



The Albanac

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

December 2022



Love the Lord, all You His Saints!

Psalm 31:23

The Feast of All Souls

On Wednesday night, November 2, The Feast of All Souls was celebrated on the grounds of St. Alban's historic cemetery. Lanterns illuminated each headstone as church members called out the names of the departed who are 'at rest' in the church cemetery. Candles symbolize that our loved ones in Christ are not gone forever. Their light continues to shine in the presence of God.





Dan Carleton Memorial Event



On Sunday, November 13, Leigh Ann Nosser from Rainbow Farms, trailed several horses, *Timothy & Rodney* as well as a small donkey named *Scamp* to St. Alban's Church for a *Children's Horseback Ride*. The rides were a gift from Rainbow Farms to St. Alban's Church in memory of Dan Carleton, longtime church member. Dan's horse, *Timothy*, handled by his son, Bruce, led the processional from the church to the riding field. *Timothy* was fully groomed for the occasion—braided mane, empty saddle and boots turned backwards in the stirrups to indicate the rider is deceased.

What a beautiful tribute to Dan Carleton!

Those enjoying horseback rides were Andrew, Fore, Mason, Julian, and members of the Boy and Girl Scouts from Vicksburg.



Bruce leads *Timothy* in the Memorial Processional



Mason, Julian, Andrew and Fore wait for their horseback ride on *Rodney*



Rodney getting saddled for rides. Scamp enjoys attention. Fore ready to ride!





Julian & Andrew, as well as members of the Girl and Boy Scouts enjoy their ride on *Rodney*



Snapshots



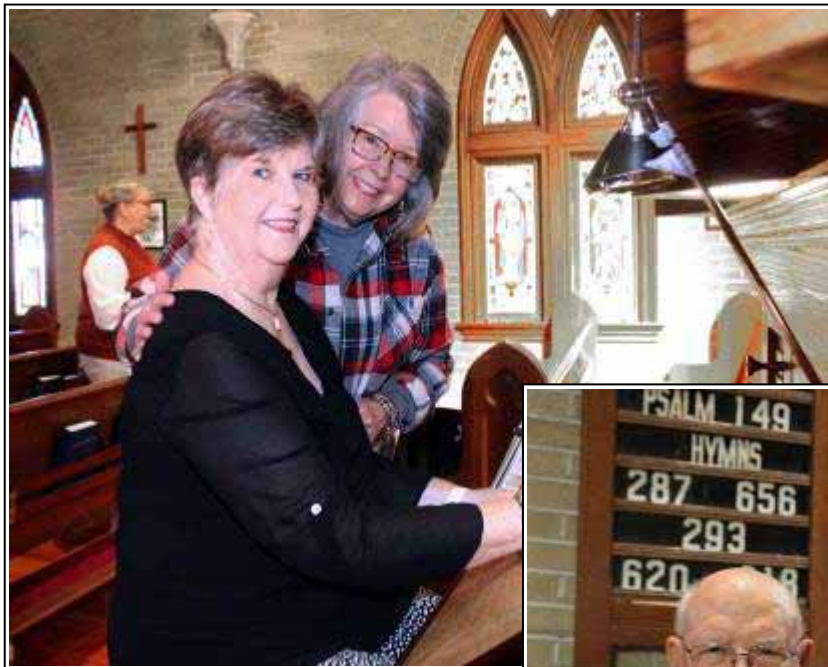
Alison lighting the first Advent candle symbolizing hope and anticipation of the coming Messiah



Alison and Taylor excited to celebrate the first Sunday in Advent

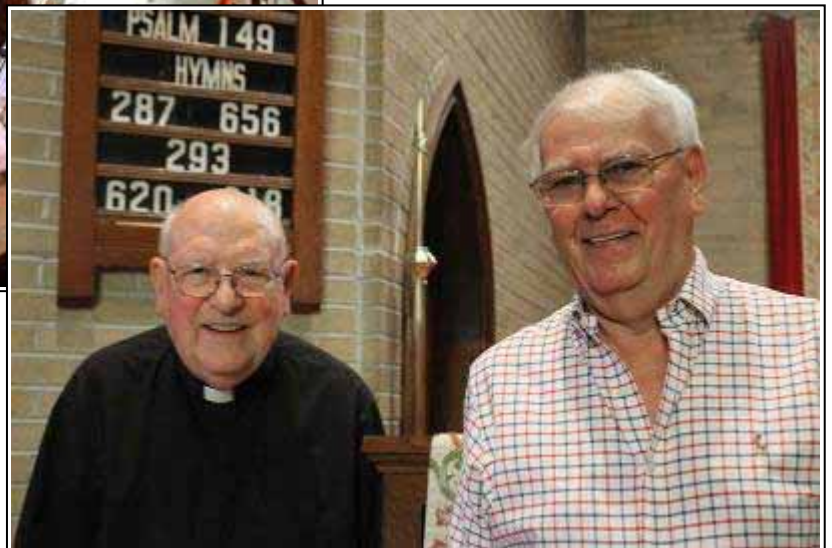


Linda, John David Skinner, Penny & Butch prepare Thanksgiving dinner at St. Alban's



Patsy Simpson,
supply organist,
with Penny Freund

Rev. Geoffrey Butcher,
supply pianist,
with Harvey Smith



In Remembrance

Charles Biedenharn Selby

May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, May the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields, and until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His hand.

Traditional Irish Blessing



Charles Biedenharn Selby
July 3, 1980—November 12, 2022

Charles Biedenharn Selby, 42, died Saturday, November 12, 2022, at his home in Bovina. He was born July 3, 1980, to Betsy and Ricky Selby. The second of three boys (Richard, David), Charles was raised with an appreciation for hard work and a love for the outdoors. Growing up, Charles could be found fishing, hunting, and riding horses with his brothers on the family farm that he so loved, *Blue Lake Plantation*. While Charles enjoyed all things outdoors, chasing ducks held a special place in his heart. His most treasured memories were hunting at the Longshot camp in Anguilla and frequenting the floodwaters of the mighty Mississippi.

After graduating from Vicksburg High School, Charles attended Delta State and Ole Miss. Shortly thereafter, he followed his heart back to Vicksburg, fulfilling a dream of working with his dad in the family business, developing land and commercial real estate. More than anything, Charles' greatest joy was his son Lawson who shares his love of hunting and basketball.

Charles was preceded in death by his father, Richard Allen Selby, and beloved canine companions, Katie and Abby. He is survived by his mother, Betsy Biedenharn

Selby, his brothers Richard and David (Anna) Selby, his son, Lawson Maddox Selby, and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

What Makes for a Good Sermon?

Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs

What makes for a good sermon? Is it the delivery? The message? Its explication of Scripture? How it relates to everyday life? How it inspires action?

A small group that I'm calling "The St. Alban's Preachers" has been meeting monthly this fall to explore these questions and the art of homiletics. We have talked about what makes preaching such a daunting endeavor, and how the sermon is part of our sacramental encounter with the Word of God.

Starting during the season of Advent with Lance Stewart, members of the group will each deliver a Sunday sermon to the congregation. Following Lance, we will hear Buck Cooper during Epiphany, Richard Price during Lent, and Susan Price during Easter.

I hope that this group also challenges the idea that it is only clergy who are called to preach. While preaching has traditionally been a ministry reserved for clergy, the authority to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ is given to us in our baptism. My hope is that hearing a broader spectrum of voices and views will get all of us thinking about our responsibility to proclaim the Good News.

So please cheer these preachers on! Encourage them as they step up to the pulpit. Ask them questions about their sermons. Your attention and engagement are a big part of what makes for a good sermon!

Advent Outreach

While it might seem early to be talking about Christmas, it's not too early to talk about Advent! Advent starts the last Sunday of November, and in addition to fun activities, like making Advent wreaths, we're also going to focus on outreach to our community. St. Alban's has supported the families at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter*, by providing Christmas gifts for the children and household necessities for the adults. Like last year, you will be invited to donate toys and other gifts for the children. A sign-up sheet will go out as soon as we know what's on the children's wish lists, hopefully by early December.

In the meantime, each year we also put together gift baskets for each family that contain household necessities. This year, we thought we would ask the congregation to think about donating some of these items. To make it easier, each week of Advent, we're going to collect a couple of the needed items for the household baskets. Please add a few of these items to your shopping list and bringing them to church on the Sunday listed.

ECW Luncheon, December 3—Baby & Clorox Wipes

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4—Hand & Dish Soap

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11—Toilet & Paper Towels

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18—Lysol & Hand Sanitizer

ECW Christmas Luncheon

Saturday, December 3, 10:00 am

The Annual ECW Christmas Luncheon is Back! On Saturday, December 3 at 10:00 AM, we will hold our quarterly meeting and appetizers will be served. The luncheon will be served at 11:15 AM. The cost is \$20.00

MENU

Appetizer: Smoked Salmon

Entrees: Choice of Creole Shrimp and Grits or Beef Wellington

Sides: Spinach Madeline, Marinated Tomato Salad, Baby Stuffed Potatoes

Desserts: Pecan Tassies, Lemon Loves, Kalua Brownies

We need a firm number of who is coming as well as choice of Entre. Contact Susan Price 601.831.3106 or Beth Guynes 601.415.0962



Christmas Poinsettias



Each year our Christmas Eve service is enhanced by beautiful poinsettias given in memory or honor of loved ones, or in thanksgiving for God's blessings. Join in the tradition with a donation for flowers. Your donation will be acknowledged in the Christmas Eve service bulletin.

If you would like to donate, make checks payable to St. Alban's Church, note "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line or donate online, <http://stalbansbovina.org/donate.htm> and select "flowers," adding a note with your dedication.

Time to be Joyful
(And maybe a little sad)



We have just celebrated Thanksgiving, when we gave thanks for all we've been given—our families and friends, and of course for the gift of life given to us by our Savior, whose birth we now await. But this is also the time we remember the loved ones who have gone before us. My memories of Christmases as a child spent with my parents, siblings, and grandparents are very much in my thoughts now. Of course, as a mother, I enjoy the precious memories of Christmases with my children.

What then do we do with those memories that are so very special, but also painful? We long for those days with loved ones we've lost. There is no magical remedy for coping with the simultaneously joyful and sorrowful memories. This is where our faith can help us through. I find it so powerful to know that our Heavenly Father gave us a savior who lived among us as a human, experiencing both physical and emotional pain, just as we do! Jesus knows how we feel when we lose a loved one. He left us with His Holy Spirit to comfort us through our pain.

How blessed we are to be part of a church that recognizes our struggles. Many of us have experienced a loss that caused us to feel as if our hearts were being ripped out. Our church understands this sorrow. On Wednesday, December 21 at 6:00 p.m., a quiet meditative service, *The Longest Night – A Service of Light in the Midst of Darkness*, will be held for those who are experiencing grief or loss this holiday season. If you have friends or acquaintances who are in that situation, please invite them. This is not to say that attending this service will take all of our pain away, but it's an opportunity to have fellowship with others who are in the same place – hurting. Believe it or not, talking to others who know the loss really does help.

I pray that all of you will remember the things that are sometimes painful but highlight the happiness they brought. That's one way we can take a breath, by remembering and honoring our loved ones and being happy they were in our lives. What a blessing.

Wishing all a very merry Christmas!

Dawn Rickard

Elisabeth's Epistle

In Sunday school during the season of Advent, we are exploring a Scriptural mystery. Matthew begins his Gospel in a way that initially sounds formulaic, perhaps even a little boring: “An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham...” And then Matthew gives us a long list of names. So-and-so, son of so-and so, and on and on it goes. These genealogies are the parts of the Bible that most of us figure we can skip right over. How on earth would we benefit from learning the name of Jesus’ great-great-great-great grandfather, after all?

But Matthew’s genealogy has a number of interesting twists and turns that demonstrate that this is not just a list of ancestors, but a way of understanding who the Messiah is and what he is about. Among many fascinating details, Matthew chooses to include five women in the genealogy: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba (included as “the wife of Uriah”), and Mary. And this is where the mystery starts. Why does Matthew include these women, all of whom have somewhat scandalous stories, in his genealogy of Jesus?

Our first Advent Sunday school class explored the story of Tamar, which can be found in chapter 38 of Genesis. It is a strange story indeed, and we discovered many themes which will recur in the stories of the other women. Tamar was an outsider, a Canaanite woman, who acted boldly and took initiative to preserve Abraham’s family line, even at great personal risk. As we prepare for the coming of the Messiah, the stories of each of the women in Matthew’s genealogy beg us to ask ourselves how we are acting boldly to prepare for Christ’s coming. Are we willing to risk our reputations, willing to risk scandal, to do what is right? Will we follow God’s call, no matter the risk? Matthew is preparing the way for Jesus by reminding us that Israel’s story is full of bold, imperfect men and women—kings, but also outsiders, who each had a part to play in setting the stage for the Messiah. Men and women like us, who heard God’s call in their day to day lives and acted on it.

A quiet, meditative service for those experiencing grief
or any kind of loss this holiday season.
All are welcome.

Longest Night

A service of light in the midst of darkness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21

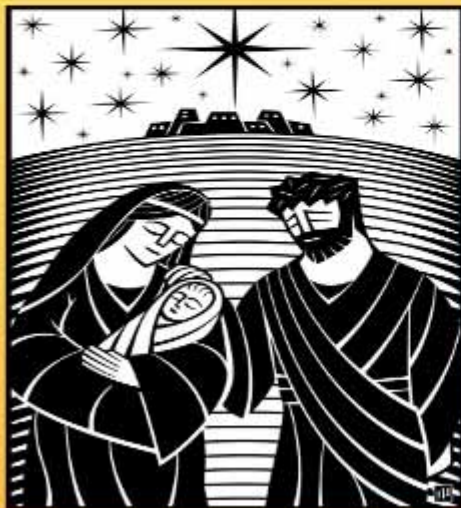
6:00 PM

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA

Let heaven & nature sing!

*Join St. Alban's for
Christmas & Epiphany*



Saturday, Dec. 24, Christmas Services at 6:00 and 10:00 pm

Music starts 15 minutes before each service; the 10:00 pm service will have incense.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 8:30 am

One Service of Holy Eucharist to Celebrate the Feast of the Nativity

Sunday, Jan. 1, 10:00 am

One Service of Holy Eucharist to Celebrate the Feast of the Holy Name

Friday, Jan. 6, 5:30 pm Epiphany Eucharist, 6:00 pm Potluck & Burning of the Greens

Join the other Episcopal Churches of Warren County for Eucharist, a potluck dinner, and a bonfire. Bring your Christmas tree or other greenery to burn as a reminder of the light of Christ spreading through the world.

ADVENT AT ST. ALBAN'S

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us...

Advent 1: Nov. 27



***Make Advent
wreaths***
(after each service)

Advent 3: Dec. 11



***Decorate
gingerbread
houses***
(after each service)

Advent 2: Dec. 4



***Visit from
St. Nicholas***
(after the 11:00 service)

Advent 4: Dec. 18



***Greening the
church***
(after the 11:00 service)

Services each Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 am

December Birthdays

1 Harvey Smith, Jr.	22 Jennifer Normand
4 Ella Ann Selby	26 John Bonar
7 William Horner	28 Sara Margaret Porter
9 Mary John Biedenharn	29 Buddy Hanks
11 Clarissa Walker Horner	Ann Jones
12 Joan Leese	

December Anniversaries

3 John & Anita Bonar	23 Allen & Linda Kitchens
14 Jerry & Kay McWilliams	29 Rudolph & Allison Price Nieto
16 Jimmy & Ann Jones	David & Mary Ann Wright

Prayers of the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Allan & Joan	Jackie	Mike
Ann & Jimmy	Jackson	Nick, Lacey & Family
Becky Jo	Joe & Katharine	Nita
Bill & Karen	Joel & Colby	Norma
The Carleton Family	John	Pete & Family
Charlene	Jonathan & Family	Rose Mary
Charlie & Family	The Kabbes Family	Ruth
Clarence	Kathleen	Suzanne
Dalton	Kay	Tallmadge
David	Koury	The Turner Family
Ed	Libby	Wayne
Freda	Lucas	Wilma
Fritz	Maurice & Family	

For the Departed: Charles Selby and Katherine Gaines

Server Schedule

Date	Time	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	POP	A/V System	
Sunday								
12/4/2022	8:30 AM	Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins	Jim Price				
	11:00 AM	Betsy Selby	Susan Price	The Gavins	Susan Price	Richard Price	Jim Drake	
Wednesday								
12/7/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner						
Sunday								
12/11/2022	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Beth Sojourner	Jim Price				
	11:00 AM	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Gent	Nancy Hester	Barney Gavin	Sharon Hanks	Sam Hall	
Wednesday								
12/14/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith						
Sunday								
12/18/2022	8:30 AM	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Jim Price				
	11:00 AM	Clarissa Horner	Sharon Hanks	The Rushings	Barney Gavin	Carolyn Gent	Buck Cooper	
Wednesday								
12/21/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner	LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE					
Saturday								
12/24/2022	6:00 PM	Ann Tompkins	Dawn Rickard	Dawn Rickard	Lance Stewart	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	
	10:00 AM	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	Judy Gavin	Barney Gavin	Sharon Hanks		
Sunday								
12/25/2022	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	CHRISTMAS (One Service)					



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
 Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake, Grace Skinner,
 Richard & Susan Price