

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays,
10:30 a.m. SafeHouse Sunday
January 11

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study, Mondays at noon

Jan. 11, Annual Parish Meeting
& Election to Vestry

Mar. 15, Visit of Assisting
Bishop Don A. Wimberly

Jan. 1, *The Holy Name*

Jan. 6, *The Epiphany*

Jan. 19, *Confession of St. Peter
the Apostle*

Jan. 26, *Conversion of St. Paul
the Apostle*

January Birthdays

Betty Edmunds, 4; Debra
Romine, 6; Jenifer Duke, 11;
Carolyn Hagins, 18

Prayer List

Betty & Richard, Diane,
William, and others in our
hearts

Rector's Reflection



Churches are built in a variety of styles and sizes, but there are certain elements that make an Episcopal Church different or distinctive.

The altar is always the main focal point of an Episcopal Church. This is because the Eucharist is of central significance to our service. The focal point of the altar is the cross, the key to our faith.

The baptismal font is in the back of the church. A person must pass the font to enter the church. The location is intentional since baptism is the initiation rite into the church. All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Episcopal churches often display stained glass. This is an old tradition from the days when most of the population couldn't read. The stained glass told stories from the Bible in pictures. Look at our beautiful windows here at St. Alban's. You'll see the story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus in the stained glass panels that go around our church.

Our churches are dedicated to the worship of God. We believe that the architecture is part of the message. Our faith is focused by the structure of the church.

Fr. John Keeler +

HAPPY NEW YEAR

March Visit by Bishop

A date for your calendar: The Right Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Assisting Bishop of Atlanta, will visit St. Alban's on Sunday March 15.



Wimberly, retired from full-time ministry and living in Roswell with his wife Wendy, recently joined the bishop visitation schedule for congregations in the Diocese of Atlanta at the invitation of Bishop Rob Wright.

Wimberly was ordained to the priesthood in 1971 and served parishes in New York, Louisiana, Kansas, and Florida before becoming bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. After resigning from that post he served as assistant bishop in Texas for three years before his 2002 election as bishop of the Diocese of Texas. He served in that role for seven years.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1937, he attended Louisiana State University and later earned a master of divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. He holds doctor of divinity degrees from VTS and the University of the South, Sewanee, where he served as chancellor from 1997 to 2003.

The Wimberlys have two adult children, who live in the Atlanta area, and two grandchildren.

Annual Parish Meeting

This year's annual Parish Meeting and Election of Vestry has been set for January 11. As usual, after the Sunday service, members will gather downstairs in the Parish Hall for a potluck meal. After that the rector, junior and senior wardens, and treasurer will give their yearly reports, and we will elect two new vestry members to replace Natasha Clay and Carole Oglesby, whose three-year terms are ending. Returning vestry members will be Charles Duke, Steve Jenkins, Debra Romine, and Nancy Seymour.

Christmas Remembered

On December 23 the greening of the church took place at 10 a.m. ; poinsettias were set around in the altar area, and greenery and candles were placed in the windows. Those turning out to help were Carole Coggins, Fr. John Keeler, Louise Martin, Mary Randall, and Arlene Whitlow.

For the 6 p.m. Christmas Eve service we had dreary weather but good attendance (thirty-five people). The church looked lovely, and everyone enjoyed the Christmas music, especially Steve Jenkins's guitar accompaniment to "Silent Night." Servers were Natasha Clay, chalice bearer; Nancy Seymour, acolyte; Steve Jenkins, thurifer; and Christian Coggins and Louise Martin, torch bearers. Charles Romine read the lessons and led the prayers of the people. Carole Oglesby was greeter, and Carole Coggins and Robyn Keeler ushered.

Coat Ministry

In December St. Alban's joined with the Elberton Rotary Club, First Methodist Church, and First Baptist Church in a ministry to supply winter coats to community youth identified by the school system as needing coats. St. Alban's members contributed \$355 to this cause, and Fr. John reports that all students said to be in need are now warmly clad.

Nursing Home Ministry

Nancy Hart Nursing Center provided the names of two residents and their needs for a happy holiday season. The female resident now has some new comfortable and warm clothes to take her through winter, and the male resident has a radio so that he can keep up with what is going on in the world.

A new outfit was also provided to Betty Edmunds, our member who has been at Nancy Hart for some time. (Note: Betty's husband Richard's foot has healed enough for him to live at home.)

Thanks to Suzanne Moore for coming up with the idea for this ministry at Christmas and for seeing it through to reality.

Classes Resume

On Jan. 4, when Sunday School resumes after a holiday break, members will continue their discussion of *Episcopal Questions, Episcopal Answers* by Ian S. Markham and C. K. Robertson. Bible Study will start back the next day, Jan. 5; Women in the Bible is the topic.

From SafeHouse Newsletter

As we say good-bye to 2014, we cannot believe the number of individuals that received services from SafeHouse Ministries. SafeHouse serviced over 6,000 individuals through our food pantry, short-term shelter, and counseling from January through October this year. Our SafeHouse food pantry exploded with donations from our local Bi-Lo food store. Unfortunately, Bi-Lo (Elberton) closed around Thanksgiving. We are now purchasing food commodities from Golden Harvest in Augusta, Georgia, two to three times per month. The trip to Augusta takes a lot of time and gas consumption. We are believing [sic] to get on with another market that will donate food commodities, but for now we must purchase what is required.

The financial needs at SafeHouse are being met. Our 19th Annual Walkathon was a great source of blessing this year. Money has been a struggle, but as we enter our twentieth year of ministry, we know that God is our source!

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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

Church Families

Introducing Zipp

Jenifer Duke agreed to share with us two photos of the newest Duke grandchild, Zipp, who was born on October 6.



As you can see, Zipp is adorable whether awake or sleeping. Jenifer says his mother has charge of him during the day and his father looks after him during night hours.

And speaking of grandchildren,

Christian Coggins,

Carole Coggins's youngest grandchild, has been helping us occasionally by serving in the Sunday services. On Christmas Eve he did a fine job as a torchbearer.





