



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 8 No. 6 (Nov.–Dec. 2011)

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Grace & peace to you, sisters and brothers.

Other than the Holy Eucharist, Morning and Evening Prayer are probably the most familiar services in the Book of Common Prayer. The Holy Eucharist is the principal act of worship on the Lord's Day and other major feasts. Many long-time Episcopalians remember when Morning Prayer seemed more the norm on Sunday mornings. Holy Eucharist was celebrated infrequently. The reasons for this are many and varied. During the Reformation the church wanted to change many things that made it look "popish." Many churches removed anything that looked "Catholic" including vestments, altar hangings, and liturgies. The Lord's Day celebration of the Eucharist was unfortunately one of the things removed.

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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.

Transitions:

- Mary Minor and Bo Brown have a new grandson, Wyatt Livingston Brown, born Sunday August 21. Wyatt's proud parents are Robert and Sarah Brown.



TAKING NOTE

- November and December worship at 9 a.m. followed by coffee hour.
- Bible study will continue on Mondays at noon.
- November 1 All Saints Day.
- November 4–5 Diocesan Council at Rome, Georgia.
- November 14 Vestry meeting 6 p.m.
- November 16 Lunch with Denni, noon at McIntosh Coffee Shoppe.
- November 24 Thanksgiving Day
- December 12 Vestry meeting 6 p.m.
- December 23 Decoration of church for Christmas Eve service
- December 24 Christmas Eve service 6 p.m.
- December 25 Christmas Day. Father Atkinson will celebrate Eucharist at 11 a.m.



(Rector's Message, continued from page 1)

When Anglicanism spread to America there was a dire shortage of priests, and Morning Prayer soon became the primary service on Sundays. Morning Prayer is a lay office that doesn't need a priest present to preside. Even after priests began gradually to grow in numbers, the service of Morning Prayer continued as the primary service in many churches.

With the dawn of the ecumenical Vatican II council we as Episcopalians began to look into our roots as well and began exploring the beginning of our new and present 1979 BCP. With the Vatican II reformation, for which we are heartily thankful, we began looking at the baby we had thrown out with the bathwater. Holy Eucharist was reinstated as our principal act of worship. Morning Prayer, which remained essentially as it appeared in the first Prayer Book of 1549, took the place it was originally intended to fill. We as clergy and laity are encouraged to pray this office daily to start our day with God in mind and to become facile in Holy Scriptures.

The Sabbath was set aside as a way of making the entire week holy, and in the same way, we set aside times of daily prayer to mark each day as God's. I encourage all of you to read the words of Morning Prayer and incorporate them into your daily life.

Blessings,

Denni

Nativity Windows



(Above) In 1961 this window was made for St. Alban's in the studios of George L. Payne of Paterson, New Jersey, the American representatives of J. Wippell & Company, an English firm. In the Old Gothic style, it is positioned in the back of the nave. *(Left)* A set of three windows in the Lamb of God series of side windows are decorated for Christmas. Dating from the early 1970s, they depict the Annunciation, the Nativity, and the Flight to Egypt.



70th Anniversary

On Sunday October 30 St. Alban's members celebrated the 70th anniversary of the dedication of their church building. The Rt. Rev. Keith Whitmore, Assistant Bishop of Atlanta, presided at the 10 a.m. service and delivered the sermon. The Rev. Dr. Denise Moss, rector of St. Alban's, and the Rev. Herschel Atkinson, rector emeritus, assisted.

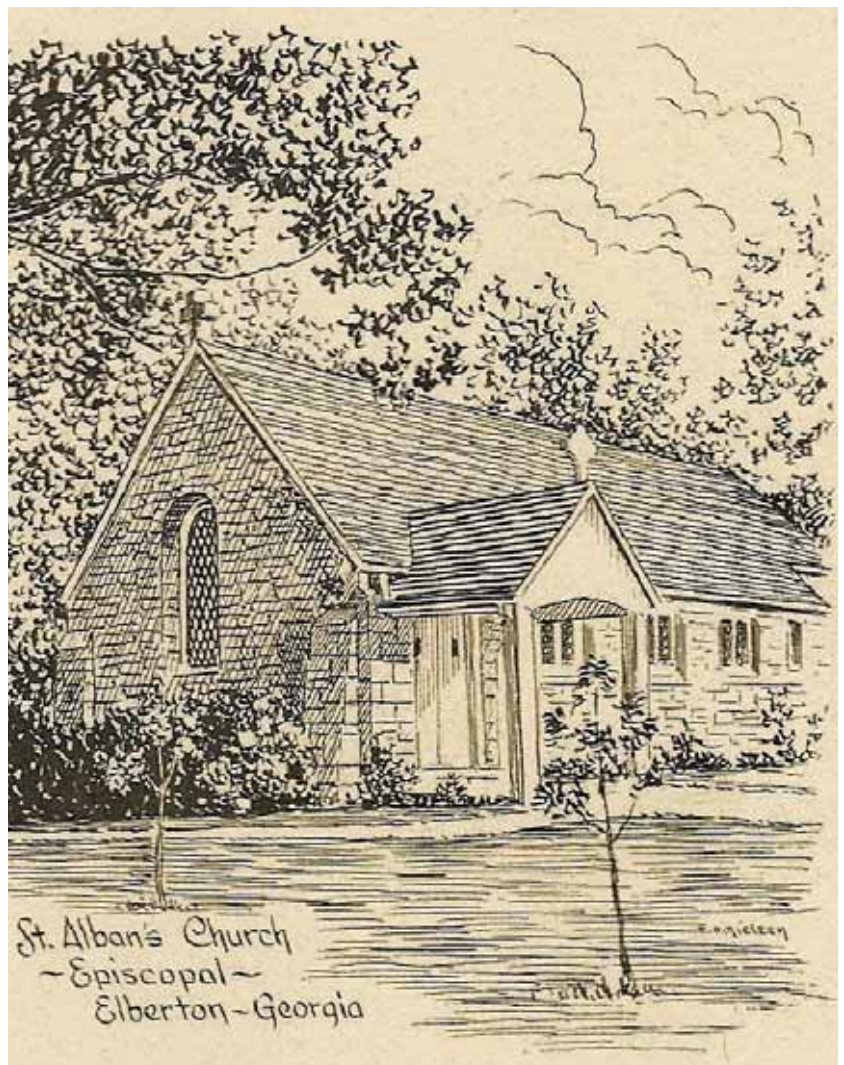
Lay ministers were Carole Coggins and Louise Martin, acolytes; Carole Coggins and Mary Randall, altar; Natasha Clay, crucifer; John Coggins, Carole Oglesby, and Arlene Whitlow, greeters; Steve Jenkins, lector; Ray Jefferson and Steve Jenkins, oblations/ushers; Marilyn Slocumbe, prayers; Mary Randall, thurifer; and Andrea Martin and Christian Moore, torches.

In the congregation were members of St. Alban's sister church, Church of the Mediator in Washington, Georgia, and a number of past members and friends of St. Alban's.

The sequence hymn, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," was also sung at Father Atkinson's ordination in 1971; other hymns were "Lift High the Cross" and "I Sing a Song of the Saints of God." During the offertory Darla Wilson played "Amazing Grace" on the violin.

During the service Bishop Whitmore presented St. Alban's with a framed certificate that reads in part: "On behalf of the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Atlanta, I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the

Faithful of Saint Alban's Church, Elberton, Georgia, on the occasion of your Seventieth Anniversary. We commend you for your faithfulness to the Gospel of Jesus and your devoted service to the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta. May the joy of this celebration energize your ministry for years to come in service to the Lord of the Church." The certificate was signed "The Right Reverend John Neil Alexander, Bishop of Atlanta. October 30, 2011."



Sample notecards bearing this line drawing of St. Alban's were passed out at the October 30 lunch at the Elberton Country Club following the church service. Extra notecards will be available for sale. If you are interested, call the church office at (706) 283-4563.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14



Our friends at Mediator provided us with the photo above, which was taken at their Blessing of the Beasts. As the date stamp shows, the event took place on October 14, 2011.

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