



SANCTUARY

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

Vol. 9 No. 1 (January–February 2012)

Elberton, Georgia

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Peace & grace to you, sisters and brothers.

Surely by now all of you know that I'm a city girl though I've been won over by rural living. The most unusual animal I ever saw growing up was a pet ferret on a leash outside a coffee shop in Atlanta. I thought it was a cat! We had three baby opossums fall from our roof in Atlanta. I thought that all babies were supposed to be darling. These weren't. I guess their mother finally came and rescued them because all the hissing and snarling and ugly little critters disappeared. You know only their mom could love them. In the last few years I learned that a heifer is a girl cow. This was because it was written on a restroom door and I was unsure if I should go in or not. Although I am captivated whenever I see a deer, I have come to know they aren't loved in this neck of the woods. They eat gardens and cause accidents.

I have always wondered about the symbolism of sheep and goats in the gospels. It seems sheep are good and goats are bad. I decided to do some research on them. Neither of them are very smart. You certainly don't want to get downwind of one of them either. If someone tells you that you smell like you are "totin' a goat," this is not a compliment. I found out that sheep will follow almost anyone. If you go over a cliff,

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Prayers & Sympathy:

Prayers for health and healing: Anne and Henry Jaudon, Marcia Jenkins and her family, Betty and Richard Edmunds, Tommy Warren

Transitions:

- Check out the St. Alban's website at www.stalbans-elberton.org. Andrea has updated the format and content.

TAKING NOTE

- January and February worship at 9 a.m. followed by coffee hour. Holy Eucharist except on January 1, when there will be Morning Prayer.
- Bible study will meet on Mondays at noon. New members are welcome.
- January 6 The Epiphany
- January 8 Annual Meeting after Eucharist. Extended coffee hour.
- January 9 Vestry meeting at 6 p.m.
- January 18 Lunch with Denni, McIntosh Coffee Shoppe at noon
- February 13 Vestry meeting at 6 p.m.
- February 15 Lunch with Denni, McIntosh Coffee Shoppe at noon
- February 22 Ash Wednesday, service at noon
- February 26 First Sunday in Lent

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." Psalm 136:1



Rector's Message (continued)

they probably will, too. Goats, on the other hand, have a mind of their own and tend to go where things are interesting. Goats are naturally curious and independent. Sheep are aloof and distant. Goats look for shelter in bad weather; sheep don't. Neither of them like to get their feet wet. Sheep put their heads down and ram when they are agitated. Goats stand on their hind feet and fight. Sheep are better at combat.

Sheep are docile and quiet and don't give shepherds a lot of worry. If you are having trouble with one of your sheep, you may actually be looking at a goat. So I don't know why sheep are chosen over goats in scripture. I like the idea that they have minds of their own. I like that they don't just follow anyone. I think Episcopalians may be like goats. I think a flock of really good goats would make a wonderful congregation.

Peace,

Denni +

(Right) Frank Coggins next to a marker commemorating his contributions to the construction of the Emergency Services Headquarters in Elberton. With him are daughters Sarah Williams, Mary Aillene Coggins, and Nancy Seymour; son-in-law Joel Seymour; and grandson Christopher Whitworth.



(Above and right) St. Alban's members enjoy a Christmas lunch at the Elberton Country Club on December 21. Only Herschel's hands made the first photo, so he has one to himself. Nancy and Joel Seymour were present behind the camera.

