

# SANCTUARY

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

## October Calendar

Sundays, Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m.  
(Eucharistic Prayer Form C). Oct. 22,  
Morning Prayer

Sundays, 9:30 a.m., Sunday school  
(discussing current events). No  
Sunday School on Oct. 22

Sunday, October 8, SafeHouse  
Sunday

Sunday, October 8, vestry meeting  
after Eucharist

Sunday, October 29, brief service and  
dinner at church, 5 p.m.

Mondays, noon, Bible study (studying  
Exodus)

## October Birthdays

Oct. 20, Dolores Jefferson

## Prayer List

Betty and Richard, Elijah, Holman,  
Mary, Mary S., Matthew, Ray and  
Dolores, those impacted by the  
hurricanes, and others in our hearts

## Rector's Reflection



The past week I have been watching the Ken Burns documentary about the Vietnam war. It's very well done, showing scenes and interviews from the war itself and from the United States. It's well done, but it's brought back a lot of feelings and memories that I'd thought were safely put away and properly and safely buried.

I thought about what William Faulkner said about the past: "The past is never dead. It's not even past." We're doing a lot in America right now with the past, with debates over statues and the proper stance for the national anthem. Maybe that's a good thing, but not just to deal with symbols but to really talk about what the symbols mean, what they represented and what they represent: To talk about these in light of God's grace and God's love for all of us. To let a new light shine on them in a spirit of our shared humanity. To repent where we need to, to forgive where we need to, to realize that those who came before us were flawed human beings, like us, who tried to do the best they could with the abilities they had. To look at them with truth and grace and try to do better. Things don't stay safely and properly buried. The past isn't.

*Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+*

## *From September 10 Vestry Minutes*

Charles Duke gave the senior warden's report. He has replaced all the vent filters. Armour Tree Services has been contacted for an estimate to deal with a tree touching the church roof shingles. Marilyn Slocumbe suggested we should get a second estimate from Chris' Tree Service. Mike Carroll has been called to look at a furnace vent that is rusted out and probably needs to be replaced. In the churchyard Charles has tried to reseed the old playground area.

Fr. John gave the rector's report. In addition to his usual round of church duties, he has resumed teaching for Athens Tech. He and Fr. Herschel Atkinson attended a Clericus meeting last week. The Northeast Georgia convocation will be split in two. We will be in a convocation, still to be named, composed of the churches south of I-85. Dann Brown will be dean of that new convocation. Fr. Herschel and Fr. John also attended the installation of Susan Louttit-Hardaway as rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Hartwell, and they will attend a clergy conference at Rock Eagle on September 18-19. Fr. John will also be away this fall on September 24 and October 22; the vestry agreed to have morning prayer those two Sundays. The Annual Council will be on November 9-11. Natasha Clay is going as verger, and Tammy Clay and Louise Martin will be delegates.

Under old business, Charles thinks it would be useful to get a group of members together to review investments periodically to make sure the church is getting the best return possible. Another item of business was the letter of agreement with Fr. John, which will end at the end of February 2018. Anne Jaudon moved to extend the agreement another year, and Suzanne Moore seconded the motion. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

At the August meeting the vestry agreed on a late-afternoon get-together at the church on October 29. The time will be 5 p.m. for a brief service (like Compline) followed by fellowship and a simple evening meal in the parish hall.

Under new business Fr. John brought up the fact that Christmas Eve will fall on a Sunday this year. The question was whether to have a regular Eucharist in the morning and a Christmas Eve service in early evening or just to have a Christmas Eve service. The vestry decided on the two services.

*Louise Martin, Vestry secretary*

## *ER&D: Hurricane Relief in Georgia and Florida*

*The following is excerpted from a September 14, 2017, press release.*

Episcopal Relief & Development is providing emergency assistance in affected dioceses in Georgia and Florida, while continuing to support partners in the Caribbean in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. In partnership with the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia, Episcopal Relief & Development is providing critical support to low income residents as well as other vulnerable groups, including children, youth, seniors, and those with special needs, living in Camden, Glynn, McIntosh, and Chatham counties. Residents will receive gift cards to help purchase food, clothing, bedding, medical supplies, gas for transportation, and materials for repairs and rebuilding. Housing and rental assistance are also being given to those displaced by the storm while others will receive building supplies and tools, moving supplies, transportation, and tarps. In addition, the diocese is supporting general cleanup efforts with local crews and coordinating the securing and moving of property with local officials, community leaders, and volunteers.

The Diocese of Georgia posted a message from the bishop on its website. "We're thankful to Episcopal Relief & Development for their rapid response to our urgent need for funds to help those who have crucial needs in our communities," said Bishop Scott Anson Benhase of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. "The funds they've provided, along with funds given locally, will allow us to 'love our neighbor' in very concrete and practical ways. Love is an action verb, not merely a state of being. We're striving to make our love active."

ER&D is also working with the Episcopal Diocese of Florida through an existing ministry within the diocese, Church Without Walls, to provide tents, bedding, clothing, and personal items for 150 homeless individuals who lost their belongings in the storm. Through the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida, the organization is offering gift cards, cleanup supplies, and shelter for impacted residents and disaster recovery crews. In partnership with the Diocese of Southeast Florida, ER&D is supplying support for food, bedding, hygiene items, and other critical items for vulnerable families, the homeless, seniors, youth, and children.

"Our daily communications with impacted dioceses have been essential to assessing local needs and how best to help our partners in the initial relief phase," notes Katie Mears, Director of the U.S. Disaster Team. "We have early check-in calls which enables us to stay on top of any new developments or challenges."

*If you wish to contribute toward the work of ER&D, you may do so by telephone (855-312-4325), at the website [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org), or by U.S. mail (ER&D, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058).*

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Jr. Warden  
Natasha Clay  
Anne Jaudon  
Louise Martin, sec.  
Suzanne Moore  
Robyn Keeler and Anne  
Jaudon, co-treasurers

## *October 29 Get-together*

We have frequently had church dinners after the Eucharist on fifth Sundays, but for the upcoming fifth Sunday in October (Oct. 29) we are planning something a bit different. There will be a short service (like Compline) at 5 p.m. followed by a period of fellowship and dinner in the parish hall. Guests will be welcome.

Please notify Anne Jaudon (706-283-3176 or 706-988-1165) or Marilyn Slocumbe (706-283-5979 or 706-988-9234) if you will be coming and how many there will be in your party. They need to know how many to prepare for.

## *New Convocation to Be Formed*

Fr. John reports from the annual diocesan council that the Northeast Convocation, of which St. Alban's is a part, will be divided into two new convocations, with I-85 to be the dividing line. The names for the new convocations have not been decided yet, but Dann Brown will be the dean of the convocation to which we will belong.

Fr. John says this division has been discussed for probably twenty years. In a smaller convocation, meetings will be much more convenient since he will not have to travel as far.

## *St. Michael and All Angels (Sept. 29)*

This year the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels fell on Sept. 29. In scripture, the word "angel" means Messenger. Messengers from God can be visible or invisible and may assume human or nonhuman form. The Bible mentions that angels appeared to Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Job, Hagar, and many others in many places; but only four are named: Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael. Of the archangels, the chief is Michael, whose name means "who is like God." The Archangel Michael is the powerful agent of God who wards off evil from God's people and delivers peace to them at the end of life's earthly journey.





