

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form B through Trinity Sunday, Form C on May 29). May 1, Morning Prayer. May 8, SafeHouse Sunday

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., vestry room (no Sunday School on May 1)

Bible Study, Monday noon, vestry room

May 9, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m., vestry room

May 2, St. Philip & St. James, Apostles

May 15, Day of Pentecost

May 22, Trinity Sunday

May 31, Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

June 19, Bishop Whitmore's visit

May Birthdays

Carole Oglesby, May 17

Prayer List

Betty & Richard, Bill, Brad, Carole, Diane, Dolores, Ethan, Michael, Mike, Mike T., Paula, William, and others in our hearts. *Prayers for departed:* Lonnie J. Blackwell Sr., Pat Durkee

Rector's Reflection



We're close to the end of the Great Fifty days of Easter. It's a time when we've asked ourselves, "What are we going to do with the events we're celebrating and the commandment we've been given?" Maybe you know and are in the process of doing, but maybe you are still struggling with what God is calling you to do. Either way probably the best thing to do is to pray.

We talk a lot about prayer in our church. We use numerous prayers in our liturgies. We have a prayer list. We pray for those who ask for prayers on the internet. These are all good things, but is prayer a part of our lives?

St. Paul says to "pray without ceasing." Jesus got up early in the morning to pray. What they are getting at is that it is through prayer that we talk to God, and it is through talking to God that we build a relationship. This can be done as a community as well as individually.

We should also pray for ourselves, those we care about, and the world not so much as we see them but as God sees them.

To pray with the request that God's will be done, we need to pray and be quiet so that we are open to what God might say to us, what directive God has for our lives. If you struggle with what God wants you to do or if you need more refined direction, pray.

Fr. John Keeler+

Trip to Holy Land Planned

Fr. John and the Rev. Joe Watson, pastor at Elberton First Methodist Church, are planning a 10-day trip to the Holy Land next year (February 21 to March 2, 2017). Fr. John says, "I am very excited about this opportunity"; he hopes others will be excited about it, too.

Brochures with full tour information are available from St. Alban's (109 Brookside Drive, tel. 706-283-4563). The itinerary includes the famous sites associated with Jesus' life: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, the Jordan River, Nazareth, the Sea of Galilee, etc. At Tel Megiddo (Armageddon) view one of the most important archaeological sites in Israel, and see Caesarea, a center of the early Christians. View the ruins of Jericho, the city conquered by Joshua, and Qumran, where the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. Explore the poignant exhibits of Yad Vasem, Israel's Holocaust Memorial. For an additional charge, visit Masada and the Dead Sea.

The price for the trip starts at \$2,998, which includes the basic tour and guided sightseeing, roundtrip airfare from New York, fuel surcharges and government taxes, gratuities and fees, daily buffet breakfast and dinner, deluxe motor coaches, first-class hotels, and much more. **Register early and save: save \$100 if you register by May 21, 2016; save \$75 if you register by June 21, 2016; save \$50 if you register by July 21, 2016; and save \$25 if you register by Aug. 21, 2016.**

Trip extensions include "Cairo and the Route of the Exodus" for \$848 (March 2-7, 2017), "Nile Cruise" for \$1,698 (March 2-9, 2017), and "Hiking in the Holy Land" for \$948 (March 2-6, 2017).

Vestry Minutes from April 11 Meeting

Minutes taken by Charles Romine, Treasurer, in absence of Robyn Keeler, Secretary

Fr. John started the meeting and was upset and spoke on two topics: (1) memorial bench, an issue upsetting the entire church; and (2) wedding of Natasha and Tammy at St. Alban's, also an issue that is upsetting some in the church. He did leave after speaking and left it up to the vestry to decide on these two issues and let him know face to face. It was decided by the vestry to let Steve deliver any and all messages to John.

The budget was approved (motion Debra, second Steve). A lot of discussion followed about the bench. There was a motion to place the bench back where it was taken from (Suzanne, second Marilyn). Unanimous.

A lot of discussion followed about the marriage. Suzanne made a motion to allow John to perform the marriage at St. Alban's (second Louise). Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Treasurer's Report, 1st Quarter 2016 (as of April 11)

Balance Sheet 2016				
	January	February	March	April
INCOME				
Contributions	2,965.00	3,497.89	4,001.10	1,915.00
Compare 2015	3,762.00	3,080.00	4,223.20	4,211.00
Reserves				
INCOME TOTALS	2,965.00	3,497.89	4,001.10	1,915.00
EXPENSES				
Altar Expense				
Altar Florals	114.00	80.90		157.79
Building Expenses	39.00	39.00	39.00	
Chamber of Commerce				
Church Insurance	673.00		128.00	673.00
Corporation Registration	85.00			
Council Expenses				
Diocesan Pledge	600.42	600.42	600.42	600.42
Lawn		37.50	250.00	125.00
Office Supplies	355.00	220.39	255.10	275.81
Safehouse	150.00	265.00	100.00	100.00
Qtrly Taxes SS				335.07
Postage/Bcx Fee			98.00	84.00
Rector Expense	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
Rector Housing Allowance	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
Church Outreach	385.20	26.80		
Rector's Gifts				
Rector's Pension Fund	1,474.74			
Rector's Rotary Dues				
Supply Priest/Organist				
Utilities	350.53	596.91	512.58	301.99
Rector	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00
Secretary	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Oganist	150.00	120.00	120.00	120.00
Sexton	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Website Expense	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	7,757.89	5,367.92	5,484.10	6,154.08
EXPENSE TOTALS 2015	8,459.82	6,391.04	5,747.38	7,184.68
FUND BALANCES				
MEMORIAL FUND	6,790.98	6,790.98	6,821.04	
MERRILL LYNCH G/F	193,715.55	192,749.31	198,563.57	
DIOCESE COMMON FUND	28,579.26	28,887.28	29,378.44	
DISCRETIONARY FUND	753.98	753.98	753.98	
Checking Balance	11,265.16	8,370.13	7,636.32	

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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

Marilyn Slocumbe,
Jr. Warden

Louise Martin

Suzanne Moore

Debra Romine

Robyn Keeler, vestry
secretary

Charles Romine,
treasurer

St. Alban's Snaps



Nancy Seymour took this photo at the cathedral in
Atlanta on Easter Sunday.



On the weekend of April 15 to 17, Nancy and Joel Seymour attended the Rotary District 6910 conference in Savannah. Here they are shown with Leon Jourolmon III and his wife Jeannie, Leon Jourolmon IV and his wife Bonnie, and Joe and Julie Watson.

Arlene Whitlow having fun with great-granddaughter Laya at her first birthday party.



Pat Durkee, aged 92, died in Hartwell on April 22. He was an active member of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Hartwell, where he served in many capacities including editor of the weekly *Antiphon*.

Lonnie Blackwell (1932-2016)

Mr. Lonnie Jenkins Blackwell Sr. was born October 13, 1932, in Hartwell to the late Arthur and Genevieve Blackwell. He peacefully departed his earthly life and joined his parents and five brothers in eternity on April 11, 2016, at St. Mary's Hospital, Athens.

In early childhood Lonnie joined Sardis Baptist Church where he faithfully served his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He was chairman of the deacon board for many years and served in several other capacities until his health began to decline. . . .

He graduated Hart County schools, served in the U.S. military, and attended technical school in Savannah, where he also lived for a few years. Upon returning to Georgia, Lonnie met and married his devoted wife of nearly sixty years, Betty Jo Wall Highsmith, on July 17, 1956.

Lonnie was employed by the Southeastern Power Administration (SEPA), Department of Energy, and worked as a clerk. He retired in 1994 and later worked as a bailiff for the Elbert County Court System. . . .He was a member of the Iron Men, The Brotherhood, Neighborhood Watch, where he served as president, Community Aid Club, and Elbert County chapter of NAACP.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories his wife, Mrs. Betty J. Blackwell; six children: Monteary (Hamp) Almond (Elberton), Gwendolyn A. Blackwell (Athens), Connie J. Blackwell (Augusta), Lonnie J. Blackwell Jr. (Lincolnton), Phyllis Y. Highsmith (Elberton), and Dwight L. Highsmith (Easley, S.C.); . . . ; twelve grandchildren; sixteen great-grandchildren,; . . . ; and his beloved pet "Smooch Blackwell" of the home.



Lonnie Blackwell was sexton at St. Alban's for forty-five years. In this photo, taken on August 3, 2014, he is shown receiving from Fr. John a certificate of appreciation for his long service at St. Alban's. Seated beside him is his daughter Monteary Almond, who succeeded him as sexton.

