

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Sundays, Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form A). Sunday, Mar. 12, SafeHouse Sunday.

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School

Tuesdays, 11 a.m., Bible Study (except on March 14, when Fr. John visits Magnolia Estates)

Feb. 28, Shrove Tuesday, pancake supper, parish hall, 6 p.m.

March 1, Ash Wednesday. Ecumenical service, First Methodist Church, 7 p.m. Ashes administered at St. Alban's 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. to noon, and 3 to 5 p.m.

Lenten soup suppers, Wednesdays, 6 p.m., March 8, 15, 22, and 29.

Monday, Mar. 13, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

March Birthdays

Mar. 1, Boots Oglesby

Mar. 4, Tammy Clay

Mar. 13, Nicola Britton

Mar. 26, Marilyn Slocumbe

Prayer List

Amy, Belle, Beth, Betty & Richard, Bill, Brooke, David, Diane, Dolores, Don, Elijah, Ellen, James, Millie, Neil, Peyton, Travis, William, and others in our hearts.

Rector's Reflection



In our liturgy for Ash Wednesday, we remember that in the early church great emphasis was placed on the Lenten season. It was a time of preparation through fasting and prayer for members of the church. It was also a time when converts were prepared for baptism at the Easter Vigil.

Lent has always been a special time of preparation, of looking forward, of expectation. A time of self-denial, fasting, prayer, and special reading and meditation on the scriptures. We should look at Lent as a new beginning, a way to put away the old as part of the preparation for the glorious new of Easter. This can be done through self-denial by giving up a pleasure or by examining our lives, our relationships with God and each other.

If we spend time in self-examinations we often come to the very difficult task of forgiveness: forgiving others, forgiving institutions, and forgiving ourselves. It's a good way to begin to put away the things that might be holding us back from the new beginning of Easter that is the end of the journey of this and every Lenten season.

Examining our lives, slowly and carefully, is a good way to accept the invitation the church gives us each year to keep a good and holy Lent.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

From the Minutes of the Feb. 13 Vestry Meeting

Treasurer Robyn Keeler has paid the Georgia annual corporate registration for St. Alban's and changed the names of officers. Charles Duke said that he has the old church computer working, so he will bring it back to the church to be disposed of in a way to be decided later.

Marilyn Slocumbe gave the junior warden's report. Regarding the matter of a microphone for Fr. John, she met with Kevin Long of Long Security, who gave an estimate of \$1,600 for equipment (mike, two speakers, wire, etc.) and labor. Asked for a less expensive option, he recommended a good mike and a portable public address system for \$999. Marilyn also checked with Radio Shack in Royston, but they don't carry such items. Charles Duke made the suggestion that we look into the idea of wireless (battery operated) speakers as possibly a less expensive alternative. When we have a final figure we are aiming for, we can ask the congregation if any of them wish to contribute funds toward this project. Fr. John added that we now have a new thermostat for the church heating/air conditioning system.

Fr. John gave the rector's report. Many small churches are having to make do with part-time clergy and more lay leadership. The Rev. Canon John Thompson-Quartey, Canon for Ministry in the Diocese of Atlanta, has interesting thoughts on this subject and how to keep a congregation vital. The vestry agreed that he should be invited to deliver the sermon at St. Alban's one Sunday and perhaps have lunch with us afterward. Fr. John and Charles Duke both spoke in favor of trying to do more with the Lutherans and Presbyterians in Elberton and with St. Andrew's in Hartwell and Mediator in Washington. Fr. John mentioned a website with good suggestions for small churches: ecfvp.org.

Charles Duke was elected senior warden on a motion by Anne Jaudon, seconded by Louise Martin. Marilyn Slocumbe was elected junior warden on a motion by Charles Duke, seconded by Anne Jaudon.

Fr. John asked if the vestry thought we should have a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Feb. 28. The vestry was in favor. Charles Duke will be in charge of pancakes, and Marilyn Slocumbe will provide sausage.

We will have Lenten soup suppers this year with brief vesper services in place of programs. We should invite guests.

On Ash Wednesday, there will be an ecumenical service at 7 p.m. at First Methodist Church. Fr. John will be distributing ashes at St. Alban's earlier in the day at hours to be stated later.

Louise Martin, Vestry Secretary

Lent and Easter 2017

On Feb. 28 we had our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Fifteen members and guests enjoyed pancakes served up by Charles Duke and an assortment of sausages provided by Marilyn Slocumbe. Marilyn also supplied some Mardi Gras touches with beads for table decorations and two king cakes.

On the following day, Ash Wednesday, ten received ashes from Father John at St. Alban's, and others attended the ecumenical service at the First Methodist Church. The total count at First Methodist was eighty plus.

Next Wednesday, March 8, we will have the first of this year's set of Lenten soup suppers. Instead of programs this year, we will have a brief evening service (evening prayer or compline) before each soup supper. Please come and bring guests.

Palm Sunday is on April 9 this year; Easter Sunday on April 16. We always enjoy our Palm Sunday service with the procession into the church with palm branches and the dramatic reading of the gospel by the congregation. The Easter service is always a joyous occasion.



On Sunday February 26, Don Beitzel of SafeHouse visited at St. Alban's, and during Eucharist he presented Robyn Keeler with flowers and a Barnes & Noble gift certificate in appreciation of her twenty-year service on the SafeHouse board, her chairmanship of the Walkathon committee, and other valuable services. (Robyn almost did not receive the flowers, which were mistakenly delivered to the Lutheran church and had to be tracked down.)

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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

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

Photos from St. Alban's



After Eucharist on a recent Sunday, Mary Randall caught some of the attendees on camera: (from left to right) Katherine Berg, Christine Colbert, Brooke Davis, Michael Pentz, Jeff Pentz, and Randy Shepherd. In front are their friends Jacque, Bear, Scruffy, Mr. Peepers, Gracie, and Rose.



Charles Duke has been at work on the church grounds: (left) a new plot of grass in the old playground area, and (right) daffodils under a tree (and along the front of the church). The daffodils were donated by Mary Randall. This spring Charles is hoping to improve the grounds further. Members can help by donating plants or making monetary contributions.



Robyn Keeler (Top row, far left) and high school classmates at a high school reunion on February 4. The women in that class meet several times a year to catch up and enjoy each other's company.

