

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. SafeHouse Sunday Mar. 8

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Bible Study, Mondays at noon

Mar. 9, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

Mar. 4, 11, 18, and 25, Lenten Soup Suppers

Mar. 15, Assisting Bishop Wimberly Eucharist celebrant. Catered lunch in parish hall after service.

Mar. 22, Instructional Eucharist

Mar. 29, Palm Sunday. Fifth-Sunday potluck in Parish Hall.

Apr. 2, Maundy Thursday stripping of altar, 6 p.m.

Apr. 3, Good Friday service, 6 p.m. Ecumenical service tentatively planned for noon

Apr. 5, Easter Sunday

March Birthdays

Boots Oglesby, Mar. 1; Tammy Elliott, Mar. 4; Nicola Britton, Mar. 13; Marilyn Slocumbe, Mar. 26

Prayer List

Andrew, Betty, Betty & Richard, Diane, Jean, Jimmy, Kathleen, Kim, Lori, Sara, Todd, William, and others in our hearts. *Prayers for departed:* Odell Haston

Rector's Reflection



On a cold evening in Lent the people from St. Alban's gathered in the undercroft for our first Lenten program. It was raining, with snow and sleet mixed in to make things interesting.

I struggled all afternoon about whether to cancel the program or not. In the end I decided to go on with a gathering, but to omit the program in case the weather got worse.

It was a good decision. Fifteen people were present for all or part of the evening. We ate an excellent meal, drank, talked, and were a community. On reflection I think this was better than the program planned for the evening. There were conversations going on at all of the tables about a variety of topics, some serious, some not. I realized as I talked and listened that we were sharing our stories with each other, sharing who we were, where we are, and maybe where we are going.

We're all on a journey. At Lent we think about the journey more than we do at other seasons of our church year, but the journey is there all the time.

Talking, listening, and sharing along the way, as a community, is really what our Lenten programs are for; it's why we have them. We did that on a cold evening.

Fr. John Keeler +

REMEMBER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME STARTS MARCH 8!

Fr. John Turns 70



On Sunday February 15, St. Alban's members surprised Fr. John Keeler with a birthday coffee hour in the parish hall before church. Mary Randall supplied a chocolate cake, and Debra Romine made cinnamon buns. Nineteen parishioners showed up to celebrate the occasion.



From the Minutes of the Feb. 16 Vestry Meeting

Motion was made and seconded to move the money willed to the church by Arnold Oglesby, which had previously been determined to be unrestricted, into the Merrill Lynch investment fund. Vestry approved the motion unanimously.

Mr. Duke and Mr. Jenkins presented wardens' reports. Mr. Duke greased the bell housing and eliminated the squeak. Mr. Jenkins noted the granite bench in memory of Marcia Jenkins will be installed before April 5. He will present some designs for the vestry to decide on.

Mrs. Seymour asked that Mrs. Keeler find out what SafeHouse Ministries' greatest needs are; Episcopal Charities did not provide any funding for the ministry for 2014, and the number of people who have sought help from SafeHouse has nearly doubled in the last year.

Discussion took place about what sort of meal/refreshments to provide when Bishop Don A. Wimberly visits on March 15. It was agreed that Fr. John will get in touch with Renee Hunt and get a price for an estimated thirty people.

Discussion took place about the kitchen remodeling. Mr. Romine has asked for a new quote from Jason Brady for a full upgrade to include opening the serving window, redoing cabinets, replacing sink, moving the old refrigerator, and adding new appliances. The cost is estimated at about \$12,000; over half the cost has been pledged. Mr. Jenkins suggested also using the money bequeathed to the church by Arnold Oglesby and dedicating the new kitchen to the memory of Arnold and Virginia Oglesby. Mr. Romine volunteered to serve as project manager. Motion was made and seconded to proceed with the new kitchen. The vestry approved the motion unanimously.

Vestry decided to resume the fifth Sunday get-togethers for food and fellowship. A potluck dinner after church is planned for March 29, which is also Palm Sunday.



More members of our extended church family. (Left) Michael Tate Hendrix, Mary Randall's youngest great-grandchild (note the hair). (Right) While Lauren Casey, Carole Oglesby's granddaughter, was at the Georgia National Fair at Perry, Ga., she had her photo taken in front of a man on stilts who was dressed like a tree.



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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

Easter Season 2015

In addition to the customary noon service for Ash Wednesday (February 18), St. Alban's joined with the Elberton First Methodist and First Presbyterian churches for a 6:30 p.m. service at the First Methodist Church. The order of service was a combined version of the observances of the three churches, and Fr. John delivered the sermon. Attendance was good (and reviews positive) despite chilly, windy weather.

We attempted a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on February 17, but had to cancel it because of snow and ice threats. The first of five Lenten soup suppers was held on Wednesday February 25 when a surprising number braved snow flurries to eat Debra Romine's delicious Italian wedding soup. We deferred the first video program on the Promised Land until the next soup supper on March 4, when lucky attendees can catch a double-header (the programs, which focus on the journey of the people of Israel from the exodus to crossing the Jordan River, the wandering in the wilderness, are not very long).

Other soup suppers will take place at 6 p.m. on March 11, 18, and 25. Come and bring friends to eat good food and catch up on the wanderings of the Israelites.

Our Palm Sunday service is always a favorite of our congregation with the distribution of the palm branches (from our very own tree), the march into the church, and members taking parts in the Gospel reading. Since Palm Sunday falls on a fifth Sunday this year, the vestry has decided we will meet downstairs after the service for a potluck meal, an added bonus to the day.

Holy Week services will include the stripping of the altar on Maunday Thursday and a Good Friday service, both at 6 p.m. at St. Alban's (also tentative planning is underway for an ecumenical Good Friday service at noon). Then finally Easter Sunday will dawn, and we will celebrate the Resurrection, the event we have been leading up to and waiting for.

