



# The Albanac

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

**June 2020**



*Families Bond During Pandemic*

## Coronavirus Pandemic St. Alban's Children Adjust to Changes

By Betsy Selby, Director of Children's Ministry

I think the most obvious thing resulting from the coronavirus is that everyone, has had to adapt to the new circumstances brought about by the pandemic. We've all had to slow down in some ways, which has been good for most of us. But life has been super busy for those who are trying to work from home while teaching school lessons and mastering zoom meetings. Everyone's situation is different. One thing we have in common, however, is that we miss and long for our church family and for the customs and liturgy that frame and give structure to our lives.



Betsy on Mother's Day with her son, David, and grandchildren Rue, Sarah Jane and Rosie



Rue with her mother, Anna, playing on hay bales, an important part of visits to Bovina



Shane & Reagan have been working from home while homeschooling Remi (purple bow) & Roux (pink bow), and entertaining Mads



Lily and Willow, daughters of Evan Goodnight and fiancée Laura Pace, enjoyed chalk art while out of school



Mason and cousin, Liz Curtis, spent time playing with building blocks and marbles



Gabby & Allison enjoy various projects during homeschooling





Harlie and grandmother, Laurie Reece, making "Billy's Pizza"



Navy and Dexter spent as much time as possible outside this spring. Weekday lunches delivered by the school district made picnics easy and fun and provided breaks in Callie's working from home and supervising Navy's school work and Dexter's playtime

## Graduating with Honors



Amanda Blair Harris with her parents David and Amanda Harris. Blair graduated with honors this spring from River City Early College and Hinds Community College, Vicksburg Branch. She will enter Mississippi College this fall accompanied by her service dog, Kimshi.

## A Time to Bloom

By Dawn Rickard

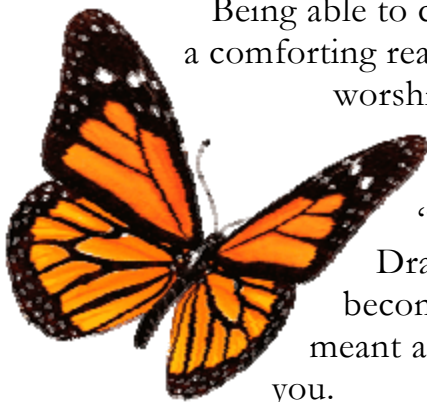
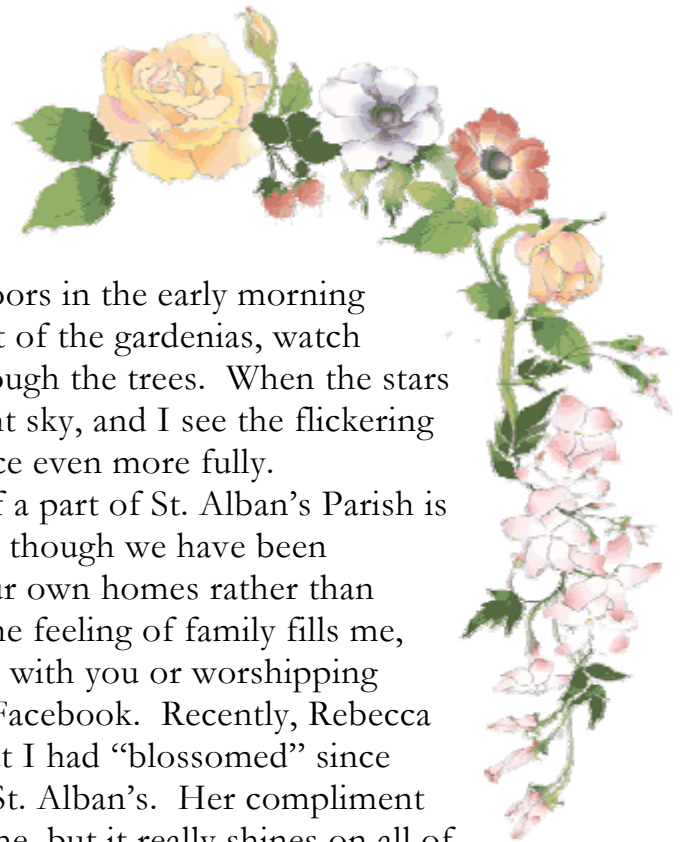
During the weeks and months that we have all been physically separated, I am reminded daily that we are not separated from Jesus. When I step outdoors in the early morning and early evening, I smell the lovely scent of the gardenias, watch the butterflies dancing and fluttering through the trees. When the stars begin to peek through the darkening night sky, and I see the flickering glow of the fireflies, I feel God's presence even more fully.

Being able to consider myself a part of St. Alban's Parish is a comforting reassurance, even though we have been worshipping from our own homes rather than together. The feeling of family fills me, whether I am with you or worshipping "together" on Facebook. Recently, Rebecca Drake told me that I had "blossomed" since becoming a part of St. Alban's. Her compliment meant a great deal to me, but it really shines on all of you.

A little over three years ago, I found my way to the charming building and grounds we call St. Alban's. Although I was a stranger to all of you, I was made to feel a part of the family. Going home that night, I was reminded of the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. All of you have made me feel as though I've always been part of your family and I have quickly realized that you are part of my family. I was the stranger on the side of the road. I was the long-lost son finally finding his way home.

Today, more than ever, I believe that the people of St. Alban's are truly sincere in living Christ's commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." We are the garden Christ planted, the legacy He left for the world. I, personally, have witnessed your kindness and charity repeatedly. The "blossoming" Rebecca mentioned is a result of the nurturing this congregation practices daily. If it's true I have blossomed, it is a result of your love and mercy.

As long as we continue to show love, forgiveness & kindness to others, people will see the *face of Jesus* that lives within us.



## Why I Wear a Mask

By Richard Price, Senior Warden

St Alban's will be opening soon for modified services. Guidelines for how churches are to open were provided by the Diocese and we drafted a plan for St Albans that is based on that guidance and has been approved by the Bishop's office. I am happy that we are finally going to return to public services; however, there are some specific aspects of our plan that are burdensome.

The guidance in our plan is to wear a mask during the service, maintain 6 feet distance between people and to use hand sanitizer after touching any surface. I have been following this guidance when in public places, but it is uncomfortable. Wearing a mask is hot and sometimes it fogs my glasses. Trying to stay 6 feet away from everyone is awkward, and to be honest almost impossible in some settings. I have used a gallon of hand sanitizer and sampled multiple blends of lotions and smells, all while my hands are getting dry and cracked from so much cleaning. I don't mean to be a complainer, but it is a bummer.

So, I will still do these things because I don't want to catch the virus or spread it should I happen to catch it. I am concerned there is still so much virologist and scientists don't know about this virus and how it spreads. It seems to affect so many people in such different ways. So, to lower my risk of catching it, as well as risk to others that I may come in contact with, I will continue to wear a mask, keep my distance and sanitize my hands. I ask that when you are at St Albans to please do likewise.

Thanks be to God.

## Update on Reopening the Church

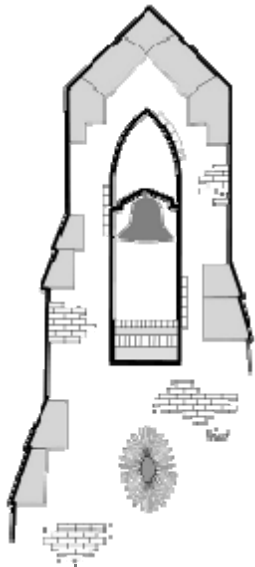
The Vestry is still working on our reopening plan and will be having a special meeting to review it on Monday, May 1st. We hope to get it out to the congregation on Tuesday of next week. Here's what we can share at this time:

- 1) We will resume having in-person services on June 7, Trinity Sunday. We will be offering three Sunday services at 8:30, 9:30, and 11:00 am. We are using this next week to ensure the church is ready and our staff and congregation are fully aware of the new guidelines we will need to follow when we meet.
- 2) We will continue offering online worship and encourage anyone in a high-risk group (i.e. those over 65 and those with underlying medical conditions) to consider continuing to worship from home.



## 2018 Capital Campaign Update

### Building A Place to Gather & Grow



Thanks to the successful launch of our Capital Campaign in 2018, St. Alban’s was able to repair and improve our Sunday school building and church. In addition to fixing termite and water damage, this project included building a new, larger kitchen and expanding our classroom space. The work was finished in the fall of 2019, and the church has put our new space to use in forming disciples and serving the community.

Because the building repairs were more extensive than originally planned, we have extended the original three-year Capital Campaign by an additional year, to carry us through 2022. Our goal is to raise as much as possible to pay down our current revolving line of credit balance before it matures in the summer of 2022. When the Line of Credit matures, it will be converted to a 15-year monthly payment loan with monthly payments based on the then current loan amount. Needless to say, the lower the beginning balance of this loan, the lower the monthly payments will be. Thus, we need your help as we endeavor to reduce the debt as much as possible before it is converted to a monthly payment.

Please consider making a one-time donation or a pledge to the Capital Campaign.

Total Cost of Repairs and Improvements:	\$438,300
Current Capital Loan Balance:	\$150,000
Outstanding Capital Campaign Pledges:	\$ 56,400
Additional pledges needed to pay off loan balance:	\$ 93,600

Checks with the note “Capital Campaign” can be mailed to St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, or electronic contributions may be made through PayPal by clicking on the “Donate” button and specifying “Capital Campaign.”

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church  
5930 Warrior's Trail  
Vicksburg, MS 39180



## Josie's Journal

### Reading, Reflections and (W)riting

My May routine during shelter has changed from previous months during our shelter in place. I am reading “Glittering Images” by Susan Horwath, “Harry Potter and The Order of the Phoenix” by J.K. Rowling and the gospel of John. Each is different from a theological perspective just as each is captivating and though provoking.

Reflections have come from watching various television shows and looking for theological elements. Allow me to share some of my thoughts with you.

- “In the Heat of the Night” — Immigration. A Vietnamese boy seeks asylum in the United States because one of his parents is a U.S. soldier.
- “Gunsmoke” — Cholera. An epidemic hits Dodge City and the residents want those who are infected to be taken out of the city so that they (residents) will not be contaminated.
- “Perry Mason” — Contesting a will. Family squabbles over estate of deceased parents.
- “Big Valley” — Cattle vs Sheep. Cattle men and sheep herders square off over land for grazing.
- “High Chaparral” — A piece of my own. Indians live together in villages and white settlers want a piece of land for their homestead. Indians do not understand this concept.
- “The Virginian” — Custody battle. A mother who gives up her son for adoption at birth wants custody twelve years later because he is heir to his paternal grandfather’s estate.

These are a few of the reflections that I have pondered. I try to picture, “what would we do to show the love of Christ?”

Peace,  
Josie

## Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

When I lived in North Carolina, I worked with our church's youth group and had the chance to go on a retreat with them. One of the facilitators of this retreat was a man well known to the St. Alban's community, Bishop Chip Marble. The theme of the retreat was "ubuntu," an African word that translated means, "I am because we are." Ubuntu is the idea that we are bound together, our lives deeply connected to each other in a myriad of ways, physically, economically, emotionally, and, of course, spiritually.

I keep coming back to ubuntu when I think about the coronavirus, and particularly when I think about who we are called to be as the church in the middle of this pandemic. The coronavirus has revealed just how connected we truly are. It has made us think about all the people on whom we rely for "essential" services. We have thought about our food supply chains and our health care system in new ways. As we have met virtually as the church, we have been reminded of our deep connection in Christ, even as we have missed gathering in person. The virus has taught us yet again that the church is more than our building, it is us, baptized Christians, who spread the good news wherever we find ourselves.

The coronavirus has also revealed just how dependent we are on each other for our health. I have had several conversations recently about wearing face masks. I tell everyone that I will continue to wear mine, not for the sake of my own health, but for the sake of the health of everyone around me. I am because we are. I take the health of our community seriously, seriously enough that I will consider myself to be a potential asymptomatic spreader of the virus, and I will do what it takes to keep you safe from me. My health is dependent on your health, and your health is dependent on my health.

I will be completely honest with you: as much as I look forward to seeing many of you in person again in the coming weeks, I am also nervous about our decision to gather together at the church. This virus is persistent, and there is no way for us to completely mitigate the risk of gathering together. Our job as the church right now is to remain united, to maintain our spirit of ubuntu, even as some of us continue to worship from home and others return to our beloved church. Those of us physically present at the church must always remember that we are part of a larger community, some of whom are remaining home. The health of our whole community, spiritual and physical, is built on the health of our individual members, as well as all those we are called to serve. I am because we are. As we live into new ways of being the church, may we always remember our dependence on each other. May we take that responsibility to each other seriously. May each decision we make reflect our awareness that we are part of a whole, that we are all members of the body of Christ.

## 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             |

## June Anniversaries

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5 Chad & Robin Price Touns  | 14 Terry & Beth Guynes     |
| 7 David & Anna Selby        | 15 Sergio & Eva Panelo     |
| 9 James & Cassandra Price   | 17 Matthew & Lauren Guynes |
| 13 Carroll & Beth Sojourner | 21 Dan & Mary Carleton     |

## Prayers for the People

### *For those Sick or in Need:*

- |                              |                  |                 |
|------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Ann & Jimmy Jones            | Diane Bailey     | Mark Herrington |
| Ava Ahner                    | Don Whittenberg  | Mary Ruth Jones |
| Barb Davis                   | Earline Dantin   | Nancy Whitten   |
| Barbara Ramsay               | Eugene Quarles   | Nita Tassin     |
| Beau Tucker                  | Evan Reese       | Norma Jones     |
| Bertha Kolb                  | Glenda Ferguson  | Patty Encinas   |
| Betty Biedenharn             | Jackie Pyles     | Peggy Bowie     |
| Bobbie Carlisle              | Jackson Monti    | Peter Meyers    |
| Brandi Tony                  | Jeff Colvin      | Rachelle Ferris |
| Charley Chesnutt             | Jennifer Harper  | Sara Wilkerson  |
| Charlie Brantley &<br>Family | Jimmy Bingham    | Sarah Rickard   |
| Charlie Lutz                 | Joan Leese       | Scott Warren    |
| Cooper Jamison               | Joy Brabston     | Sheila Rosser   |
| Cynthia Strawn               | Laurie Jones     | Steve Webster   |
| Dalton Glatt                 | Lee Davis Thames | Tracey & Jim    |
| Dan & Mary Carleton          | Linda Dooley     | Dantin          |
| David Wright                 | Linda McCool     |                 |

*For the Departed:* Jane Regan, Gene Presley, Annie Garcia, Alice Lancaster

## COVID-19 Schedule

Please call the office if you need help with Zoom

### Monday — Friday

**Morning Prayer**, 8:00 a.m.

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

### Sunday

**Morning Prayer with Music and Homily**, 9:30 a.m.

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

**Adult Sunday School**, 10:30-11:30 a.m. (on Zoom)

\*NEW\* 6-week class on the Acts of the Apostles starting April 19<sup>th</sup>

### Tuesday

**Bibles & More**

*The Gospel of John*

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).

**Evening Prayer with Prayers for Healing**, 6:00 pm. (on Zoom)

### Thursday

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

## June Liturgical Schedule

	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
<b>8:30 Service</b>				
LWL	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner
Ushers/Greeters	Penny Freund	Tommy Skinner	Frank Skinner	Penny Freund
<b>9:30 Service</b>				
LWL	Harvey Smith	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby
Ushers/Greeters	Richard Price Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith Dalton Thames	Richard Price Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith Dalton Thames
<b>11:00 Service</b>				
LWL	Richard Price	Betsy Selby	Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins
Ushers/Greeters	Michael Southall Sally Southall	Dale Gibson Dawn Rickard	Wanda Warren Dalton Thames	Michael Southall Sally Southall
<b>Healing Service</b>	<b>June 3</b> Tommy Skinner	<b>June 10</b> Theo Williams	<b>June 17</b> Tommy Skinner	<b>June 24</b> Theo Williams