

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Sundays, Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.
Rite II: August 5, 12, 26 (Eucharistic Prayer Form C). Rite I: August 19.

August 12, SafeHouse Sunday

Vestry meeting, August 5

No Sunday School or Bible Study
June through August

August Birthdays

Thomas Barclay, August 16

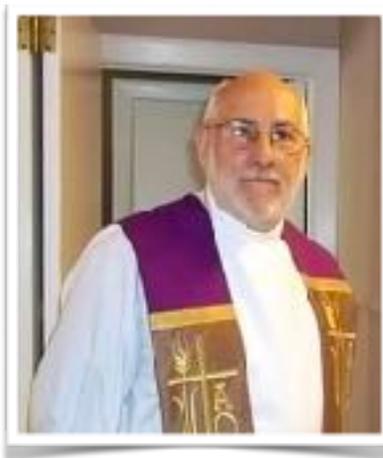
Steve Jenkins, August 16

Allen Nicas, August 25

Prayer List

Betty & Richard, Carole O., Cathy, Dennis, Herschel, Holman, Jackie, James, Jason, Laura, Mark, Mary S., Natasha, Ray and Dolores, and others in our hearts.

Rector's Reflection



It's time for school to start. It might not seem like the proper time of the year for it, but school is about to begin. There is a range of emotions that go along with the beginning of the school year, for students, teachers, parents, and grandparents. There's excitement, uncertainty, fear, concern, a whole range of

emotions. Just like the rest of life. Each day can be like that if we let it. We can go through life as a bundle of nerves worrying about all that can go wrong, setting ourselves up to expect bad things to happen.

This is not the way we were created to function. We were created to be dependent on God, to put our trust in God. We often have a very strong tendency to feel we have to plan and be in control of situations, of our entire lives. So we plan, we take precautions, and we end up anxious, uncertain, and fearful. Instead we should trust God to continue to work, to create in our lives. Believe that God is good and that goodness will be reflected in the events of our lives.

As the new school year begins, or other events in our lives occur, we should remember that God is here with us. We are not alone.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

Thomas at Camp

Thomas Barclay represented St. Alban's at Camp Mikell for a week in June and reports he thoroughly enjoyed his time there. Since the camp is located in north Georgia, the adults there knew where Elberton is and had been there for reasons like football games. Nights in the cabin he had a chance to bond with his cabin mates.

He liked the activities, especially swimming in the pool, playing Four Square and Vollis (a volleyball and tennis spin-off of Four Square), and evening singing. The food was good, and there was a different activity every night. One night was skit night, with rules: no booing, no isms, and no making fun of other campers.

The one thing he could have done without was the insects, especially when he wanted to use his flashlight to read after lights out; that did not work!



Thomas with some of his new friends.

Final Report from Anna's Mission to Prague

We at St. Alban's prayed for Anna and the mission trip to Prague during its duration. She has kindly sent a final report back to friends and supporters.

Dear Supporter,

Thank you so much for partnering with me to bring the gospel to Prague, Czech Republic! It was the trip of a lifetime and I was amazed at how God is moving in one of the most atheistic countries in the world. I learned so much about what it is like to live in a different culture, about evangelism with students who have never thought about God, and most of all, about who God is.

While my team was there, three high school students, Lu, Adele, and Vastislov, prayed to receive Christ! These students had met other summer mission students from the U.S. last year where they initially started having conversations about God. God has been working in their hearts and minds in the past year which brought them to fully trust in Christ this summer. We prayed every day that Lu would put her faith in Christ and to see her do that with so much joy on one of the last days was so beautiful.

Meet Steph

I met Steph at a high school class and through her answers to my questions, I could tell that she really felt empty inside. She was excited to meet up again outside of school and I was able to share about my path to become a Christian and what it meant to be a Christian. She loved to hear about the hope that I had, but it is so hard for her to see that for herself. I met her several times while I was there. In one meeting we discussed 1 Corinthians 13:4-8 to show God's love and character and afterwards she explained how she thought the God in the Bible was always an angry God, but after this she saw he was loving. Steph told me later before I left that after that conversation, she cried from joy. I know that God was working in her heart in that conversation and I am praying that God continually makes Himself known to Steph. I have still been messaging Steph on Facebook and I want to continue to pour into her.

Debrief in Austria

We spent the last five days in Saint Wolfgang, Austria, where we had time to discuss the trip and see the Alps. Saint Wolfgang was absolutely stunning and God blessed us with perfect weather. It was so nice just to spend time with the rest of my team, reflect on the previous weeks, and praise God for all he has done this summer!

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Natasha Clay, Jr. Warden
Anne Jaudon
Louise Martin, sec.
Allen Nicas
Marilyn Slocumbe
Robyn Keeler and Anne
Jaudon, co-treasurers

A Gift for St. Alban's



Fr. John Keeler and Steve Jenkins with Mr. and Mrs. Tom Adams, who recently donated a lot on Lake Russell to St. Alban's. Steve volunteered to take care of the title change for the church.

From ER&D

In the wake of last year's destructive hurricane season, we met the devastation unleashed by Harvey, Irma, and Maria by partnering with dioceses in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In the earliest days, we helped coordinate and support relief efforts and provided resources for food and drinking water, tarps, emergency generators, gasoline, diesel fuel, building materials, pastoral care, and other essential needs.

For many of us, these devastating storms still feel fresh, but the sobering reality is that the 2018 hurricane season has begun. So please help us prepare for the coming months with a gift to ER&D's Disaster Fund. You may make a contribution by telephone (855-312-4325), at website episcopalrelief.org, or by U.S. mail (ER&D, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058).

