

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Sundays, Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form C until Nov. 27, when Form A). Nov. 6, Morning Prayer led by Natasha Clay. Nov. 13, SafeHouse Sunday

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, continuing a discussion of *The Gospel According to Sam: Animal Stories for the Soul* by William Miller

Mondays, noon, Bible Study, the Book of Genesis

Nov. 5, annual SafeHouse Walkathon

Nov. 14, vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

Nov. 18-19, 2016 Diocesan Council, College Park, Ga.

Nov. 1, All Saints Day

Nov. 20, Christ the King

Nov. 24, Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 27, First Sunday of Advent

November Birthdays

Nov. 1, Herschel Atkinson

Nov. 28, Suzanne Moore

Prayer List

Amy, Anna, Belle, Betty & Richard, Bill, David, Diane, Dolores, Don, Elijah, Fred, Jimmie, Ozzie, Rebecca, Tonia, William, and others in our hearts.

Prayers for the departed: Cindy Bragg, Kim Whitlow Candido, Truett Smith, and others in our hearts.

Rector's Reflection



We celebrate All Saints Day the first of November. It's the day in our calendar when all the saints of the church are remembered and honored. We have lots of saints. They go back to the original apostles and those that came in contact with Jesus—some only briefly, like Veronica and Cornelius.

We know very little about some of the saints from the early centuries of the church, and what has come down to us is probably not true. If some of the stories are factual, they may well be composites of several lives.

We know more about the saints from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We know when they were born, what they did, and when they died. We celebrate and remember all of them on All Saints Day.

What does it mean to be a saint? There's more to it than being in a book or on a calendar. A good answer to the question is in the last verse of our hymn, "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." Saints are people like us. They're people who have faith, people who perform acts of kindness, people who seek to know Jesus, people who make the decision to "be one too."

We've been given lots of examples, and new ones are added every year. Our job is to be like them.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

Blessing of Animals

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On Oct. 2, Fr. John joined the Rev. Susan Louttit-Hardaway, rector of St. Andrew's, Hartwell, in providing a blessing of animals service for pets and their owners. The weather was fair and attendance good. Fr. John was happy that he did not have to lay hands on any spiders or snakes.

The Rev. Susan Louttit-Hardaway blessing Bear, a service dog. Bear's handler, Brooke Davis, observes.



Bear seems happy with the occasion. This was her second blessing of the day. She and companions Scruffy and Jack had already been blessed at the morning Eucharist at St. Alban's.

Church Meetings Past and Future



On Sept. 26-28, Fr. John Keeler and Fr. Herschel Atkinson, together with other priests from the Diocese of Atlanta, attended this year's Presbyters conference at Rock Eagle. Fr. Herschel is easy to spot on the left end of the bottom row; Fr. John is harder to find. Look for the center of the group and let your eyes wander a bit to the right.

On Nov. 18-19 the yearly Diocesan Council will meet in College Park. St. Alban's will be represented by our priests Fr. John and Fr. Herschel and by lay delegates Natasha Clay and Robyn Keeler. Next year's Council will be held in Gainesville and hosted by the Northeast Georgia Convocation, of which St. Alban's is a member. Our convocation last hosted the Council in 2004.

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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

Vestry

Steve Jenkins, Sr. Warden

Marilyn Slocumbe,
Jr. Warden

Louise Martin, sec.

Suzanne Moore

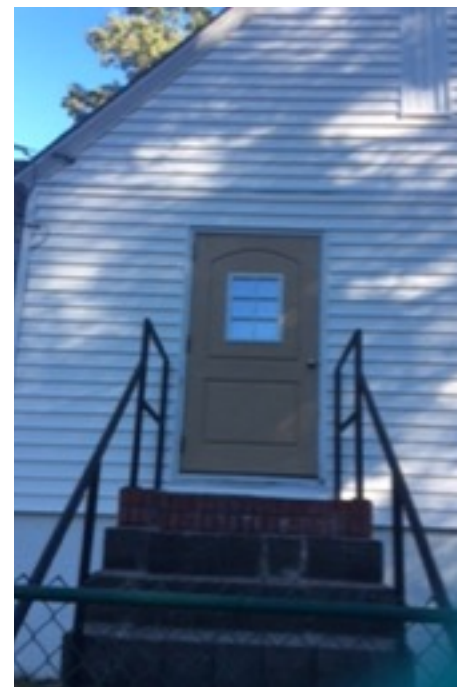
Robyn Keeler and Anne
Jaudon, co-treasurers

St. Alban's Photos



Danielle
Keeler with
escort at
Oglethorpe
County
Homecoming

The vestry recently voted to replace the decaying outer door in the robing area. Charles Duke has installed a new door (see photo at right), which will be painted white. He also has been working in the fenced-in area between the church and the parking lot. Gravel has been dug up and replaced by new grass and a covering of straw. Early next year the vestry will need to decide on the next step for that part of the grounds. Suggestions are welcome.



Busy October

Fr. John has had a busy October. In addition to his usual duties as rector of St. Alban's, he has been teaching two psychology classes at Athens Technical College (Elbert County campus) this fall, and on October 21, at a dedication ceremony, he blessed the renamed Bryan Segars Public Safety Training Center at the college. It will serve the purpose of training EMTs and paramedics.



Also, on October 22 he performed a marriage ceremony for Mark Gaffney and Joyce Lewis at Graduate Athens. Following the ceremony, the newlyweds flew to Cancun, Mexico, for their honeymoon.



