



# SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 4 No. 2 - Nov. - Dec 2007

Elberton, Georgia

## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Blessings and peace to all of you.*

Thank you all who participated in the Safehouse Walkathon on November 3rd. We showed support for this important ministry and will continue to sponsor its service in the community.

Thanks too to those who attended the Diocesan Council meeting November 8-10 in Atlanta. We did celebrate together and see much more of what the Church is doing in Georgia and the world. Sara has summarized the meeting here so you can see how the wider Church is working with and for us.

As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us also turn with energy and love to the mission of a new year.

*Denni +*

### *Prayers & Sympathy:*

Prayers for health and healing:

- Joe Dufault is recovering from his surgery last month.
- Julie Thomas will undergo a heart surgery/test on December 6th at MCG in Augusta. Doctors assure it's "not serious" and she may be able to come home that day.

Prayers for all who cannot be at home for the Holidays: including Betsy Grinstead and others in our hearts.

Prayers for our service people in the Military: including Andrew, Britt, Colleen, Melissa, Michael, Randy, and others in our hearts.

Prayers for the drought to end, here and elsewhere.

## TAKING NOTE

- Sunday, Dec. 16th Lessons & Carols, a joint service with Mediator in Washington GA, starts at 10:30am.

- Saturday, Dec. 15th workshop for Sunday Servers, current and prospective, at 10 am.

- The Daughters of the King silent retreat at the Convent of St. Helena in Augusta, Friday Dec. 7-8. Contact Sara. Next meeting: Thursday, January 17th. All are welcome.

- Bible Study, Mondays at noon in the Parish Hall. Topic: David the King, Continued. Denni leading.

- Deck the Halls at St. Albans 1:30 pm, Sunday, December 23rd.

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

DEC. 24 @ 9 PM

CELEBRATE!!



## *Diocesan Council*

The 101st Annual Council met November 9-10 in Atlanta at the Cathedral of St. Philip.

When the Council convened with a quorum, Herschel announced that all diocesan parishes had registered, something that has not happened in recent years.

New delegates who had never attended a council were recognized, then new clergy, deacons, etc. Recognitions of years of service were made and then notes that reports from each committee were on the website including the 2008 budget.

<http://www.episcopalatlanta.org/council/index.html>

Sara was assigned to Community Ministries. There were two resolutions assigned to her committee: Accessibility (R07-1) and Episcopal Charities Foundation anniversary recognition (R07-4).

Community Ministries, in a clarification, said the accessibility resolution does not ask parishes and Diocese to be barrier free by the end of 2008 but to survey and become mindful of barriers of all kinds. The intent was to foster



vigorous exploration and include all sorts of disabilities such as accommodating children with autism and parishioners whose hearing was impaired.

Doug Daily, rector of Grace Gainsville, chair of Canon 20 Review Committee, said assessment appeals to pay less than 10 percent of parish budgets to the Diocese were "working". 21 appealed last year, 11 appealed this year. Brian Jennett of Holy Cross, Decatur, said that even though they had received relief from the 10 percent Diocesan assessment through an appeal, they were going to pay the difference.

Diocesan revenues in 2007 were less than budgeted even though 83 of 93 parishes had pledged 10 percent. The budget will be balanced using "retained earnings" (using about 10 percent of the balance.)

The 2008 budget is to be about \$5 million, a \$500,000 increase of which an estimated 2/3 is to pay for the new associ-

ate bishop, 2 new congregations and increased world-wide giving.

On being asked how we would fund the proposed new bishop, the plan is to use "Trust Fund" income for two years, to be "routinized" in year three. The assistant bishop position will entail a search for an individual who is already a bishop. The commitment will be for three to five years, full or part time.

- The Bishop Child Heritage Circle was introduced as a way to educate and coordinate estate gifts and legacies.
- Kids for Peace received incorporation. A movie showed some of the children from different religions in Palestine responding to the program.

## *Bishop's Address*

Bishop Neil's address to Council focused on five major areas:

- 1) Ministry with children, youth and young adults. It is "never too early to make children aware of the Episcopal larger church." DAYA a new group of young adults has grown spontaneously in the Atlanta area. Two new schools will open in the Diocese: Redeemer in Greensboro and Nativity School at Holy Cross in



Decatur. Camp Mikell will have a new strategic plan with a vision for camp and conference center for the Diocese.

2) Leadership development. The Diocese wants to supply training for those taking holy orders as well as lay leaders such as wardens, treasurers, and vestries. Our leaders are underrepresented in national councils.

3) Growth. We grow because we are the hands and feet of Jesus. We grow because we can provide an image of church. Local churches renounce commitment to introverted church and live for others. We enjoy treasures of incomparable value. New starts: what comes next?

4) Environment. We are not owners but stewards of the earth. Three objectives emerge: a) resources, b) tools to cut waste c) political action. Support for Georgia Interfaith Power and Light (GIPAL)

will witness to our faith.

5) Continuing global MDG (Millennium Development Goals) support. Work with companion dioceses would continue: Tanzania, Ecuador and Brazil.

Regarding the House of Bishops meeting in September, the Primates do not understand their communiqué as an ultimatum. However, the Bishops and the church are not “of one mind.” Justice without care for unity is shallow but unity without justice is sin.

The Bishop is disturbed by other dioceses which have amended their canons to realign with other continents, geographic deflection. He sees a Bishop as a connector, so that the experience of church is always greater than the local. We continue to respect the individual conscience before God.

For more see:

<http://www.atlantaepiscopal.com/bishop/addresses.html>

Next Year’s Diocesan Council will be hosted by the Convocation of East Atlanta, held on Nov 14-15, location to be determined.

### *Parishes all received a box of the Centennial Books.*

Marcia will place those for St. Alban's in the back of the Church where each family can take one (please.)

### *St. Alban's Mission to the Gulf Coast*

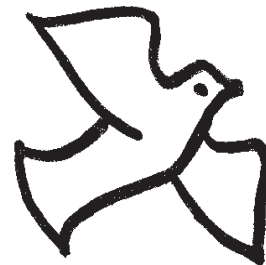
Denni and Sara are still putting together plans for a week-long trip to the Gulf Coast after Easter.

Missions are organized by the local dioceses. Call Sara to express interest.

### *Herschel on one of those rainy days we would like to see again!*



*For God alone my soul in silence waits;  
from him comes my salvation. Psalm 62: 1*



### *Natural Spirituality at Camp Mikell*

Please consider attending the 2008 Natural Spirituality Regional Gathering at Camp Mikell, February 8-10 or come for just the day on Saturday.

This interdenominational conference is sponsored by natural spirituality groups in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Saturday only fee is \$25, including lunch.

Natural Spirituality? What is it? Ask Denni, Sara or Marilyn.

Or pick up one of the following books in the St. Alban's library (AKA vesting room):

*Natural Spirituality, Re-*

*covering the Wisdom Tradition in Christianity* by Joyce Rockwood Hudson, 1998.

*Dreams, God's Forgotten Language* by John A. Sanford, 1968.

Contact Sara at 706 549 0809 or [sbaldwin@warnell.uga.edu](mailto:sbaldwin@warnell.uga.edu)



### *Muslim Clerics' Letter*

On October 11th a group of well respected Muslim clerics delivered an open letter to Christian leaders entitled "A Common Word". For Archbishop Rowan's welcoming response to their peace initiative:

<http://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/releases/071011.htm>

### *Signs of St Alban's*

We have a new sign out front at St. Alban's with more to come. We hope to post new signs along Elbert Street, on Highways 17 and 72. Jr. Warden Charles Duke has cleared away brush from one on Hwy 77.

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