

# SANCTUARY

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

## Calendar

Sundays, Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form B until June 25, when Form C starts).

Sunday, June 11, SafeHouse Sunday, Mother's Day. Day of Bishop Wimberly's visit; Eucharist to be followed by catered lunch in Parish Hall and meeting with the bishop

June 18, Morning Prayer

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

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

No Sunday School or Bible study until September

## June Birthdays

June 12, Robyn Keeler

June 14, Arlene Whitlow

## Prayer List

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

## Rector's Reflection



In June we will begin the long season after Pentecost. It's the longest season of our church year. This year it will last for twenty-four weeks, from early June until late November. The season after Pentecost is a curious one in that it is not a time of celebration or preparation. During Advent and Lent we prepare for the birth of Christ and for His resurrection. Then at Christmas and Easter we celebrate these two events.

The question is: What should we do during the season after Pentecost? What should we and the church look like at the end of the season?

The event that comes at the beginning of the season is what we should look at, the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has always been active in the world, but the actions became more personal on the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit touched them, changed them, and did the same to all they encountered and brought into their fellowship.

This long season after Pentecost is a time for us to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives: to make some time each day to listen, to anticipate, to experience, and then to act. It can be scary, it can be exciting, probably both. It can be a journey that will make us as individuals and us as a church much different when Advent arrives at the end of November.

*Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+*

## *From the Minutes of the May 21 Vestry Meeting*

Robyn Keeler passed out copies of the treasurer's report. At the April vestry meeting, Charles Duke questioned the presence of two empty lines for "sexton" and "lawn." Robyn explained that, with Charles Duke as the person performing both sexton and lawn duties, she is putting building and lawn expenses, Charles's stipend, and Orkin all under "Building Expenses and Lawn." She pointed out that we have not had to make a withdrawal from savings this year because of a very welcome \$4,000 donation, savings on sexton and lawn duties, and a refund for overpayment on the last pension fund check for Fr. John.

In his rector's report, Fr. John reminded the vestry that Bishop Wimberly will be at St. Alban's on June 11.

Diocesan Canon for Ministry John Thompson-Quartey has said that he can come to St. Alban's on August 13; he will preach and will meet with the congregation after the Eucharist, giving us his thoughts on congregational development. Marilyn Slocumbe suggested that the vestry members reflect a week on what he says and a vestry meeting be scheduled for discussion on August 20.

Fr. John will be out of town on Sunday June 18 for a family reunion in Virginia and will return on the following Wednesday. We will have morning prayer in his absence.

We need delegates and volunteers for the Annual Diocesan Council in Gainesville November 10-11.

If anyone has ideas for get-togethers in the summer, let Fr. John know.

For his senior warden's report, Charles Duke reported that he has installed a 110-volt outlet convenient for outside work.

Under Business, Marilyn Slocumbe noted that in the evening the path from the church to the parking lot has been very dark. Charles said that, when operating, the security light at the parking lot provides a good bit of illumination. It was not working for a while, and he is not sure whether the city has fixed it. Although it is a private light, the city is responsible for repair.

Fr. John announced that yesterday there was a celebration service at St. Alban's for the life of George Nicas. Among the attendees were six St. Alban's members. He reminded the vestry that there will be no vestry meeting in July. In August and September, the vestry will need to consider the question of Fr. John's remaining another year. *Louise Martin, Vestry secretary*

## *Service for George Nicas*

On May 20, there was a celebration of George Nicas's life at St. Alban's. Fr. John led those attending in the Burial of the Dead, Rite Two, from the Book of Common Prayer. Several family members and friends shared their memories of George. His obituary follows.

### *George Allen Nicas*

Mr. George A. Nicas, 59, passed away in Athens, Georgia, on July 11, 2016. George "Buddy" Nicas was born February 3, 1957, in Bremerhaven, Germany. The son of Allen G. Nicas and the late Barbara Hill Nicas, he grew up in Columbus, Georgia. There, George, or as he was better known, "Buddy," graduated from Hardaway High School. He attended Columbus College and later Troup Tech.

The last few years of his life, he resided in Athens, Georgia. He is survived by his father, Allen G. Nicas of Elberton, Georgia; sister, Amanda Widener; nieces Anna Bunch (Jason), Elizabeth Foster (Justin), and Sarah Widener, all of Greenville, South Carolina; nephew Daniel Widener (Rebecca) of Marietta, Georgia; two great-nieces, Kaitlyn and Hayley; and a great-nephew, Luke.

George loved his family, music, painting, writing, Georgia Bulldog football, and Lady Dogs basketball. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

## *Anne Throws a Party*

On Sunday May 21, Anne Jaudon lent her house for a church party at 6 p.m. A good time was had by the eighteen members and guests.

We enjoyed the bountiful and delicious refreshments (see right) and Anne's great CD collection, as well as the company.



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The Rev. John Keeler,  
Rector  
The Rev. Herschel  
Atkinson,  
Rector Emeritus

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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

## May Graduates



(Left) Drew Whitlow at his senior recital at Furman University. In May he graduated from the Furman School of Music, and in the Fall he will start graduate studies in music at East Carolina University in Greenville. With Drew in the photo is his sister Anna, who was recently named to the President's List at Clemson University for her 4.0 grade point average. Grandmother Marilyn Slocumbe is very proud of them both.

Christian Moore at his graduation from Washington-Wilkes Comprehensive High School. The grandson of Suzanne Moore, Christian has visited St. Alban's a number of times through the years and helped us often as a server. We congratulate him and wish him well.



## SafeHouse Update

There are many ways to help people. We try to target the most basic needs: food, clothing, shelter, and most important, love. We have been servicing this community for twenty-two years. We have “regular” clients, and we have clients that literally travel from out of the country and end up on our doorstep. No matter what the need, SafeHouse Ministries is here to help others. We are amazed at how far God has “stretched” us. We have worked out of the same small location for the entire life of this ministry, until now. For months and months we have worked tirelessly to fix up our “new location,” the old Coke plant, which we will now refer to as the SafeHouse Ministries Resource Center. We have also established a new webpage and enrolled in a program to give to our ministry online.

First, SafeHouse Ministries Resource Center will house all our daily operations. At this location we will have our office staff, the food pantry, our clothing closet, and our furniture bank. We have spent many hours renovating the facility to meet our needs. We are thankful for all the volunteers and helping hands we have had along the way. We have reconstructed the plumbing, put in new dry wall, replaced parts of the ceiling, tiled the main entry floors, rewired and replaced electrical work, assembled new equipment, put in new countertops and sinks, added a new bathroom, and painted. We still have much more work to do, but we are blessed to have come to the move-in point of this process. If you would like to help with any type of construction work, it is not too late! Please contact our office for a list of what we are working on each week.

The construction on the new resource center has kept us very busy, but that’s not all that we have been working on. We are thankful for even more volunteers working on our website. It is officially up and running. Please visit our new web page to stay up to date on SafeHouse news and events: [www.safehouseministries.org](http://www.safehouseministries.org). There are many different links on the website that help explain our ministry. We have personal testimonies and recent news tabs, as well as information on how to contact our office and what services we specifically offer. Do not hesitate to email us or call for any questions you may have.

One of the most important links on our webpage is “Ways to Give.” There are many ways that you can help SafeHouse Ministries. We accept different donated items, such as food, clothing, and furniture. You may also donate your time. Volunteers are welcomed and appreciated. We use volunteers regularly to meet our day-to-day needs. *(continued on page 6)*

## SafeHouse (cont'd)

And last, you can donate financially. We are always in need of funding. SafeHouse is a nonprofit corporation and does not receive government funding. Every dollar you give goes directly to running our facility and helping others. You may donate financially over the phone, via mail, or online. We have set up a new program to donate online and encourage this service. You will find a direct link to donate online on our web page, or you may enter the following URL: <https://www.easytithe.com/dl/?uid=SafePOB854>.

As you can see, we have been very busy the beginning of this year and we do not expect things to slow down any time soon. We covet your prayers for this ministry and rely on your donations to continue serving our community. We pray that God will bless those that pour into this ministry. Thank you again for continued support. We hope that with our new expansion we will impact this community even more. The best is yet to come! *Sue Beitzel, Director*

## Bishop Wimberly to Visit

On June 11, The Right Rev. Don A. Wimberly, Assisting Bishop of Atlanta, will visit at St. Alban's. He will deliver the sermon at Eucharist and meet with the congregation afterward. A catered lunch will be served downstairs in the parish hall.

Wimberly was ordained to the priesthood in 1971 and served parishes in New York, Louisiana, Kansas, and Florida before becoming bishop of the Diocese of Lexington, Kentucky. After resigning from that post, he served as assistant bishop in Texas for three years before his 2002 election as bishop of the Diocese of Texas. He served in that role for seven years.

Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1937, he attended Louisiana State University and later earned a master of divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. He holds doctor of divinity degrees from VTS and the University of the South, Sewanee, where he served as chancellor from 1997 to 2003.

Bishop Wimberly and his wife Wendy have visited us before, on March 15, 2015. We enjoyed that visit and will be glad to see them again.



