



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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INTERIM RECTOR'S REFLECTION



Celebrating Our Size

One of the things I found most impressive and encouraging in Bishop Alexander's informal conversation with us earlier this month had to do with the assertion that it's okay not to be "megachurch." Not every congregation is called to be a parish with hundreds and thousands of communicants. Not every congregation is meant to have incomes vast enough to fund the wide spectrum of Christian education, inreach, outreach, social, and community involvement programs that some Cathedrals and other huge parishes offer.

We can be fully who and what we are as a lively, committed, and effective expression of our Lord's presence in our small part of the planet, no matter how large or small we are as a community of faith. A few years ago when cutesy, psychedelic posters and slogans were popular, one that left a lasting impression on me displayed a vibrant pop-art flower above the words: "Bloom where you are planted." We can do that, regardless of our size. That doesn't mean, however, that we can't grow. We can. We will.

A few years ago our national church sponsored "a decade of evangelism." There was a then-current joke about a supercilious and snooty society matron who was critical of that program, because, she said, "everybody who wants to be an Episcopalian already is one." She, of course, missed the whole point of evangelism.

Our bishop got it right. Our job is not to try to bring everybody in Elberton and Elbert County to St. Alban's. Our job is to seek and find those people out there in our community who would benefit from being Episcopalians and to make our-

TAKING NOTE

Diocesan Council will meet November 15th and 16th in Augusta GA.

Friday noon **Bible Study** with Fr. Gene Britton continues this Fall. Topics focus on the Enneagram and Spiritual Growth. Fr. Gene will offer a "special" on ghosts and goblins in the Bible to honor All Saints Day and Halloween.

Adult Sunday School is still reading *Gospel Medicine* by Barbara Brown Taylor. We are finishing the section on Promises and will begin Absence in November.

Cherub Sunday School meets each Sunday morning with Ms Marcia and Miss Marjorie.

COMING SOON: ADVENT (ARE YOU READY?)



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selves known to them. True, not everybody is or is likely to be comfortable in this church. People are different, with different needs and tastes, with different approaches to faith and practice. Some good Christians are better suited to be Roman Catholics or Baptists or Presbyterians or Methodists or Pentecostals than to be Episcopalians. We should rejoice in their finding their niche and thank God that they are sisters and brothers in the Kingdom and that, on occasion, there are opportunities for all of us to minister together. But we should direct our major effort to finding those who *are* “cut out” to be Episcopalians and find ways to incorporate them into our parish life.

In the meantime, the lights are on in St. Alban's. We reach out to the community. We have a sensitive and sincere care for our own. Learning and new experiences are being offered to adults and children alike. The Gospel is preached. The Holy Sacraments are celebrated. We are a praying community. We are blooming in this spot. We offer up our size, now and for the future, to the will of God.

— Father Gene Britton +



Gene, the Bishop, Allen, Barbara and Betsey (and Gene again).



Bishop Alexander visited St. Alban's to meet with Vestry and Nominating Committee on Tuesday, September 10. The meeting included a congregational meeting and a meal.



Coming Soon:

7TH ANNUAL SAFEHOUSE WALK-A-THON

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2

*meet at 8 am on Elberton Square.
Suzanne Moore will meet those who
wish to walk at Papa's Pizza.
Pledge sheets are available in the
Church office.*

St. Alban's Vestry voted to become a corporate sponsor of the Safehouse Walk-a-thon. This corporate sponsorship means that our name and the Episcopal shield will appear on the back of this year's T-Shirts.



Child's Ears

A little boy had been going to Sunday School and heard the Creation Story. He was told that after God created Adam, God decided to make him a mate and created Eve from Adam's rib. Several days later, when he wasn't feeling well, he went to his mother and said, "Mom, my stomach hurts. I think I'm about to have a wife!"

Parish Profile Quotes

"The parish needs a strong, energetic, amicable priest to bring us out and to bring us closer together."

"Give us stability in an ever-changing world."

Letters to God

Dear God

I bet it's very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it. Nan

Dear God

I wish you would not make it so easy for people to come apart. I had to have three stitches and a shot. Mike

Dear God

It's OK that you made different religions, but don't you get mixed up sometimes? Arnold

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Friday Lunch Bible Study visited Old Dan Tucker's grave on Friday, September 6th.

They also visited the grave of the Hawes, Virginia and Peyton, whose donations were crucial to the building of St. Albans as we know it today.

