

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

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

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Bible Study, Mondays at noon

May 11, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

Work Day, date to be announced

May 31, Fifth Sunday event pending

May 1, St. Philip and St. James, Apostles

May 14, Ascension Day

May 24, Whitsunday, Day of Pentecost

May 31, Trinity Sunday, First Sunday after Pentecost

May Birthdays

Carole Oglesby, May 17

Prayer List

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

Rector's Reflection



The following is from *Forward, Day by Day* for 20 April 2015:

"For several years, my family participated in the program 2 Cents a Meal. We had a small paper bag in the middle of our table, and each of us put two cents in it for every meal. As we placed our coins in the bag, one family member would say: *Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten, to which the rest of the family*

responded, Nor the hope of the poor be taken away. The money was collected quarterly by our church, half of it going to a local soup kitchen and the other to hunger advocacy programs. It was a gentle reminder for us, every time we ate a meal, that others go hungry."

If we all did this every day, at each meal, on the second Sunday of each month we would have some money to put in the SafeHouse barrel in addition to the food items. If each of us put in twenty-five cents a day, the gift would be even larger.

We should still make the effort to go to the grocery store to intentionally shop for food to share with others. This is a good spiritual discipline to keep us mindful of how blessed we are.

I urge you to consider being a part of the hope for the poor at each meal.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler +

Easter Sunday

At the Good Friday Ecumenical service at St. Alban's we were delighted to see 49 Methodists, Lutherans, and Episcopalians filling our pews. Then on Easter Sunday morning 47 men, women, and what seemed like a horde of children appeared at St. Alban's to celebrate the Resurrection and dedicate a bench to the memory of Marcia Jenkins.



From the Minutes of the April 13 Vestry Meeting

Mr. Romine presented the treasurer's report. He noted money had to be taken from reserves again in March, but the utilities expense was down and income was up.

Mr. Duke reported he had changed the chancel lights to lower wattage bulbs to save on the utility bill; Fr. John said the new lights give enough illumination at the altar. Mr. Duke stated he would like to discuss the cleaning situation: the pew cushions are dusty; the carpet needs cleaning. Fr. John said he had seen Montieri vacuuming the pew cushions, but she has said our vacuum cleaner lacks the attachment to deep clean them. Motion was made and seconded to find a reasonably priced, good carpet cleaning service and ask the carpet cleaner to deep clean the pew cushions also. Motion passed unanimously.

Fr. John presented the rector's report. He stated attendance at the Lenten soup suppers and the Good Friday and Easter services had been good; he is still in conversation with the pastors at First Methodist and Holy Trinity Lutheran about future ecumenical services and events.

Fr. John recommended two articles about small churches and for lay people in positions of leadership. He stated the vestry needs to think about their mission and purpose; churches that thrive and prosper need not be large but do need a clear mission and purpose. He noted February 27, 2017, will be the Sunday before his retirement is mandated.

Under old business, construction of the new kitchen began today (April 13). Ms. Seymour stated she will oversee going through the items removed from the old cabinets.

Under new business, the SafeHouse letter from Sue Beitzel about the problem keeping the food bank stocked was presented and discussed. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to make a one-time, extra \$250 donation earmarked for the food bank. At Ms. Seymour's suggestion, Fr. John offered to call Episcopal Charities and find out what process needs to be followed to get financial help from them.

Discussion took place about whether to dig up gravel, spread more dirt, lay sod, and/or pull weeds. Fr. John will talk to Gary Barnett about how much extra he will charge to pull weeds. Mr. Romine and Ms. Seymour stated they will get quotes from two individuals on digging out the gravel and laying sod.

Discussion took place about the final placement of Marcia Jenkins's memorial bench. Mr. Jenkins stated its present placement reflects the wishes of his and Marcia's children, but the final decision will be the vestry's.

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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

Kitchen Renovation

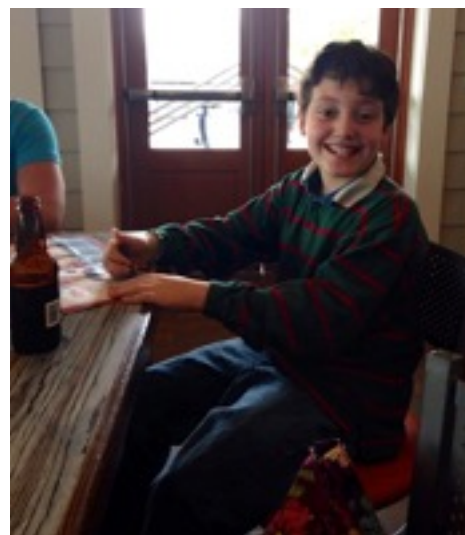
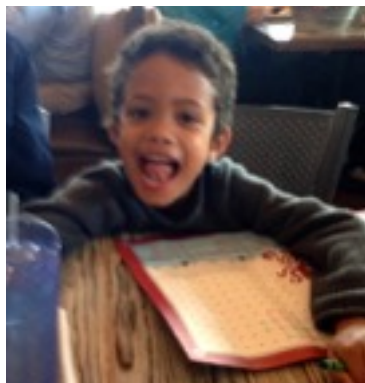


B.R. (Before
Renovation), left,
and A.R. (After
Renovation),
below

Come in and see the
changes for yourself.
The old refrigerator is
still around but will be
used only for flowers.
We have a dishwasher
for the first time, and
the new stove is
electric.



Thomas and Marty Barclay seem
to like their new home and
school in Richmond Hill. We
were glad to see them and their
parents at St. Alban's at Easter.



NetsforLife® Update

From April 23, 2015, press release

In 2014, Episcopal Relief & Development's *NetsforLife*® doubled the number of long-lasting insecticidal nets distributed since the program's inception in 2006, helping to bring malaria protection to new communities and replace worn-out nets from previous distribution.

Between 2006 and 2013, trained local volunteers known as Malaria Control Agents (MCAs) delivered and installed 11.3 million nets across sub-Saharan Africa. In 2014 alone, MCAs in twelve countries promoted and tracked the installation of more than 10.6 million nets—double last year's goal—bringing the total to almost 22 million.

"The key to *NetsforLife*®'s success is working through Anglican Communion and other faith groups to train a network of skilled, committed volunteers who educate and equip their communities to prevent malaria," said Shaun Walsh, *NetsforLife*®'s Senior Director. "Since 2006, the program has trained an amazing 111,000 volunteers in countries across sub-Saharan Africa, who have collectively reached more than 41 million people in some of the most remote areas on the globe. Our evidence-based approach has reduced malaria cases by up to 45 percent in participating communities, leading five countries to adopt the *NetsforLife*®'s hang-up approach as national net distribution policy."

The *NetsforLife*® methodology, implemented in collaboration with host governments and through faith-based networks, has three parts: education, installation, and follow-up. Communities select MCAs to receive training on key prevention and awareness-raising methods and MCAs deliver targeted malaria messaging before, during, and after net distribution in order to maintain a "net culture" where nets are valued and their use is the norm. Periodic follow-up visits, to check the condition of the nets and gather information on potential or confirmed malaria cases, help ensure that the nets are maintained or replaced as necessary in order to sustain the gains made so far against the deadly disease.

"It used to be that a child died every thirty seconds from malaria, and now it is down to one every minute, but that still means more than 430,000 preventable child deaths—and 90 percent of these are in Africa," and Gifty Tetch, Strategic Outreach Officer for *NetsforLife*®. "We need sustained efforts to ensure that malaria does not regain any footing, so to improve child health more broadly MCAs in several countries are already including general health checks when they visit homes to see about the nets. Thanks to *NetsforLife*®, an estimated 112,235 children are alive today who would have died from malaria, and I am excited that our volunteers are seeing larger opportunities to help families keep their little ones growing strong."

Episcopal Relief in Nepal

From Web statement of April 27, 2015

Episcopal Relief & Development is working with the ecumenical ACT Alliance in Nepal and local partners in northern India and southwest China regarding urgent needs and assessment efforts following the 7.8-magnitude earthquake that struck near Kathmandu on the morning of April 25.

The earthquake was centered east of Nepal's capital, near the town of Pokhara, though the initial quake and subsequent aftershocks were felt as far away as Pakistan, more than eight hundred miles away. The death toll reported late April 27 exceeds 3,900, including seventeen who died in an avalanche on Mt. Everest, with the number expected to rise over the coming days. Due to the rough terrain and isolated nature of communities in Nepal and across the Himalayas, search and rescue efforts are being carried out on foot and by helicopter. Communications are still down across wide areas of the region, further hampering assessment and rescue efforts.

"The mountain communities that we suspect are in most need of help are also the hardest to get to, accessible only by foot under normal circumstances," said Nagulan Nesiah, ER&D's Senior Program Officer for Disaster Response and Risk Reduction. "Getting assessment teams there to gather information will be a challenge, as will transporting the relief supplies that are needed so urgently."

Responding to immediate needs for food, clean water and shelter, as well as the need for accurate information through on-the-ground assessment, Episcopal Relief & Development will support ACT Alliance efforts implemented through a partner office in Kathmandu. The ACT Alliance works in coordination with major international groups such as UN OCHA to maximize efficiency and impact of aid, mobilizing local networks to reach remote areas.

ER&D is in contact with the Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia regarding support for the work of the Deanery of Nepal, part of the Diocese of Singapore. The organization may also support other partners in the region including CASA, the humanitarian arm of the National Council of Churches in India, and the Amity Foundation, an independent Christian organization in China.

"It is a frightening time, with so many homes and buildings already destroyed and the threat of aftershocks causing others to collapse," said Abigail Nelson, ER&D's Senior Vice President of Programs. "People need spiritual support as they try to keep their families safe, or find and save those who are missing. We urge prayers for all those impacted by the quake, and for those who are bringing relief, support, and encouragement to people in need."

Please donate to the Nepal Earthquake Response Fund on the Web at www.episcopalrelief.org, by telephone (855-312-4325), or by U.S. mail (P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058).