

# SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 7 No. 2 - Mar./Apr. 2010

Elberton, Georgia

## RECTOR'S MESSAGE

*Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.*

When I was in my late twenties I attended Inquirers Classes at the local Episcopal Church on Wednesday nights. The classes seemed to go on forever and every week I'd ask the same question, "What do you have to do to be an Episcopalian?"

In my experience with a church denomination you had to do, say and believe certain things before you were allowed in the inner circle. I couldn't get this model out of my mind. I have to admit that I was not a very deep thinker during that period of my life. I wanted to know a lot of "froufrou" things—as in, how you correctly address a priest when speaking to one. In my past denomination we called them "Father."

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## *Prayers & Sympathy:*

Prayers for health and healing:

- Marcia Jenkins, Dolores Jefferson and their families.
- Denni Moss's father, in his 90s, lives in Gainesville and is very ill.
- Jeffrey Barker also welcomes your prayers and cards. To send him news, cards or DVDs, use the address: Crestview Rehabilitation Center, Ward C, Second Floor, Rm 10, 2899 Springdale Rd. Atlanta GA 30315
- Pray for our special people in the Military: including Andrew, his unit in Haiti, and others in our hearts.
- Eleanor Jane Thornton celebrated a birthday February 25th. She would appreciate cards and your prayers. Her address: c/o Magnolia Estates, Room 12, 68 College Ave. Elberton GA 30635

## TAKING NOTE

- March and April Worship at 9 am followed by Coffee Hour.
- March 8th Vestry Meeting at 6pm.
- Bible Study on Mondays at noon. Check the bulletin for details.
- Lenten Soup luncheons on Wednesdays at noon during Lent: March 3rd, March 10th, March 17th and March 24th.
- March 28th is Palm Sunday. Procession of the Palms at regular worship time: 9 am. Join us for Holy Eucharist afterwards.

**EASTER SUNDAY  
AT ST. ALBAN'S ON  
APRIL 4TH 9AM**



This was before women were allowed to be priests. This was what I learned! You never call a priest "Reverend" when you are speaking to one. This is a title as in "The Reverend So and So."

Writing it on an envelope is fine but speaking the word is not. "How you doing, Rev. Bob" to an Episcopal priest is incorrect. Men can be called "Father," "Bill," or if they have a doctorate, "Dr." the same with women, "Dr." "Josephine," or in some cases "Mother." Though, don't call me this!

As you may be able to tell, my questions did not have much to do with salvation but more to do with style.

So what is it that we "must" do to be an Episcopalian?

(1) We believe that the scriptures have all things necessary for salvation.

(2) We believe in the words of the creeds.

(3) We believe in the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Eucharist; that Jesus instituted these on earth; and we are fond of the other five: Reconciliation, Confirmation, Holy Orders, Matrimony and Holy Unction.

(4) We believe in apostolic succession—that we as

priests have had the hands put upon us at ordination dating back to Peter.

Now the beauty in all of this, and hopefully not making us a wishy-washy church—which we are not—is that if you don't absolutely believe these things you can still be an Episcopalian. The most important things to believe are that we are beloved children of God. All of us.

Jesus died so that we might live. We are to love each other and take care of those who need help—and in many cases those who don't think they need any help.

We are to repent, which simply means we are sorry

for the things that we have done and those things that we don't do that aren't up to par. We will make a real effort to make ourselves do better as time goes on.

Being an Episcopalian is easy. Being a Christian isn't.

It would seem that they should both be the same, but, alas, they are not. Many of us get caught up in the rituals and hou-ha of church and think this is what Jesus was all about. I have always believed Jesus would be surprised if he came back and sat among us. He didn't say anything about rituals and liturgy.

I, as an Episcopalian, love all of this. It is without



Denni with Lucy Heil, Louise Martin and Jenifer Duke at "Lunch with Denni" in January.



Allen and Barbara Nicas as well as Marilyn Slocumbe at "Lunch with Denni" in January.



teen program for Hospice Advantage. They are in need of volunteers in the Elberton area to visit with their terminally ill patients.

If you want to help, please call Amy at 706-354-1707 or email [aslone@hospiceadvantage.com](mailto:aslone@hospiceadvantage.com)

### *Tanzania & Kenya*

St. Alban's Vestry had presentations by two different missions at their February meeting. Both represent opportunities for outreach.

The Diocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Central Tanzania are teaming up to educate and care for Carpenter's Kids, a program

doubt one reason I am an Episcopalian.

We can't get it mixed up with being followers of Jesus though. We must go back to the source and see what it tells us. Which takes us back to the first thing we say we believe. "We believe that scripture has all things necessary for our salvation."

Let's try hard to remember this during the forty days of Lent that is fast gaining on us. Let's talk about it and come out on the other side of Lent with a different slant on how we can be one of Jesus' people and an Episcopalian—if this is also what we feel called to be.

*Denni* +

### *Northeast Georgia Food Bank*

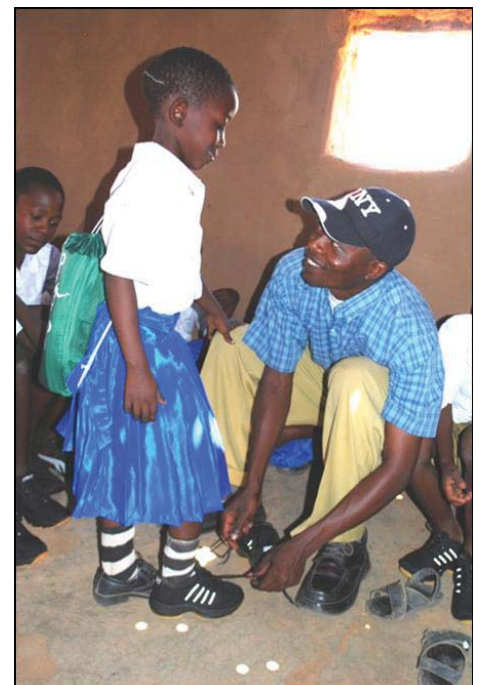
St. Alban's continues to collect food donations for the central food bank in our area: the NE GA Food Bank in Athens. Local organizations such as Safehouse Ministries use this service, so our contributions will come back into our community as needed. List of "most needed" items:

Peanut butter, soups, canned vegetables, canned fruits, chili, canned pasta, tuna, baked beans, canned chicken, cereal, beef stew, rice, & dried beans.

### *Hospice Advantage*

St. Alban's received a request for help from Amy Slone who runs the volun-

The **Carpenter's Kids** program provides school uniforms (shown in photo), shoes, school supplies and a daily meal.



*Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice?  
Isaiah 58:6*



that supports schools in specific parishes. Go to <http://www.carpenterskids.net/> to see what this program is doing in parish schools.

Nancy Seymour, St. Alban's new Senior Warden, is coordinating plans to host a speaker who can explain and give us more information about this worthy project.

Nancy also introduced Ann Gunter, who gave a fifteen-minute talk about Jim Horne's Operation Give Hope ministry in Kenya.

For \$20 a month a needy child is furnished with a school uniform, textbooks, meals, and limited health care. A donor receives letters from the child and is

able to keep up with his/her progress.

### *Andrew & Haiti*

Nicola Britton's son Andrew sent the photo below in January. He and his unit were recently sent to Haiti to help in the humanitarian mission there.

For those interested in helping too, we recommend do-

nations to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). They were in Haiti even before the earthquake.

Contribute 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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