



The Albanac

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

June 2019



*The Rev. Billie Abraham Ordained Priest
September 21, 2008*

St. Alban's Community Bids Farewell

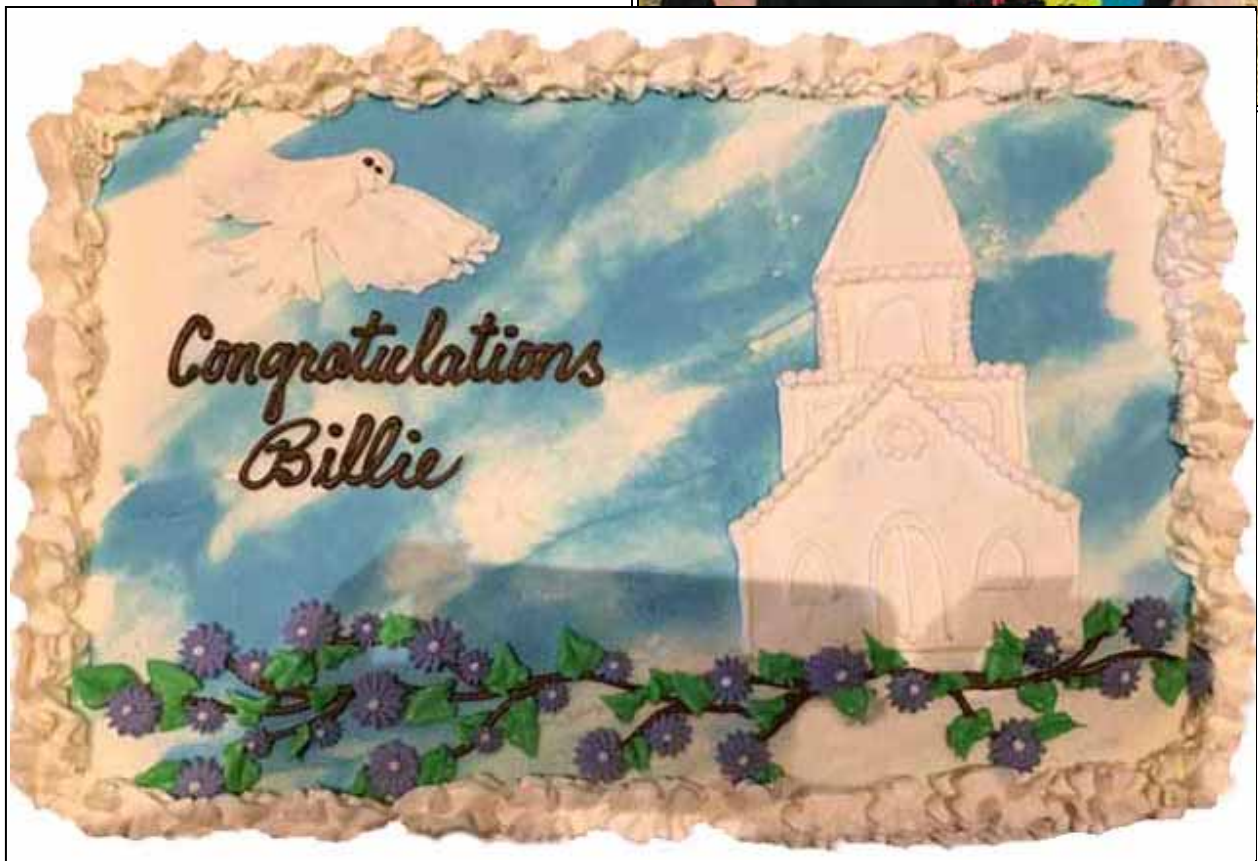
On April 28, 2019, Rev. Billie preached her final sermon before retiring to her new home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The church was filled to capacity while the organist, Shirlene Gill, and St. Alban's choir filled the Holy Space with the sound of music. There were tears of joy and sorrow as church members, family and friends came to celebrate Rev. Billie's last Sunday at her beloved "Church in the Country."

Prior to Billie's arrival in 2008, twenty-five priests had served St. Alban's Church. The longest serving priest was Rev. Valentine Sessions who was rector from 1919 – 1944. The second longest priests to serve were Rev. James Angel Fox (1870—1881) and Rev. Billie Abraham (2008— 2019). Both served the St. Alban's community for approximately 11 years.

~ Farewell Blessing ~

"Now as the day dawns on the next chapter in your life, may God continue to richly bless you and watch over you; and may the God of peace grant you peace - now and always."





Tributes to Rev. Billie Abraham

Beth Guynes—Billie had been at St. Alban's less than a week when I had to have surgery in Jackson. Since I was on the vestry at the time, I informed her that I would be out of pocket for a while due to recovery time. She asked for details of where and when the surgery would be. I told her I had to be at St. Dominic Hospital in Jackson at 6:00 am on the following day. Billie came to the hospital at that very early hour and sat with Terry and me until I was taken to be prepped for surgery. She barely knew us but dropped everything to be there for us.

Margie Scott—Billie is a truly wonderful priest who has done so much for St. Alban's and for our members. She is a great friend to me, too. We have spent many enjoyable hours talking about cooking, cookbooks, and our grandchildren. I certainly will miss her.

Betsy Selby—Billie took me under her wing when we lived directly across the hall from each other in Stewart Dorm at Ole Miss. She was kind and wise then and has become more so through the years. I'm grateful to have been able to share the past ten plus years with her as my priest and friend.

Rebecca Drake—Billie and I first met in 2010 when Terry Brantley invited me to St. Alban's to cover a "Dinner on the Grounds" story for the paper. A short time later, Billie invited Jim and me to attend services at St. Alban's. We were confirmed soon afterwards and the rest is history. Worshipping at St. Alban's has been a God-filled journey. May God bless you and yours as you begin this wonderful new chapter in life.

Ed Shelnut—Our Rev. Billie Abraham is one of the most outstanding spiritual leaders I have ever known. She is always uplifting, understanding, inspiring, well-grounded, and knowledgeable in our church tradition and teachings. Among my fondest memories will always be celebrating the Eucharistic Feast along side of Reverend Billie. She is a gifted preacher and teacher and a wonderful accepting and loving person whom I should like to have for my priest forever if only that were possible. I wish her all the best and sincerely hope she enjoys her retirement as much as I am enjoying mine. Come see us when you can; don't be a stranger. Thanks for the memories and your wonderful years of service to St. Alban's.

Joan Leese—Billie, thank you for hiring me as "temporary" organist, which lasted ten years!

Wanda Warren—We shall miss your enthusiasm, your laughter, your love of people and your congregation, but mostly I will miss your reminder each week at the end of your sermons... "God Loves You!"

Tributes to Rev. Billie Abraham (cont'd)

Sarah Margaret and Dalton—Your love of Christ, the Church and its parishioners is infectious. It made us feel special and want to become better Christians. We will miss your wisdom, spontaneity and laughter, your guidance and friendship, but we wish you well in your new endeavors. Not only does God love you, Billie, but we do as well.

Dale Gibson—Billie has always responded to my requests and needs with compassion, love and understanding. She possesses a keen observational quality that supports her interaction with people whom she is in contact. She has been very creative in bringing the St Albans community together. I will miss her calming manner very much.

Sharon Hanks—Even before you came to St. Alban's as our priest, I witnessed your warmth, compassion, and friendliness. I have continued to feel that warmth and compassion throughout the years, and I know you will carry that into the next phase of your journey. We have been blessed to have had you in our lives, and I, as well as this community, will truly miss you. (Whenever I make stuffed eggs and sugar cookies, I will think of you, and don't be surprised if I send you some of those cookies to share with that sweet granddaughter!) Billie, I wish you joy and happiness as you start your new adventure in Albuquerque. Stay in touch!

Judy Morrissey—Thank you Billie, for being such a wonderful spiritual leader. Michael and I both admired you and appreciated your kindness and support. I wish you happiness and will surely miss you.

Reagan and Shane Lauritzen—Billie has been a friend, teacher, mentor, on-loan parent and grandparent and much, much more to our family. She has been a spring of never-ending love and is essentially the reason we decided to make St. Alban's our home. Her passion for life is contagious and has undoubtedly had an impact on our small, yet mighty, congregation. We will greatly miss her, but look forward to seeing her in the *Land of Enchantment* soon.

Dan and Mary Carleton—Warm, gracious, energetic, Billie Abraham's gently nurturing strength truly expresses St. Alban's greeting to the world at our middle door...."Take a deep breath, you're home now." Exemplifying St. Alban's Episcopal Church to Bovina and Vicksburg, she reached out to the larger community, attracting a spectrum of new members from young families to retirees. Her own intelligence and creativity embraced and nourished the creativity of our members and welcomed the artistic community to our events and membership. She will always hold a sacred place in our hearts.

Tributes to Rev. Billie Abraham (cont'd)

Penny Freund—During Billie's ministry at St. Alban's, I have deepened my spiritual roots and have been given my musical wings. She has encouraged me to explore and share passion for the music of the church while giving me a solid foundation in the tradition and beauty of the liturgy. I am so very grateful for these opportunities.

Bryan and Joy Brabston—Billie always went above and beyond the call of duty showing love and companionship. Bryan and I wish you sunny days ahead.

Callie Russell—Rev. Billie was the guiding hand in directing our family toward Christ and a denomination that is welcoming to all. She opened up to me during a time I needed it most, whether she realized it or not. We will miss her warm, happy face and...I'm definitely shedding a tear now.

Betty, Gabby & Alison Rushing—Rev. Billie has led me to a much closer walk with Jesus!! Gabby & Alison are Very possessive of Rev. Billie! We will miss Rev. Billie Terribly!!! We KNOW that our St. Alban's Family will bring us great comfort!!

David and Jennifer Normand—We have been blessed to know and have Billie at St. Alban's since 2008. She has been our spiritual leader during this time and we were honored to be her first confirmation. Billie has been with us through sickness and death with both of our families and we are forever grateful for her service. We will not only miss her, but her beautiful sermons and her devotion to pastoral care. She will be missed tremendously. We will be praying for her and hoping she will have a peaceful but adventurous retirement!

Ann Jones—Billie, It's been so wonderful having you here. We'll miss you.

David Pruett—Billie, you have been instrumental in my Spiritual Development, more so than anyone else. Thank You!

Betty Biedenharn—Billie, I feel like I'm losing one of my girls. You've meant so much to us, not only as our St. Alban's priest, but as our friend.

Lynn and Lindsey Gerhardt—Heartfelt thanks for your love, comfort and support that you have given to our family and the St. Alban's community. We will miss you.

Tommy Skinner—Because of Billie's encouragement I became a Lay Worship Leader. She was always there when Frank and I suffered a death or illness in the family. She exemplifies what a priest should be.

James Korey Collins—Reverend Billie, you will be missed by all of us, and especially me. You have touched me, and you will be in my heart always.

St. Alban's—A Place in Time

St. Alban's Church Holds Festive Gala— 1880

By Rebecca Blackwell Drake

On April, 19, 1880, a delegation of ladies from St. Alban's Church visited the *Vicksburg Daily Commercial* to place a publicity notice for a fundraising gala to take place in Bovina on Thursday, April 22. All proceeds would be donated to the church. Excitement was in the air! The railroad authorities even offered to let "festive fellows for Bovina go at half rate for this occasion." A special reporter was sent to cover the story and subsequently wrote a delightful rendition of all that took place in Bovina that night and well into the wee hours of the morning—dancing under the stars and the light of the silvery moon.

"The Festival at Bovina for the Benefit of Their Episcopal Church"

Vicksburg Daily Commercial, April 23, 1880

"Your reporter attended a magnificent festival at Bovina last night, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Henry M. Goff, for the benefit of the Episcopal Church at that site.

"In company with not less than sixty young ladies and gentlemen of the Hill City, we arrived at Bovina on a special train, under the charge and management of the good and clever Mr. J. B. Brown. The night was beautiful, the moon now and then appearing through the floating clouds. The house of Mr. Goff's is situated about one hundred yards from the railroad, and we found it brilliantly illuminated without and within, and a great crowd of ladies and gentlemen from the neighborhood assembled, where we arrived at nine p.m. The band of music had gone out with us, and the *Feast of Terpsichore* [goddess of dancing] commenced not long after. To say the festival was a splendid occasion would be doing simple justice to the getter-up and managers of this affair. Every one seemed full of gayety and humor. 'All went merry as a marriage bell and eyes looked love to eyes that spake again.' And when the hour came that we should part, at three a.m., delicious morning hour, wearyful expressed themselves as to say, 'I am delighted with my night's entertainment.'



“The managers of the festival were Mrs. J. V. Bell, Mrs. James I. Fox [Adeline Hebron Fox], and Mrs. H. M. Goff, kindly assisted by Mrs. J. S. Morris, Mrs. H. P. Noland and Mrs. Henry Bolls.

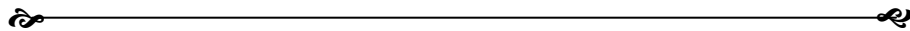
“Miss Ellie Hebron officiated as a flower girl, and her witching manner found her many customers, and few that night were seen without a superb boutonniere.

“The hall for dancing was large and spacious and waxed and decked with garlands of flowers and ivy for the occasion. A large gallery afforded all a place of promenade where the real lover and the amateur flirt could whisper those “soft nothings” so important to the moment. The floor managers were Messrs. J. V. Bell and James I. Fox.

“The refreshments consisted of ice cream, sherbet, strawberries, cakes, coffee etc. A beautiful pyramidal bouquet was raffled by Mrs. J. I. Fox [Adeline Hebron Fox] and won by Mr. T. R. Foster of this city. Lucky number, 44.

“The proceeds of the entertainment were one-hundred and six dollars. Much praises are due the managers for the great success of their festival, and all the guests will remember the enjoyable night at Bovina on the twenty-second of April 1880.

“Your reporter had the pleasure of receiving a large and fragrant bouquet for the editor of the *Commercial* from the hands of Mrs. J. V. Bell. We are sure that those who attended the festival from Vicksburg will join in the assertion that nothing was lacking to afford enjoyment, and to bid the parting guests a happy memory of the affable hosts and pleasant assemblage.”



Thanks to Sue B. Moore, researcher from Longview, Texas, for sharing this delightful 1880 newspaper clipping with the St. Alban’s community. The Goff house was located within walking distance to the train station. H. M. Goff and others named in the article are buried in St. Alban’s Cemetery. One can only envision the exciting social event that took place that moonlight night in the historic Bovina community.

Other than being informative, the article serves as a reminder that food, entertainment and hospitality are in the DNA of the St. Alban’s community.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Rev. Smoky Oats, supply priest, pictured with Alison Rushing, Deacon Josie and Beth Guynes



Members of St. Alban's Church attend Cursillo at St. John's Episcopal Church, Ocean Springs

June Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Theo Williams | 21 Ashleigh Ford Holliday |
| 12 Cassandra Price | Lawson Selby |
| 13 Kerri Williams | 22 Jimmy Jones |
| 16 Sally Southall | Mary Ruth Jones |
| 19 Sebastian Panelo | 24 Amanda Monti |
| Olivia Arseneau | 26 Laura Cook |
| | 29 Heaven Leigh Merritt |

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 David & Anna Selby | 15 Sergio & Eva Panelo |
| 5 Chad & Robin Price Troups | 17 Matthew & Lauren Guynes |
| 9 James & Cassandra Price | Ross & Jeanne Abraham Lunz |
| 13 Carroll & Beth Sojourner | 21 Dan & Mary Carleton |
| 14 Terry & Beth Guynes | |

Prayers for the People

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Andy Katzenmeyer | Charlie Powell | Laurie Reece |
| Ann Hanks | Cynthia Strawn & Family | Linda & Jim Dooley |
| Ann & Jimmy Jones | Dalton Glatt | Lucas Guynes |
| Barbara Ramsay | Dan & Mary Carleton | Natalie McMillian |
| Bertha Kolb | Dianne Carlton | Newell Graham |
| Betty Biedenharn | Ed Cooper | Nita & Aaron Tassin |
| Bobbie Carlisle | Irv Jones | Norma Jones |
| Brandi Tony | Jackson Monti | Parker Ramsay |
| Brady Morgan | Jim Ahner | Rachelle Ferris |
| Bryan Brabston | Jim Farrell | Sherry Horan |
| Cathy Nestler | Joan Leese | Steve Webster |
| Charlie Brantley & Family | Kristi Biedenharn | Selby Family |
| | Laurie Concannon | |

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

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

Sunday, June 2—Seventh Sunday of Easter. Rev. Paul Stephens, Celebrant, Lance Stewart, Guitarist

Sunday–Tuesday, June 2-4—Vacation Bible School. Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, 5:30 -7:30 PM. Supper 5:30 PM, Programs for all ages, 6:00 PM, Gather for Closing, 7:00 PM

Saturday, June 8—Ordination of Elisabeth Jane Malphurs to the Sacred Order of Deacons, St. Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral, 10:30 AM

Sunday, June 9—Pentecost, Wear Red. One service 10:00 AM, Rev. David Langdon, Celebrant, Penny Freund, Organist

Sunday–June 9—Second Sundays at St. Mary's, Bolton, 4:00 PM. Rev. Andy Andrews, Celebrant. **Jazz Pentecost** featuring Mandy Spivak, soprano & The Tyler Kemp Trio. Reception to follow in the Terry Brantley Parish Hall

Sunday, June 16—Father's Day. Trinity Sunday, Rev. Hailey Allin, Celebrant, 8:30 & 11:00 AM, Penny Freund, Organist

Sunday, June 23 Second Sunday after Pentecost. Rev. Deacon Josie Williams, Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM; Rev. Jane Alexander, Celebrant, 11:00 AM, Penny Freund, Organist. Children to participate at Eucharist

Sunday, June 30 Third Sunday after Pentecost. Rev. Deacon Josie Williams, Morning Prayer, 8:00 & 11:00 AM, Penny Freund, Organist

Liturgical Schedule

	June 2 <i>7 Easter</i>	June 9 <i>Pentecost</i>	June 16 <i>Trinity Sunday</i>	June 23 <i>2 Pentecost</i>	June 30 <i>3 Pentecost</i>
		ONE SERVICE 10:00 AM	Father's Day		
First Reading	Acts 1:15-17, 21-6	Acts 2:1-21	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	1 Kings 19:1-4	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14
Psalm	Psalm 1	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Psalm 8	Psalm 42, 43	Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20
Second Reading	1 John 5:9-13	Romans 8:14-17	Romans 5:1-5	Galatians 3:23-29	Galatians 5:1, 13-25
Gospel	John 17:6-19	John 14:8-17	John 16:12-15	Luke 8:26-39	Luke 9:51-62
LWL	8:30 am Tommy Skinner 11:00 am Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Theo Williams Betsy Selby	Ann Tompkins Herb Jones	Tommy Skinner David Pruett
MC	Beth Guynes	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes
OT Lector	8:30 am Penny Freund 11:00 am Laurie Reece	Ed Shelnut	Penny Freund Betsy Selby	Penny Freund Dawn Rickard	Penny Freund Theo Williams
Psalm			Sam Hall		
Epistle			Gloria Hall		
Crucifer & Acolyte	Susan Price	Koury Collins	Beth Guynes Gloria & Sam Hall	Jennifer Normand	N/A
Wooden Cross			Harris Southall		
Gospel Bearer	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Gabby Rushing	Deacon Josie	N/A
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Sharon Hanks	Deacon Josie	Harvey Smith	
Oblation Bearers	Harvey Smith Sharon Hanks	Kerri Williams Peter Williams	Andy Hall Kristi Hall	Wilma Mitchell Ann Tompkins	N/A
Ushers & Greeters	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter	Lance Stewart Ron White	Josh Artman Jonah Artman	Allan Leese David Normand	Dawn Rickard Lance Stewart
Standing Communion Station	Deacon Josie Theo Williams	Deacon Josie Ed Shelnut	Deacon Josie Harvey Smith	Deacon Josie Ann Tompkins	N/A
Altar Guild	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes Liz Gent	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushnig
Coffee Host	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter	Potluck Pentecost Finger Foods	Potluck Father's Day Reception	Sharon Cummins Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins Betsy Selby
Nursery	April & Ashley	April & Ashley	April & Ashley	April & Ashley	April & Ahsley
Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel	Children serve at 11:00 am Eucharist	No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel
Offertory Counters	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Janice Herrington	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Lance Stewart	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Michael Southall	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Stacy Weaver
Healing Service	June 5 David Pruett	June 12 Tommy Skinner	June 19 Theo Williams	June 26 David Pruett	