

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form C). July 10, SafeHouse Sunday

No Sunday School or Bible Study
June through August

Vestry meeting, July 3, before the Eucharist

July 4, Independence Day

July 22, Mary Magdalene

July 25, St. James, Apostle

July Birthdays

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

Special Anniversary

Charles and Jenifer Duke will be celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary on July 9.

Prayer List

Betty & Richard, Bill, Bob, Diane, Dolores, Don, Jenny, Ozzie, Pam, Wil, and others in our hearts.

Rector's Reflection



I recently gave the vestry copies of three articles about small churches from *Alban Weekly*. Copies of these are available to everyone at the back of the church or in the church office.

One thing that I found interesting in these articles is the idea that small churches are a gift, a resource for the diocese and for the wider church. It

made me think that we should change the way we think about ourselves at St. Alban's. I know we often feel isolated, ignored, and inferior to the larger congregations with large numbers, budgets, and staffs, but maybe we shouldn't.

The big thing we have going for us is community. We belong not just to the church, but to each other. When someone is not here, it's noticed and that person is missed. When someone is here, he or she is noticed and welcomed.

Community gives us the opportunity to see each other's talents and strengths and to encourage each other to put them to use in unique ways.

We're small, but that makes it easier to change and try new things, to evolve, to transform.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

SafeHouse Report

The following is from a letter recently sent out by Sue Beitzel, Director of SafeHouse Ministries.

Spring has sprung and SafeHouse Ministries is in full bloom. . . . SafeHouse currently runs a food pantry five days a week during daytime office hours. Food comes and goes quickly. We rely strictly on donations and have been very fortunate to remain the recipient of the Stamp Out Hunger Food Campaign. This campaign is headed up by our local postal workers and food is donated from families all across Elbert County via mail. On Monday, May 16, we gathered at 9 a.m. with many volunteers to receive SIX TONS of food. This was enough food to fill up five pick-up trucks. We are very grateful to all of the volunteers who helped make this event a success. . . . [and] all of those who donated to this extremely helpful food drive.

Our next food drive will be at the Elbert County Dollar Tree. The Dollar Tree staff will be taking up food donations from their shoppers, which will in turn be given to SafeHouse Ministries. This event began on May 13 and will continue through June 26. Please support this food drive by shopping locally and providing canned or dry foods to the store drop-off.

Our final food drive for the coming months will take place through LifePoint Ministries, the Georgia Conference for the International Pentecostal Holiness churches. This will be a statewide food drive donated through the churches and delivered to the Swails Center at Emmanuel College in Franklin Springs, Georgia.

Volunteers are the heartbeat of this ministry. We rely completely on volunteers to staff our SafeHouse Board and help with any and all events. We have been very blessed to have Robyn Keeler serve on the SafeHouse Board as secretary for the past twenty years. Robyn has been devoted to the success of SafeHouse since its inception. She is truly a treasure and will be missed by all. Since Robyn stepped down, we have begun the search for a new board member.

SafeHouse Ministries has received many forms of donations over the past twenty years. In March 2016 we were blessed with a unique donation. Two businessmen, who saw the vision of SafeHouse and the need for expansion, have donated a building and property to SafeHouse. SafeHouse is now the recipient of the old Coca-Cola Bottling Plant property located on the corner of Elbert Street (Hwy 17) and Locklin Street in Elberton. This is a HUGE blessing for this ministry and we plan to use the property to its full capacity. SafeHouse will be moving all business operations and their current food pantry to this facility. In addition, we have big dreams in expanding the current vision of SafeHouse. We would like to offer possible medical services, counseling, furniture assistance, clothing assistance, and more. We . . . hope to better serve Elbert County and all of the surrounding areas.

Sue Beitzel, Director

From the Vestry Minutes of June 13

Charles Duke presented a plan to save money on yard work and church cleaning. He volunteered to take on these responsibilities, with or without compensation. Current costs for these services are \$250 a month for cleaning and \$125 per mowing of the church yard. After he left the meeting, discussion was held. Motion was made to accept his offer and pay him a stipend of \$125 per month. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Fr. John stated he will write Gary Bennett and Monteary Almond, give them notice that their services will no longer be required after August 1, 2016, and state the reason is not dissatisfaction with their services but the church's need to save on expenses.

The treasurer's report for May was presented and reviewed. Motion was made and seconded to accept as presented; motion passed unanimously. Ms. Keeler added that she had forgotten to bring the corporate resolution to change the signers on the checking account but would email it the morning of June 14, and the vestry can vote electronically. New signers will be Robyn Keeler and Anne Jaudon, co-treasurers; Steve Jenkins, senior warden; and Marilyn Slocumbe, junior warden.

Fr. John presented the rector's report about his continuing activities at St. Alban's and in the community. A confirmation class will begin in the near future. Discussion took place about possible ways to attract younger members to the church. Suggestions were made about putting services online and hosting community meals.

Under old business, Fr. John presented Mary Randall's letter stating her plan to retire from the position of parish administrator, effective December 31, 2016. Louise Martin stated she will ask whether Andrea Martin might be interested in taking this position (which she has held before) at least while her other job remains part-time. Also under old business, Fr. John said he has received suggestions from Andrea Martin and Bill Jenkins about what kind of computer to buy; Charles Romine has offered to make the purchase and be reimbursed by the church, and to install the new computer. Fr. John will check with Mary Randall about whether a new printer is also needed.

Under new business, Fr. John requested that the vestry reimburse him for part of his upcoming expenses for required continuing education credits; he will enroll in a course at Sewanee. Motion was made and seconded to reimburse him \$500. Motion was approved unanimously. Also under new business, Fr. John informed the vestry that he will be attending clergy conference at Rock Eagle in September and asked the vestry to start thinking about delegates to annual council Nov. 18 and 19 in College Park. *Robyn Keeler, vestry secretary*

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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
Robyn Keeler, vestry
secretary
Robyn Keeler and Anne
Jaudon, co-treasurers

Bishop's Visit



On Sunday July 19, we welcomed Bishop Keith Whitmore and his wife Suzie. After the service, attended by twenty-four, we all enjoyed a delicious salad lunch, catered by Renee Hunt, in the Parish Hall.

Photos: (Top, left to right) Fr. John Keeler, Fr. Herschel Atkinson, Senior Warden Steve Jenkins, Bishop Keith Whitmore, and Robyn Keeler. (Center left) Suzie Whitmore in one of her lovely hats chats with Karen Veal. (Bottom right) Ray and Dolores Jefferson. (Bottom left) Janet Osborn and Steve Jenkins.





St. Alban's special day is June 22, so we celebrated by decorating the base of his statue with flowers on Sunday, June 26. Herschel, John, and Robyn thought of the plan, and Carole Coggins was responsible for the pleasing arrangement.

