

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. through June 8; then will recess until September 7

Holy Eucharist, Sundays, 10:30 a.m. (June 8, SafeHouse collection)

Bible Study, Mondays, noon, through June 9; then will recess until September 8

June 8, Day of Pentecost

June 9, Vestry meeting, 6 p.m.

June 29. The Vestry is considering a Fifth Sunday potluck dinner at the church following the Eucharist

June Birthdays

Robyn Keeler, June 12

Arlene Whitlow, June 14

Prayer List

Becky, Beth and Bill, Betty and Richard, Carole, Christy, Ellen, Gage, John, Judy, William, and others in our hearts.



Rector's Reflection

The Episcopal Church is a liturgical church. That means that our public worship is an outward, visible act expressing an inward and spiritual reality of God in our lives.

The term *liturgy* is derived from the Greek words for "work" and "people," making liturgy the work of the people. In our life together we express our unity in our church in our liturgy. What we do when we gather on Sunday, or special days, matters. We show our unity, our mission, and our identity as we worship together in accordance with our Book of Common Prayer.

It doesn't matter if we are a large number or just a few. We're doing it together as a group. It is a public and social event.

We are familiar with our liturgy since we do it every week, and that familiarity gives us the opportunity to be engaged by it on a deeper level, to let it carry us by thoughts and feelings.

Liturgy is our gift. A gift from God. A gift to God. A gift to each other.

The Rev. John Keeler+

Go to the St. Alban's website (www.stalbans-elberton.org) or to the church Facebook page for Fr. John's article about the Paschal candle, the first in a series he is writing for the Internet on Episcopalian practices.

May 12 Vestry Meeting

The St. Alban's Vestry has been very busy, especially in regard to the wish list, as the following excerpts from the minutes of the May 12 meeting show.

Discussion took place about the still-loose front pews. Charles Romine will ask Jason Brady to look at these to see what needs to be done to stabilize them.

Charles Duke . . . has some flower bulbs to be planted out front at an opportune time. He recommended pressure washing around the basement; Mr. Romine volunteered his own power washer. Mr. Duke stated that following the cleaning of the concrete and the trim, oil-based paint will be needed to replace what has flaked off and will be washed off. He noted that to eliminate the squeak in the bell will require climbing to the roof, and he recommended capping the chimney to avoid further water damage.

Mr. Romine reported that Jason Brady will complete installation of the back awning this week and then will install the new lights.

Mr. Romine presented two play structure plans and recommended the one priced \$3,600-\$3,700. Discussion took place about whether to replace the play structure and if so, how to fund it. Mr. Jenkins stated he will contribute \$1,000 toward the project in Marcia's memory . . . and he would be pleased to see part of the memorial funds donated in Marcia's memory used toward a play structure for children.

Fr. John will check on sizes and prices of church signs to replace those across from Northside Baptist and formerly at the Marathon station, which are not well positioned or clearly legible.

Mr. Jenkins asked permission to install on church grounds a memorial granite bench that would include a space for holding Marcia's ashes. Carole Oglesby suggested the playground as an appropriate spot. Motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously to agree to Mr. Jenkins's request.

Natasha Clay raised the question of a columbarium. Fr. John will poll the congregation to see who is interested in cremation and installation of his/her ashes on church grounds.

Ms. Seymour requested permission to bring in Craig Truitt to consult about a landscaping plan for the playground area. She, Mr. Jenkins, and Mr. Duke agreed to collaborate on this project.

Mr. Romine reported that Jason Brady's estimate on the needed renovations to the kitchen—cabinets, counters, new sink, and appliances—is \$9,118. The Romines will donate a dishwasher, and Mr. Jenkins has an electric stove he will donate if the Vestry decides to replace the gas stove. The kitchen renovation will be put on the wish list.

Robyn Keeler, Vestry Secretary

St. Alban's Notes

Our Library

One early item on the wish list was a lending library. Fr. John got the idea from St. Andrew's church at Hartwell, and Marcia Jenkins donated the first books. Marilyn Slocumbe is superintending the projected move of the library from a small bookcase in the hall to a larger bookcase to be constructed in the vestry room.

If you have books to contribute, they will be welcome, but in any event be sure to visit the library often to browse and choose something to take home to read. A few days ago I saw books by Stuart Woods (four), James Patterson (two), George R. Martin (two), J. D. Robb (two), David Balacci, Tess Gerritsen, John Grisham (two), Sue Grafton, Nora Roberts, Tom Clancy, and Russell Banks, among others. I noticed *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams, *H.M.S. Surprise* (vol. 3 of the Aubrey/Maturin novels) by Patrick O'Brian, and *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larsen. Mary Kay Andrews's *Blue Christmas*, Jennifer Weiner's *Best Friends Forever*, and Fern Michaels's *Blindsided* sound like summer beach reading; and for fans of westerns there are three: two by Louis L'Amour and one by Zane Grey.

Nonfiction is in shorter supply, but I noticed a few books on religious topics (*How God Answers Your Prayers*, *Say a Little Prayer*, and *Glimpses of Grace*), a humor book (*A Senior Moment Is Just a Wrinkle in Time*), a book about relationships (*When Pleasing Others Is Hurting You*), and two books about the Cold War (*The Main Enemy: The Inside Story of the CIA's Final Showdown with the KGB* and *Spy Dust: Two Masters of Disguise Reveal the Tools and Operations That Helped Win the Cold War*). The book I am going to avoid is *Thriller: Stories to Keep You Up All Night*.



Our fledgling library

Welcome Gifts



The Byzantine thurible shown above was an anonymous donation in memory of Marcia Jenkins. The twelve bells represent the twelve apostles.

Several large-print Bibles have also been given to the church in memory of Rod Stovall; they can be found at the back of the church ready to be used when needed.

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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

Vestry
Steve Jenkins, Sr. Warden
Charles Duke, Jr. Warden
Natasha Clay
Carole Oglesby
Debra Romine
Nancy Seymour
Robyn Keeler, vestry
secretary
Charles Romine,
treasurer

Change



(Left) What's missing from this photo? The old playground equipment that used to be there was taken down because of termite damage.

(Right) Suzanne Moore admires the new canopy, also visible in the photo above. The open door leads into the parish hall.

Also to come are an awning for the other downstairs door and motion lights.



And Growth



(Left) Our palm tree has certainly shot up since Charles Duke planted it some years ago. It earns its keep, too. It supplies palms for our Palm Sunday service every year and has enough left over for the First Presbyterian Church's needs. Mary says the palm is seeding right now, so if you want to start a palm tree of your own, come by the church for seeds and ask Charles for advice.

(Right) Barbara's bench has not grown, but the azaleas around it have (and the gardenia in the white fencing to the right of the bench is flourishing as well, although it is not showing off here with a display of spring color the way the azaleas are).



