

SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 7 No. 6 - Nov./Dec. 2010

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.

You can probably tell by the black clothes I usually wear that I'm not much of a shopper—and you are right! Malls, to me, have their certain tier in hell. Once a year, like it or not, I have to go to Lenox Square and replenish my stock of makeup. I did this recently and when I returned home I realized that the makeup had been in the wrong slot and I had to go back and get the right item.

I decided while I was at the mall to have a quick lunch. There were two women in African garb standing there for a while, and I finally excused myself to get in front of them. I asked them if they needed any help. They couldn't understand the menu. They spoke English, but the menu described chicken sandwiches with many descriptive adjectives and they didn't understand what kind of chicken it was. I helped them order and went to my own private booth.

continued on page 2

Prayers & Sympathy:

Prayers for health and healing:

- Marcia Jenkins and her family.
- Betty and Richard Edmunds
- Tommy Warren (1111 Williams Dr., Elberton). Notes and cards would be appreciated.
- Our special people in the Military, including London Chamberlin, Andrew and his unit, and others in our hearts.

Transitions:

- Natasha Clay has started a new job as Quality Technician at Mollertech. Congratulations, Natasha!

TAKING NOTE

- Nov. and Dec. Worship (except on Dec. 19—see below) at 9 a.m. followed by Coffee Hour.
- Bible Study on Mondays at noon. After Nov. 15 there will be a recess until Jan. 10, 2011.
- Nov. 6 SafeHouse Walkathon and Fall Festival.
- Nov. 12 & 13 Diocesan Council in Atlanta
- Nov. 15 Vestry Meeting at 6 p.m.
- Nov. 17 Lunch with Denni at noon.
- Dec. 13 Vestry Meeting at 6 p.m.
- Dec. 15 Lunch with Denni at noon.
- Dec. 19 Lessons and Carols Service with Mediator at Washington.
- Dec. 23 Decoration of church for Christmas service at 10 a.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve service at 6 p.m.



A few minutes later they came scooting in across from me. They didn't know Americans don't sit with perfect strangers in restaurants—which is quite common in other countries.

They were from Nigeria. I get a lot of e-mail from Nigeria telling me I will be given several million dollars if I will send them my bank account number so they can deposit the cash. This is generally what I know about Nigeria, as well as that a notorious Anglican archbishop does not like gay people or women priests.

We chatted, and I found out the younger woman was a physician and her mother had just retired as an accountant. I asked them about education in Nigeria, and this led to a lively discussion about women and religion and various other topics. They were Catholic and were here for the first time for a family wedding. They were leaving in three days and hadn't had a particularly good visit. It sounded to me like it just hadn't been planned out well by their hosts. We exchanged numbers and e-mails and I invited them to come visit our small southern towns the next time and they would experience true southern hospitality. I feel sure this won't be the last time we communicate.

All this is to say how important it is when people share their stories. I'll never feel the same about malls now that I realize what other kinds of possibilities are there. Who knows who I might meet next time.

Love and blessings,

Denni +

Carpenter's Kids

St. Alban's, together with Church of the Mediator (Washington) and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church (Hartwell), agreed to support for five years the Atlanta Diocese's Carpenter's Kids project. The three churches are raising funds to supply the needs of sixty children in the village of Chigongwe, Tanzania, East Africa. Chigongwe (pop. 7,251) is in St. John's Parish in the Diocese of Central Tanganyika. The funds raised are used for school uniforms and supplies, one hot meal a day, mosquito nets, and critical medical aid. The children receiving the aid are often orphaned or abandoned. Some are HIV positive.

Magi Griffin, a missionary (Atlanta Diocese) and an adviser to Bishop Mdimi Mhogolo of the Diocese of Central Tanganyika, recently shared some general information about Chigongwe.

The main church, St. John's, has 400 members. The Rev. Samwel Mhulula is priest.

There is one primary school (576 enrolled) and a secondary school under construction.

There is a dispensary with very limited resources and medical personnel. Midwife nurses or traditional birth attendants typically deliver babies, often in homes.

Most of the people farm for food and income. Adequate harvests are dependent on rain.

Electrical lines have been run into the area but are not connected. Water for home use must be brought from wells in 20-liter buckets.

Ms. Griffin also shared photos and information about the inaugural distribution of uniforms and supplies (see pages 3 and 4). For her full report see the copy at the back of the church or request that a copy be e-mailed to you.

It costs just \$80 to support one of the Carpenter's Kids for a year. If you would like to contribute, contact Denni.



(Left) On Distribution Day the villagers await the arrival of the Land Rover with visitors and supplies. (Below) They listen to the speakers, who talked of the linkage being formed between the people in Chigongwe and those in our Georgia churches.



(Above) Music is an important part of the festivities—especially drums.



(Above) A woman prepares food for the special day. Breaking bread together is an act of hospitality in Africa. (Right) The children are dressed in their new uniforms (note the zebra socks on some of the boys).



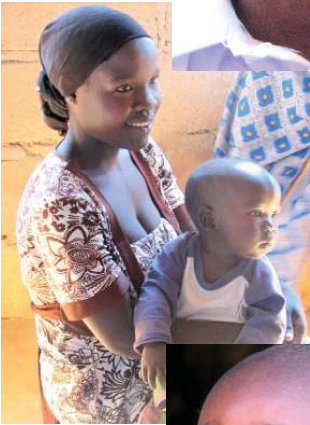
"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep." John 10:11



Baptism

On September 26 the Rev. Edward and Mary Nell Head from Ruston, Louisiana, attended the 9 a.m. service at St. Alban's (see photo below). They were in Elberton for the baptism of their first grandchild, Eleanor Grace Head, which took place that afternoon

at St. Alban's. Eleanor's parents are Hugh and Elizabeth Hardy Head, and her maternal grandparents are Bob and Karen Hardy of Elbert County. Great-grandparents Marvin Hardy and Charles and Louise Bratton all reside locally as well. Eleanor and her parents will be making their home in Atlanta.



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
109 Brookside Drive
Elberton, GA 30635
Tel: 706 283 4563 stalbins@elberton.net
www.stalbins-elberton.org