



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 5 No. 9 - December 2008

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace and peace, brothers and sisters.

We are already into the second week of Advent. Can this be? I don't know about you, but I have hardly had time to prepare. Every year I say that I will slow down and remember what it is we are getting ready for. Every year it just gets here before I am ready.

I am beginning to think that this is the beauty of Advent. It is the time of preparation and waiting. And then this wonderful thing happens. To quote my grandson, "Jesus gets born."

This day always comes no matter what we do or don't do. So maybe Advent is just that time on our liturgical calendars that tells us to get ready. We try to get as ready as we can, and even if everything is not finished to our liking, Jesus will be here: A little tiny baby is born to make us free from all these unimportant things that we think we have to do. Now this is something to think about!

May the rest of your Advent be blessed and restful and full of apprehension for this birth that is about to happen again and has truly changed our lives.

Denni +

Prayers & Sympathy:

Prayers for health and healing:

- Marcia Jenkins has been out and about, even cooking a bit. She, Steve and John all spoke at the Relay for Life "kickoff" as cancer survivors.
- Prayers for our service people in the Military: including Andrew, Michael, and others in our hearts.
- Walter Thomas, son of Julie and William, baptized at St. Alban's on Sept. 30 2007 has "OMS". More inside.

TAKING NOTE

- Dec. 14th worship is at 9am followed Coffee Hour.
- Wed. Dec 17th we will have Crèche Night with Denni leading Compline at 6pm followed by a soup supper and sharing our stories.
- Dec. 21st will be Lessons & Carols with Mediator in Washington GA, beginning at 10:00 am followed by a joint meal.
- Dec. 22nd Decorate the church for Christmas Eve beginning at 9am.
- Dec. 28th and Jan. 4th worship is at 9am followed by Coffee Hour.
- Jan. 18th worship is at 10am followed by lunch and our Annual Meeting.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
WORSHIP @ 10 PM:
DECEMBER 24TH
AT ST. ALBAN'S**



Walter Henry Thomas

We received an email from Walter's mother Julie right after Thanksgiving. She urged us all towards even greater gratitude.

She had news of little Walter who was baptized here September 30th of 2007 along with his baby sister Kaiya and Marcia's grandson Bailey. Walter has been very sick, diagnosed with a rare disease "OMS" and his family has been through a lot since June.

You can read about it on a special website: <http://www.walterthomas.org/>



The 102nd Council of the Dioceses of Atlanta

Suzanne, Sara and Denni attended Annual Council November 14th and 15th in Decatur.

Two new parishes were presented to the Diocese: Christ the King, Lilburn and St. Benedict's, Central Cobb County.

The theme of the meeting was taken from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG): "empowering women." The Diocese will send mosquito netting to African countries to fight Malaria.

"Threads of Hope" from the Anglican Diocese of Peru were on display, the work of sewing groups that help women build economic strength in that country

Above is the sanctuary of Holy Trinity, Decatur, where we worshiped Friday night. We "processed" there through the rain. There was something for everyone and a lovely reception followed. This was Sara's favorite part.

Take home messages from Bishop Neil and Bishop Keith were:

"Steady on" in the economic crisis and "Justice is balance".

Bishop Filedefo Oliviera presented the history of his diocese in Brazil. He confirmed that the movie City of God accurately depicts the situation in his country and listed the challenges facing his diocese.

He said, "No one is so rich they cannot receive, no one so poor they cannot give."





Legislative measures adopted include:

- Appointment of a Sunday in Lent to be ERD-support Sunday.
- Each church sponsored meeting is to begin with the question: "How shall what we are doing here help or involve the poor?"
- A committee will review the rules for election of a bishop.
- Recommend that General Convention develop appropriate rites for unions of gay and lesbian persons and repeal the resolution which held a moratorium on ordination of gay and lesbian persons.
- Each parish is encouraged to appoint Creation Keepers to raise awareness of environ-

mental stewardship and serve as liaison with the Diocese' task force. The Diocese plans a gathering for February 6-7 at Camp Mikell.

- The Task Force on Disability has become a permanent commission of the Diocese. A final report from the parishes is available.

For more on Council see the website: <http://www.episcopatlanta.org/>

Lessons & Carols at Mediator in Washington

Plan to come sing and celebrate at Church of the Mediator in Washington GA on December 21st at 10:00 am.

There will a luncheon after the service.



Calendars and Readings

2009 Calendars are available now. Pick one up for your use.

In addition, the new Forward Day by Day devotional books are in. Pick one up and pray with us. Using the Daily Office lectionary, we can share the same inspirational readings and scripture in our daily quiet time.



Stewardship and Treasures

Watch your mailbox for a letter from the Treasurer plus Pledge Cards for 2009.

January 11th will be Stewardship Sunday. Please return your Pledge Cards by that day.

Thank you all for your support of St. Alban's ministry in Elberton.

*Not that I have already ... reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
Philippians 3:12*



Handel's Messiah in Elberton

Sunday, December 7th, the Elberton Theater Foundation held a performance of the Messiah at The First Baptist Church. The performance featured local Elbert County voices and musicians including our own Barbara Nicas.

Sing: Wonderful...

Candle Light Christmas Eve @ St. Alban's

We will have our traditional Candle Light Service with Holy Eucharist on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 10pm.

Come and bring friends to this special and beautiful time.

Daughters of the King

DOK will be attending Crèche Night Wed. Dec. 17th. Come bring your favorite manger scene. Denni will lead us in Compline and we have have Soup Supper together.

Next meeting: Jan. 22nd at 6pm. Topic: Winter Wheat.



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