

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Holy Eucharist, 10:30 a.m. (Eucharistic Prayer Form C). Sept. 4, Rite 1 Eucharist. Sept. 11, SafeHouse Sunday

Sept. 11, 9:30 a.m., Sunday School resumes with discussion of *The Gospel According to Sam: Animal Stories for the Soul* by William Miller (used, inexpensive copies available on Amazon if desired)

Sept. 12, noon, Bible Study resumes with study of the Book of Genesis

Sept. 12, vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

Sept. 14, Holy Cross Day

Sept. 21, St. Matthew, Apostle & Evangelist

Sept. 29, St. Michael & All Angels

September Birthdays

Sept. 1, David Hagins

Sept. 2, Charles Duke

Sept. 15, Joel Seymour

Sept. 28, Bob Slocumbe

Prayer List

Amy, Belle, Ben, Betty & Richard, Bill, Bob, David, Diane, Dolores, Don, Jenny, Kirby, Nancy, Ozzie, Pam, Wil, and others in our hearts. *August departed*: Michael Shilling, Alton Owens, Jr.

Rector's Reflection



We just finished with the summer Olympics. If you were like me, you spent a lot of time watching the various events on TV. You put some things on hold while you watched. You probably saw some sports that you had never seen before.

The Olympics gave us a chance to be thrilled and amazed at what the human body is capable of and how far it can be pushed. I thoroughly enjoyed the games and look forward to the next ones in four years.

The question I have is, Do I learn anything from spending two weeks watching sports on TV? I learned that when we decide we have a common purpose we can get along, even when the spirit of competition is very strong; that I can cheer for another group that I'm not a part of when they perform really well; that one person stopping to help another finish the race and seeing them cross the finish line together is an image that will stay with me for a long time.

What I learned from the Olympics is that Jesus was right. We can, if we look for a common purpose, work together and accomplish something great. We can care about each other even when we compete. We can stop what we're doing, help someone in need, and still finish the race.

We can live in community with those who are different from us. If it can happen for two weeks, maybe it can happen for longer periods of time. Blessings, *Fr. John Keeler*

SafeHouse Update

Summer is quickly coming to an end. . . . At SafeHouse, we have several projects revolving around us. We are “processing” the excitement of a new office building; we are getting ready for our 21st annual Walk-a-Thon, and we are serving people nonstop.

We are very thankful for the donation of the Coca-Cola property that was given to SafeHouse. We still wish to move all of our current office operations to this facility by the fall. We have begun organizing the lists of things that need to be completed for us to utilize our new office space. We have not yet started physical labor inside the property. Before we can begin construction on the building, we have to secure the property. We have had quotes on fencing, and we are hoping to have the area secured very soon. Once the area is secured, we will need as many volunteers as possible to help with labor. We will need carpet removed, walls repaired from leaks and damage, shelves and partitions built, new doors and locks installed, and outdoor buildings cleaned out for storage. These are just a few of the areas where we will need help.

Most important, we are looking for a project manager who is skilled in repairs who would donate time to help us begin these projects. Once we have a project manager, we will be able to properly estimate the cost of repairs and begin writing grants for additional funding. This is a long list of “needs,” but we know that God is able. . . .

Although we are very busy preparing for our new facility, we cannot neglect that it is almost time for the 21st annual SafeHouse Walk-a-Thon. This fundraiser is a vital part of support for SafeHouse, and we are so excited to continue the walk this year. The walk will be on Saturday, November 5, 2016. It is never too early to sign up or mark your calendars for this fun event. If you are interested in corporate sponsorship or walking this year, please contact our office at 706.213.7657. We will begin our mail-out for this event in the next month. We hope to have a record year of support for the 21st Walk.

SafeHouse offers short-term emergency shelter to those in need. We are always taking in new clients and even making referrals when we are at full capacity. The summer season has been no different for us. We are busy servicing individuals for housing and also constantly refilling our food pantry. On average we service about 100 families per month with food. The food pantry is open to an individual or family in need. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 10 to 12 and 1 to 3. We love to help people in need. We love to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Sue Beitzel, Director

From the Vestry Minutes of August 8

Fr. John presented the rector's report about his continuing activities at St. Alban's and in the community. In addition to ongoing activities, he is under consideration for an adjunct teaching job at Athens Tech, which will afford the opportunity to meet more young people. He stated he has not yet received approval from the diocese of the request to extend his contract beyond retirement in February 2017.

There were no wardens' reports.

Under new business, Robyn Keeler has asked to be relieved of the vestry secretary responsibility while she is functioning as treasurer. Louise Martin volunteered to take this on.

Under old business Fr. John stated delegates to annual council are needed. He will make the announcement to the congregation to see if anyone is interested. No vestry member has been able to commit to council so far.

Fr. John reiterated that Bishop Whitmore is available to meet with the vestry about church growth/revitalization. Steve Jenkins said a dinner at the country club or new hotel when it opens might be a good opportunity for the vestry to meet with Bishop Whitmore.

Possible ways to save money were discussed. (1) Use of high-quality artificial flowers has been suggested again; Fr. John said the vestry needs to talk to the congregation to see how people would feel about this change. (2) Robyn Keeler pointed out the high cost of insurance (workers comp and property & casualty) through The Church Insurance Company, and Fr. John stated he will find out whether Episcopal parishes are required to use this company for coverage. If not, the parish can look for less expensive coverage locally. (3) Fr. John pointed out that the parish will also save money when he reaches age 72 because no further contributions to the pension fund will be made.

Robyn Keeler, vestry secretary



Thanks are due to Robyn Keeler for her faithful and excellent work as vestry secretary for the last several years.

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monthly by

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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
Suzanne Moore

Robyn Keeler, vestry
secretary

Robyn Keeler and Anne
Jaudon, co-treasurers



(Above) Wil,
Jack, and Tara
Keeler



(Above) Boots and Carole
Oglesby's granddaughters
Megan (8) and Lauren (12)
with a baby killdeer. (Right)
Megan holds the bird in her
hands. It seems to know
she's a friend.

2016 Financial Report through July

Balance Sheet 2016							
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
INCOME							
Contributions	2,965.00	3,497.89	4,001.10	3,132.00	4,488.45	3,369.00	3,737.00
Compare 2015	3,762.00	3,080.00	4,223.20	4,211.00	4,189.00	2,923.00	3,419.00
Reserves					10,000.00		
INCOME TOTALS	2,965.00	3,497.89	4,001.10	3,132.00	14,488.45	3,369.00	3,737.00
EXPENSES							
Altar Expense							118.80
Altar Florals	114.00	80.90		157.79	87.50	161.80	92.67
Building Expenses	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	39.00	654.00	
Chamber of Commerce							95.00
Church Insurance	673.00		128.00	673.00			879.00
Corporation Registration	85.00						
Council Expenses							
Diocesan Pledge	600.42	600.42	600.42	600.42	600.42	600.42	600.42
Lawn		37.50	250.00	125.00	125.00	212.50	125.00
Office Supplies	355.00	220.39	255.10	304.81	92.90	117.88	40.00
Safehouse	150.00	265.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	125.00	125.00
Qtrly Taxes SS				335.07			335.07
Postage/Box Fee			98.00	84.00			
Rector Expense	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	700.00	200.00
Rector Housing Allowance	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00	225.00
Church Outreach	385.20	26.80			100.00	375.00	
Rector's Gifts							
Rector's Pension Fund	1,474.74			1,474.74			1,474.74
Rector's Rotary Dues							
Supply Priest/Organist							
Utilities	350.53	595.91	512.58	301.99	283.42	232.25	374.77
Rector	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00	2,306.00
Secretary	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00	350.00
Organist	150.00	120.00	120.00	120.00	150.00	150.00	120.00
Sexton	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00	250.00
Website Expense	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00
EXPENSE TOTALS	7,757.89	5,367.92	5,484.10	7,696.82	4,959.24	6,509.65	7,861.47
EXPENSE TOTALS 2015	8,459.82	6,391.04	5,747.38	7,184.88	5,429.37	5,660.09	7,445.45
FUND BALANCES							
MEMORIAL FUND	6,790.98	6,790.98	6,821.04	6,821.10	6,821.15	6,821.15	
MERRILL LYNCH G/F	193,715.55	192,749.31	198,563.57	199,715.52	189,456.17	190,056.21	192,129.30
DIOCESE COMMON FUND	28,579.26	28,887.28	29,376.44			29,819.19	
DISCRETIONARY FUND	753.98	753.98	753.98	753.98	753.98	753.98	753.98
Checking Balance	11,265.16	8,370.13	7,636.32	3,807.90	13,146.21	10,005.56	5,881.09

Church Cats



A number of St. Alban's members seem to go in for cats as living companions. (Top left) Mary Randall's Miss Kitty; (top right) Carole Coggins's Miss Lilly; (middle left and right and bottom left); Suzanne Moore's Patches, Elmo, and Mojo; (bottom left) Louise Martin's Barry using Bruce as a foot rest.