



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

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Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.

In reading the news, I'm trying to make sense out of what has been going on in Egypt. How can an unpopular government rule with an iron fist for thirty years? How can all of the country's communication with the world and each other be cut off overnight? How does the economy get so bad that there are no jobs for most thirty-year-olds—who are the majority population in Egypt? How does there get to be such a disparity between rich and poor? How does this happen?

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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.
- Wright Payne Morris (Wright Cousins). Cards would be appreciated (address: Mrs. Wright Morris, The Arbor, Owens Rd., Evans, GA 30809).
- Those serving in the military

Transitions:

- Ray and Dolores Jefferson are the proud great-grandparents of Michael Loggin, born January 15, 2011.
- Our beloved sister Barbara Nicas died peacefully February 18, 2011. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. See page 3 for an obituary and photos of Barbara.

TAKING NOTE

- March and April worship at 9 a.m. followed by coffee hour.
- Bible study will continue on Mondays at noon.
- March 7 Vestry meeting 6 p.m.
- March 8 Shrove Tuesday pancake supper at Mediator.
- March 9 Ash Wednesday service at noon.
- March 14 and 28, April 4 and 11 Lenten soup suppers at 6 p.m.
- April vestry meeting. Date to be announced later.
- April 17 Palm Sunday.
- April 21 Maundy Thursday service at noon.
- April 22 Good Friday service at noon.
- April 24 Easter Sunday.



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We have an Episcopal mission partner in Egypt. He has served in suburban Cairo since 2003 as the rector of an international Episcopal church. He says that the critical role he plays is a contact point for a number of people who are staying in Cairo and are related to the parish. He said he has been going through the church directory and calling people to see if they are still there. About 80 percent of the parishioners—who are mostly diplomats, members of nongovernmental agencies, academics, and business professionals—have opted to leave.

He said he could hear sporadic gunfire, but thought there was no danger to westerners except for looting and getting caught in crossfire. His own apartment was under attack before the owner fired shots to ward off the mobs. Looters set fire to stores, and hotels were ransacked. For a while there was no system of law in place and several thousand prisoners escaped from prison. This all sounds very dangerous to me!

While we are here in a comparatively safe environment, remember to pray for our sisters and brothers who are struggling with things we can't even imagine.

Peace,

Denni +

On one of his visits to St. Alban's, Bishop Alexander talks with Carolyn and David Hagins.

New Direction

The Rt. Rev. J. Neil Alexander has announced his plans to step aside next year after eleven years as bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta.

He said he will join the faculty of Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta in the fall of 2012. On February 7 Alexander informed the diocese's Standing Committee of his intentions, stating that his resignation will become effective upon the ordination of his successor.

He has asked the Standing Committee to initiate the process to elect the tenth bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. "I believe it is reasonable to expect an election in the spring of 2012 and the ordination of the next bishop of Atlanta late that summer or early in the fall," he wrote in a letter to clergy of the diocese.

At Emory, his primary duties will be as a professor of liturgy, focusing on the practical disciplines of ministry: liturgy, preaching and pastoral theology. In addition to teaching, he will also provide direction to Candler's Anglican-Episcopal Studies program.

(Reprinted from a news story by Nan Ross on the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta's website; the full report can be found at www.episcopalatlanta.org/News/newsView.asp?NewsId=409681186.)





Barbara Hill Nicas

Barbara Irene Hill Nicas died peacefully on February 18, 2011. She was born February 4, 1933, daughter of Irene Strickland Hill and Charles E. Hill Jr.

Barbara graduated from Valdosta High School and the University of Georgia where she majored in Voice and received a BFA. She was also a member of Alpha Delta Pi Sorority. Barbara lived and raised her family in Columbus, Georgia. In 1985 she relocated to the Warm Springs area and worked at the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation until her retirement in 1996. In 1997 she moved to Elberton, Georgia. She lived for her love of music, her garden, and especially her family. She had a passion for her church, St. Alban's Episcopal, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of Elbert Memorial Hospital, where she was a past president.

She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother and will be dearly missed. Barbara is survived by her husband Allen G. Nicas; son George, Athens, Georgia; daughter Amanda Widener, Greenville, South Carolina; grandchildren Anna (Jason) Bunch, Daniel Widener, Elizabeth (Justin) Foster, and Sarah Widener and great-granddaughters Kaitlyn Bunch and Haylee Foster, all of Greenville; brother Charles E. Hill III (Nell), Orange Beach, Alabama; nephews and niece.

A memorial service was held at St. Alban's Episcopal Church on Saturday February 26, 2011, at 11 a.m.



Photos courtesy of Mary Randall

*"And, lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world."
Matthew 28:20*



On February 12 the vestries from St. Alban's and Mediator enjoyed a joint retreat at Hickory Knob State Park. Attending from Elberton were Carolyn Hagins, Suzanne Moore, Marilyn Slocumbe, Louise Martin, and treasurer Pat Reagan.

Since February 6 is Denni's birthday and this year it fell on a Sunday, St. Alban's parishioners surprised her with a birthday cake at coffee hour following the Eucharist.



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