



The Albanac

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

January 2021



St. Nicholas Visits St. Alban's Church

Celebrating The Feast of St. Nicholas



On December 6, Will Horner portrayed the role of St. Nicholas during a drive-through event at St. Alban's. Everyone was excited to greet St. Nicholas as he handed out bags of surprises to the children.

So, who was St. Nicholas other than a bishop who was elevated to sainthood almost 200 years after his death? Nicholas was born in the 4th century in the village of Patara locate on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. His parents were wealthy and devout Christians but died from an epidemic when Nicholas was very young. Remembering the words of Jesus to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor,” Nicholas used his entire inheritance to help the sick, the sailors, the children and others who were suffering. His gifts were mostly given in secret since he had no desire to be recognized for his generosity.

As the Bishop of Myra, Nicholas lived his life in faithful service to God—a defender of the Christian faith. After his death on December 6, 343 AD, he was buried in his cathedral church of Myra and elevated to sainthood in 1446. With the passage of time, the giving spirit of St. Nicholas' life fashioned the fictitious and beloved character we now know as *Santa Claus*, *Father Christmas*, or *Père Noël*.

Christmas at Lifting Lives Ministries



St. Alban's outreach ministries brightened Christmas for the homeless families sheltered at *Lifting Lives Ministries*. We bought an outdoor tree for the residents to decorate. We also provided presents for all seventeen children currently at the shelter. Each family listed one thing they wanted, one thing they needed and one toy they wanted for Christmas. We were able to provide all the requested items, including bikes, baby-dolls, toy cars, superhero toys and tablets for the teens. We also gave each family a laundry basket full of needed items: detergent, soap, towels, wash cloths, masks, toilet paper, paper towels, wipes, and Kleenex. The residents were very grateful for the gifts.

On a personal note, I am so grateful that St. Alban's Church supports and values this outreach. I feel blessed to have been able to organize the project and I loved being able to shop for little kids again. Thanks to all at St. Albans who make outreach ministries like this possible. You made Christmas for the families at *Lifting Lives* a little brighter.

Stacy Weaver



Chapel Receives Facelift Thanks to Eagle Scout Project

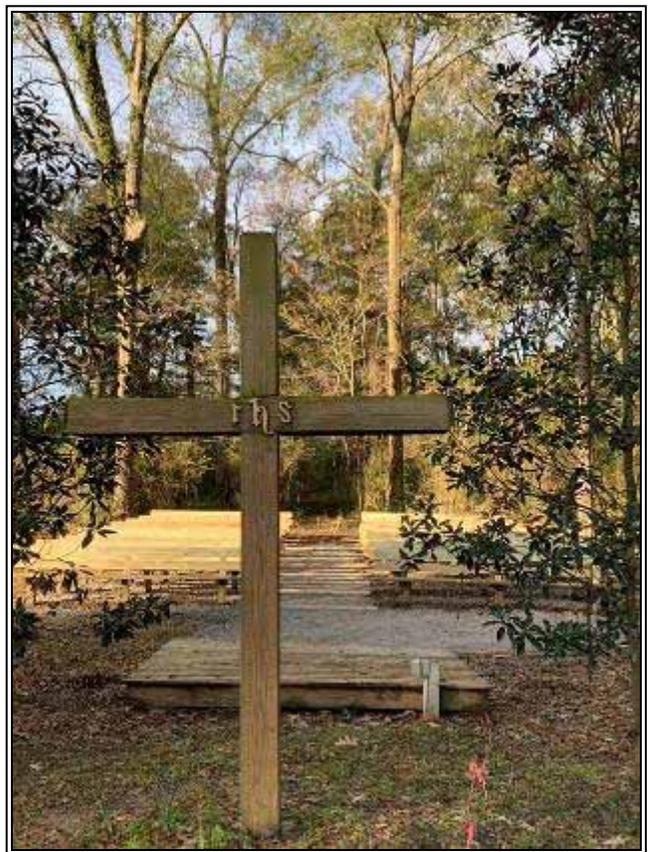


The outdoor chapel received a facelift thanks to Peter Lavigne from Boy Scout Troop 638 who selected the outdoor chapel for his Eagle Scout Project. Peter thought it was important, especially considering the pandemic, to make the chapel more accessible and comfortable for everyone in our congregation.

Working with Richard Price to determine how to do this, he decided to make a walkway with crushed limestone from the parking lot and put backings on all the benches. There were obstacles along the way, but he was able to find solutions and finish the project. He hopes to have his Eagle ceremony at the chapel when it's safe. It would be wonderful to have the congregation attend. Peter is a great scout who has overcome a lot of personal challenges. He is full of gratitude for the opportunity to help St. Alban's and accomplish his goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Award is the highest rank in scouting, something that only 4% of scouts achieve. One of the last Eagle requirements is a community service project planned and led by the scout. He enlists help from scouts in the troop or other community members, but the scout is in charge of organizing and leading the project.

Stacy Weaver



O Holy Night, the Stars are Brightly Shining



Beth Guynes & Margie Scott celebrate Christmas 2020



Gray & Macy Weaver lighting candles on Christmas Eve

Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of
Josie Williams' Ordination to the Diaconate



St. Andrews Cathedral
January 15, 2011

Be still & know that I am God.

Here we are in 2021—a brand new year! If we think back to a year ago, I’m sure none of us expected that 2020 would become the year of a pandemic, racial and political turmoil, and angst. What, then, can we expect of 2021?

First, we should remember it is 2021, The Year of Our Lord. Our Lord is still in control and we must not forget *His* incredible mercy. Through all the fear, uncertainty and loss we have each experienced in the last year, Jesus Christ has been with us. As we just celebrated *His* birth, we must also remember the ultimate reason that small baby, born in Bethlehem, came to us in human form. Even though *He* is God, *He* showed us how to live by walking on Earth as one of us. *He* showed us how to have hope in our own lives. We know we can trust *Him*. *He* is the Word made flesh. *He* is our Lord, part of the Triune God in whom we believe and to whom we pray.

Our God is the reason we have been able to endure the chaos of the past year. *He* is the reason we are able to have the courage to move forward into a new year. In Matthew 11:28, Jesus says “Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” So many of the verses that we have learned and which we see framed in homes and businesses are quotes attributed to Jesus and provide strength during our moments of pain, fear, and sorrow.

In 1996, during a relapse of my Multiple Sclerosis, my pastor in Texas gave me a plaque that brought me great comfort. In Psalm 46:10, God said “Be still and know that I am God.” That’s all I needed. I didn’t have to worry or be frightened. All I had to do is read over that verse and I was always reminded that God was in control and that *He* would never give us more than we can endure. So, knowing that now, I am at peace, regardless of what the world may throw down as an obstacle. Nothing can stop our God. If we believe, we can be still and know that *He* is God. That is enough.

Peace be with you.

Dawn Rickard

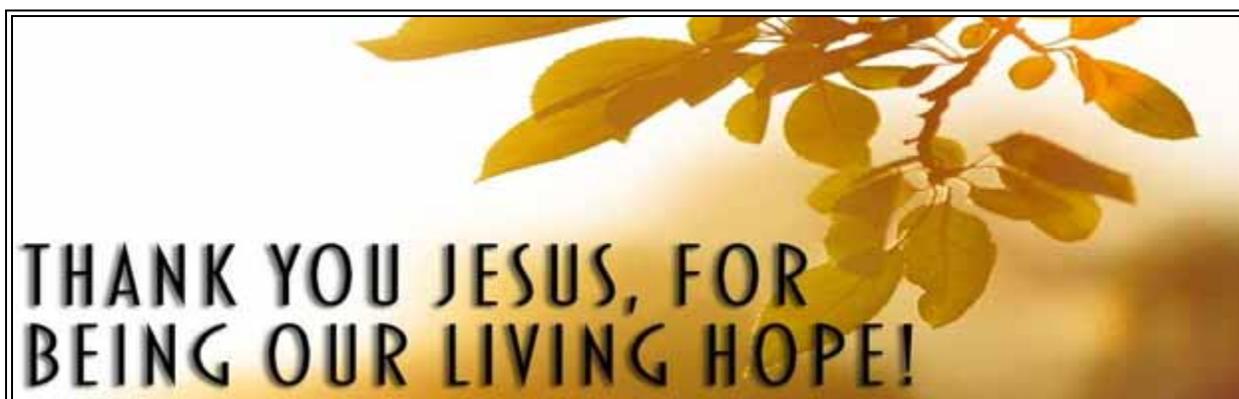
Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

Changes, changes, and more changes! No sooner had we published the December Albanac than the increasing number of COVID-19 cases led to a suspension of in-person worship. If this year has taught us anything, it is that we might go through plans A, B, and C before finally landing on Plan D or E. All of our plans for December had to be reworked, including Christmas Eve services. While this is frustrating and disappointing, I rest a little easier at night knowing that we are doing our part as a church to prevent the spread of the virus and to demonstrate our love for our neighbors.

I do want to address one phrase I hear from time to time--that church is "shut down" because we are not meeting in person. On the contrary! The church is alive and well and open--it just looks different than what we're used to. If you took a look around the St. Alban's community during the month of December, you would see A LOT of church happening. You would see that we celebrated our 200th service of weekday morning prayer online--a new offering this year that has reached people wherever they are, at home or at work, and provided them with a way to ground their day in prayer. You would see toys spread out throughout the Parish Hall, a veritable Santa's workshop, as the elves of St. Alban's prepared Christmas gifts for the families at Lifting Lives Shelter. You would see a host of improvements to the St. Alban's grounds and outdoor chapel that will help us when we are able to return to worship outdoors. You would see the very creative adaptations of our musicians as they prepared Advent and Christmas music to help us enjoy the fullness of these seasons. You would see all the phone calls and Zoom meetings and Facebook services that are keeping us connected as a church.

Yes, these are all new and sometimes unfamiliar ways of being church. Yes, they can be frustrating and imperfect at times. Yes, we certainly miss gathering together in our beautiful building. But our church is not shut down. Our church, our people, are doing what Christians have always done, which is learning to be disciples of Jesus Christ in the times and circumstances we find ourselves in. And we are discovering the truth about our faith--that it is not tied to a building or a day of the week. Our faith is living and breathing, like our risen Lord, helping us face each new day with the promise that God is with us, Emmanuel, wherever we find ourselves.

Josie's Journal



2020 is a year in the history books and it is now time to write a new chapter. The pandemic did not stifle the worship of the faithful at St. Alban's in Bovina. We monitored and adjusted to virtual worship on Facebook and Zoom without the weeping and gnashing of teeth. Church members learned new lessons in technology and shared their knowledge with other members of the congregation.

A new audio-visual system with live streaming to the internet was installed by tech-savvy church members. After many laborious hours the results were nothing less than FANTASTIC!!!! Now, church members can worship virtually via the internet. Also, new to St. Alban's is a large screen TV in the Parish Hall that allows us to view services streaming live from the nave for overflow crowds.

St. Alban's congregation is held together with love, hope and perseverance. We must continue praying, hoping and believing that 2021 will be a year of blessings and goodwill for us. We must continue to write each other notes, call each other and most of all to keep each other in our prayers.

Hopefully, we will soon be able to have full communion, share the peace and enjoy visiting with one another during coffee hour. Until that time comes, we will keep faith and hope alive as WE SERVE THE LORD.

*May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.*

Romans 15:13.

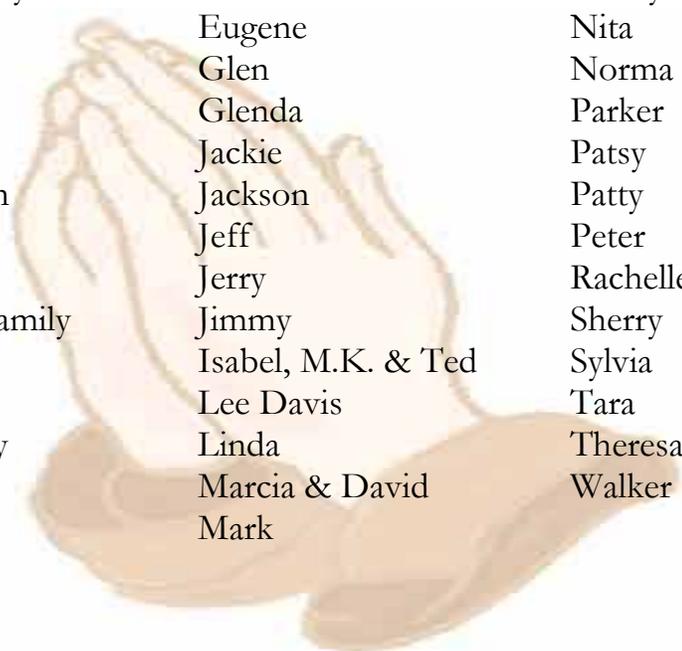
Peace,
Josie

January Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 3 Lynda Hubbard | 19 Kenon Ruska |
| 4 Richard Selby | 26 Anna Selby |
| 8 Mary Carleton | 27 Betsy Selby |
| 17 Sergio Panelo | 29 Susan Price |
| 18 Virginia Rue Selby | |

Prayers for the People

- | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Amanda | Earline | Mary Frances |
| Ann & Jimmy | Estella | Nancy |
| Anna | Eugene | Nita |
| Barbara | Glen | Norma |
| Betty | Glenda | Parker |
| Betsy | Jackie | Patsy |
| Bill & Karen | Jackson | Patty |
| Bobbie | Jeff | Peter |
| Charlie | Jerry | Rachelle |
| Charlie & Family | Jimmy | Sherry |
| Cooper | Isabel, M.K. & Ted | Sylvia |
| Cynthia | Lee Davis | Tara |
| Dan & Mary | Linda | Theresa |
| David | Marcia & David | Walker |
| | Mark | |



COVID-19 Weekly Events

Please call the office if you need help with Zoom

Sunday

Liturgy of the Word, Rite I, Parish Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Liturgy of the Word, 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 (on Zoom).

Thursday

Ultreya, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (on Zoom)

Event Calendar

Sunday, January 3—*The Path*, our journey through the Bible, resumes. We'll be following The Path together until Lent starts, when we'll pause again to observe the season of Lent. The Path sermons are available on our website.

http://www.stalbansbovina.org/the_path.htm.

Wednesday, January 6—Burning of the greens on Epiphany. Bring your Christmas tree and add it to the pile of brush for the traditions burning of the greens.

Sunday, February 7—St. Alban's annual meeting, 12:00 p.m. (on Zoom)

Server Schedule

	Format	Officiant	Lay Worship Leader	A/V Operator
Sunday, January 3 8:30 am 11:00 am	Zoom Facebook	Rev. Elisabeth	Tommy Skinner Richard Price	Harvey Smith
Wednesday, January 6 (Epiphany)	in person?	Rev. Elisabeth	Tommy Skinner	n/a?
Sunday, January 10 8:30 am 11:00 am	Zoom Facebook	Rev. Elisabeth	David Pruett Theo Williams	Harvey Smith
Wednesday, January 13	Zoom	Tommy Skinner	n/a	n/a
Sunday, January 17 8:30 am 11:00 am	Zoom Facebook	Rev. Elisabeth	Ann Tompkins Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper
Wednesday, January 20	Zoom	Theo Williams	n/a	n/a
Sunday, January 24 8:30 am 11:00 am	Zoom Facebook	Rev. Elisabeth	Tommy Skinner Richard Price	Harvey Smith
Wednesday, January 27	Zoom	Tommy Skinner	n/a	n/a
Sunday, January 31 8:30 am 11:00 am	Zoom Facebook	Rev. Elisabeth	David Pruett Theo Williams	Harvey Smith



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Stacy Weaver, Rev. Elisabeth