

# SANCTUARY

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

## Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic prayer will be Form C in July and August.)

SafeHouse Sunday July 12

Sunday School and Bible Study in recess until September

No vestry meeting in July.

July 4, Independence Day

July 22, St. Mary Magdalene

July 25, St. James the Apostle

## July Birthdays

Brook Gaffney, July 1  
Andrea Martin, July 5  
Ashley Barclay, July 17

## Prayer List

Amelia & Mike, Betty & Richard, Britney, Debra, Diane, Dolores, Donald, Floyd, Karen, Kim, Lorie, Michael, Todd, Wil, William, and others in our hearts.

## Rector's Reflection



We are now in the season after Pentecost. The season begins on the Monday following the feast of Pentecost and goes through the feast of Christ the King, which is the Sunday before Advent.

This season is called Ordinary Time to separate it from the two great cycles of the year, Christmas and Easter. These might be thought of as extraordinary times.

The season after Pentecost is not "ordinary" in the usual use of the word.

The color we use during this time is green. It reminds us of living things and all of God's creation. It also reminds us that all living things require water and nourishment to grow and be what they were designed to be. To live into their potential.

The season after Pentecost, the long green season, stretches from late spring through summer and into fall. It gives us time to reflect on the Church's mission in the world, the Great Commission, and how we are a part of it, our baptismal vows. It gives us time to reflect on how to live the Christian life, to reflect on the grace from the two cycles we have experienced and to prepare to more fully celebrate them as we pass from ordinary to extraordinary time.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler +

## *From the Minutes of the June 8 Vestry Meeting*

Charles Romine presented the treasurer's report. He noted \$15,000 was moved from restricted funds to pay for the kitchen remodeling. The dishwasher was donated by Charles and Debra Romine; the cost of the stove and refrigerator was \$1,796.49.

No wardens' reports were presented. Fr. John presented the rector's report. He noted that Bishop Wright will attend General Convention, where a new presiding bishop will be elected.

Under old business, regarding the Marcia Collins Jenkins memorial bench, Fr. John stated the Jenkins family prefers the new permanent placement to be under the oak trees in front rather than by the magnolia tree on the back part of the property; Jeff Moon will provide the equipment and move the bench. After discussion, a motion was made to place the bench under the oaks in front, outside the fenced area and within the area covered in pine straw. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Ms. Seymour will coordinate with Marjorie Jenkins Moon about which direction the bench will face.

Carpet cleaning quotes were presented and discussed. Motion was made and seconded to accept the quote from Harper's Cleaning. Motion passed unanimously.

A second landscaping/gravel removal/sod laying quote was presented from Maple Springs (Craig Truitt). After discussion . . . motion was made to ask Craig Truitt to present options to the vestry in person, at the next vestry meeting if he is available. These options will be about what can be done in the graveled area inside the fence (remove gravel, lay sod, leave gravel but put down a layer of topsoil, plant grass seed, etc.).

Fr. John stated he had received an offer from Alex and Peggy Hawes to help with the rewiring project, though no dollar amount has been discussed. Mr. Romine will bring Jason Brady back in to get a quote for rewiring and replacing the fuse box with a circuit breaker.

Under new business, Fr. John asked for volunteers as or suggestions for delegates to annual council Nov. 13-14 at Gwinnett Civic Center. Suzanne Moore volunteered to be a delegate. Ms. Moore and Fr. John will ask two other individuals whether they are interested.

On the vestry's behalf Nancy Seymour expressed appreciation to Charles Romine for acting as project manager for the kitchen remodeling.

At Debra Romine's suggestion the vestry agreed to leave the air conditioning on downstairs with the thermostat set at 80 degrees to see if that will eliminate spotting that keeps appearing on the old refrigerator. The utility bill will be monitored for increased expense.

Fr. John asked the vestry to consider how they want St. Alban's to look a year from now. One potential mission and ministry project might be to reach out to surrounding counties that don't have an Episcopal parish. He cited St. James in Clayton as a small parish that has grown and will talk to their priest for more details about how they reached out to the community. Possibilities of reviving coffee hour, having an earlier service, and celebrating birthdays monthly were discussed.

The next meeting was set for August 10 at 6 p.m.

## Notes of Interest

### June Services Revisited

The season after Pentecost is long. In June we added variety with two special services.

On Sunday June 14, Fr. John and Mary Randall surprised us with a Flag Day service. Mary put flags out at the church walkway, we sang patriotic hymns—"Eternal Father, strong to save," "O beautiful for spacious skies," and "God of our fathers"—and Fr. John told us interesting history about the American flag and (surprisingly!) tied that together with the scriptures for the day. A lovely and different Sunday morning!

On Sunday June 21, we celebrated the Feast Day of St. Alban (really June 22) with red vestments and altar hangings. Our opening hymn was "I sing a song of the saints of God," and Fr. John preached about the life of St. Alban and how to be a saint today.

### Looking Ahead to Fall

Fr. John has chosen books for Sunday School and Bible Study consideration when those groups start back in September: *James in the Suburbs: A Disorderly Parable of the Epistle of James* by April Love-Fordham (Sunday School) and *Conversations with Scripture: The Acts of the Apostles* by C. K. Robertson (Bible Study). For those who want to buy copies, both are available from Amazon, a less costly option than the Episcopal bookstore.

### Annual Council Approaches

The annual diocesan council will be held November 13 and 14 at the Gwinnett Civic Center. St. Alban's delegates will be Steve Jenkins and Suzanne Moore with Allen Nicas and Louise Martin as alternates.

### Lose Yourself in a Good Book

When looking for reading matter this summer, don't forget about our church library. It's been straightened up and re-alphabetized recently for ease in finding books by author. We seem to be partial to fiction (especially thrillers), but a few unexpected gems lurk—like the book about ancient engineering that a member discovered the other day.

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*Marilyn Slocumbe's granddaughter Anna Lee Whitlow, who graduated in early June from Savannah Arts Academy. This fall she will enter Clemson University.*



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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

## After Ebola

*From the spring issue of Seek & Serve, a publication of Episcopal Relief & Development.*

More than a year after the initial outbreak of Ebola, the epidemic is mostly contained in Liberia and the number of new cases has plummeted in Sierra Leone and Guinea. Now the greatest challenge facing these nations is how to recover from the human and economic devastation caused by this horrific disease.

ER&D is focusing on long-term development in Liberia and Sierra Leone. While government and large international responders focused on the highest population areas, ER&D and its partners have worked in villages literally beyond the end of the road. Today, the after-effects of Ebola cast a pall on these communities in a myriad of ways. Hunger is a chronic problem. During the crisis, few people could conduct their normal agricultural activities and an entire year's harvest was mostly lost. Families under quarantine could not work and lost their incomes, increasing the crushing burden of poverty.

Another huge challenge is reintegrating survivor families into their communities in ways that keep them from being stigmatized and ostracized. Plus, many had to sell all of their assets to get treatment, leaving them nothing to return to.

Making matters worse, Ebola has orphaned thousands of children in the region. We are using Church resources and facilities as transition centers, providing food and clothing and covering school fees.

To address these and other issues, including the post-traumatic stress afflicting so many, ER&D and partners are integrating our work with Ebola survivors and orphans into all of our existing long-term development projects. For example, families that farmed prior to the outbreak are being incorporated into our farming groups. Those who sold goods at markets are being incorporated into our micro-finance groups. The point is to integrate them into ongoing activities so that they once again become part of the community.

We are also training clergy to provide grief counseling and establishing community-level disaster risk reduction committees.

## Oh, The Places You Can See!

### Travel Back to Biblical Times

The Pilot Club of Elberton is sponsoring a September 12 day trip to LaGrange to visit the Explorations in Antiquity Center and the Hills and Dales Estate.

The Explorations in Antiquity Center is a walk-through living history museum that offers a view of what life was like in biblical times. Two hundred fifty artifacts on long-term loan from the Israel Antiquities Authority are exhibited in life-like settings so that visitors can see how the articles were used. For lunch, consume foods Jesus probably ate.

The Hills and Dales Estate was the home of textile magnate Fuller E. Callaway Sr. and his family. The house is an Italian villa designed by noted architects Neel Reid and Hal Hentz, and the grounds include the Ferrell Gardens, which date from the early nineteenth century.

Cost for the trip is \$129 prepaid by July 31. Make checks payable to Pilot Club of Elberton and send to P.O. Box 6373, Elberton, GA 30635; or pay online at [www.goodnewstravels.com](http://www.goodnewstravels.com) (Tour name: Pilot Club LaGrange, Tour Number: 1778). Nancy Hill will be the tour guide.

### Closer to Home

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Pendleton, South Carolina, was established on June 17, 1819, and the present church building at 328 E. Queen Street was erected in 1822. Despite the native timber, lumber was hauled in ox carts from Savannah. William Henry Morningstar, reputed to be of Native American extraction, was given the contract to build. The building was consecrated in 1823 by Bishop Bowen. The bell tower added later contains a bell from the ship *Seabrook*, which sailed many years ago from Charleston to Edisto Island; the original bell was given to the cause of the Confederacy during the Civil War. Part of the building is the winding stairway, opening off the vestibule, which leads to the balcony where the slaves worshipped.

The original pews and many of the original windows can still be seen in the church today. The Jardine and Sons organ was installed in 1848. A rectory was built in 1854, a parish house in 1955.

The churchyard contains a number of graves of past members, including Mrs. John C. Calhoun; Thomas G. Clemson and his wife, Anna Maria Calhoun; and General Barnard E. Bee, who gave the name "Stonewall" to Gen. Thomas Jonathan Jackson.

The church is now a Chapel of Ease with evening prayer services on the first and third Sundays of the month at 5 p.m., communion on the first Sunday.



