



# The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi  
[www.stalbansbovina.org](http://www.stalbansbovina.org)

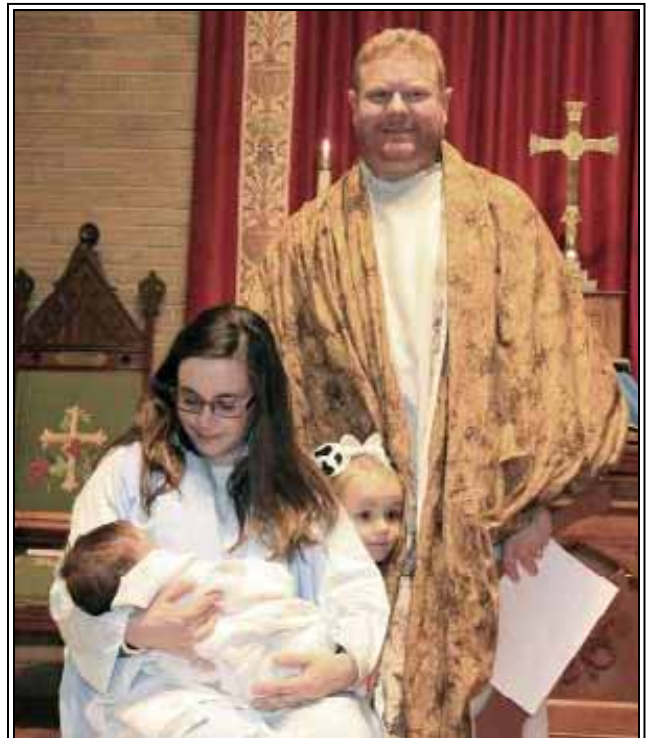
**January 2019**

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*Joan Leese Retires as St. Alban's Organist & Choir Director*

# Annual Christmas Pageant











# ECW Christmas Luncheon & Ornament Exchange











## Joan Leese Retires as Organist & Choir Director

By The Rev. Billie Abraham



*“Sing to the Lord, sing praise;  
And tell of all the Lord’s wondrous acts.”  
Psalm 105:2*

Anyone who knows Joan Leese knows four things about her: Joan loves the Lord, Joan loves Holy Scripture, Joan loves music and Joan loves to serve. Put these four things together and you have a picture of Joan playing the organ at St. Alban’s Church.

About eight years ago, St. Alban’s was without an organist. After weeks of attempting to find a supply organist, I called Joan. She answered the phone in her musical voice and I asked if she was available to play for our Sunday services. Her answer was “yes”, with some additional commentary. Joan said she had waked up that morning and prayed, “*Lord, let me be a blessing to someone today.*” Thus began Joan’s service to the Lord and to St. Alban’s Church as choir director and organist.

That may have been the beginning of Joan’s career at St. Alban’s Church, but her musical career is rooted in her childhood. Joan started playing the piano at age four when Santa brought her a toy piano for Christmas and she picked out *Jingle Bells*. She began taking piano lessons at age seven, and as the saying goes, *the rest is history*.



Before Joan arrived at St. Alban's, she served as choir director and organist for many churches—*Cranford Street United Methodist Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, Tallulah, LA, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hawkins United Methodist Church, Christ Episcopal Church, and Holy Cross Anglican Church.*

Her musical abilities were not limited to churches. She has a history with the *Vicksburg Little Theater* as director and accompanist for *Hello Dolly, My Fair Lady, Bells Are Ringing, Steel Magnolias* and *Gold in the Hills.*

Joan taught music at Jett and Warrington Elementary Schools and served as accompanist for the *Vicksburg High School Choir.* She taught piano lessons in her home for 41 years. When it came to teaching piano she acknowledged, "*Teaching piano lessons was not my idea, it was God's idea.*" She began with five students and the number soon grew to 55.

Joan retired as St. Alban's organist and choir director on Sunday, December 30. Her final service ended in a special way as she accompanied her daughter, Laurie Jones, performing *Mary, Did You Know?* Laurie is from Youngstown, Ohio, and was visiting for the holidays. Joan is not leaving St. Alban's— she is finding her way to a pew where she will worship with her husband, Allan.

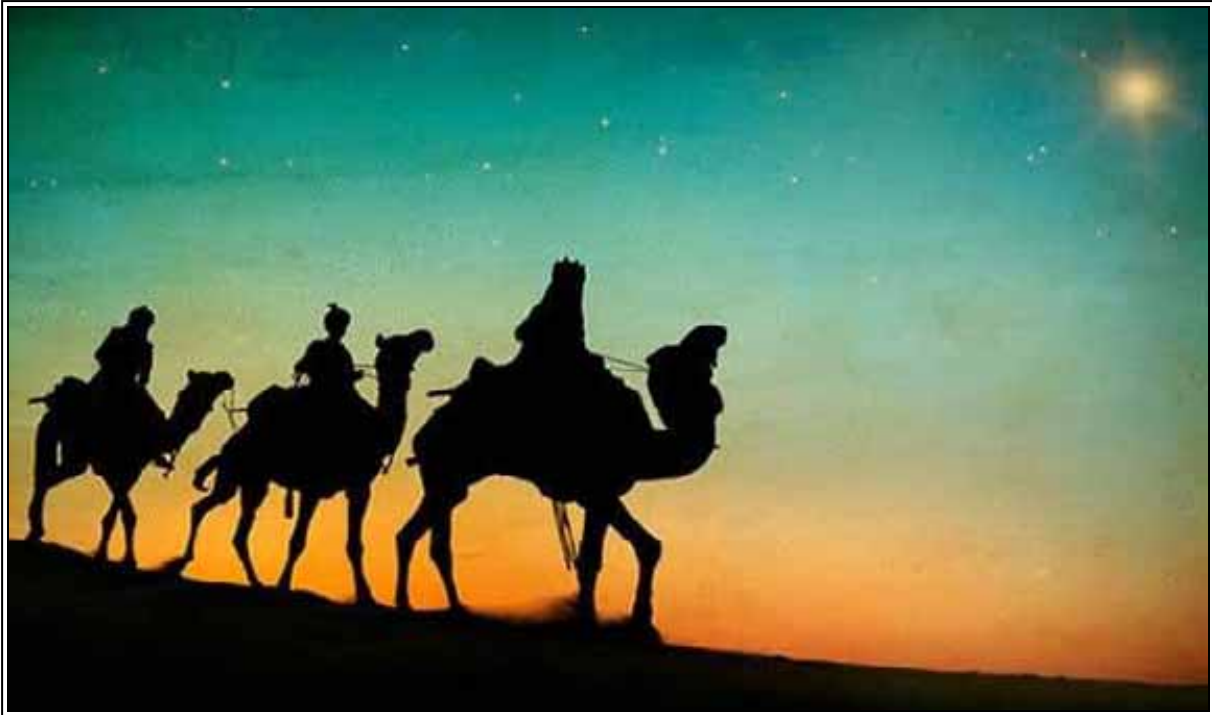
Joan, you have far exceeded the prayer you offered years ago— "to be a blessing to someone that day." Your talents have blessed our church beyond measure.

*"Well done, good and faithful servant." Matthew 25:23*



Honoring Joan's final Sunday as organist, her daughter, Laurie Jones, performed the Christmas song, *Mary Did You Know?*

## † Billie's Corner

*Go Home by Another Way*

We all know the story. Despite the fact that our Nativity scenes include the Magi presenting Jesus with their royal gifts, the Magi did not arrive with the shepherds on that glorious night of nights when Mary gave birth to the Infant Jesus. It took a little time for the Magi to follow the star—they got lost along the way. In their confusion, they decided the logical thing to do in order to locate the baby king was to ask King Herod for directions.

King Herod tried to do a good job of disguising his anger at the thought of another king. With finesse, he informed the Magi that he was not exactly sure where to find the new king, but would they please drop by his palace on their way home and give him directions. He also wanted to visit and offer gifts. The Magi finally found their way to the baby Jesus and they were stunned to see the humble surroundings of this mysterious king. Was this the king they had traveled so far to see? Bewildered, they presented Jesus with their gifts, realizing that this was a king like none other that they had encountered.

When it is was time to return home, they had a dream about King Herod. The dream warned them that King Herod was not the gracious person he appeared to be. When they woke up from their dream, they decided to “*go home by another way.*”



This might be the New Year's Resolution we all need to make—“*Go home by another way.*” The Magi had come face to face with Jesus - God enfleshd in humanity. The sight of Jesus left a mark on them. He was a *different kind of king* and they were *different* because he had entered their lives. Cautiously, they went home another way. They traveled a new path. They explored the unknown.

We too have come face to face with Jesus. God has been born into our humanity and we are different because of it. What pathways shall we take on our journey home? Are there new roads to travel, new ways of being and doing? Can we follow Jesus even when he leads us home a new way?

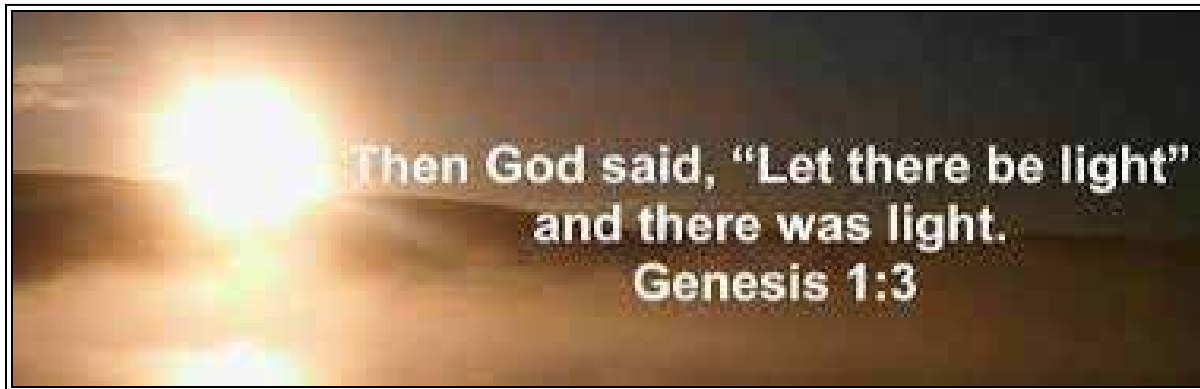
*The Season of Epiphany* is a season of sightings; of sudden recognitions of Jesus where we would least expect to find him. Perhaps even in the most unexpected place of all— in ourselves. Can we *go home by another way*?

In Peace,  
Billie+



## ✝ Josie's Journal

### *Let There Be Light*



Light is very important and if you don't think so wait until the electricity goes out for whatever reason. I have always known that light was important but I experienced a different side of it during our Tuesday night Bible study. We read the book *The Womb of Advent* by Mark Bozzuti -Jones.

We tried to recreate our feelings and thoughts while inside our mother's womb. The author described how Jesus might have felt while in Mary's womb. *Patience and Waiting* was the theme throughout. The book gave me a sense of slowness and a non-rushed time to study about the impending birth of the *light of the world*.

The first Sunday after Christmas gave me the opportunity to connect the *light* in the Womb of Advent to the gospel reading from John. We had reference to *light* in Hymn 83, the Collect of the Day, the first reading from Isaiah, the gospel of John, and the Nicene Creed. Further, we had references to *light* in the Prayers of the People, the Prayer for Vestry Officers, Hymn 79, and Hymn 99. These references call attention to the *light of the world* who is Jesus.

The references to *light* leaves us with the thought of how we can share our *light* with others so they may see the true *light* of Christ that dwells within us. The lyrics to the hymn "Open My Eyes" expresses the sentiment of Christ's *light* that dwells within us: "Open my eyes that I may see, glimpses of truth thy hast for me....Silently now I wait for Thee, Ready, my God, Thy will to see; Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit Divine!"

Peace as we enter 2019,

Josie



## January Birthdays

1 Canada Stewart	19 Kenon Ruska
3 Lynda Hubbard	20 Austin Sumrall
4 Richard Selby	26 Anna Selby
8 Mary Carleton	27 Betsy Selby
12 Hannah Huntley	29 Heaven Leigh Merritt Susan Price
16 Joy Brabston Sadie Williamson	30 David McLaughlin
17 Sergio Panelo	31 Robert Ulmer

## January Anniversaries

27 Bo & Kristen Gayle	27 Stanley & Deborah Lee
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## Prayers for the People

Analiese Wasson Bryan	Donny Sanders	Lucas Guynes
Ann Hanks	Ed Cooper	Mark Herrington
Ann & Jimmy Jones	Eugene Quarles	Martha Benson
Barbara Ramsay	Fetty Judge	Megan Cook Vincent
Bertha Kolb	Glenda Ferguson	Millie Gasaway
Betty Biedenharn	Hollis Newman	Natalie McMillian
Brady Morgan	Jackson Monti	Norma Jones
Bryan Brabston+	Jim Dantin	Parker Ramsay
Carol Green	Joan Leese	Paula Lentz
Charles Haley	Kim Wittmer	Peggy Lynn
Charlie Brantley & Family	Kristi Biedenharn	Peter Meyers
Cynthia Strawn & Family	Laurie Concannon	Rachelle Ferris
Dalton Glatt	Lessye Williams	Robert Quinn
Damion Hansford	Linda & Jim Dooley	Sherry Horan
Dan & Mary Carleton	Linda Washington	The Selby Family
Dianne Carlton	Liz Curtis & Family	

Victims of Violence & Natural Disasters

## Weekly Activities & Services

### Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Phone: (601) 636-6687

### Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

**No** Choir Practice in December

Christian Education, 10:00 AM

Nursery, 10:00 AM

Children’s Chapel, 11:00 AM

### Tuesday

Bible & More Discussion Group, Parish House, 6:00–8:00 PM

### Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:30 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Quiet Day, First Wednesday of Each Month, 7 AM—7 PM

### Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, 12:30 PM

## *Schedule of Events in January*

**Sunday, January 6**—*Inquirers’ Class*, Rectory, 9:45–10:45 AM

**Wednesdays, January 9–February 27**—*Walking the Mourner’s Path*,  
Rectory, 10:30–Noon (eight weeks)

**Sunday, January 13**—One Eucharist, 10:00 AM, followed by the Annual Parish Meeting, Parish House, 11:00 AM—Business Meeting, Election of Officers, Bylaws Revision. Potluck Fingerfoods.

**Sunday, January 13**—*Second Sundays at St. Mary’s*, Bolton, 4:00 PM, featuring St. Philips Ensemble performing *Evensong* followed by *Broadway Backwards!*

**January 25-27**—192<sup>nd</sup> Annual Council, *Lake Terrace Convention Center*, Hattiesburg  
Hosted by Church of the Ascension and Trinity Episcopal



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:  
Rebecca B. Drake



# Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in January 2019

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
	The Epiphany of Our Lord Jesus Christ	First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ	Second Sunday after the Epiphany	The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
		<b>Parish Meeting</b>		<b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>First Reading</b>	Isaiah 60:1-6	Isaiah 43:1-7	Isaiah 62:1-5	Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Psalm 29	Psalm 36:5-10	Psalm 19
<b>Second Reading</b>	Ephesians 3:1-12	Acts 8:14-17	1 Corinthians 12:1-11	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
<b>Gospel</b>	Matthew 2:1-12	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	John 2:1-11	Luke 4:14-21
<b>LWL</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Tommy Skinner <b>11:00 a.m.</b> David Pruett	Harvey Smith Richard Price	Theo Williams Betsy Selby	Penny Freund Ann Tompkins
<b>MC</b>	Beth Guynes	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes	Ann Tompkins
<b>OT Lector</b>	<b>8:30 a.m.</b> Bitsy Sloan <b>11:00 a.m.</b> Ed Shelnut	Bitsy Sloan Mary Ruth Jones	Bitsy Sloan Gloria Hall Sam Hall	Bitsy Sloan Wilma Mitchell
<b>Psalm</b>			Canada Stewart	
<b>Epistle</b>			Beth Guynes Sam Hall	Jennifer Normand
<b>Crucifer &amp; Acolyte</b>	Koury Collins	Susan Price	Harris Southall Gabby Rushing	
<b>Wooden Cross</b>			Peter Williams Kerri Williams	
<b>Gospel Bearer</b>	Gabby Rushing	Deacon Josie	Lawson Selby Mason Selby	
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Sharon Hanks	Deacon Josie	Josh Artman Jonah Artman	
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Harvey Smith Sharon Hanks	The Hall Family	Deacon Josie Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Allan Leese Andy Hall	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter	Mary Ann Wright Susan Price	Sharon Cummins Kristi Hall
<b>Standing</b>	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Tommy Skinner Ann Tompkins	April & Ashley
<b>Communion Station</b>	David Pruett	Susan Price	April & Ashley	<b>No Children's Chapel</b>
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Beth Guynes Liz Gent	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Children Participate 11:00 a.m. Eucharist	
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter	<b>Potluck Finger Foods</b>	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Herb Jones	
<b>Nursery</b>	April & Ashley	April & Ashley		
<b>Children's Chapel</b>	Betsy Selby	Betsy Selby		
<b>Offertory Counters</b>	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Janice Herrington	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Lance Stewart		Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Beth Guynes
	<b>January 2</b>	<b>January 9</b>	<b>January 16</b>	<b>January 23</b>
<b>Healing Service</b>	Tommy Skinner	David Pruett	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner