



The Albanac

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

February 2022



Liturgy of the Word
With Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation
January 16, 2022

Bishop Brian Seage Visits St. Alban's



On Sunday, January 16, families, friends, and church members gathered to participate in *The Liturgy of the Word with Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation*, Bishop Seage presiding. Six candidates were presented and supported by their sponsors for the service.

Bishop Seage addressed the congregation asking, “Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their

life in Christ?” The resounding answer was, “We will.”

Henry Cooper, Gloria Hall & Justin Burton were presented for Confirmation; Nicholas Pritchett for Reception and Joshua and Jonah Artman for Reaffirmation.

At the close of the service, the bishop prayed, “Almighty and everlasting God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Congratulations to January 16th Confirmands

Pictured bottom L-R: Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, Jonah Artman, Justin Burton, Gloria Hall, Bishop Brian Seage. Second Row L-R Joshua Artman, Henry Cooper and Nicholas Pritchett.

Congratulation to those who were Confirmed/ Received/ Reaffirmed by Bishop Seage. The bishop visits each church in the diocese yearly where he not only ministers to the people but also presides over Confirmation services. This year, during Bishop Seage's visit, he faced numerous challenges including the threat of a snowstorm, COVID restrictions, and a broken foot. In spite of the obstacles, the Confirmation service was beautiful. Afterwards, a reception was held in the Parish Hall where Bishop Seage greeted church members and visited with the confirmands and their families.

Annual Parish Meeting & Vestry Nominations

The Vestry has set the date for our Annual Parish Meeting for Sunday, February 6, at 11:00 am following one combined service at 10:00 am. As we did last year, we will have the option for people to join the annual meeting via Zoom. More instructions concerning voting will be sent out as we get closer to the meeting.

The Vestry Nominating Committee has nominated Penny Freund for Senior Warden (Elect one to serve a 2-year term) and Jeff Artman and Carolyn Gent of the Vestry (Elect two to serve 3-year terms). Nominations are still open; however, if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a Vestry position, please don't wait until the last minute. Serving on the Vestry is a responsibility that requires prayerful consideration, on the part of those being called to serve and those electing. If you have questions about the guidelines for serving on the Vestry, please speak with Senior Warden, Richard Price.

Attending In Person

For those attending in person in the Nave, paper ballots for the election of Senior Warden and Vestry members will be distributed.

Attending By Zoom

The meeting will also be offered over Zoom, allowing you to connect by computer, tablet, or phone. If you have never used Zoom before, you will first need to download Zoom for free to your device at this web address:

<https://zoom.us/download>. We also encourage you to practice using Zoom before the meeting, as we will not have time to help with individual requests as the meeting starts. Please let Rev. Elisabeth or David Pruett know if you would like to schedule a "test run" to get familiar with using Zoom.

Voting members who join the meeting by Zoom will also vote through Zoom during the meeting. Please note that only one member may vote per device connected to Zoom. If you have more than one voting member in your household and you are each able to connect to the meeting on a separate device (e.g. one person uses a computer and one uses a phone), this is recommended. If this is not possible, there will be an alternative method for submitting additional votes.

Nominee for Senior Warden

(Elect one to serve a 2-year term)

Penny Freund

I have been a member of St. Alban's Church since I moved to Bovina in September 2011 to be with my sister, Linda. Since then, I have served the parish in a variety of ways: providing music for the Wednesday evening healing Eucharist service as well as the 8:30 Sunday morning worship service; substitute organist/pianist for the 11:00 worship service; and singing with/and directing the choir. In addition to the ministry of music, I have participated in *Bibles & More* book studies, and served as recording secretary for the ECW. During my early years at St. Alban's, my sister and I organized a group known as *Knitters & Crafting* where we made hats and gloves to give to those in need.

I would like to be considered for Senior Warden because I have a desire to serve as a friend and helping member of the parish family as we move forward under Rev. Elisabeth's direction. The church has many talented members with much potential for spreading God's love in the community. I would like to be a part of that.

Nominees for Vestry Member

(Elect two to serve 3-year terms)

Jeff Artman

I have been attending St. Alban's church since the early 1990's. I have previously served as a Vestry member, Junior Warden, and Senior Warden. The people of St. Alban's have been so very supportive and mean so very much to me and to my family. It would be an honor to be selected and serve as a Vestry member.

Carolyn Gent

I joined the St. Alban's family in 2016 and I'm so grateful to have found a loving, welcoming church home that has supported myself and my family through every part of life. I have two beautiful and brilliant stepchildren, Gavin and Taylor, who have grown to love the St. Alban's community. My partner, Justin, and I are so thankful to have this church and all the people who make it wonderful to raise our family together.

Being raised in various types of evangelical Christianity, I had a thorough Biblical education for which I am grateful, but nothing has shown me the power of God's love like the St. Alban's community. I'm so honored to call all of you my family and am so excited for all of the years of growth we will have together. It would be an honor to be selected to serve as a Vestry member.

Epiphany—the Burning of the Greens



Members of St. Alban's gathered on the evening of Epiphany, to mark this feast day with prayer and a Burning of the Greens on the front lawn. The Burning of the Greens also symbolizes the light of Christ that has come into the world on Christmas and is now being spread to every corner of the earth. Epiphany is the season we remember that Christ came not only to the Jewish people, but to the whole world, as we remember the star of Bethlehem that guided the wise men far from their home to worship him. We also remember our own commissioning as bearers of the light of Christ, each of us charged in our baptism with shining this light far and wide.



The Ministry of Deacon Josie



The Rev. Josie Williams has accepted a call to serve St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Raymond starting February 18. This reassignment is a gift for St. Mark's, but will undoubtedly be felt as a loss here at St. Alban's, where Deacon Josie has deep roots. While St. Alban's will always be Deacon Josie's home, this reassignment brings with it shifts in how we interact with her and how we organize ourselves for ministry.

In order to free her for her new church calling, we will need to

intentionally release her from her diaconal work at St. Alban's. This means that she will no longer serve at worship services at St. Alban's, go on pastoral visits to St. Alban's members, or respond to outreach calls that come to St. Alban's. These roles that she has carried so faithfully will need to be taken on by others within our community.

Transitions like this can cause anxiety, but they are also a moment to stop and celebrate what has been accomplished.

Dear St. Alban's Village,

You have supported, loved and nurtured me since I arrived at St. Alban's in 1999. Little did I know that I would be ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church. You discerned something in me that allowed me to follow the path to deacon's school and to return to serve at St. Alban's for the past ten years.

I have accepted an appointment to be the parish Deacon at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Raymond effective February 18, 2022. Even though you will not see me on Sundays, St. Alban's will always be my parish home. Kerri and Peter will continue to worship at St. Alban's with visits to St. Mark's.

Now, I am sending myself out from St. Alban's in the dismissal to Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Love,
Josie**

Looking Ahead to Lent

We have a late Easter this year, which means a late start to Lent. Our 40-day season of preparation for Easter will begin on March 2 with Ash Wednesday. On the following five Wednesdays, we will hold a supper series on Faith and Science.

Why faith and science? Not only do faith and science both try to answer some of the most important questions about the world, but how we view their relationship has a lot to do with our participation in church. Research has shown that whether people are able to integrate their views of faith and science is predictive both of their attendance at church and whether or not young people stay involved in church. Hopefully our conversation will give us more tools for talking about the relationship between faith and science.

This series will be designed both for people who consider themselves “people of faith” as well as those who perhaps have walked away from the church because of perceived conflict between faith and science.

As we prepare, please consider if you want to help in the following ways:

- Volunteer to be a table host: plan to attend one organizational meeting and be available for at least 4 of the 5 Wednesdays to facilitate the conversation at your table based on prepared discussion questions
- Volunteer to prepare soup or bread for one Wednesday
- Volunteer to help set up and clean up one Wednesday
- Volunteer to lead compline on one Wednesday to close our gathering

Food Pantry Needs

Storehouse Food Pantry is in need of the following donations: peanut butter, crackers, jelly, cereal, cake mix & icing, brownie/ cookie mix, muffin mix, sugar, flour. We have a basket at the church to collect food. Thank you!



The Feast of The Presentation

We will celebrate the *Feast of the Presentation* on Wednesday, February 2 at 6:00 pm with a service of Holy Eucharist with blessing of candles. Please bring household candles to be blessed!

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

I spent a very formative year right after college graduation in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps, living in an intentional community of volunteers committed to the values of spirituality, community, social justice, and simple living. We lived in an old, unairconditioned row house in Washington, DC, each of us working full-time at a different nonprofit in the city, most of us focused on housing and homelessness. That year was my introduction to Ignatian spirituality, as we worshiped together, guided by a Jesuit priest, among others. Ignatian spirituality is all about “finding God in all things,” and we volunteers practiced doing this together all year, through celebrations and sorrows.

I was recently reminded of the richness of the Ignatian spiritual tradition while on silent retreat at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. The Jesuit Spiritual Center celebrates its 50th anniversary this year of offering directed retreats on their beautiful campus of old oaks (older than our St. Alban's oaks, if you can believe it!) surrounded by a cemetery and cows. I immediately felt at home.

The Jesuit order was found by St. Ignatius, a fascinating man who had planned a life of adventure as a soldier until his leg was shattered and he found himself in a long process of recovery and rediscovery of who he was and what God had called him to. St. Ignatius' “Spiritual Exercises” emerged from his convalescence and continue to be used by spiritual seekers today. At their heart, the Exercises are based on the conviction that God is always reaching out to us, always speaking through various means. Prayer is our response to God, and in its most basic form, prayer is attention. Paying attention to what God might be saying to us is easier to do when we are able to cut out some of the distractions that surround us—hence, the purpose of silence. I wasn't sure I was going to be able to do it, but I'm here to report that I managed 3 full days without looking at my phone AND it was such a gift. As one of the priests said during the retreat, “God delights in spending time with you!” How often we can forget this in the rush of daily life. If you're interested in resources on Ignatian spirituality or want more information about the Jesuit Volunteer Center, I'd love to talk about this rich stream in our Christian tradition.

Love Beyond Christmastime

By Dawn Rickard



And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

How I would have loved being in Bethlehem when Jesus was born— to see the angels heralding His birth —the ox and the ass looking on – hearing the cattle lowing, and seeing the shepherds coming in from their fields to behold the miraculous birth of Jesus. I am thankful for the annual retelling of this blessed event at Christmastime, especially the hymns and scriptures that remind us of the importance of God coming to earth in human form, an innocent baby.

Sadly, when January comes along, we slowly return to our usual routine, often leaving thoughts of the Baby Jesus behind. How I long to change that! I often wonder WHY we can't carry the spirit of Christmas with us throughout the remainder of the year. At St. Alban's we are blessed to have weekly Bible studies and discussions that keep Jesus at the forefront of our thoughts. Together, we celebrate the life of Christ throughout the liturgical year.

How then can we do more? Showing friendliness and kindness to strangers does much to share God's love. I've always thought that a kind word stays in one's heart long after it is spoken. That has certainly been so in my life. A simple compliment or act of kindness has the power to bring happiness and joy to others. The spirit of Christmas can last year-round by sharing God's love with others. A contemporary hymn "They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love" best expresses the sentiment:

*"We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand;
We will work with each other, We will work side by side;
All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the spirit who makes us one.
They'll know we are Christians by our love."*

February Birthdays

1 Charlie Brantley	19 Linda Kitchens
5 Sharon Hanks	20 Christine Nelson
6 Lucas Guynes	21 David Selby
11 Bonnie Pruett	22 Jane Hanks
14 Beth Guynes	25 Walker Biedenharn
Charles Langford	27 Barbara Torrey
18 Janice Herrington	

February Anniversaries

11 Josh & Maggie McCarthy

Prayers for the People

Allan & Joan	Cora Lee	Jeff H.	Nita
Amanda	Cynthia	Jimmy	Norma
Ann & Jimmy	Dan & Mary	John & Lynn	Pat
Ashley	Dantin Family	Kelley	Phil & Sally
Barbara	David	Lee	Ria
Ben	Estella	I.D.	Ricky
Bill & Karen	Fritz	Loretta	Ruth
Bob	Gary	Mack	Sharon
Bryan & Jessica	Isabel, MK & Ted	Marcia	Steve
Charlene H.	Irv	Mike B.	Suzanne
Charlene P.	Jackson	Mike & Family	Theresa
Charlie & Family	Jeff & Darlene		
For the departed: Margaret Gilmer, Earline Dantin, and Nora Beasley			

Weekly Events

Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:30 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 11:00 am*
Sunday School, 9:30 am

Monday — Wednesday—Friday

Morning Prayer, 8:00 am*

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II with Prayers for Healing, 6:00 pm.*

Thursday

Ultreya, 12:00-1:00 pm

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

Event Calendar

Wednesday, February 2—Feast of the Presentation, 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 6—Annual Parish Meeting, following ONE service at 10:00 am*

Sunday, February 13—Deacon Josie’s Farewell Sunday. One Service at 10:00 am*
With a reception following. Parishioners are asked to bring a dish to share.

Wednesday, February 23—Bovina Methodist Church Pancake Dinner.

Come join our neighbors at Bovina Methodist for a pancake supper,
either at 6:00 pm or immediately after our Wednesday night service.

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



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake

Server Schedule

Date		Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Wednesday						
2/2/2022	6:00 PM	TBD				Harvey Smith
Sunday						
		Annual Meeting				
2/6/2022	One Service	Harvey Smith	Beth Guynes	Jim Price	Dawn Rickard	Jim Drake
	10:00 AM			Lance Stewart		
Wednesday						
2/9/2022	6:00 PM	TBD				Harvey Smith
Sunday						
	One Service	Leave-Taking Service				
2/13/2022	10:00 AM	Theo Williams	Sharon Hanks	Ann Tompkins	Penny Freund	Harvey Smith
				Dawn Rickard		
Wednesday						
2/16/2022	6:00 PM	TBD				Harvey Smith
Sunday						
2/20/2022	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Sharon Cummins	Jim Price	Dawn Rickard	Jim Drake
	11:00 AM	David Pruett	Lance Stewart	The Artmans		
Wednesday						
2/23/2022	6:00 PM	Pancake Supper at Bovina UMC				
Sunday						
2/27/2022	8:00 AM	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Jim Price		
	11:00 AM	Richard Price	Susan Price	The Halls	Lance Stewart	Buck Cooper