

SANCTUARY

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

September Calendar

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

Sunday, September 10, 9:30 a.m.,
Sunday school resumes

Sunday, September 10, SafeHouse
Sunday

Sunday, September 10, vestry
meeting after Eucharist

Monday, September 11, noon, Bible
study resumes

September Birthdays

Sept. 2, Charles Duke

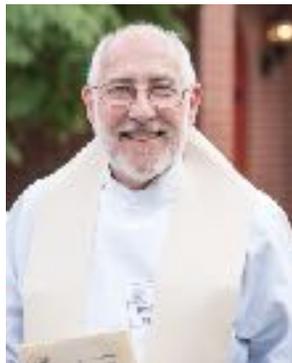
Sept. 15, Joel Seymour

Sept. 28, Bob Slocumbe

Prayer List

Betty and Richard, Chelsea, Holman,
Mary, Mary S., Matthew, Ray and
Dolores, and others in our hearts

Rector's Reflection



The last few Sundays we've heard readings from St. Paul's letter to the Romans. In his letter he talks about the gifts that the church has been given and that the members as part of the church have been given. St. Paul lists the gifts in his letter and encourages the church and the individuals to put the gifts to use. It's interesting that he doesn't rank the gifts in any order of importance or value to the church or individuals who make up the church. He just lists them.

It takes a lot of gifts to make a church and it takes all of them working together for a common good.

Fall is almost here. It's a season when we often think of beginnings. Classes begin at schools and colleges, we're past the halfway point in the season after Pentecost, the weather is cooler, the days are shorter. There's a bit of urgency in the air.

It might be a good time for us to look at our gifts as a church and as individuals within the church. There are lots of them. We just need to look, to think, to reflect. We can identify them and work together using all our gifts during this time that God has given us.

We might be surprised at the gifts we have and at the use God will make of them.

Blessings, Fr. John Keeler+

Visit of Canon John Thompson-Quarthey



On Sunday August 13, the diocesan Canon for Ministry John Thompson-Quarthey visited St. Alban's. He delivered a rousing sermon at the Eucharist, which was followed by a salad lunch, catered by Renee Hunt, in the parish hall. The photos show him answering questions after

the meal. He was asked how small churches can attract members. His answer was that they mostly do so by invitation. Members invite acquaintances they feel might fit well into the church family. They should not necessarily concentrate on families; older adults frequently are in need of social ties. When visitors do put in an appearance, everyone should smile and be welcoming. Establishing common ground is important.

We all enjoyed the canon's visit and asked him to come back soon. He said we might well see him again because the bishop is encouraging the canons to get out to rural churches to show that the diocese is interested in us and in our problems.

Twenty attended the service, and nineteen stayed to eat lunch and talk with the canon.



Allen Nicas Has a Birthday to Remember

On August 25 Allen Nicas turned 85, and on August 26 his family gave him a surprise birthday party in the St. Alban's parish hall. An uncountable number of friends filled the hall to wish him "Happy birthday." (Right) Unsuspectingly, Allen enters the hall. (Center) he greets those assembled. (Bottom) Allen with his daughter Amanda, his grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren.

Allen said that he was truly surprised. He thought his family just wanted to go by the church to visit Barbara's bench; the number of cars made him wonder what was going on, but he didn't connect them with his birthday.



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The Rev. John Keeler,
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The Rev. Herschel
Atkinson,
Rector Emeritus

Carole Coggins,
Altar Guild Chair
Suzanne Moore,

Organist

Natasha Clay, Verger

Charles Duke, Sexton

Andrea Martin, Parish
Secretary

Vestry

Charles Duke, Sr. Warden

Marilyn Slocumbe,

Jr. Warden

Natasha Clay

Anne Jaudon

Louise Martin, sec.

Suzanne Moore

Robyn Keeler and Anne

Jaudon, co-treasurers

Vestry Minutes: Aug. 20 Meeting

Fr. John gave the rector's report. Things are going well although attendance has been down in the summer. With the fall approaching, we need to finalize plans for Bible study and Sunday school.

The vestry discussed Canon Thompson-Quartey's visit on August 13 and his suggestions for attracting new members. We all agreed that we should provide a welcoming environment for visitors. Various community projects were suggested and discussed: a soup kitchen, giving of school supplies, helping with the Rotary coat project. The vestry agreed on a simple church service, like Compline, and evening meal in the parish hall on fifth Sundays, with October 29 being the first Sunday scheduled; members who are coming should invite at least one visitor and should let Anne Jaudon or Marilyn Slocumbe know how many will be attending. The vestry also agreed that we should remember members who are older and who may need visitation and other help.

The next order of business was choosing two delegates for the Diocesan Council in November. Natasha Clay, who is attending as verger, said that she will check with Tammy about going as a delegate, and Marilyn Slocumbe said she will check her schedule.*

Fr. John said that vestry members should talk among themselves and with other members of the congregation about extending his contract for the next year starting on March 1, 2018. It is time to make a decision.

Louise Martin, Vestry secretary

* Marilyn has a conflict, so Tammy Clay and Louise Martin will be delegates from St. Alban's.

