

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

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

Sunday, July 9, SafeHouse Sunday

Summer Vestry Schedule: No July meeting; August 20, vestry meeting after Eucharist

August 13, John Thompson-Quartey, diocesan Canon for Ministry, to preach, lunch afterward and meeting on congregational development

No Sunday School or Bible study until September

July Birthdays

July 1, Brook Gaffney

July 5, Andrea Martin

July 17, Ashley Barclay

Prayer List

Betty and Richard, Mary, Mary S., Peyton, Ray and Dolores, and others in our hearts

Rector's Reflection



We just celebrated the Fourth of July, the birthday of our country. Sunday we sang hymns that reminded us of our love of country and the special place God has in our lives and in our national life together.

It's important to celebrate our country's birthday and to reflect on who we are as citizens of the United States and as Christians. The two go together well if we keep them in balance and don't allow one to overshadow the other. To keep a balance takes work, and it takes faith that God will see to it that things will work out the way God wants them.

We live in times when both our country and our church seem often to be at odds with each other, when national interests and concerns seem not to fit exactly with the teachings of Jesus. I say "seem" because I don't think that's the case.

We can look at the hymns we sang on the Sunday before July 4 and the writings of the people who founded our country and compare them with the New Testament and see that they go together quite well.

If we look at all of them carefully, prayerfully, and with the faith that God will smooth out the rough places, things look better than we thought. So take a deep breath and enjoy the day that God's grace has given us.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

Bishop's Visit



(Left, left to right) Fr. John Keeler, Mrs. Wendy Wimberly, and Bishop Don Wimberly.

Bishop Wimberly delivered the sermon at the June 11 Eucharist and led the ceremony of reception into the church (confirmation) for Tammy Clay. Twenty-three attended the service, and sixteen stayed for the salad lunch, catered by Renee Hunt, in the parish hall afterward.

Bishop Wimberly is very familiar with the problems of small churches, which he says are numerous in all parts of the country. He feels we are on the right path in trying to forge relationships with churches near us, especially the Lutherans and the Methodists, denominations which have agreements with the Episcopal Church.

Bishop's Visit (cont'd)



(Top left) Bishop and Mrs. Wimberly at the lunch table. (Top right) The Rev. Herschel Atkinson and Anne Jaudon converse; Marilyn Slocumbe provided the table flowers. (Bottom left) Everyone has gotten down to the serious matter of eating. (Bottom right) Steve Jenkins, Fr. John Keeler, and Robyn Keeler talk things over.

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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

One of Us



Tammy Clay was confirmed as a member of St. Alban's (or, in more modern terminology, was received into the church) on June 11, when Bishop Wimberly was visiting. Tammy serves St. Alban's in several vital roles: acolyte, greeter, and usher. She and Natasha also take their turn performing altar guild duties. We are glad to have you, Tammy!

