

SANCTUARY

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

Calendar

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
Study of saints

Holy Eucharist, Sundays,
10:30 a.m. (May 11, SafeHouse
collection)

Bible Study, Mondays, noon.
St. Luke

May 1, *St. Philip and St. James,
Apostles*

May 12, 6 p.m. Vestry meeting

May 29, *Ascension Day*

May 31, *The Visitation*

May Birthdays

Carole Oglesby, May 17

Prayer List

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

Nicola Britton has moved back
home and is much happier
there; her address is now 175
Woodbury Court, Athens, GA
30605.



Rector's Reflection

As we approach the third Sunday of Easter it's a little hard to think that so little time has passed since Easter Day. Leading up to the day of the resurrection there is a flurry of activity, excitement, anticipation; and our

minds are focused on what is to come and the glorious day.

We celebrate Palm Sunday with a procession into our church carrying palms and singing. We read the Passion story and reflect on it as we celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

We celebrate our final Eucharist before Easter on Maundy Thursday, then strip the altar, leaving it bare for Good Friday.

On Good Friday we gather in our bare church to read and reflect on the Stations of the Cross. Then we leave in silence.

Easter morning our church is full, and we greet each other with "The Lord is risen."

This is the third Sunday of Easter and the active flurry is done and the world has crept back into our life, our jobs, our obligations, the bad things we see on the morning and evening news. The joy, the wonder of the resurrection can fade, but it doesn't have to.

We're a liturgical church and our liturgy is a reminder, a teaching aid that Easter lasts for fifty days. Look at our church this Sunday and every Sunday until Pentecost. When you walk in, you see white; you see the Pascal candle and candles behind and on the altar. We begin and end our liturgy with Alleluias. We omit the confession and we use Prayer B. Our liturgy breaks into our lives and reminds us that it's still Easter.

Alleluia, the Lord is risen!

Has It Been a Year?

Has it really been the better part of a year since the last issue of *Sanctuary* appeared? A lot has happened since then.

Sadly we have lost members John Coggins, Marcia Jenkins, and Tommy Warren; we have, however, gained Charles and Debra Romine, who already are contributing in many ways. They, Joel and Nancy Seymour, and Bob and Marilyn Slocumbe hosted Fifth Sunday get-togethers for members, which have been successful.

We have enjoyed our tried and true services for Advent and Christmas and for the Easter season, but we experimented as well. For the second year at Christmastime we joined with First Presbyterian Church for a Lessons and Carols service, and we traveled to Washington for the first Lenten soup supper of the year, to eat and visit with our friends at Mediator. We always have good food at our Lenten soup suppers, but our programs were more media oriented than usual: through television we toured the deserts and cities where Jesus, John the Baptist, and other biblical figures lived and died. For our Good Friday service we took turns reading the Stations of the Cross.

One big change in the church grounds is the brand-new driveway from the parking lot to the outer door of the parish hall. Improved mobility should allow for easier use of the hall.

Nancy Seymour has overhauled the St. Alban's website with the assistance of Sam Heydinger from Elbert County Comprehensive High School, and we now have a presence on Facebook thanks to Natasha Clay.

What will happen in the next year?

Wish List

A wish list has been started for St. Alban's; if there is something you would like to see at the church, add your wish to a sheet in the hall under the photo board of members. Already the acolyte cross has been glued, Fr. John's door has been fixed, and the vestry has voted to have the playground equipment dismantled for safety reasons. Another wish that will come true is a church library. St. Alban's already has begun stocking reading material for members to borrow in the small hall bookcase, but Marilyn has larger ideas: bookcases in the vestry room, with granite tops to make it easier to serve coffee upstairs for Sunday school and other gatherings.

Wishes not yet taken care of include a fix for the squeaky bell, a garbage can with a foot pedal, bulbs for the front of the church, a lapel mike, a base sink cabinet, a dishwasher for the kitchen, a barbecue with proceeds to go to SafeHouse, a microphone and recorder for sermons, a college scholarship fund (maybe in memory of Marcia), replacements for the faded signs in town, and stabilization of the two front pews. Do you have something to add?

St. Alban's in Pictures

Fiesta at Casa Romine

On March 30 St. Alban's members and friends gathered in the backyard of Charles and Debra Romine for a memorable Fifth Sunday gathering with a Latin American (or possibly Texan?) flavor.



Photography by Nancy Seymour

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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

Improved Access



(Left) Construc-
tion of driveway
from parking lot
to parish hall en-
trance.



(Below) New turn-
around outside
parish hall door.

Photography by
Mary Randall



Seconds, Anyone?

Nancy Seymour
snapped this photo
at the Shrove
Tuesday pancake
supper on March 4.
You can tell from
the plates that the
pancakes were
good.

What?

No, these refugees
from St. Alban's are
not trying out for a
musical. They are
practicing their Tai
Chi moves at the
EMH Wellness
Center.



