



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace & peace to you, sisters & brothers.

There is a branch of theology and philosophy that attempts to justify the behavior of God. It is called theodicy. It seems as if this is a reason many people can't believe in God. "How could a God do such terrible things," they say. *Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People* was a popular book title. Maybe folks are still reading it now.

God gets blamed for a lot of things. I heard more than one person, and several preachers, say that the hurricane that devastated the Gulf Coast was punishment for the inhabitants' wicked, wicked ways. I call this "street theology": folks just gathering together and picking and choosing what they have heard or the little bit they have read and deciding this is what God is like.

I was reading some comments about the earthquake in Haiti. I'm not surprised a lot of people criticized the Haitians for
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Prayers & Sympathy:

- Marcia Jenkins and Dolores Jefferson. Calls and cards are welcome.
- Jeffrey Barker. Cards are welcome. He could use stamps and envelopes and would love DVDs to watch. Address: Crestview Rehabilitation Center, Ward C Second Floor Rm 10, 2800 Springdale Rd, Atlanta, GA 30315.
- Pray for our special people in the Military, including Andrew and others in our hearts.
- Dolores Jefferson's son David Bryant died Thursday, January 14th.
- Nicola and Gene Britton, Andrew and Emily. Nicola's mother, Joan Fay Wolstenholme, "outgoing, fun and a joy to all who knew her," died on Dec. 18, 2009.

TAKING NOTE

- January and February Worship at 9 am followed by Coffee Hour (but see Jan. 31 below).
- Bible Study Mondays at noon, except Jan. 18 (MLK Day) and Feb. 15 (Presidents' Day).
- January 20 Lunch with Denni.
- January 31 Annual Meeting (with election of two Vestry members) after 9 am service; expanded Coffee Hour.
- February 8 Vestry Meeting at 6 pm.
- February 17 Ash Wednesday service at noon.
- February 24 First of five Wednesday Community Services/Soup Luncheons at noon.

**PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 28**

**EASTER
APRIL 4**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:11*



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just sitting around and not doing whatever they think they should be doing. Obviously they have never lived through anything like this. I imagine it's hard to wrap your mind around something that has never touched you personally. We act badly. God doesn't act badly. If we got zapped for everything we did in missing the mark, I am almost positive there wouldn't be one of us left standing. I think we project our own personalities onto God. We make God like us. That's a scary thought. I'm pretty sure God doesn't think we're a waste of time. And this, my friends, is called grace.

Blessings,

Denni +

Dr. David Hagins displays the Patients' Choice Award he recently received. Only 5% of U.S. physicians were so honored.



Food Bank

The holiday collection for the Northeast Georgia Food Bank was such a success that it has been extended year-round. Needed items include peanut butter, grape jelly, canned items (soups, chili, pasta, tuna, baked beans, chicken, beef stew), cereal, rice, dried beans, and toiletry items (e.g., soap, shampoo, tooth brushes). Volunteers are also needed year-round (call 706-354-8191).

Haiti Relief

Contribute to Episcopal Relief and Development, already at work in Haiti. Online at <https://www.er-d.org/donate-select.php>; mail a check to ERD, P.O. Box 7058, Merrifield, VA 22116-7058; or phone 1-800-334-7626, ext. 5129.

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