

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. SafeHouse Sunday Apr. 12

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., except on Easter Sunday

Bible Study, Mondays at noon

Apr. 2, Maundy Thursday stripping of altar, 6 p.m.

Apr. 3, Good Friday Ecumenical service at noon, St. Alban's.

Apr. 5, Easter Sunday. Regular 10:30 a.m. service, St. Alban's. Ecumenical sunrise service at 6:30 a.m. on the square

April 6, office closed; no Bible study

Apr. 13, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

April Birthdays

Ray Jefferson, April 14

Prayer List

Andrew, Betty, Betty & Richard, Bill, Bob & Emma, Brook, Diane, Dolores, Jean, Jimmy, Kathleen, Kim, Lori, Render, Sara, Steve, Todd, Wil, William, and others in our hearts.

Rector's Reflection



Easter is a transition from darkness to light, from sadness to joy, from despair to hope. We celebrate this transition in the liturgies of Holy Week.

We begin on Maundy Thursday with the final Eucharist of Lent. Following the Eucharist, we strip the altar and leave it bare for the Good Friday liturgy.

We mark Good Friday with a liturgy of a reading from St.

John's Gospel and Solemn Collects (prayers). No Eucharist is celebrated on Good Friday.

The Easter Vigil begins in darkness. The light that had been removed on Maundy Thursday with the stripping of the altar is brought into the church as the Pascal candle and is carried from the back of the church to the front for all to see at the beginning of the liturgy; all the lights are turned on, and the Easter Season begins.

Easter morning we celebrate the Holy Eucharist as proof that hope has replaced despair, light replaced darkness, joy replaced sadness. We do this each year in our church cycle of seasons and do it as a community of joy, light, and hope.

Fr. John Keeler +

He is not here: for he is risen. *Matthew 28:6*

Bishop's Visit



On Sunday March 15, Visiting Bishop Don A. Wimberly celebrated the Eucharist at St. Alban's. At top left, Fr. John Keeler and Bishop Wimberly, robed for the service. Nancy Seymour was acolyte, Suzanne Moore organist, and Steve Jenkins chalice bearer (photo at mid center). (Center left) Mary Randall and Carole Coggins, our behind-the-scenes angels. (Center right) Mrs. Wimberly visits with Suzanne.



A catered lunch after the service allowed members to talk with the bishop and hear his thoughts on the problems of small churches.



The left bottom photo is taken from the back of the parish hall looking toward the bishop's table; the photo on the bottom right is of the bishop's table.



From the Minutes of the March 9 Vestry Meeting

Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Duke presented wardens' reports. Mr. Jenkins stated he had received a form from the diocese inquiring about liability coverage for sexual misconduct. He has written to the diocese asking whether such liability coverage is considered necessary for a parish with no minor children regularly in attendance. Mr. Jenkins further stated that the granite bench in memory of Marcia Jenkins should be in place by Easter. He also agreed to contact the landscaper about the next step in the landscaping project.

Mr. Duke reported on the wobbly front pew. He is looking at different ways to anchor. It was also mentioned that the windows in the meeting room do not close properly, and he stated they need to be replaced.

Fr. John will be . . . in Elberton for two Good Friday services on April 3, in Elberton participating in an ecumenical Easter sunrise service on April 5 (as well as celebrating at St. Alban's), and in Spain on a group pilgrimage April 20-29 to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of St. Teresa of Avila if enough people from the diocese sign up to make the trip.

Fr. John reported that Natasha Clay is going through the discernment process. The required parish committee for ministry to work with her in the process has been appointed: Charles Romine, Marilyn Slocumbe, Louise Martin, Carolyn Hagins, and Mary Randall have agreed to be on the committee. They will meet with her twice a month for five months and make a recommendation to the vestry. The parish priest is required not to participate in this part of the process.

Renovations in the kitchen will be started after Easter.



More photos from the lunch for Bishop Wimberly. Renee Hunt catered the mouth-watering food shown above.



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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

Suzanne Moore

Allen Nicas

Debra Romine

Nancy Seymour

Robyn Keeler, vestry
secretary

Charles Romine,
treasurer

50 Days of Easter

From the Diocese of Atlanta Website

Contrary to what many think, Easter is not a single day; it is actually a season that begins on Easter Sunday and continues for seven full weeks. This seven-week cycle is known historically as the "Great 50 Days" or the "Week of Weeks." During this period, the church celebrates Christ's resurrection, his appearances to the disciples after Easter, his post-resurrection teachings, his ascension into heaven, and the disciples' eager anticipation of the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

The Great 50 Days of Easter also is the time when those who have reaffirmed their baptismal vows or have been baptized at the Easter Vigil reflect on the meaning of their baptism.

Beginning on Easter Sunday, the diocese invites participation in a virtual event. During the 50 Days of Easter those with a Facebook or Twitter account can share how they celebrate the Risen Christ through prayer: inside or out; formal or informal; words, pictures, or music. For further information, go to episcopalatlanta.org, under News & Events.

Nancy Seymour agreed to share these photos of her granddaughter Victoria Whitworth, taken at Christmastime 2014. Victoria is 19 months old now.



