



# SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 6 No. 3 - April/May 2009

Elberton, Georgia

## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Grace and peace, brothers and sisters.*

There is a legend that I like and believe is profound on many levels. It begins this way.

Long ago in the beautiful hill country of Umbria everyone was happy. The women and children were beautiful. The men were strong. There was an abundance of food. Flowers were everywhere as far as the eye could see. Things were just plain good!

Then out of the blue something began happening. Pies began to be missing from the windows where they had been placed to cool. Gardens began to be ripped up of vegetables that had been planted. And worse, small animals had begun to be missing. It was even said that a small child or two was gone.

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### *Prayers & Sympathy:*

Prayers for health and healing:

- Allen Nicas had major surgery in April and is recovering at home. See photo of his "Money Tree" on back page.
- Marcia Jenkins has made great progress. See inside for the first in our series on "Missions Possible," the Lenten Supper Series she planned for us. Thank you!
- Betty Edmunds and family.
- Prayers for our service people in the Military: including Andrew, Michael, and others in our hearts.

### *Transitions*

- Martin Hilton Fortson, son of Ashley Moore Fortson and Suzanne Moore's grandson, will be baptized on April 26th at St. Alban's. Congratulations!

## TAKING NOTE

- May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 Worship at 9 am followed by Coffee Hour.
- May 11 at 6:30 pm, Vestry Meeting.
- Monday's April 27, May 4 and May 11 Bible Study at Noon with the Rev. Denni Moss: the book of Romans
- June 7, 14, 21, and 28 Worship at 9 am followed by Coffee Hour.
- June 15 at 6:30 pm, Vestry Meeting.

**PENTECOST SUN-  
DAY @ 9:00 AM:  
MAY 31ST AT ST.  
ALBAN'S**

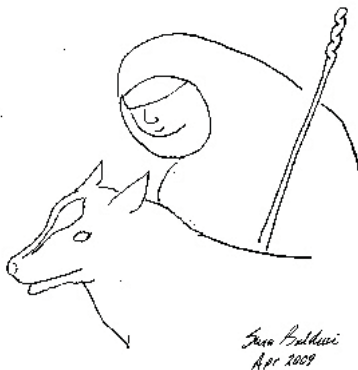


The townspeople began staying in their homes, frightened to go out lest the "wild beast," which they had been calling the monster, got them too.

They were miserable and stories began circulating about this creature they had never seen. It needed to be caught. It needed to be killed. At the very least, it needed to be moved to another town so this one could at last live again in peace.

The townspeople had heard about a wise woman a few towns away who had a way with mesmerizing wild creatures. They sent a messenger to the town to tell the woman of their plight. She agreed to come. She arrived in the dark of night and walked through the streets of the town calling, "Brother Wolf, where are you? Brother Wolf, where are you?"

The next day under the most exquisite sun-



light the townspeople had all gathered in anticipation. Down the road and through the town the woman walked with her hand on the back of the wild creature. When she got to the town square she turned and looked at the people and said, "Feed your wolf!"

From that very day the town lived in harmony with the wild creature. He became theirs and they learned about him and began to know his needs. He became welcome in their homes and was friends to their children.

It takes the wind out of a parable if you have to explain it. So I won't. But what a poignant message this could be to all of us who live in fear of something we don't even know.

## Denni +

### *Lenten "Missions Possible" Series*

For five Mondays in March, St. Alban's observed Lent with our traditional Soup Suppers. After a service of Compline, we gathered in the "undercroft" to hear about five separate mission opportunities among us.



### *Community Partnership*

On Monday, March 2nd, we heard from Community Partnership of Elbert County.

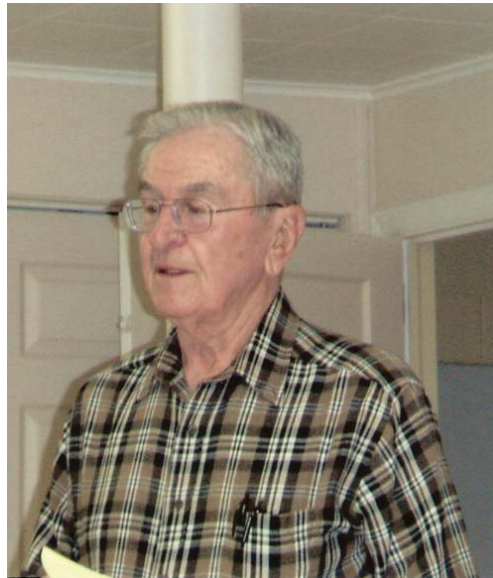
Executive Director Laura Evans (above) and staff member, Kathy Franklin, told us about how their organization seeks to improve the quality of life for children and families in Elbert County.





Of particular interest to St. Alban's members was the Read-at-Home program, already supported by several members. Charles Duke had presented this as a fitting mission for our book-loving parish and Vestry will consider supporting one or more children in the program. See more at:

<http://elbertpartnership.org/EC%20Read%20at%20Home.html>



### *Salvation Army - Elberton*

On Monday, March 16th, Dr. Jack Wheeler, his daughter Mary Jo Dye and Joe Johnson came to tell us about the Salvation Army. The main focus was on a recent mission trip to Beliz in Central America where the group built a house for a children's school. Dr. Wheeler also provided information

about the Army's world-wide policy of providing "soup, soap and salvation."

When disaster strikes, FEMA calls. The Salvation Army is one of the first organizations to arrive in any disaster zone, including 9/11 in New York. They are usually one of the last to leave a disaster area as well.

One of the chief sources of funding for the local organization is its thrift store on North McIntosh. The proceeds of the annual "red kettle" campaigns at Christmas all go to purchasing toys for poor children.

### *SafeHouse Ministries*

On Monday, March 9th, the Rev. Don Beitzel and his wife, Sue, gave us a history of their SafeHouse mission in our community. Sue told us how the facility has expanded and approximately how many people they serve in a year. Don said that transportation is an issue for most families who come to stay. Good, running automobiles are desperately needed.

Sue said that we could also help with gifts such as diapers and paper goods. St Alban's already provides some monthly financial support as well as annual participation in the Walk-a-Thon fund-raiser each November.

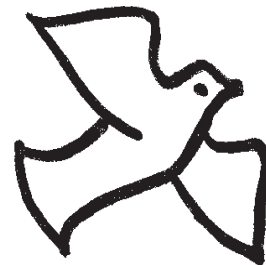
### *Fr. John Keeler on Honduras*

On Monday, March 23rd, The Rev. John Keeler



*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Romans 8: 38-39 15:15*



brought a slide show to share highlights of a mission trip by Honduras Agape Foundation in January. Children and adults attended the services provided by the group and there were some great photos of the mission group, including Fr. John repairing a roadway.



### *Altar Angel Call*

Sign up for 2009 service on the bulletin board. Girl and guy angels welcome.



### *Daughters of the King*

The Daughters attended Lenten services through March. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 20th at 6pm in the church.

### *Allen's Money Tree*

Mary Randall decided that the best gift for a Senior Warden on the mend was a money tree. Here is a close up of her handiwork: rolled bills and bows with a bit of change.



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