



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
www.stalbansbovina.org

August 2021



Betty Biedenharn Celebrates 100th Birthday

A Prayer & Blessing for Betty's 100th Birthday



Gracious God, on this occasion of Betty's 100th birthday, we give thanks for her presence among us as a keeper of the stories, traditions, and memories of this church. We are grateful for her years of faithful discipleship and the countless ways she has witnessed to the steadfastness and abundance of your love. Grant that Betty may continue to grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen her trust in your goodness all the days of her life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

Betty, may God bless you and keep you. May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May God look upon you with favor and grant you peace. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you, always.

Betty Lassiter Biedenharn, Centenarian

On July 14, 1921, Betty Biedenharn, daughter of Francis & Letitia Lassiter, was born at the Vicksburg Infirmary. She, along with her twin sister, Letty, were confirmed at the Church of the Holy Trinity where the Lassiter family worshipped.

When of age, she entered the “W” and, during that time frame, met Eric C. Biedenharn, a farmer from Bovina who was six years her senior. Betty always enjoyed telling the story of how their relationship began: “I was sitting in the stadium at Old Miss waiting for my father to arrive when someone yelled up at me saying, ‘Hey, little girl, aren’t you cold—come sit with us so you won’t freeze.’ I moved down and sat with him until my father arrived. After that, we began dating and were married at St. Alban’s Church on September 28, 1941.” The marriage produced seven children, all baptized and confirmed at St. Alban’s.

To date, Betty has been a member of St. Alban’s for 80 years and looks forward to years to come.



The Biedenharn Family

L-R: Ann (Jones), Letty, Betty, Betsy (Selby), Eva (Panelo)
Second row L-R: Max, Eric and Easy



Penny Freund greeting Liz Curtis and Betty



Susan Price and Betty recalling memories



Liz Curtis visiting with her grandmother



Lynn Gerhardt congratulates Betty



Chocolate cake was enjoyed by all



Sharon Hanks congratulates Betty



Margie Scott and Betty, best of friends



Nostalgic birthday fan featuring Betty

Fall Adult Sunday School Plans

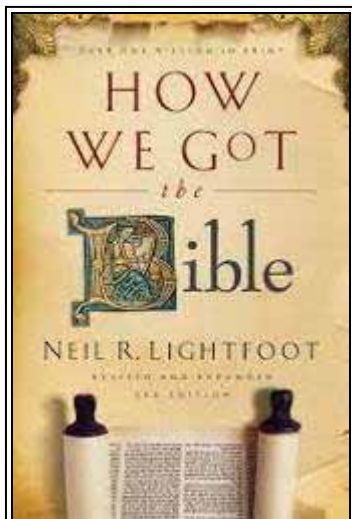
Sunday school for adults is starting back on August 1, from 9:30-10:30 am each Sunday morning. The classes will be “hybrid,” which means you can attend in person at the church, or from home over Zoom (see the weekly email for the Zoom meeting link). Everyone, from seasoned churchgoer to newcomer, is invited! Here’s a sneak peek at what we’ll be diving into:

August Communion Conversations: Every Sunday in August

Have you ever had questions about the Eucharist? Maybe you've wondered why we have wine instead of grape juice or share one cup instead of many small ones. Or perhaps you want to know what Episcopalians believe about the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? During the month of August, we're going to focus on the theology and practice of the Eucharist. We'll ask how the Eucharist developed and look at current issues related to the Eucharist, like whether the Eucharist can be offered online. At the 11:00 am service, we'll pray with a different Eucharistic prayer each week, and on Aug. 15, we'll have an instructed Eucharist. Come join us in August as we learn more about what has been called “the source and summit of our faith.”

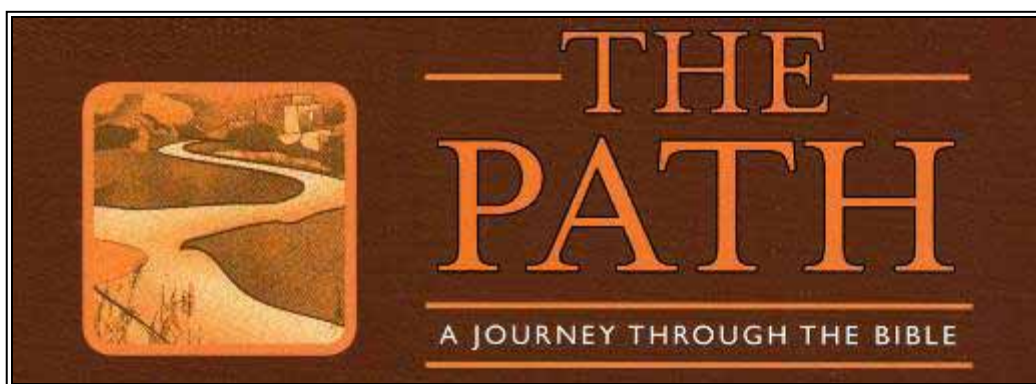
Looking Ahead: Transforming Questions Starts September 19

After a break for Labor Day weekend and the weekend after, Sunday school will start back on September 19th with a program all about the “big questions.” Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus have to die? Does God answer prayer? Why do bad things happen? Where do we go when we die? If you have ever wrestled with these questions, come join us in Sunday school where we’ll explore them together. This class will push you to a deeper understanding of what you believe and give you language for talking about it.



How We Got the Bible

The Bibles and More group has begun studying Neil Lightfoot’s book, *How We Got The Bible*, Tuesday evenings at 6:00–8:00 pm in person and on ZOOM. This study seeks to be a factual and honest account of how the Bible has been preserved and handed down to our generation.



This past Sunday School year, 2020 thru 2021, we at St Alban’s travelled together as never before on the PATH through Holy Scriptures. Beginning with Exodus and concluding with Revelation, we studied the entire Bible in church wide groups. Studies were held at Sunday School, Children’s Sunday School, Tuesday Bibles and More, a Tuesday in-person afternoon session. Rev. Elisabeth preached each Sunday on the appointed lesson from our text: *The Path - A Journey Through the Bible* edited by Melody Wilson Strobe and David Creech, produced by Forward Movement. This was a “condensed version” taking us into the focus of the entire Old and New Testaments.

When we say “church wide” we mean it. A total of 54 books were distributed and the attendance, counting Sunday services ranged from 26 to 78 present! Proving the we Episcopalians are a Bible Believing Church! Gatherings were mostly on Zoom although some in person sessions were held.

Some comments and discussion about the sessions were:

1. I didn't realize THAT was in the Bible!
2. We found that the founders of our Judeo-Christian faith were not always so noble or “good.”
3. We learned how much of our Christian identity is owed to Judaism and got a much better understanding of the progression of history led us to Jesus and to the formation of our Christian Faith.
4. I believe that we all came away with a better understanding of our Holy Scriptures and most importantly—better prepared to share the Good News with our communities in our daily walks with the Lord. Finally, this study has prompted us to delve deeper into our faith foundations, we will begin a 5-week study of the practice, formation and theology of the Sacrament of the Eucharist in August and study the Questions of our Faith beginning in September.

David Pruett



The rain is nearly past, only lightly sprinkling.
Frogs have come from their hiding places to savor the damp air and earth.
Lightning flashes in the distance providing a beautiful night sky
and fireflies flutter among the trees and shrubs to show off their magnificent
fireworks with the sky as their backlight.

God's wonders never fail to amaze, reminding us of His wonders and power.
The sparkling fireflies remind me of the tale of the little duckling who was mocked
because of his homeliness, only later to grow into a beautiful swan.
In daylight, the plain, unattractive little insects draw no admiration,
but become glistening shimmers of light in the darkness.

What can I do to shine my light to a world in chaos?
If the Lord created a simple, tiny insect to sparkle for us in the night,
surely His purpose for me is not dissimilar.
The message seems clear to me:
God has given me a light to shine.

No matter my age, my financial means, my physical ability or disability,
my purpose in this short life with which the Lord has blessed me is to
shine a light to all those who feel lonely, forgotten, in need of His mercy.
Lord, let my light shine to show the world your love.

Help me to be as a firefly, guiding others to you, our everlasting light to
help us to endure the storms of life and to reach eternity with you.
Imagine the light that can glow in the world if all of us here will join
together like a group of fireflies to lead the way for others.
Let's shine our lights.

Dawn Rickard



HEADING BACK TO SCHOOL?

Get your backpack blessed at St. Alban's!

Sunday, Aug. 1
8:30 or 11:00 am

School supply drive for Bovina Elementary: bring Clorox wipes, tissues, dry erase markers, and earbuds



New Nursery Caregiver

We are glad to welcome Jada Sanders as our new nursery caregiver on Sunday, August 15. Jada is a familiar face at St. Alban's, where she has often helped out in the nursery. Jada will be taking Ashley Patterson's place as she heads off to college. Please welcome Jada when you see her!

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

What a roller coaster we have been on this year! For many of us, the beginning of the summer brought such joy--we started singing together, eating together, smiling at each other without face masks. And yet here we are at the end of the summer, despite the high vaccination rate within our church community, facing the anxiety of increasing COVID cases around the state. I have found my own joy tempered by grief and other complicated emotions in response to the seeming un-ending nature of this pandemic.

I suspect I am not alone in my mixed emotions. Mental health experts have been raising awareness about the "silent pandemic" of mental health issues we are facing as COVID continues to take a toll. My friends who are therapists all report a dramatic increase in people seeking help. Their experience reflects research indicating increases in rates of depression and anxiety, as well as substance abuse. The pandemic presented a perfect storm for mental health issues: increases in social isolation and loneliness; job disruption and financial stress; the threat or experience of illness; grief over losing loved ones; change in routines...It's no wonder we are still dealing with the fallout from everything we've been through, and that this fallout takes lots of forms. For some of us, it means we're not sleeping as well as we used to. For others, it means we just don't have the energy and motivation we used to have. And for others, it means a nightly glass of wine has turned into three or four.

Before I went to seminary, I worked in mental health, and I still maintain my license in social work with a focus on adult mental health. As a social worker, I was trained and deeply believe that spirituality is an important resource when it comes to recovering from any setback. People with an active faith life and involvement in a faith community experience tangible health benefits. And yet, sometimes faith and the church alone are not enough to help us get back on track. I believe that God has given us "inquiring and discerning hearts," as we pray in our service of baptism, in order to better treat those who suffer from any illness, whether cancer, or depression, or alcohol abuse. God works through therapists, and treatment programs, and medication, just as God works through prayer. Please know that if you or a family member have been struggling for any reason, my door is open for a conversation or to talk about resources that might be helpful. We may be on a roller coaster, but no one has to ride alone.

August Birthdays

1 Reagan Lauritzen	22 Mason Selby
Beth Sojourner	23 Carter Guynes
4 Woody Hanks	Edward Shelnut
6 David Normand	Natalie "Blair" Harris
7 Mary Michael Southall	26 Bobby Barlow
17 Jake Artman	Cynthia Strawn
Josh Artman	27 Terry Guynes
19 David Wright	James Price
21 Norma Jones	28 David May

August Anniversaries

20 Herb & Mary Ruth Jones	21 Alan & Joan Leese
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Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:



Ada & Family	Cynthia	Laurie
Alan	Dan & Mary	Luther
Ann & Jimmy	David	Marcia & David
Ashlee & Mack	David & Martha	Martha
Barbara	Earline & L.J.	Mary Jo
Betty	Estella	Mary Ruth
Bill & Karen	Glenda	Nita
Bobbie	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Norma
Brandon	Jackson	Patty
Charlene	James	Ria
Charisse	John & Lynn	Ruth
Charlie & Family	Kelley	Sharon
Cindy & McMillan	Kristin	Shelby Lynn
Clarence	Lamar	Theresa

For the Departed: Gene Chatham, Roberta Sanders and Margaret Massey

Weekly Events

Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite I, Parish Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, Nave, 11:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Monday—Wednesday—Friday

Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Tuesday

Bibles & More, Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. Group from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II with Prayers for Healing, 6:00 pm

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Thursday

Ultreya, 12:00-1:00 p.m.



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
James and Rebecca Drake

Server Schedule

Date		Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Sunday 8/1/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Theo Williams David Pruett	Sharon Cummins Harvey Smith	Jim Price Dawn Rickard Lance Stewart	Richard Price	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 8/4/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
Sunday 8/8/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Betsy Selby	Tommy Skinner Sharon Hanks	Jim Price The Halls	Theo Williams	Jim Drake
Wednesday 8/11/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruett				Harvey Smith
Sunday 8/15/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Theo Williams	Penny Freund Kerri Williams	Jim Price Kerri Williams Peter Williams	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith
Wednesday 8/18/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
Sunday 8/22/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	David Pruett Richard Price	Beth Sojourner Dawn Rickard	Jim Price Lance Stewart Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 8/25/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
Sunday 8/29/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith	Penny Freund Buck Cooper	Jim Price The Southalls	Ann Tompkins	Jim Drake