



The Albanac

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

March 2023



*Bishop Brian R. Seage
Calls for Election of Successor*

Election of a New Bishop

By now you have probably heard that our Diocesan Bishop, Rt. Rev. Brian Seage, has called for the election of a new bishop. As a member of the Standing Committee of the Diocese, I want to share with you the nuts and bolts of the process and our preliminary timeline. The President of the Standing Committee, Rev. Jody Burnett, communicated much of this in a recent email to the diocese, but it also bears repeating.

In general, the role of the Standing Committee during this process will be one of oversight and coordination. We have engaged a consultant, Rev. Ron Clingenpeel, who has experience shepherding multiple dioceses through this very type of transition. Ron has explained the customary way that the process is carried out. Here's what you should know:

- The Standing Committee appoints and charges two committees made up of laypeople and clergy to carry out this process: a Search Committee and a Transition Committee.
- The Search Committee will be chaired by Alice Perry, who has served the diocese in a variety of roles including work on the Standing Committee and Chair of the Commission on Ministry.
- The Standing Committee has released an application for the Search Committee, which outlines the selection criteria and asks a number of reflective questions of prospective members.
- The Search Committee will work to assemble a slate of candidates for Bishop.
- At the point that the Standing Committee approves the Search Committee's slate of candidates, the Transition Committee will take over. The Transition Committee will conduct "walkabouts," opportunities for the people of the diocese to meet the slate of candidates in person and ask them questions.
- The Transition Committee will work with the Standing Committee and the Diocesan staff to conduct the election, which we hope will take place at Diocesan Council in February 2024.
- After the election concludes, the Transition Committee will then work with relevant groups from around the diocese to plan and execute the consecration of the new bishop and will work to coordinate the new bishop's entry into the diocese.

This is an exciting time for the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. There are a multitude of ways that interested people can be involved, from applying to one of these committees to attending a walkabout to serving as a parish delegate to the Council which will elect our new bishop. I encourage you both to engage with the process as you are able and to ask Elisabeth or me any questions you might have.

Buck Cooper



Rt. Rev. Brian Seage annual visit to St. Alban's



Bishop Seage takes signature "Selfie" to the delight of the congregation

Hiding the “Alleluia”... And Other Changes During Lent

On the last Sunday after Epiphany, the children were tasked with coloring pages with the word “Alleluia” on them. Then, at the Peace, the children were invited to bring their “Alleluias” up to the sanctuary and hide them behind the altar. Why was “Alleluia” going into hiding? Because this was the last Sunday, we would be saying it until Easter Sunday. Starting the following Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, the church enters the season of Lent, the forty days preceding Easter.

During Lent, you will notice several changes around the church that mark this as a season focused on simplicity and repentance. The altar furnishings will be much simpler—wood and pottery instead of brass and silver. We will refrain from having flowers on the altar. The first Sunday of Lent we will say together The Great Litany, intercessory prayers that focus us on our need for repentance and on God’s mercy. You will see a crucifix hanging behind the pulpit instead of our usual banner. All of this helps us set Lent apart in our hearts and minds as a time of preparation to encounter the Paschal mystery at Easter.



Andrew (acolyte), Mason, Alison, Gavin & Taylor hiding their “Alleluias” during Lent

Lenten Supper Series on the Cross

For our Lenten supper series this year, we're looking at the cross...looking at how it has been described in Scripture, in theology, in art, in music, and in our liturgy, and looking at what it means in our lives. Starting March 1, from 6:00-7:30 PM, each evening will begin with a simple soup supper, followed by discussion and worship. This series is for everyone—those with questions, those with doubts, and those who want to go deeper into the mysteries of our faith. Please consider inviting a friend to join you—this will be a good introduction to how we “do” life and faith in the Episcopal church, with an emphasis on Scripture, tradition, and reason. All are welcome!

*Come look again at the cross--
in Scripture, in theology, in art, in prayer--
as we seek to understand the central symbol of our faith.*

Regarding the Cross: Lenten Supper Series

Wednesdays, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

6:00-7:30 PM

at St. Alban's Bovina

Simple soup supper provided

**"The cross of Christ does not interpret itself by itself."
Fleming Rutledge, *The Crucifixion***

St. Alban's Welcomes Dr. David Mahloch Part-time Organist & Choirmaster

"I am happy to return to St. Alban's to serve as organist and choirmaster. I enjoyed my rather brief time here back in 2002 to 2004. Since many years have passed, I thought it would be nice to let you know what I have been doing since I left. Or, if you came to St. Alban's after I left, this will serve as a nice introduction.

"I grew up in Vicksburg and was beginning graduate school at Mississippi College, so I needed to find a job to help pay for a place to live. I came home to find a message from one Harvey Smith that the church needed an organist. I had



served as a substitute organist in the years prior but never in a permanent role. I also grew up attending Crawford Street Methodist, so a slight curve ball was getting used to the Episcopal service. But the choir was always there with a head nod or a finger point to let me know I needed to be playing something! I always saw smiling faces and a church that was so very welcoming which made my time here quite pleasurable.

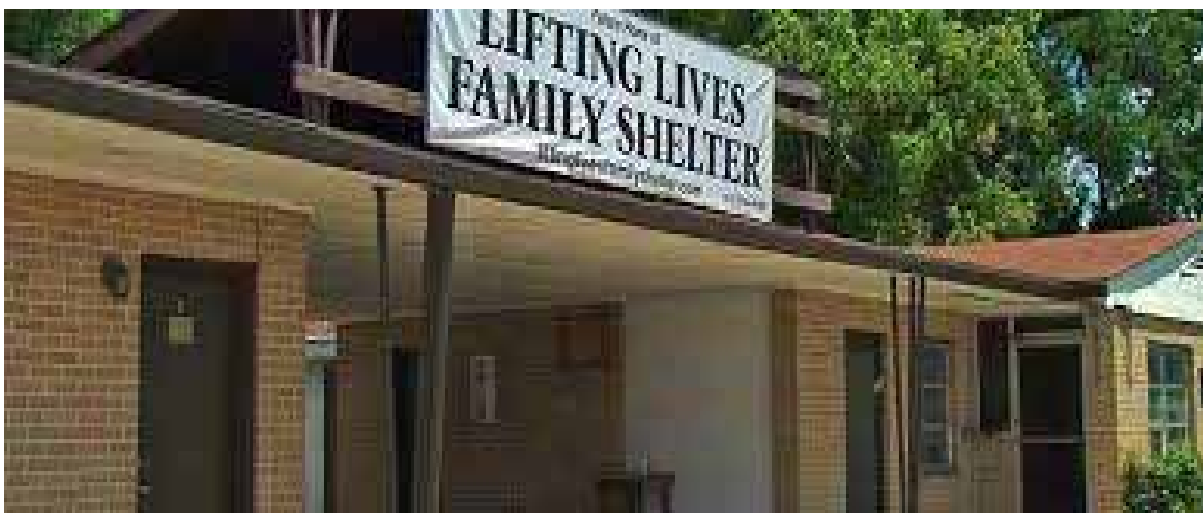
"I had grown very fond of the church, the congregation, and of course the choir. I'm sure they will speak fondly of having to sing the lyrics "interceptor paraclete" for the installation service of Rev. Anne Whitaker. It was a sad time when I realized I had to leave as I was moving to attend school at the University of Alabama. I did come back from time to time over the following years to serve as a substitute and I was always glad to see the church again.

"I had teaching positions at UA then University of Montevallo and now Jackson State University where I teach Music Theory, Composition, and serve as an accompanist. Samantha and I were married in 2004 and we now reside in Brookhaven, Ms. After years of contemplating, I realized that I would like to return to St. Alban's and help out a church that helped me all those years ago.

"On a final note. I have brought many people to the church over the years. Their first reaction after passing the trees and turning into the church has always been "wow!". I am truly happy to be back and look forward to becoming reacquainted or getting to know all of you!"

Dr. David Mahloch

St. Alban's Volunteers Tutor Children at Lifting Lives



St. Alban's tutoring program at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter* is off to a great start. The sessions take place on Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 PM. Lots of children's smiles and laughter greet St. Alban's volunteers as they arrive to play learning games with the children. The games depend on the ages of the children. At present *Lifting Lives* averages eight children ranging in age from 4-14. The original plan for tutoring was to offer help with homework and other schoolwork. However, we found that the children didn't always have their folders or Chromebooks with them on weekends.

Instead, we decided to play educational games that reinforce what they are learning in school and fill in the gaps. This has been a big success as the children want to come inside to play games. The younger children had great fun last week playing *Sight Word Bingo*, a game that takes the traditional *Bingo* game and replaces the numbers with words, motivating the child to read the 'sight words' so they can play (and win!) the game. The children also love building words with letter blocks. While the younger children played *Sight Word Bingo*, the older children played math games with Buck, especially games that are helpful with those learning Algebra.

St. Alban's can always use more volunteers to play games. If you would like to join us, please contact Stacy Weaver, 704-460-8041 or weaverstacy17@gmail.com

Stacy

Lifting Lives Mission: The family shelter exists to lift homeless whole-families of the Vicksburg area from discouragement and despair to enthusiasm and empowerment through nutrition and nurturing, modeling and mentoring.

Snapshots – Capturing Moments in Time



Rev. Elisabeth blesses Amanda as she embarks on new life in Korea



Taylor, Gavin, Carolyn and Alison enjoying a spring day



Alison & Bernie take-up the collection



Salome brings a Sunday offering



Patsy Simpson and Penny Freund continue to serve St. Alban's as interim organists



Janice & Buck at "Protein Club" aka Super Bowl party

Elisabeth's Epistle

This is my annual plea to put the liturgies of Holy Week on your calendar and make plans to come to them! Yes, I know we are still a month out. Holy Week is the first week of April, starting April 2 with Palm Sunday and ending April 9 with Easter Sunday. But trust me, if all you experience of Holy Week are the Sundays, you are missing out!

I realize that many members of our church did not grow up in a liturgical tradition that observed all the liturgies of Holy Week, and in particular the Triduum, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. Even many cradle Episcopalians didn't grow up with these services, which were reintroduced to the church with the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*. I say "reintroduced" because these are very old traditions that go back to the earliest centuries of the church. They slow us down as we approach Easter so that we can feel the full weight of what God has done and is doing for us. Here's a quick introduction to what we'll be doing in between the Sundays of Holy Week:

- Holy Wednesday, April 5, 6:00 PM: We'll join our friends from the other Warren County Episcopal Churches at Christ Church for Tenebrae, a service of light and shadows that provides an extended meditation on Christ's Passion using Psalms and readings from Lamentations.
- Maundy Thursday, April 6, 6:00 PM: We'll gather for an agape dinner in the Parish Hall, remembering how Jesus gathered with his disciples at the Last Supper. This is a family-friendly service, with music and movement.
- Good Friday, April 7, 12:00 and 6:00 PM: We gather for a solemn service remembering Christ's crucifixion and bringing the suffering of our world today to the foot of the cross.
- Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 8, Time TBD: Come join our reimagined Easter Vigil as we tell the stories of salvation around a campfire at the Outdoor Chapel, then rejoice with the first alleluias and hymns of Easter in the church!

My hope is that you will recognize Holy Week for what it is: our most sacred week of the year, a time when we are plunged into the deepest mysteries of God's redeeming love. And I hope you will set aside time to join in as many of our liturgies as you can. Your experience of Easter will be immeasurably enriched.

March Birthdays

1 Michael Guynes Lisa Langford	21 James William Toups
7 Anita Collins Herb Jones	24 Jeff Artman
8 Eleanor Claire Monti Harlie Reece	25 Penny Freund

Prayers for the People

Allan & Joan	Freda	Mark
Amanda	Fritz	Maurice & Family
Ann & Jimmy	Irv	Mike
Becky	Jackie	Nick, Lacy & Family
Becky Jo	Jackson	Nita
Biedenharn & Selby Families	James	Norma
Bill & Karen	Joe & Katherine	Pete & Family
Bob	Jonathan & Family	Ruth
Charlene	Kay	Steve J
Charlie & Family	Leesha	Susanne
Dalton	Libby	Tallmadge
David	Lucas	Wayne



Server Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES				
Rite I, 8:30 AM	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26
Lay Worship Leader	Tompkins, Ann	Smith, Harvey	Skinner, Tommy	Tompkins, Ann
Lector	Skinner, Tommy	Sojourner, Beth	Cummins, Sharon	Skinner, Tommy
Rite II, 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Price, Richard	Horner, Clarissa	Smith, Harvey	Rickard, Dawn
Greeters/ Ushers	Gavin, Judy	Hester, Nancy	Gavin, Judy	Freund, Penny
	Gavin, Barnie	Rickard, Dawn	Gavin, Barnie	Hester, Nancy
	Rushing, Betty			
Lector	Rickard, Dawn	Hanks, Sharon	Gent, Carolyn	Freund, Penny
Prayers of the People	Smith, Harvey	Price, Susan	Rickard, Dawn	Hanks, Sharon
Chalice Bearer	Price, Susan	Gavin, Barnie	Shelnut, Ed	Gavin, Barnie
A/V System	Drake, James	Smith, Harvey	Drake, James	Hall, Kristi
WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES				
Service, 6:00 PM	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
Lay Worship Leader	Skinner, Tommy	Smith, Harvey	Skinner, Tommy	Smith, Harvey



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