (ER&D, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058), by telephone (1-855-312-4325), or online at www.episcopalrelief.org. **As a part of ER&D's 75th anniversary, donations between October 30 and December 31 will be matched dollar-for-dollar.** Gift matching is automatically activated when a contribution is made to one of ER&D's listed funds. The overall fundraising goal of the 75-week-long celebration is to secure \$7.5 million to support programs that touch the lives of more than three million people in nearly forty countries.*

