



**St. Alban's Episcopal Church**

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# The Banner

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Monroe, Louisiana**



October 2007

*From the Rector's Desk:*



I expect by now that all of you have heard at least some news of the events and statements arising out of the recent meeting of the House of Bishops of The Episcopal Church in New Orleans. Reading different media reports, it's clear that the bishops' statement is open to a wide variety of interpretations.

The ultimate direction and fate of the Anglican Communion is not clear. Although I expect that there may be serious long-term consequences for the national Episcopal Church, there is no reason why we here at St. Alban's should not continue with our life of worship and ministry as we have in the past.

You and I have been called to ministry here in this place, and we've been given all the gifts necessary to carry out this ministry. Whether it's arranging flowers for the Sunday Holy Eucharist, serving food to the hungry at the Refuge of Hope, serving on the vestry, or studying and praying together as we learn and grow into His image, we must not be distracted or seduced by controversy from carrying out our mission here at St. Alban's Church.

Bishop MacPherson and I remain committed to the Windsor Report and orthodox Biblical Christianity as delivered to the Apostles and handed down through the centuries. The Truth of the Gospel, the soundness of God's Word in Holy Scripture, and the unique role of our Lord Jesus Christ in the salvation of the world, will not be compromised in the pulpit or at the altar of St. Alban's.

I know that all of us in St. Alban's parish do not, and will not, agree, on some of the matters in dispute, and make no mistake, some of those issues are fundamentally important. However, I challenge you all to hold high our mission statement: 'St. Alban's is a parish family, learning and growing in faith and welcoming all as we reach out to the world to share the Joy, Love, and Peace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.'

Blessings and Prayers,

George+

**St Alban's Neighborhood Picnic  
Saturday, October 27th • 2 pm—5 pm**

St. Alban's will host a Neighborhood Picnic on Saturday, October 27th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to meet and fellowship with our neighbors. It will be a day for the whole family to enjoy. There will be a spacewalk, children's train, horseshoes, face painting, etc. John Robinson will be on the "Pit" cooking hamburgers & hotdogs! Get the kids & grandkids and come out for a great time!

If you would like, bring a desert for our desert table. Contact Sharon York for more information or to volunteer to assist in this outreach opportunity.



## Opportunities for Episcopal Youth at St. Alban's

**T**here are several opportunities coming up for the youth of St Alban's. These are great opportunities to provide your children, grand children, Godsons and Goddaughters a safe environment where they can learn about God and experience His Love.

**Grace EYC** - St Alban's Youth in grades 7 to 12 are invited to join the Grace EYC in the "Upstairs Room" over the school office for youth activities at 6 pm every Sunday for food and fun.

**JEYL** (November 16th - 18th) is a retreat weekend held at the Camp Hardtner for middle school students. As a retreat, there is ample "serious" content, but because it is a middle school student event, there are also many "fun" moments. The staff is composed of high school and college-age students from throughout the diocese.

**Happening** (January 25-27) is a fun filled weekend that seeks to bring young persons of high school age, to a fuller personal knowledge of, and a personal relationship with, the Lord Jesus Christ and to a deeper level of commitment and apostleship. The teens are encouraged to take a new faith back into their worlds, and to make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ.

**Youth Quake** (January 18-20) in Ridgecrest North Carolina is an action packed weekend retreat for teens. This year, UNHINDERED will provide worship music and the inspiring speaker is Gregg Johnson. The comedian group MAD DOGS AND ENGLISHMEN will provide dramatic antics.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

Date	Happy Birthday!
<b>October</b>	(2nd) Ashley Gordon, Helen Johnson, (3rd) Katherine Smith, (4th) John Perry, (5th) Rita Jefferson, Vicki Robinson, Eliana Rogers, Liz Webb, (6th) Debbie Sutton, Louise Bradford, (7th) Bruce French, (11th) Jarrett Reeves, (12th) Doug Kline, (21st) Dottie Johnson, Megan Thomas, (22nd) Arlyne Everitt, (23rd) Paula Blackman, (24th) Lexie Johnson, (27th) Mark Snellgrove, and (31st) Joey McKinney
<b>November</b>	(3rd) Bitsy Beene, (4th) Sybil Roggerson, (5th) Danny Saye, (7th) Jim Braddock, Jr., (12th) Lida McGivern, (14th) Johnathon Saye, (16th) Susan Duggins, (18th) Richard "Trey" McGivern, (21st) Stephanie Stewart, and (30th) Mary Beth Weeks
Happy Anniversary!	
<b>October</b>	(18th) Glenn & Leah Stewart
<b>November</b>	(10th) Lynda & Harry McGehee, (17th) Lee & Rita Jefferson, (27th) Rose & Doug Kline, and (30th) Judy & Monroe Hilton.

## My Trip to Camp Hardtner by Ivania Vallejo (age 11)

**C**amp Hardtner is the best camp I've ever been to. There are a lot of things to do there. The first day you get there, you get to go to the pavilion and listen to music and you can also play 4 square or sit and talk to your friends. If you're new, don't worry there is a lot of people who are new. And everyone are friends at camp Hardtner we do all kind of games and we have family group, the games are so much fun. One of the games the counselors hide in the woods and we have to try to find them. Another thing we do is free choice. In free choice, we choose between going to the lake to canoe or stay in the pavilion and play 4 square.

Sometimes the pool is a choice too. Before we go swimming we have to take a swimming test to see if you can swim and float. Usually we have a luau and the girls wear a grass skirt. Most of the time in the last night we do pranks to others cabins which are a lot of fun. You don't have to do it the last night you do it any night. It is a lot of fun.

And we also have church. The last day is the greatest. We dress up with the nicest clothes we have and go to church and we get a candle. Then we get a paper and write things we shouldn't do, and we burn them in the woods. Then we have a dance and it is a lot fun.

Well, that is what mostly happens at camp Hardtner. For me camp Hardtner was a great experience and I can't wait for next year.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL.** Wonderful! Marvelous! Overwhelming Joy! These are just a few of the adjectives we used to describe St. Alban's Vacation Bible School this year. We had about 60 children every night for singing, lessons, supper, crafts and lots of fun together. We want to thank everyone here at St. Alban's for all of their help. There are too many to name. Money, Time, Prayers and Talent were given in abundance. We have already met to start planning for next year. Thanks again to everyone! (Bitsy Beene, Vicki Robertson, Laura Flynn, Grace Houston, Wesley Johnson, Dottie Johnson and, of course, Fr. Walker).

### Weekly Schedule

#### Sunday Schedule:

- 8:00 am– Holy Eucharist
- 9:15 am– Christian Education
- 10:30 am– Holy Eucharist

Don't forget to add the **Wednesday** (Holy Eucharist) service to your weekly schedule. Join us at 5:30 pm each Wednesday!