

SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 6 No. 6 - Nov. / Dec. 2009

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.

Thanks to a parishioner I made a new friend this morning. The parishioner delivers meals on wheels to shut-ins. He has told me before about this woman. She is ninety-seven and lives alone. Her only relative is her seventy-eight year old son who lives in New York and his wife is an invalid.

The parishioner has been very concerned about her that she doesn't have anyone to visit her. She isn't Episcopalian and has somehow gone off the radar of her church. I told him that I would visit her.

I went into her house (it was unlocked) and there was this dainty lovely lady sitting in her chair with blankets tucked around her. She lit up when she saw me.

She told me how someone comes every day and brings her lunch. Her legs are swollen badly so she isn't able to cook for herself anymore.

continued on page 2

Prayers & Sympathy:

Prayers for health and healing:

- Marcia Jenkins welcomes your continued prayers.
- Jeffrey Barker also welcomes your prayers and cards.
- Dolores Jefferson is mending, and temporarily using a wheel chair.
- Pray for our special people in the Military: including Andrew, Michael, and others in our hearts.

Transitions:

- Tim and Lucy Heil have moved their membership from Emmanuel in Athens to St. Alban's. Welcome them!

TAKING NOTE

- November 29th, December 6th, 13th and 27th Worship at 9 am followed by Coffee Hour.
- December 14th Vestry Meeting at 6pm.
- Bible Study on Mondays at Noon. Check the bulletin for details.
- Lessons & Carols December 20th Joint Worship with Church of the Mediator in Washington. Worship at 11:15 am.
- Potluck luncheon to follow Lessons & Carols at Mediator.
- Deck the Halls on December 22nd: meet at 10am to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas.

**CHRISTMAS EVE
AT ST. ALBAN'S ON
DEC. 24TH 6PM**



She told me she had been happily married to her husband for fifty-seven years. He died twenty-one years ago. He used to tease her that he “raised” her because she was much younger than he was — seven years.

She hasn’t seen her son in ten years; however, he calls her almost every day.

This is the season for family and rushing around. I have members from my own churches to visit. I am preparing for Advent and Lent. I have to shop for the Thanksgiving meal. I have to buy and send Christmas gifts out of town. Proverbially, “there is so much to do and so little time.”

I received my gift from this woman. I got some serenity back. She seemed happy. She waits for someone to call or visit her and this makes her happy.

She is a living Advent calendar. Every day there is a little surprise or a gift to look forward — teeny tiny things like someone bringing her some macaroni and cheese or a phone call. She was reading a brochure on ordering steaks through the mail when I arrived. Makes me just want to sit up and reassess my life, which is what Advent is about.

I hope for all of us a blessed and restful Advent. Prepare ye the way of the Lord!

Denni +

Northeast Georgia Food Bank

St. Alban's has begun to collect food donations for the central food bank in our area: the NE GA Food Bank in Athens. Local organizations such as Safehouse Ministries use this service, so our contributions will come back into our community as needed. List of "most needed" items:

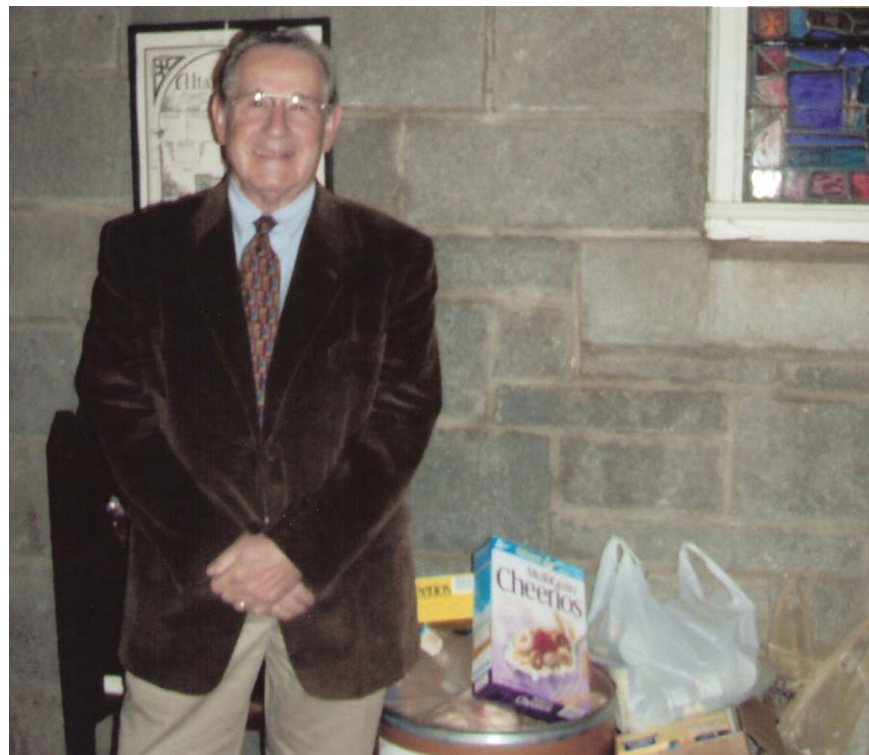
Peanut butter, soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, chili, canned pasta, tuna, baked beans, canned



chicken, cereal, beef stew, rice, & dried beans.

St. Alban's will also serve at the food bank. Denni will lead a group of volunteers on Wed. Dec. 2nd. Nancy Seymour will lead a group Wed. Dec. 10th at 5 to 8pm.

Photo: Sr. Warden Allen Nicas with food donations from the parish.





Bishop Katharine at Annual Council

The Episcopal Church's presiding bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori visited our Annual Diocesan Council this year. In photo at left, she is meeting and greeting.

Marilyn Slocumbe, Suzanne Moore and Denni represented St. Alban's at the meeting, held November 6-7 in Atlanta. They brought back glowing accounts.

Ask them and they will tell you more.



at 10 am, and then joined us for lunch.

Above, new members Tim and Lucy Heil, with Fr. Gene Britton and his wife Nicola. Tim, a physics professor at UGA, and Lucy

operate an organic farm in Elbert County.

Below, Denni and Bishop Neil; Natasha Clay and Marilyn Slocumbe at coffee hour; Bishop Neil with the Hagins at luncheon.

Bishop Neil visits St. Alban's

On Sunday, Nov. 8th, the Bishop of Atlanta, J. Neil Alexander made a visit to the parish. Bishop Neil offered a question and answer period at 9 am, celebrated Holy Eucharist



*Then God said, "Let there be light", and there was light.
Genesis 1:3*



Blessing the Beasts

St. Alban's celebrated Blessing of the Beasts on Sat. Oct. 10th.

Here is the gathering. Denni blessed owners, dogs, cats, and even Emile!

Pilgrimage Tour

Our Northeast Georgia Convocation has planned a 12 Day-10 Night tour to Ireland, Scotland and England. Tentative dates are May 27th through June 7th in 2010. Cost is about \$3,200 per person.

Please let Denni know if you are interested in making the pilgrimage. She can send you an itinerary.

Retreat to Sewanee

Hold the date: Feb. 12th through 14th. Ask Denni for more information.



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