

SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 7 No. 5 - Sept./Oct. 2010

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.

At some periods in our lives there seems to be more room for introspection. This has been such a time for me. It has been a time to wonder about everything that is happening and to wonder about life and if there are changes needed.

I believe firmly that big decisions shouldn't be made during transitional times. So what do we do in times of great change? I read something lately that I liked very much—to try and move closer to what we are capable of doing. When we trust ourselves and our inner voice we allow others to trust us as well. I like this concept. When we look back at ourselves into our

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Prayers & Sympathy:

Prayers for health and healing:

- Marcia Jenkins and her family.
- David Moss, who is scheduled for surgery on Sept. 8, and Denni, whose surgery is Sept. 20.
- 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 in Haiti, and others in our hearts.

Transitions:

- Pat Reagan has transferred her membership to St. Alban's from Canton, Georgia, and also has a new position as Director of Institutional Advancement at Athens Tech.
- Sara Baldwin resigned from the vestry in August but still continues her service in other ways (see p. 2).

TAKING NOTE

- September and October Worship at 9 am followed by Coffee Hour.
- Sept. 10–11 John Dominic Crossan lectures at Piedmont College
- Sept. 13 Vestry Meeting at 6 pm.
- Sept. 13 Bible Study returns on Mondays at noon! Check the bulletin for further information.
- Sept. 15 Lunch with Denni at noon.
- Oct. 11 Vestry Meeting at 6 pm.
- Oct. 16 Blessing of the Animals at 10 am.
- Oct. 20 Lunch with Denni at noon.

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past and we have no regrets—only learning experiences that have brought us strength and wisdom—I like this also. It seems to validate what we have done, and it gives us the reflective time to see what we have learned by our past.

We all have a little spark of the divine in us, and most of us have a hard time seeing this. We all have a little bit of God in us. If we begin to see this we begin seeing God in everyone else. We can enjoy and appreciate others. We don't have to compete. We can celebrate the differences in each other and not want to make everyone in our own image.

Maybe a time of transition isn't a time to make big decisions, but we can certainly look at our lives and see how we have progressed.

Reflection is one of the most important gifts God has given us. I think I will use it more.

Love and blessings,

Denni +

Advent Adventure

While summer is still upon us, planning for a holy Christmas could help you withstand the heat. Sara Baldwin will be attending a December 3–5 retreat, titled Seeking and Finding, at the Episcopal Convent of St. Helena in Augusta. To join her, register with Lesley, the Guest Coordinator (706-798-5201; \$80), and make reservations at the Quality Inn (\$60/night, 2 nights). For more information contact Sara at ssbldwn@yahoo.com or see the Convent website <http://www.osh.org/>.

Backpackers



Nancy Seymour, Marilyn Slocumbe, Rector Denni Moss, and Steve Jenkins display some of the backpacks that were presented to Blackwell Elementary School students. At far left is Blackwell principal Vicki Smith.



Member Snapshots

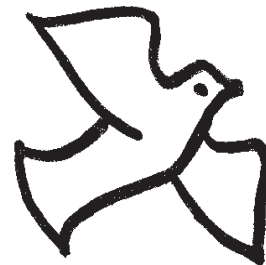


(Above) Natasha Clay is one of our newer church members, but one whom we already would find it very hard to do without. She has been serving as a lector and acolyte and recently received her Eucharistic Minister's License. And she supplies us with eggs!

(Below) Marty Fortson, our youngest regular church attendee, plays peekaboo with Nana Suzanne Moore.



"O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth forever." Psalm 136:2



Church Challenge

Nancy Seymour invites fellow church members to share memories of their visits to other Episcopal churches through photos, or perhaps images from church literature.

To get us started, she shares a photo of herself with a banner depicting St. David. The photo was taken at St. David's Episcopal Church in Austin, Texas, where she and Joel were attending the 132nd National Guard Association of the United States General Conference August 21–23, 2010.

St. David (ca. 500–589) was Welsh. The best-known miracle associated with him is said to have taken place as he was preaching in the middle of a large crowd. When people complained they could not see him, the ground on which he stood is said to have risen up to form a hillock so that everyone had a good view. A white dove settling on his shoulder was a sign of God's grace. The dove and raised ground can be seen with him on the banner, as can a daffodil (flower of Wales) and a bluebonnet (flower of Texas).



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