



The Albanac

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

July 2021



*Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs
Accepts Call to Become St. Alban's Rector*



At the May vestry meeting, Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs graciously accepted the vestry call to be St. Alban's rector beginning July 1. She has done an outstanding job of keeping us together during the pandemic, creating new ways to worship and stay connected. Her social media skills and initiatives to try new ways of ministry are exactly what we have needed during these difficult times. I, for one, am happy and excited that she has accepted the call and hope that she will be here for many years to come.

Now, a little bit about the terms of her letter of agreement among the bishop, vestry and Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs that we signed this month. The agreement has no time limits and is to continue until dissolved by mutual consent. There are the usual clauses concerning times of work, leave, compensation and benefits. There is also a section on Mutual Ministry Review that stipulates evaluative conversations with the vestry are to be undertaken annually with a more detailed review at approximately two years into her tenure. These are particularly important to help establish goals for the parish and to evaluate responsibilities and success of particular ministries. Even though the Mutual Ministry Review is conducted by the rector and vestry, we can all be attentive and active in the various ministries in the church. Now that services are opening to in-person services and we are returning to some pre-epidemic activities, we ask for your help and support of the goals that the rector and vestry set for our parish. If you want to know what you can do, contact any member of the vestry and express your interest and support.

I think we have been blessed to have Elisabeth as our priest-in-charge these last two years and I am grateful and excited that she is now our rector. I trust her sense of mission, core values and goals for St Alban's and that she is the right person at this time and in this place to lead us as rector. Next time you see her, be sure to welcome her as our new rector!

Richard Price, Senior Warden



Elisabeth leading Palm Sunday processional



Elisabeth installing live-streaming camera



Richard Price & Elisabeth



Children hiding Alleluias in preparation for Lent

Landscape Committee Update

By Susan Price, Co-chair



Landscape Committee

(L-R) Susan Price, Kristi Hall, Beth Sojourner, Tommy Skinner, Jeff Artman & Barbara Frey

Several Sundays ago, Tommy or I presented some proposed landscape projects and asked for input from the congregation. Many thanks to everyone who has commented on these proposals, offered suggestions and voted by stamp. In the parish hall, there is a poster board with pictures and brief descriptions of proposed projects. Next to the board there are strips of 4 stamps each. We asked that each congregant take a strip and place the stamps on or next to the projects that you would most like to see done. You are not required to use all four stamps nor should you put all 4 stamps on one project. Also, there is a sheet of paper for comments. The purpose of this exercise is to see which projects have the most backing and will contribute to the factors determining which projects will be addressed first.



Project Poster Board

PROPOSED PROJECTS

1. **MEMORIAL GARDEN:** This project will be adjacent to the cemetery and include blooming shrubs which will provide a succession of color through most of the year.
2. **LABYRINTH:** Constructed near the outside chapel, this will be a spiritual place of prayer, centering, peacefulness and enjoyment of the grounds. In the May Albanac, Dale Gibson wrote an insightful article covering the spiritual and historical significance of the Labyrinth.
3. **BIBLICAL GARDEN:** This garden could be incorporated with the Labyrinth as a border of plants mentioned in the Old and New Testaments. I find it very interesting that so many of these plants have medicinal, mythological, as well as spiritual significance within many

religions. The use of these plants as well as the symbolism associated with them can give us a deeper understanding of biblical times.

4. **BIRD SANCTUARY:** Behind the boxwood hedge near the playground is an area that was designated as a bird haven as a memorial. It needs to be cleared out a little and bird attracting trees and shrubs added.
5. **BONFIRE PIT:** The location for the bonfire spot has already been established in the lower field. For completion, all that is needed are rocks to surround and define the burn area and added seating of some sort.
6. **NATURAL PLAYGROUND:** This means that structures within and composition of those structures are derived from nature such as tree trunks, boulders, wooden steppingstones and balance beams. The preceding is a very general description, but the idea is one that has taken hold on many fronts. I've seen them used at schools, municipal parks, as well as private yards.
7. **PET MEMORIAL ROCK GARDEN:** We already have a head start on this project as a rectangular brick lined bed already exists under the live oak trees. All we need is a statue of St. Francis and rocks upon which anyone can write the name of a cherished pet they have lost. The rock can then be laid at the feet of St. Francis.
8. **MOONLIGHTS:** By installing low wattage, auto on LED lights in the live oak trees, much needed soft light will illuminate that very dark area where we park for afterhours meetings. The down lighting will seem like moonlight coming through the tree limbs and casting shadows on the ground of the beautifully shaped live oak branches. The Vestry is considering this idea as it pertains to safety
9. **COLUMBARIUM:** This would be a permanent structure in which cremains are respectfully housed. The option of cremation is seen by many as a preferable choice to casket burial and is increasingly chosen. It has been suggested that a columbarium could be incorporated with the outdoor chapel.
10. **NATURE TRAIL:** This proposal is also one that has long been discussed and the area between the cemetery and railroad track offers many options.
11. **TREE PLANTING:** Several of our beautiful cedars and oaks have or will soon succumb to old age. To maintain the country feel, beauty and peacefulness that the trees provide we must plant young trees to grow up to replace those which will be lost as time marches on.

The landscape committee met on Thursday, June 17. After reviewing the proposed projects and discussing the needed materials, plants, work force, interest/backing and finances required for each project, we placed them in one of three categories according to ease of moving forward with the intent of beginning with the projects that are less demanding both physically and financially.

Category I	Category II	Category III
Bird Sanctuary	Pet Memorial	Memorial Garden
Bon Fire Pit	Moon Lights	Labyrinth with Biblical Garden
Tree planting	Nature Trail	Columbarium
		Natural Playground

Of course all of these projects will require a financial investment. At this point, donations that will be used on Cat. I and II can be made to “Landscape Projects.” Money collected in this fund will be used as needed for Cat. I and II Projects. For the projects in Cat. III, donations will be accepted as plans for each are finalized. The congregation will be notified when those donations will be accepted.

The project board is still in the Parish Hall. If you have questions or comments, please use the comment sheet or contact either Susan Price or Tommy Skinner. We have found the comments and questions we have thus far received to be very helpful and encouraging and we thank you for your input.

Members of the Landscape Committee are: Tommy Skinner and Susan Price (co-chairmen), Jeff Artman, Barbara Frey, Kristi Hall and Beth Sojourner. We invite and encourage anyone interested in enhancing the church property to join us as we explore, plan, and implement ideas presented here.



Betty Biedenharn Celebrates 100th Birthday



Born July 14, 1921

Surprise Visit from Rev. Billie Abraham

On Sunday, June 13, Rev. Billie surprised St. Alban's church members when she attended both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. After serving as rector of St. Alban's for almost 11 years, (2008–2019) she retired and is now living in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to be near her eldest daughter and family. One of the highlights of Billie's visit was to wish Betty Biedenbarn a "Happy 100th Birthday."





Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

Who are the ministers of the church?

Lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons. BCP, p. 855

At this moment of transition, joyful transition, as I accept the Vestry's call to serve St. Alban's as Rector, I keep coming back to this teaching from the Catechism in *The Book of Common Prayer*. I may be called to serve as Rector, but we are *all* the ministers of St. Alban's. Each of us, lay people, priests, deacons, even bishops--all of us are ministers by virtue of baptism. At baptism, we are each commissioned to spread the good news of God in Christ and to work for the reconciliation of people to God and to each other. The only difference is that my ministry is focused on the church and the sacraments, and your ministry occurs in all kinds of places--in schools, offices, and hospitals, and at the gym or while waiting in line at the grocery store. In the words of the Catechism, you represent Christ and bear witness to him wherever you are in the world, extending the reach of St. Alban's much further than I ever could by myself.

This understanding of ministry undergirds my calling as your priest and Rector. Because let's face it--I could never do the work of the church by myself. I have certainly learned that over these past two years! It is only when we work together, empowered by the Holy Spirit, that we are able to be the body of Christ in the world. I'm excited as we take these next steps in our journey together as priest and people. Thank you for your trust in me, and may our ministry together flourish. Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. (*Ephesians 3:20, 21*)

Note from a Stranger

It seems the worst of the pandemic has passed and most of us are getting out and going back to what resembles 'normal' in our lives. Many of us have experienced either the illness itself or have lost loved ones to the distressing illness. The way we are able to cope with the virus depends largely on how closely it has touched our lives.

Regardless of how personally we've dealt with this disease, we can probably all agree we will not soon forget the devastation this epidemic has had on our country and the world. It literally changed our way of life for over a year. It's important to remember, however, that God the Father of us all is still in control.

Recently a friend of mine went to a business in the Madison area. On the door to the business, someone had left a 3x3" post it note. My friend took a photo of the note and shared it with me. The words are simple, yet expressive, and I found them especially insightful after the impact the virus has had on the world at large.

"Lord, Help me today to forget the former things and to avoid dwelling in the past. I know you are doing a new thing...open my eyes, because I don't want to miss it!"

What a wonderful sentiment! Rather than remaining downhearted, this person chose to look for the good the Lord has in store for us. I have often tended to dwell on sorrowful aspects of my life that I wish, but am unable, to change. If we would trust God to help us put away this past year and focus on the wonders He has planned for our tomorrows, how much easier life will be.

As the note suggested, let us pray for direction and an ability to listen for God's instruction in moving forward. We would benefit by asking God to open our eyes so that we don't miss whatever new things He has waiting for us.

Dawn Rickard



July Birthdays

1 William Aspinall III	12 Harrison Savant	24 Richard Massey
2 Judah Nieto	13 Lauren Guynes	25 Kelsey Artman Hankins
3 Rudy Nieto	Andy Hall	Rebecca Drake
John Segrest	14 Betty Biedenharn	Sunny Faith Duett
Charles Selby	Gene Warren	28 Lynn Gerhardt
4 Kristi Hall	17 Jack Savant	29 Easy Biedenharn
John Frey	18 Elisabeth Malphurs	Jackson Monti
5 Harris Southall	22 Dalton Thames	Andrew Cooper
6 Allen Kitchens, Jr.	23 Tripp Curtis	30 Carroll Sojourner
9 Suzanne Artman	Ron White	31 Remy Lauritzen
10 Joel Langford	24 Allen Kitchens	Rous Lauritzen

July Anniversaries

5 James & Rebecca Drake	10 Richard & Margo Massey	26 John & Ann Tompkins
9 Theo & Josie Williams	13 Jeff & Suzanne Artman	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Aleister	David	Lisa & Charlie
Ann & Jimmy	David & Martha	Martha
Ashlee & Mack	Earline	Mary Jo
Barbara	Estella	Minnie Bell
Betty	Glenda	Nita
Bill & Karen	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Norma
Bobbie	Jackson	Patty
Brandon	James	Ria
Charlene	John	Ruth
Charisse	John & Lynn	Sharon
Charlie & Family	Kelly	Shelby Lynn
Clarence	Kristin	The Pruett family
Cooper	Laurie	The Torrey family
Cynthia	Lee Davis	Theresa
Dan & Mary	Lisa & Charlie	

For the Departed:

Peter Meyers, Tim Welp, Rev. Richard Middleton, Darrell Welch, Larry Williams, Donna Lander, Allison Lightwine & Anna Fuller

Weekly Events

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.

Monday—Wednesday—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.

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

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.

Honduras Medical Mission Applications Being Accepted February 12-19, 2022

Applications for the Honduras Medical Mission, February 12-19,2022, are being accepted. Team physician's see approximately 2,900 to 3,500 patients in the five-day clinic. Most are treated for intestinal parasites and are given free medicine. Team dentists pull about 750 to 1,000 teeth, while Team veterinarians see hundreds of horses, cows, pigs, dogs and cats. The Team member fee is \$1,600.00. This includes transportation and meals in Honduras and includes the cost of the mandatory team retreat.

Applications may be found on: <http://dioms.org/Ministries/honduras.html>. The deadline for filing application is July 15, 2021.

Honduras Medical Mission
c/o Stephen George
P. O. Box 6187
Gulfport, MS 39506
hondurasmedicalmissionms@gmail.com

Server Schedule

Date		Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Sunday 7/4/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Betsy Selby	Sharon Cummins Carolyn Gent	Jim Price Kerri Williams Peter Williams	Herb Jones	Jim Drake
Wednesday 7/7/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
Sunday 7/11/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Theo Williams Harvey Smith	Penny Freund Beth Guynes	Jim Price Beth Guynes	Ed Shelnut	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 7/14/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruet				Harvey Smith
Sunday 7/18/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Richard Price	Tommy Skinner Kerri Williams	Jim Price The Halls	Theo Williams	Jim Drake
Wednesday 7/21/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
Sunday 7/25/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith	Beth Sojourner Dawn Rickard	Jim Price Allan Leese Dawn Rickard	Ann Tompkins	Jim Drake
Wednesday 7/28/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith



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James and Rebecca Drake