



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 8 No. 5 (Sept.–Oct. 2011)

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.

On October 30, God willing and the creek don't rise, we will celebrate St. Alban's seventieth anniversary in our present church. Bishop Whitmore will be here, we'll eat lunch at the Country Club, and we'll bless and dedicate Barbara's bench. It will be a festive day. Several of us have been having a good time looking over old pictures and letters from our archives. If anyone else has anything that would be noteworthy, please let me know. Folks have offered to be on the planning committee. If you are interested but haven't stepped up, we still have room. Histories are an integral part of our past and we need to keep telling our stories. In looking at some of the letters we can tell what was going on and how certain things happened. There is a letter from a senior warden of old telling why St. Alban's must have a rectory. There is a bulletin of Herschel's ordination to the priesthood—complete with music. We'll probably use that music on October 30. I think we must have a history of who we are for the celebration of our hundredth anniversary, so I am going to ask someone to take individual pictures of us to display. I wish they had thought of that seventy years ago! This will be an exciting couple of months. We are open for suggestions. Let us know.

Blessings, *Denni* +

Prayers & Sympathy:

Prayers for health and healing:

- Anne and Henry Jaudon
- Marcia Jenkins and her family
- Betty and Richard Edmunds
- Tommy Warren (1111 Williams Dr., Elberton)
- Those serving in the military

TAKING NOTE

- September and October worship at 9 a.m. followed by coffee hour except on Oct. 30, when 10 a.m. worship will be followed by lunch at the Elberton Country Club.
- Bible study will meet on Mondays at noon.
- Sept. 10 70th anniversary of dedication of St. Alban's church building
- Sept. 12 Vestry meeting at 6 p.m.
- Sept. 21 Lunch with Denni, noon at McIntosh Coffee Shoppe.
- Oct. 10 Vestry meeting at 6 p.m.
- Oct. 19 Lunch with Denni, noon at McIntosh Coffee Shoppe.

BISHOP

WHITMORE'S

VISIT

OCTOBER 30



St. Alban's History

The first known Episcopal service in Elberton was held September 10, 1894, in the Methodist Church by Rev. O. T. Porcher of Greenwood, South Carolina. The first organized Episcopal community was the Church of the Holy Apostles in 1898. This mission church disbanded in 1906, but services revived in 1909 under the direction of the Rev. Thomas Duck of Toccoa.

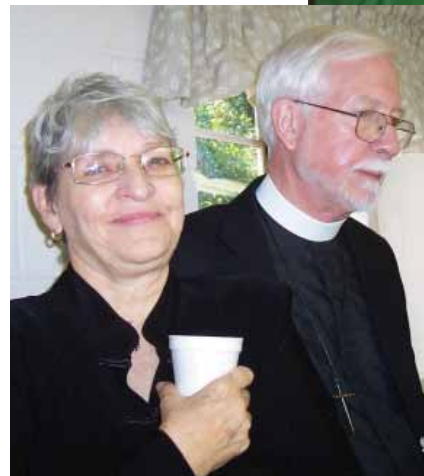
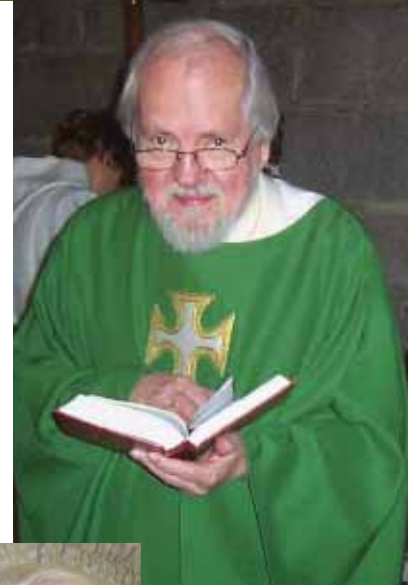
By the 1930s, the mission congregation was meeting in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Albert S. Hawes on Heard Street, and services were held by the Rev. David Cady Wright of Athens. The name of the church was changed to St. Alban's in 1941, the same year in which the present church building was completed and dedicated. This took place on September 10, at the same time the first minister, the Rev. J. Britt Ellington, was ordained. Both ordination and dedication were performed by the Rt. Rev. H. J. Mikell. Granite for the new building was donated by Mr. B. Frank Coggins Sr.

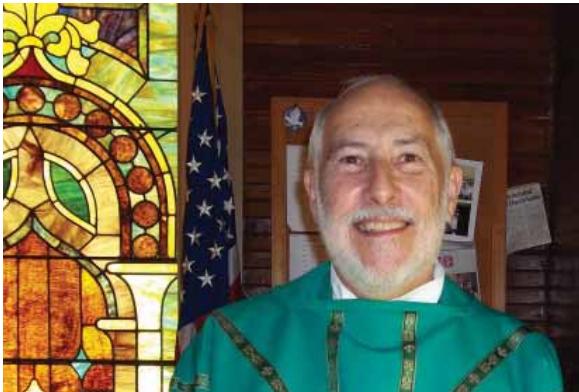
St. Alban's was granted full parish status by the Diocese of Atlanta in 1960. In the seventy years since the present church building was completed, the Rev. Herschel Atkinson has had the longest tenure as priest (from 1970 through October 31, 1997). Other rectors during that time have been the Reverends Jay Victor Nickelson, Lawrence Rogers Kelley, William Abbot Yon, Frank V. D. Fortune, Milton Coward Jr., James Shumard, John Via, and the present rector Denni Moss. The Rev. W. R. Harris was deacon in charge for five months in 1945, and Gene Britton served as supply priest for several years in the early 2000s.

St. Alban's was in a yoked relationship with St. Andrew's in Hartwell from the late 1940s until 2001. The church has been yoked with Mediator in Washington since 2004.



Recent clergy at St. Alban's: (from top down) the Rev. Herschel Atkinson and the Rev. Dr. Denise (Denni) Moss, the Rev. Gene Britton, the Rev. John Via with his wife Allie Hardwick, the Rev. Dr. James (Jim) Shumard





The Rev. John Keeler, a former member and deacon of St. Alban's, now rector of All Angels Episcopal Church, Eatonton, Ga. Other St. Alban's members who went on to become priests are James Knox Yeary (the first baby baptized at St. Alban's) and Ralph Cousins.



The photo above was taken in 1956, during the excavation for the foundation of a new parish house to be connected to the rear of the existing church building. The addition, when finished, would contain Sunday School rooms and an office on the top floor and a large assembly room and kitchen on the bottom floor. The men observing the bulldozer at work are St. Alban's rector, the Rev. William A. Yon, and Peyton S. Hawes, senior warden.



At the Diocesan Council of January 1960 St. Alban's was advanced from the status of Aided Parish to Parish. The four delegates shown are Peyton S. Hawes, outgoing senior warden who had served in that capacity for twenty years; B. Frank Coggins Jr., newly elected senior warden; the Rev. William A. Yon, rector; and Byron Highland, vestryman.

Marcia Jenkins taught many Sunday School Cherubs at St. Alban's. Here she is shown with Betsy and Maggie Gaffney and Emily Whitlow.



"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal." 1 Corinthians 13:1



The Lamb of God Windows

In 1970 St. Alban's had just two stained glass windows, the risen Christ behind the altar (1950s) and the nativity at the back of the church (1961), but the Hon. Peyton Hawes wanted to add a window with the design of a lamb as a memorial to a grandson who died in infancy. The idea of one window grew in the early 1970s into a set of seventeen stained glass windows going down both sides of the church. The English church appointments firm, Wippell's, designed and manufactured the windows; Mr. Hawes led the fundraising drive.

The order of the windows is accidental but excellent. Mr. Hawes wanted the lamb window in the back near the font. From that window the series goes chronologically toward the front on the left side and back to the church door on the right side. Thus, one enters the church by the font, sees the Lamb of God, then on the left side the preparation for Jesus' earthly ministry and on the right side that ministry and its aftermath. St. Paul (the Apostle to the Gentiles) and St. Alban (the earliest known named British martyr) share the last window because there was only one left for them.

The Rev. Herschel Atkinson, who was rector when the windows were installed, has said they form "the book of the story of the Lamb of God, and the first window is its title page. . . . A particularly good point is the way the flowing blue partial background ties them together." Pastel colored glass was used for the background so that the trees in the yard would be visible.



(Above) On July 14 Frank Coggins celebrated his 84th birthday with family and friends. Shown with him here are his brother and sister-in-law, John and Carole Coggins. (Below) The newest addition to the St. Alban's churchyard is a bench in memory of Barbara Nicas. Bishop Whitmore will dedicate the bench on October 30.

