



The Albanac

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

April 2021



Palm Sunday

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord"

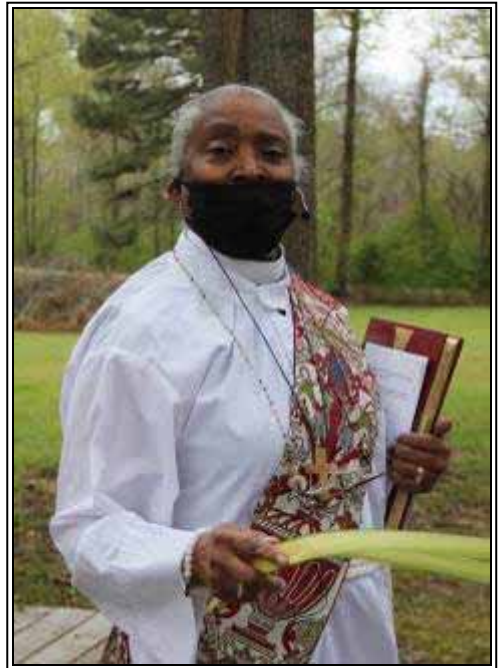
Palm Sunday

On Sunday, March 28th, members of St. Alban's Church assembled at the Outdoor Chapel to celebrate the Feast of Palm Sunday, also known as Passion Sunday, the first day of Holy Week. After a blessing given by Rev. Malphurs, everyone joined the joyful processional leading up to the church while waving palms and chanting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." (*John 12:13*)

After entering the nave, the mood of the service turned from joyful to somber as the narrative of the *Passion of Christ* was read by Richard & Susan Price and Sharon Hanks. Patsy Simpson, organist, added to the ambiance of the service playing Passion hymns along with Sharon Hanks who sang "O Sacred Head, Sore Wounded."

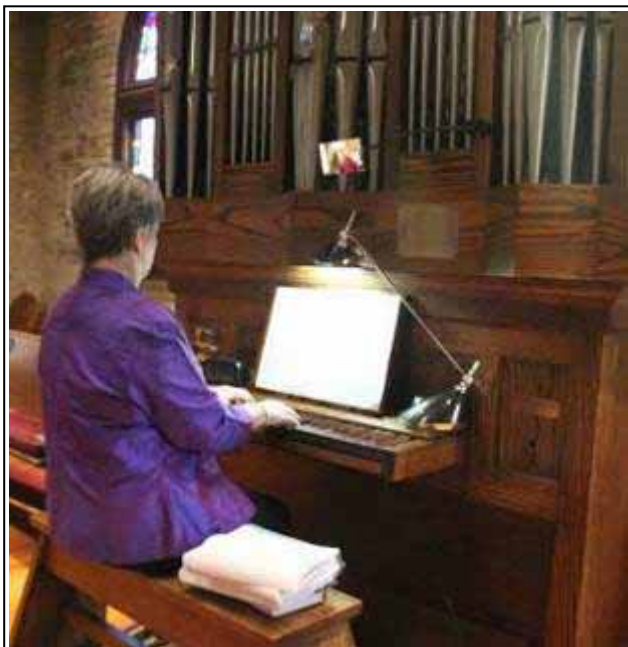
Palm Sunday was beautiful as well as emotional as the congregation prepared their hearts and minds for the agony of Christ's crucifixion only to be followed by the joy of His resurrection.







Harvey Smith & Sharon Hanks, members of the Altar Guild



Patsy Simpson, organist



Roux & Remi waving palms

Landscape Committee Update

By Susan Price

After the experience of real winter weather, I find that the last few days feel like an awakening. Watching how quickly the flora around us rebounds to life again is always joy to watch. As the trees leaf out, it never fails to impress that there can be so many shades and tints of green that creates a living tapestry. I hope that you all make time from the busyness of life to take in these fleeting changes. The rebirth of our earth coincides with the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord and spring makes the meaning of returning to life that much more poignant for me. I wish you all a happy Easter season and look forward to sharing this season of resurrection with our church family.

In terms of resurrection, I hope that you have all seen the recent transformation of the landscape around the church. One of the major goals of the landscape committee was to reclaim acreage that the surrounding woods had gradually reclaimed. Our Junior Warden, David May, made us aware of the existence of an incredible machine that can be driven through brush chopping it up and spitting it out as mulch! Who knew such a thing existed? I'm so glad that David knew of this possibility and had the operator come assess the needs with us and offer an



estimate for completing the work we had begun by hand. David, thank you for your vision and help in moving our goals for the grounds forward. Also, many thanks to our vestry for seeing the benefit of this work and agreeing to the expenditure. What would have taken us months to complete was accomplished in less than a week.

Now that the area has been opened up, we will proceed with plans to establish a memorial garden adjacent to the cemetery. We envision that being an area planted with camellias, sasanquas, and azaleas which will give us three seasons of bloom. The planting will be done in a way that creates a garden room with benches for meditation. Before long we will ask for monetary donations for purchase of the needed plants etc. These gifts can be made as a memorial to someone. We do ask that you allow the committee to choose the plants in order that we have a cohesive design. There will be more details about the garden and potential memorial gifts as we work out the details of how to honor those to be remembered are firmed up. For the moment, think about it and feel free to ask either Tommy Skinner or Susan Price to address any questions you may have.

Have you noticed the bulbs that were planted by each cemetery stone have been blooming? You may recall that several months ago, a number of folks came out and planted over 1000 spring blooming bulbs in the cemetery. Next year there should be even more blooms.



Tommy Skinner and Harvey Smith viewing the newly cleared cemetery area



Tommy Skinner preparing flowerbed around the site of the historic marker

Cemetery Gravestones Cleaned and Reset



Harvey Smith and Tommy Williams resetting footstones belonging to William C. Farrar and his wife, Ida Bell Farrar



Holy Hiking at Rocky Springs & St. Alban's

We tried something new during Lent this year--Holy Hiking. Although the weather didn't cooperate a couple weeks, and spring break interfered with another, we did manage to fit in two Holy Hikes. During the first, we hiked to the creek at Rocky Springs, and the second was through the woods at St. Alban's.

Our hikes helped us experience the words of Psalm 19: "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork." As we walked, and sometimes climbed or scrambled, we listened to the words of Scripture. Phrases and ideas that might have passed by unnoticed suddenly had new life in the middle of God's creation. When we celebrated the Eucharist, in particular, I was reminded that Jesus' death and resurrection are both intensely personal, for each of us gathered, and universal, for the sake of God's entire creation. As we join ourselves to the body of Christ, we are pledging that we will work for the renewal of the world in which all things are being reconciled to God. For me, this means remembering my place within creation and trying to be a good steward of the earth's resources.

Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs



Holy Hikers enjoying a day at Rocky Springs on the Natchez Trace Parkway



Holy Hikers viewing the newly cleared property at St. Alban's



Little Sand Creek at Rocky Springs



Tommy Skinner, Holy Hiker

The Promise of Spring

***“The Lord has written the promise of the resurrection
not in books alone, but in every leaf in Springtime.”***

Martin Luther, 1483-1546

Springtime— renewal, revival, reconciliation, rebirth, resurrection. Each Spring, we welcome the new growth of trees and all the other fresh greenery and colorful blooms. We hear the birds singing in the trees and watch new baby animals scampering in the forest. The Earth comes alive again after the dearth of winter. This year, especially, we can enjoy the varying shades of green and the rainbow of colors in all the butterflies, flowers and bushes. This year, especially, we needed a rebirth of our world because last year’s Springtime was tempered by the cruelty and fear of the Corona virus.

We can see the world changing again, this time toward a better light. As more and more individuals are vaccinated, we feel a bit more comfortable about getting out and being around other people. Our prayers continue to be for the vanquishment of the virus, as well as for the health and safety of our friends and loved ones.

In this month of April, we also observe and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. How appropriate that His return is commemorated in the Springtime, as our world sees renewal all around us. I’d say this Easter of 2021 is particularly significant and meaningful. As much as we always find joy in the Easter celebration, I believe this Easter truly shows what God can do. What God has done. Not any man, but God alone.

A year ago, we were fearful, not knowing what to expect in the upcoming days, weeks, months of a new deadly illness. So, this year, we rejoice even more than usual. We see a light at the end of the tunnel. The light has been there all along, but it was tempered by uncertainty and seemed more distant, hazier. We knew, however, that the light was there. He has always been there, just as He promised us that He would be. Easter 2021 brings us so much closer to His light. We are once again reassured that we can hope for an end to the devastation.

Springtime is here. Look around, breathe in the air. Celebrate what God has done. Remember His promise.

Dawn Rickard

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

The Triduum

As this newsletter is published, we will be beginning the great three days of our church year, also referred to as the Triduum. The services that occur over these three days—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil on Saturday night—are really one service spread over three days. What do I mean by one service? Well, if you pay attention to the end of the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, you'll notice that we don't have our usual dismissal. We leave in silence and pick up again at the beginning of the next service. These services reveal the heart of our faith as we tell the story of the Last Supper, recount Jesus' Passion, and then remember all the mighty works of salvation that God has performed, culminating in the resurrection of Christ.

The intent of these three days is not just for us to remember what has happened in the past, but for us to enter into the Paschal mystery, to be caught up in God's redeeming work in the world right now. We tell these stories of Christ's Passion, death, and resurrection so that we better recognize them when they happen in our lives. I was talking with a parishioner about living through a pandemic, and we agreed that knowing the story of our faith—that death and suffering happen before resurrection—was one thing that had helped keep us going in a difficult year. This is the Paschal mystery! When we are baptized, we are baptized into a lifelong pattern of dying with Christ so that we may be raised to new life with him. As Christians, we know that death is unavoidable, but it is also not the end. The Triduum is one of the ways God teaches us how to look for resurrection.

Wherever you are this year, whether you are worshiping from home or ready to be back in church, I hope you will participate in the services of the Triduum. These are holy days indeed, so slow down and make room for God.

Josie's Journal



Creating A Clean Heart

A suggestion for Monday of Holy Week—Clean a small portion of your home, prune away clutter to make room for good fruit to grow in your life. Clean a small part each day until Pentecost to have a bountiful harvest (clean home).

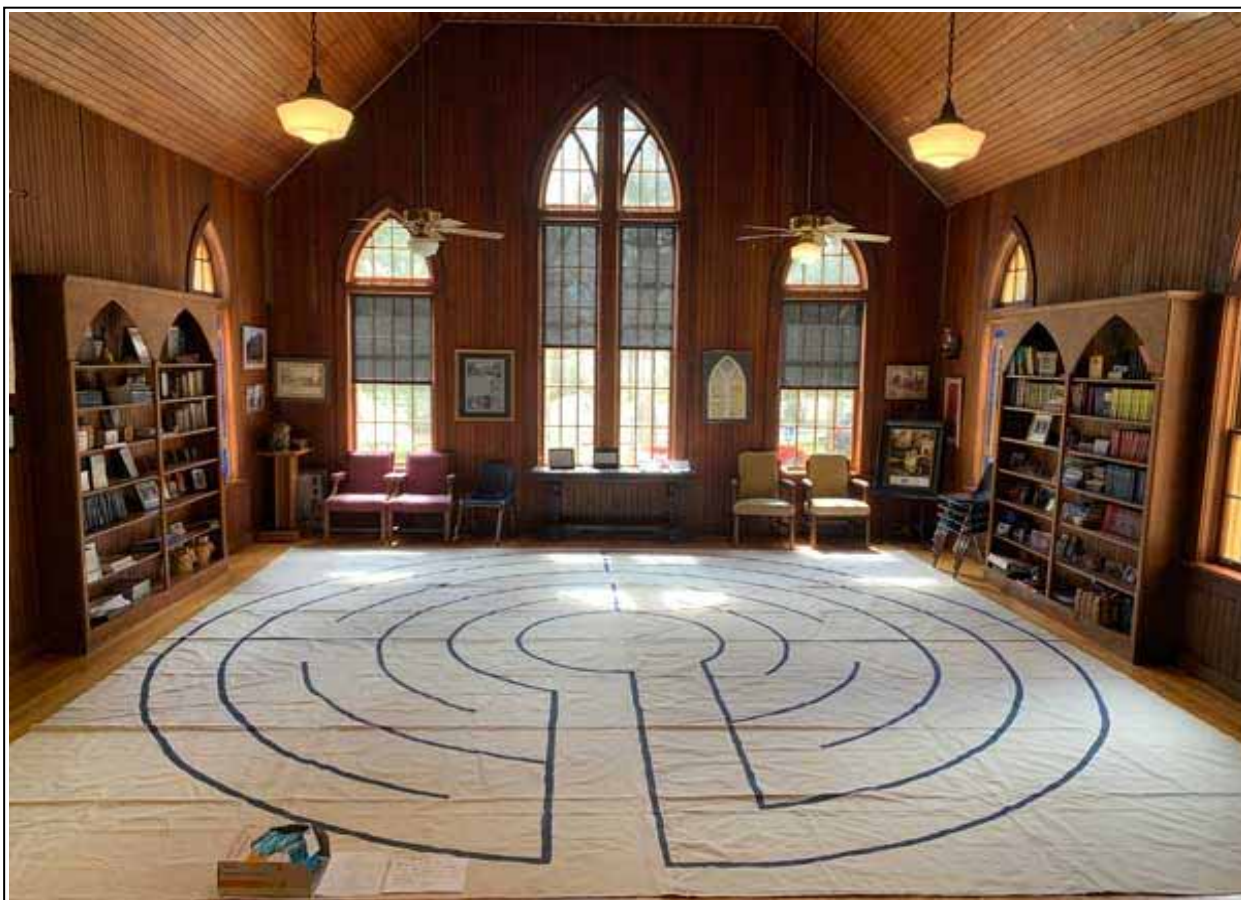
- What if we substitute heart for home and prune away those things that take us away from being the loving beings that we are created to be?
- What if we pruned away selfishness one week and substituted random acts of kindness to someone, known or unknown to us?
- What if we pruned away bitterness one week and substituted understanding the viewpoint of a friend, colleague, family member or parishioner?
- What if we pruned away unkind thoughts and looked for the good in everyone as Jesus does in us?

I am going to try this cleaning in my heart so that I might become more of what Jesus would have me to be.

Holy Week offers a time of contemplation where we walk with Jesus to His death knowing that He will rise again. That knowledge can bloom for the eternity if we nourish it and prune it as needed.

In the Vineyard,

Josie+



Praying the Labyrinth in the St. Alban's Parish Hall

Walking the Mourner's Path

Transforming Grief into Joyful Living

- 8-week small group for people experiencing grief following the death of a loved one
- Facilitated by trained leaders and clergy
- Starting the first week of January at St. Alban's

For more information, please call the
church office at 601-636-6687

April Birthdays

2 Tammy Kitchens	18 Maggie McCarthy
7 Ruth Green	23 John Thomas Monti
8 Dawn Rickard	27 Ford Biedenharn
10 Hayden Guynes	Sarah Jane Selby
Chad Toups	29 Liz Curtis
14 Laurie Reece	30 Allison Nieto

April Anniversaries

16 Jim & Linda Dooley	18 Gene & Wanda Warren
Charles & Lisa Langford	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Ann & Jimmy	Estella	Mary John
Anna	Glen	McKellar & Brewer
Ashlee & Mack	Glenda	Families
Barbara	Hunter	Nita
Betty	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Norma
Betsy	Jackson	Parker
Bill & Karen	James	Patty
Bobbie	Kristin	Peter
Charlie & Family	Laurie	Ruth
Cooper	Lee Davis	Shelby Lynn
Cynthia	Lisa & Charlie	Suzanne
Dan & Mary	Mark	Theresa
David	Mary Frances	Tim
Earline	Mary Jo	



COVID-19 Weekly Events

Please call the office if you need help with Zoom

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. (on Zoom)

Monday — 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. (on Zoom)

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m. (on Zoom)

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. (on Zoom)

Holy Week April Schedule

Maundy Thursday, April 1, 6:00 pm, Service in the church and livestreamed.

Good Friday, April 2, 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm, Services in the church. The evening service will also be livestreamed.

The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, April 3—7:00 pm, Service starts outside and continues in the church, also livestreamed.

Easter Sunday, April 4—Services at 8:30 and 11:00 am. The 8:30 service will be held at the outdoor chapel, weather permitting. In between services, at 10:00 am, there will be an Easter egg hunt outdoors for children. The 11:00 am service includes music and will also be livestreamed.



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rev. Elisabeth, Becky Drake & Jim Drake

Server Schedule

	Lay Worship Leader	A/V Operator
Thursday, April 1 6:00 pm	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
Friday, April 2 12:00 pm 6:00 pm	LWL - Tommy Skinner Passion Readers: Ann, Tommy, Rev. Elisabeth LWL - Tommy Skinner Passion Readers: Dawn, David, the Halls	Harvey Smith
Saturday, April 3 7:00 pm	LWL - Harvey Smith Lectors – Buck Cooper, Kerri Williams	Harvey Smith
Sunday, April 4 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL – Tommy Skinner Lector – Penny Freund LWL – David Pruett Lector – Gray Weaver	Outside Chapel Harvey Smith
Wednesday, April 7 6:00 pm	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith
Sunday, April 11 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL – Tommy Williams Lector – Bitsy Sloan LWL – Harvey Smith Lector – Sharon Hanks	 Jim Drake
Wednesday, April 14 6:00 pm	David Pruett	Harvey Smith
Sunday, April 18 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL - Ann Tompkins Lector–Tommy Skinner LWL – Richard Price Lector – Susan Price	 Harvey Smith
Wednesday, April 21 6:00 pm	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
Sunday, April 25 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL – Harvey Smith Lector – Tommy Skinner LWL – Ann Tompkins Lector – Kerri Williams	 Buck Cooper
Wednesday, April 28 6:00 pm	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith