

SANCTUARY

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

January Calendar

Sundays, Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.
(Eucharistic Prayer Form B).

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School
(discussing current events). Sunday
School starts back on January 7.

Saturday, January 6, The Epiphany of
Our Lord Jesus Christ

Sunday, January 14, SafeHouse
Sunday

Annual Meeting January 21 after
Eucharist

Mondays, noon, Bible study (studying
Exodus). Bible study starts back on
January 8.

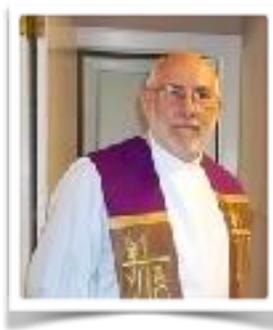
January Birthdays

January 4, Betty Edmunds
January 11, Jenifer Duke

Prayer List

Betty and Richard, Carole O., Cathy,
Dennis, Elijah, Jackie, James, Jason,
Mary, Mary S., Ray and Dolores, and
others in our hearts.

Rector's Reflection



Much has been written this year about Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. That's as it should be since the events and ideas that the Reformation produced still have a big influence on what we believe and how we worship today in the Episcopal Church.

The greater influence on our own branch of the Church is, however, Thomas Cranmer. Born in 1489, Cranmer was a scholar who was caught up in a political event of the day, namely, Henry VIII's desire to divorce his wife, Katherine of Aragon. Cranmer used his scholastic and diplomatic skills to aid Henry, was appointed resident ambassador to the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V, and later became Archbishop of Canterbury. Neither of these was a job that he asked for or wanted.

Cranmer was influential in persuading Henry to allow the Bible to be read in English and services to be conducted in English. He is the author of the 1549 Prayer Book. The Prayer Book shows Cranmer's love of order and logic as well as the poetry and beauty of language we still love today. The first revision of the Prayer Book in 1552 displayed even more of Cranmer's literary talents, which we see in the prayers and liturgies we use today.

Cranmer served two kings ably, Henry VIII and Edward VI. He was murdered during the reign of "bloody" Mary.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

Christmas 2017 at St. Alban's



Five came in to the church on Saturday December 23 to put out poinsettias and decorate the church windows with holly and candles: Carole Coggins, Fr. John Keeler, Robyn Keeler, Hal Vincent (Robyn's brother), and Louise Martin. Chris Coggins put up wreathes on the afternoon of Sunday, December 24, and also put lumenaries out to line the church walkway.

Sixteen attended the December 24 morning Eucharist (the fourth Sunday in Advent), and there were twenty-six at the evening Christmas Eve service at 6:30 p.m. Morning servers were as follows: acolyte, Tammy Clay; chalice, Natasha Clay; greeter, Louise Martin; lector/prayers, Marilyn Slocumbe; oblations/ushers, Robyn Keeler and Thomas Barclay. Evening servers: acolyte, Thomas Barclay; crucifer, Christian Coggins; chalice, Nancy Seymour; greeter, Marty Barclay; lector/prayers, Natasha Clay; oblations/ushers, Tammy Clay and Louise Martin. Carole Coggins performed altar guild duties for both services, and Steve Jenkins played the guitar accompaniment for "Silent Night," the final hymn of the evening service. Natasha Clay snapped the photo above.

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The Rev. John Keeler,
Rector

The Rev. Herschel
Atkinson,
Rector Emeritus

Carole Coggins,
Altar Guild Chair
Suzanne Moore,
Organist

Natasha Clay, Verger
Charles Duke, Sexton
Andrea Martin, Parish
Secretary

Vestry

Charles Duke, Sr. Warden
Marilyn Slocumbe,
Jr. Warden
Natasha Clay
Anne Jaudon
Louise Martin, sec.
Suzanne Moore
Robyn Keeler and Anne
Jaudon, co-treasurers

Annual Meeting 2018

Please plan to stay after the Eucharist on January 21 for a meal catered by Renee Hunt, followed by the annual meeting. This is always an important and informative time, when the rector, wardens, and treasurer gave their yearly reports and we elect two new vestry members to three-year terms. This year those going off the vestry are Suzanne Moore and Natasha Clay. Since Suzanne has served a complete term, she will not be on the ballot this time, but Natasha, who has served only one year to finish a term, will be eligible for re-election.

Qualifications to be a vestry member include the following: (1) to be at least eighteen years of age; (2) to be a member of the Episcopal Church and of St. Alban's; (3) to be a regular attendee of services at St. Alban's; and (4) to be a regular financial contributor to St. Alban's. Vestry members make important decisions regarding the church, but being a vestry member does not take up a lot of time. Meetings are on Sundays after the Eucharist, and there are no meetings in July and December. The annual meeting takes the place of a vestry meeting in January. Therefore, it is hoped that all active members will be willing to stand for election to the vestry and to serve if elected. If there are reasons why you cannot serve this year, please let Fr. John or the office know by January 14 that your name should not appear on the ballot.

Vestry Actions Dec. 2017

The vestry did not meet in December, but they did vote on two matters by email or phone.

They voted to purchase two new candle lighters from CM Almy to replace the old ones, which no longer operate properly. The cost will be \$170+ per candle lighter, to be paid for out of memorial funds.

Also, they voted to renew the church's domain name for the website for two years at a cost of \$135.94.

