

# SANCTUARY

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

## April Calendar

Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form B in Easter). Apr. 10, SafeHouse Sunday

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., vestry room

Bible Study, Monday noon, vestry room

Apr. 11, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m., vestry room

Apr. 4, *The Annunciation*

Apr. 25, *St. Mark Evangelist*

June 19, Bishop Whitmore's visit

## April Birthdays

Ray Jefferson, April 14

## Prayer List

Betty & Richard, Bill, Carole, Debra, Diane, Dolores, Kim, Lonnie, Lori, Paula, Reid, and others in our hearts.

## Rector's Reflection



Our Lenten season for this year ended with the Liturgy of the Table at the Easter Vigil this past Saturday evening.

When we reflect on the season after its completion, we did a lot of things in preparation for the Vigil and Easter morning.

We began on Ash Wednesday being reminded that we are dust. We are, but dust that has been redeemed.

We had Lenten soup suppers when we had fellowship, enjoyed each other's company, and explored how we pray, how we worship in light of art, the spoken word, motion, and touch.

We celebrated Palm Sunday with palms for the entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem and then the somber reading of the Passion Gospel.

Holy week was busy with our special services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Day. We had an opportunity during this time to think about and reflect on our salvation history and to experience the events that happened a long time ago, but are still real today. It's been a great experience, one I'm glad we could share.

The question now is: What do we do with it? How will it change our day-to-day lives? A good place to start is with the renewal of our baptismal vows that we said at the Vigil. They're on pages 292-94 in the prayer book. Read them slowly, reflect on each one, maybe one a day for nine days. Reflect on what you believe, what you promised to do, what you promised to continue to do.

*Blessings, Fr. John+*

## *Our Path toward Easter 2016, Part 2*

Our Lenten soup suppers continued into March. For the Mar. 2 soup supper, Suzanne Moore cooked up a hearty vegetable soup, which was supplemented by cornbread and Carole Coggins's famous rum cake. Nine were present to hear Fr. John's topic, "How we tell our story with motion." At the final soup supper on Mar. 9, eleven enjoyed chicken and dumplings, strawberries, and homemade pickles assembled by Marilyn Slocumbe and finished off by several varieties of cheesecake provided by Robyn Keeler; afterward Fr. John wound up his series on how Episcopalians tell their story as Christians by talking about how we fit together visuals, language, and motion.

St. Alban's participated with First Methodist and Holy Trinity Lutheran churches in several joint services in the week preceding Easter. St. Alban's was the host church for the Good Friday (Mar. 25) and Saturday Easter Vigil (Mar. 26) services, and Fr. John delivered the sermon at the Maunday Thursday service (Mar. 24) at Holy Trinity and at the community Easter Sunrise service on the grounds of First Methodist Church (Mar. 27). There were a number of favorable comments from service attendees. Attendance estimates ran thus: Maunday Thursday service, 47; Good Friday, 39; Easter Vigil, 27; Easter sunrise service, 45+; St. Alban's Easter service, 19.



Attendees at the last soup supper: (upper left) Marilyn Slocumbe and Mary Hawes; (left) Bob Slocumbe and Peyton Hawes, with Andrea Martin, Louise Martin, and Robyn Keeler in the background; (above) Steve Jenkins, Janet Osborne, Fr. John Keeler, and Allen Nicas.

## *From the March 14 Vestry Minutes*

Fr. John presented the rector's report. In addition to his continued activities in the community, he and Joe Watson of First Methodist are working to organize a trip to the Holy Land in 2017.

The vestry decided not to meet with Bishop Whitmore as a vestry when he visits, but rather to invite the whole parish to meet with him. The date of his visit has been changed to June 19.

Fr. John announced that Charles Romine has resigned as treasurer, resignation to be effective in three to six months. He asked the vestry to consider who might be able and willing to serve in this position. Mr. Romine has offered to train his replacement on the accounting software and install it on his/her computer.

Fr. John stated he has been receiving requests for food money at the church and intends to buy McDonald's gift certificates from the discretionary fund to give out to those asking for money for food.

Fr. John requested that St. Alban's sponsor a hole at the upcoming Rotary golf tournament, which raises money for the Rotary scholarship fund. Motion was made and seconded to sponsor a hole; motion passed.

Fr. John stated he will continue trying to contact Tony's Electric about the wiring repair needed for the downstairs outside light at the back side of the church.

Discussion took place about possible joint events with Mediator in Washington and St. Andrew's in Hartwell. Fr. John will continue conversations with their rectors.

Under new business, Marilyn Slocumbe stated the need for a baking sheet, a soup pot, and several saucepans for the kitchen. Steve Jenkins pledged \$100 toward the purchase. Motion was made and seconded to ask Mrs. Slocumbe to purchase the needed kitchen items and approve the church's reimbursing her for them. Motion passed.

Fr. John stated that Susan and Jack Fricks are trying to start a scholarship fund for graduates of the alternative school in Bowman who want to pursue higher education. Allen Nicas pledged \$100 toward this fund.

Discussion took place about installing a rail inside the sanctuary at the step and aligned with the center aisle so that those with mobility and/or balance problems who want to go to the altar can do so more easily. Mr. Jenkins suggested using a heavy chair as a temporary measure. This was informally approved; no formal vote about installing a rail was taken.

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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

Marilyn Slocumbe,  
Jr. Warden

Louise Martin  
Suzanne Moore

Allen Nicas  
Debra Romine

Robyn Keeler, vestry  
secretary

Charles Romine,  
treasurer

## St. Alban's Families



The "71" on the birthday cake reveals that it is Fr. John's birthday being celebrated. Danielle also celebrated her birthday in February, though in her case the numbers were reversed; she turned 17.

Suzanne Moore's nephew Tom and his daughter Ange have been visiting from Japan, where they live. While in this country, they came to Savannah for a few days, where they met Suzanne and Ashley's family. Thomas and Ange really hit it off.





Steve and Marcia Jenkins's grandchildren (and friend Jackson Caruso) on the front steps of Steve's Heard Street home. They have obviously just participated in a family Easter egg hunt. Marcia would have enjoyed that a lot. She organized many an egg hunt for the children of St. Alban's.

## *Palm Sunday Photos*

Mary Randall was busy with her camera early on Palm Sunday. She snapped the door and altar decorated with palm leaves and ventured outside to record signs of spring on the grounds.

