

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic prayer will be Form B until Nov. 29, the **first Sunday in Advent**, when it changes to Form A.) **All Saints Day** catered lunch, Nov. 1 after service. SafeHouse Sunday, Nov. 8. Nov. 15, sermon by Charles Romine. Nov. 22 & 29, collection for Appleton Ministries

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m., vestry rm

Bible Study, Monday noon, vestry rm

20th Annual SafeHouse Walkathon, Nov. 7, starts from Elberton square

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

Annual Diocesan Council, Nov. 13 and 14, Gwinnett Center

Nov. 26, Thanksgiving Day

Dec. 6, Lessons and Carols, First Methodist Church, 6 p.m.

November Birthdays

Herschel Atkinson, Nov. 1; Charles Romine, Nov. 5; Anne Jaudon, Nov. 7; Henry Jaudon, Nov. 23; Suzanne Moore, Nov. 28

Prayer List

Betty & Richard, Brian, Debra, Dolores, Jackie, Jaxon, Pat, and others in our hearts. *Prayers for* departed: Martha Aston Pool, Kathren Pawliski

Rector's Reflection



The new presiding bishop, Michael Curry, has some interesting ideas for the Episcopal Church. He thinks that the way we have always done things will not be enough in the twenty-first century. He sees change and challenge as a positive, rather than a negative, and there is a feeling of joy and optimism in his speaking and writing. The following are some of Bishop Curry's ideas taken from an interview with him on October 15 of this year.

Bishop Curry sees church as a continuation of a movement rather than an institution. It is the movement started by Jesus. He sees all of us as missionaries. He means not just spreading the word, but making a difference in the world—going out in the world and being the presence of Christ. He sees us as being institutional in what we do and who we are.

Curry sees this movement as a cultural shift for our church, our country, our world. He sees us being truly universal and profoundly inclusive. He sees us as a community built around our baptismal vows and following the teachings of Jesus. Curry is very clear that this movement will be shaped by us, together.

He has said this is not The Michael Curry Show, but The Episcopal Hour.

I think it's an exciting time to be a Christian and an exciting time to be an Episcopalian. There are copies of the interview with Bishop Curry in the rector's office and with our parish administrator.

Fr. John Keeler

Fifth Sunday Dinner on First Sunday

On November 1, St. Alban's members enjoyed an All Saints dinner in the parish hall after the Eucharist. We would normally have had a fifth Sunday dinner the last Sunday in November, but since Thanksgiving falls at the end of the month, the vestry decided it would be better to have a communal meal on the first Sunday instead.

Renee Hunt catered the meal, and twenty-one went through the food line and ate. We had roast beef, a delicious green salad with fruit mixed in, a broccoli casserole, lima beans, rolls, and banana pudding—plus a sheet cake in honor of the saints and Herschel Atkinson, whose birthday it was.

We all had a good time eating and conversing with one another. I, for one, am going to check my calendar right away and see when the next fifth Sunday is.

Blessing of the Animals

Fr. John obviously had a good time helping out at the Blessing of the Animals held at Hartwell's St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on October 11 from 3 to 5. Mostly dogs (of every size and description) showed up to be blessed. The Blessing of the Animals was preceded by an appropriate liturgy and a singing of every verse of *All Things Bright and Beautiful*.



From the Minutes for the October 12 Vestry Meeting

Charles Romine presented the treasurer's report for August and September. He noted that reserves were used in August and that the diocesan common fund decreased in value due to market fluctuation.

Fr. John presented the rector's report. He reported on several of his activities and gave dates of future events: October 25, a pre-Council meeting of the convocation from 3 to 5 p.m. at Emmanuel in Athens; November 1, Fr. Herschel Atkinson's ninetieth birthday and All Saints' Day; November 7, the SafeHouse Walkathon and Elberton's Fall Festival; November 13-14, Diocesan Annual Council; December 6, Lessons and Carols jointly with First Methodist. He mentioned a Kanuga conference February 19-21 on church leadership and stated if anyone in the congregation is interested in participating, he would like for the vestry to consider paying part of the fee. He also asked for program suggestions for Lenten soup suppers and said he will review a video series about the Episcopal Church which might be a tool for evangelism for non-Episcopal guests.

The vestry decided to have an All Saints' Day brunch on November 1 following the service.

Under old business, Charles Duke stated he got a bid from Tony's Electric for rewiring. The Hawes family are still interested in donating to have this done.

Fr. John will contact Jason Brady about the repair of the sacristy ceiling.

The relocation of the Marcia Jenkins memorial bench has been delayed by rainy weather and soggy ground but will be accomplished as soon as possible.

Robyn Keeler, Vestry secretary

Kiev Symphony

On October 21 at 7 p.m. the Kiev Symphony Chorus and Orchestra under the direction of Wes Janzen gave a performance at the First Baptist Church in Elberton. Several of us attended and enjoyed the program, which was mostly vocal music this time (they have been to Elberton on several of their tours). The repertoire ranged from American spirituals to Ukrainian folk songs, and in their performance of Handel's *Messiah* the singers changed language from English into Russian and then Ukrainian.

Music Mission Kiev has almost completed its current two-month tour through the United States "to bring glory to God and point people to the Lord Jesus Christ" and to give Americans the opportunity to assist them with prayer and financial support. Since the Russian invasion of the Crimea, the Ukraine has been in turmoil, and Music Mission Kiev has been doing what it can for those in need, particularly widows, orphans, and veterans. More information is available on their website: www.musicmissionkiev.org. Their U.S. address is Music Mission Kiev, 286 Wilshire Blvd., Casselberry, FL 32707 (office telephone 1-800-467-5051).

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St. Alban's Episcopal
Church
109 Brookside Drive
Elberton, GA 30635

Website: [www.stalbans-
elberton.org](http://www.stalbans-elberton.org)

Tel.: 706-283-4563

Email:
stalbens@elberton.net

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

If Walls Could Talk . . .

If the walls of Montgomery, Alabama's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and parsonage could talk, they would have a lot of interesting stories to tell. The church was founded in 1877 in a slave trader's pen, and the current red brick church building was constructed between 1883 and 1889. It has served the black community of Montgomery for many years. A young Martin Luther King was pastor there from 1954 until 1960 and directed the Montgomery bus boycott of 1956 from his office in the lower part of the church. In 1965, the Selma to Montgomery marchers passed the church on their way to the state capitol, only a short distance away and visible from the sidewalk in front of the church. Tours of the church are offered, and visitors are welcome at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service.



The parsonage, slightly farther away in a different direction, was home to ten pastors of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and their families from 1920 to 1992. In 2003 it was restored to look much as it did when Martin Luther King lived there. He and his wife, Coretta Scott King, were newlyweds when they moved in, and their two oldest children were born there. Most of the furniture now in the house furnished it during the Kings' time there. As you step onto the front porch, you can still see damage where a bomb exploded one night. Around the dining room table, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference was conceived, and the study was added to the house during the late fifties so that Dr. King would have a quiet place for meetings and study. In the Interpretive Center, a film is available for viewing; and a small backyard Garden for Reflection invites visitors to reflect on six themes taught by Dr. King: equality, forgiveness, hope, peace, understanding, and unity.



