

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. SafeHouse Sunday June 14

Sunday School and Bible Study in recess until September

June 8, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

June 21, Celebration of feast day of St. Alban

June 1, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

June 11, St. Barnabas the Apostle

June 24, Nativity of St. John the Baptist

June 29, St. Peter and St. Paul Apostles

June Birthdays

Robyn Keeler, June 12
Arlene Whitlow, June 14

Prayer List

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

Rector's Reflection



St. Alban is the patron saint of our church, and we celebrate his feast day on June 22 or on the Sunday before.

We know very little about him except that he was a Roman soldier who had an encounter with a Christian Priest and was converted. Alban sheltered the priest when he was fleeing Roman soldiers; and when his capture was certain, traded clothes and was arrested in his place.

There is an account of Alban's trial in the Venerable Bede's history of the church in England (*Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*). During the trial Alban admitted to being a Christian and would give only his name, never lying but never admitting to the deception.

He was martyred, it was first thought, in 303 or 304; but recent scholarship indicates it was earlier, 209 when Septimius Severus was emperor and there was a wave of persecution of Christians in the Roman Empire.

There are many gory and delightful stories about St. Alban written in the Middle Ages that are great fun, but probably not true.

St. Alban is considered the first British martyr. Our statue of St. Alban shows him dressed as a Roman soldier, holding a cross. He is the patron saint of refugees, converts, and torture victims.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler +

From the Minutes of the May 11 Vestry Meeting

Fr. John presented the rector's report. He stated the "quiet season" is beginning: Sunday school and Bible study will be suspended for the summer. His monthly participation in services at Magnolia Estates will continue. He and Fr. Herschel will attend a clericus at which a presentation will be made about pastoral care for those with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. He stated that election for 2015 council delegates is coming up. Registration will be online this year. Sara Baldwin has offered to donate a theater organ to St. Alban's; Fr. John and Suzanne will see whether St. Alban's can use it.

Under old business Fr. John stated St. Alban's has a quote from McCord Carpet Cleaning in Hartwell of \$253 to clean the sanctuary carpet and \$170 to clean the pews. This issue was tabled until more quotes can be obtained; Mr. Jenkins stated he will contact Harper's Cleaning in Elberton. Fr. John proposed that the vestry consider a long-term plan for the whole church property, in addition to plans for the present fenced area.

Mr. Romine presented a quote from Philip Edwards for \$3,750 to remove gravel from the fenced area, clean up, and lay centipede sod. This issue was tabled until more quotes are received; Ms. Seymour will obtain a quote from Craig Truitt of Maple Springs Land Care.

Fr. John stated Sam Heydinger has resigned from website maintenance. Mr. Nicas suggested that St. Alban's send a note of thanks to Mr. Heydinger for his service; Fr. John stated he would. Louise Martin and Andrea Martin have volunteered to take on this task. Motion was made and seconded to pay them \$50 per month starting in June (as was being paid to Mr. Heydinger). Vestry approved the motion unanimously.

On the old business of asking Episcopal Charities to reinstate support for SafeHouse Ministries, Fr. John stated they have given out all available grant money for 2015; he suggested a greater push from St. Alban's during next year's application process. He will write an appeal on SafeHouse's behalf and asks that the vestry collaborate on a recommendation based on what SafeHouse does for our community. Mr. Jenkins suggested a video featuring Sue Beitzel talking about the ministry and footage of the facility itself.

Under new business, Fr. John asked whether a work day is needed to clean up the kitchen; Ms. Seymour said she and Marilyn Slocumbe are planning to go through everything and donate or discard what is no longer useful.

Fr. John asked if the CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates) program is one St. Alban's might be interested in; there are currently only two volunteers in Elbert County. The vestry agreed it should be publicized in *Sanctuary* [see p. 3] and explained to the congregation.

Discussion took place about whether to replace the fuse box (1) in order to increase safety and (2) because replacement fuses are becoming hard to find. Mr. Romine stated he will get a quote for converting to a circuit breaker system. Mr. Nicas stated concern had been expressed about the peeling sacristy ceiling; Mr. Romine will also look at the cost of replacing this with sheetrock.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Every day in the United States, 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect, and four of them will die. Every day. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for Children is a network of 951 community-based programs that recruit, train, and support citizen-volunteers to advocate for the best interests of abused and neglected children in courtrooms and communities. Volunteer advocates—empowered directly by the courts—offer judges the critical information they need to ensure that each child’s rights and needs are being attended to while in foster care. Volunteers stay with children until they are placed in loving permanent homes. For many abused children, a CASA volunteer is the only constant adult presence in their lives. With a CASA volunteer, a child is half as likely to languish in the foster care and child welfare system, and much more likely to find a safe, permanent home. Unfortunately 60 percent of the children in the system have no access to a CASA volunteer. That’s almost 400,00 children without the hope a CASA volunteer can bring.

The Northeast Georgia CASA, with headquarters in Toccoa, serves Elbert, Hart, Madison, Oglethorpe, Franklin, Stephens, Habersham, and Rabun counties. They need volunteers; there are only two trained CASA volunteers in Elbert County. To volunteer, a person must have time and willingness to be trained and to be present in court every time the child to whom he/she is assigned goes to court. Volunteering requires commitment, but it can be a very rewarding experience to help a child achieve a good life. For those who want to help but do not feel they can commit to being volunteers, donations are a welcome way of contributing. All donations are tax-deductible and help the organization expand programs and recruit and train volunteers.

Fr. John and other Rotary members were recently impressed by a talk about this program, and information is available on the Internet at www.northeastgacasa.org.

Robyn Keeler and her mother Sara Haley at the wedding of Owen Keeler and Tara Williamson. That was five years ago, but it could have been yesterday. They still look the same.



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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

Snapshots



Nancy Seymour
(third from left)
at Rotary Con-
vention on
Hilton Head in
May.



Ray and Dolores
Jefferson at their
daughter-in-law's
birthday party at
Petersburg Towers
on May 7.



Laya Whitlow, Arlene
Whitlow's new great-
granddaughter, was
born on April 14.

Pentecost



On May 24, the Day of Pentecost, twenty-seven members and visitors attended Eucharist. Shown at left are the Rev. Charles Romine, who preached a rousing sermon, Fr. John, Louise Martin (chalice), Suzanne Moore (organist), and Natasha Clay (acolyte). Photos by Mary Randall.



Trinity Sunday

We are all very glad the parish hall no longer looks as it looked at the height of kitchen renovation (see right). We inaugurated the new kitchen appliances, cabinets, and countertops at a Fifth Sunday pot-luck dinner after the Eucharist on May 31, Trinity Sunday.

Thanks to Nancy Seymour, Marilyn Slocumbe, and Charles Romine for seeing to post-renovation clean-out and clean-up. They performed a hard job splendidly.



