



The Albanac

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

March 2022



St. Alban's Bids Farewell to Deacon Josie Williams

Celebrating Over a Decade of Service to St. Alban's Theo and Josie Williams



On February 13, we held a liturgy of leave-taking followed by a delicious luncheon in honor of Deacon Josie Williams, who has accepted a new call to serve St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Raymond.

During the service, Deacon Josie symbolically returned the "gifts for ministry" to parish leaders, charging the congregation with continuing in worship, pastoral care, Christian formation, and outreach.

The congregation also presented Josie with gifts to take with her: a "purse" collected from the congregation, a new travel communion set, and a framed photograph of Josie and Theo signed by members of the congregation.

During the service, those in attendance were also charged with carrying out "The Blessing Project," an outreach ministry in honor of Deacon Josie. Envelopes of \$50 each were distributed with instructions to follow our Gospel reading of the Beatitudes and use the money to bless those who are poor, hungry, mourning, or experiencing exclusion. After the service, everyone enjoyed a luncheon organized by the ECW.



(L-R) Rev. Elisabeth, Deacon Josie, Theo and Rev. Canon Brian Ponder



Blessing Project Honoring Deacon Josie

Sharon Hanks—I took two envelopes for a total of \$100. I called my daughter who is a third-grade teacher at Beechwood Elementary School to see if any teacher/s could use the funds for their classes. She discussed this with the school counselor. The funds are going for the purchase of two uniforms and shoes for a needy student at their school. I was so happy I could contribute to this child.

Terry & Beth Guynes and Margie Scott—

Mother and I used the money honoring Deacon Josie's ministry to purchase and donate 20 boxes of food to the *Storehouse Community Food Pantry* in Vicksburg. Terry helped by doing all of the heavy lifting.

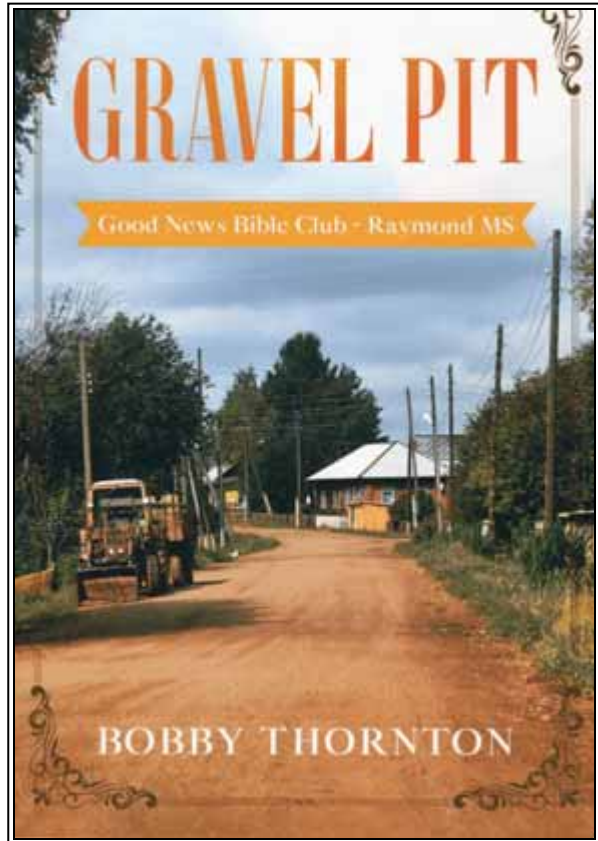


Dawn Rickard— There is a young woman who works at the coffee shop I frequent. She works hard but a spot on her foot was limiting her ability to be on her feet —something that is required on the job. After missing a week of work, I let her know that the Jackson-Hinds Health System has a clinic in Vicksburg that charges according to one's ability to pay. The doctor prescribed antibiotics for the infected wound and took an x-ray of her back, suspecting that a pinched nerve had caused an uneven gait. Physical therapy was prescribed as well as antibiotics.

Since she missed a week of work without pay, I thought she might benefit from "The Blessing Project." At first, she said she couldn't take the money but, after I explained the mission involved, she finally agreed. She asked that I relay her thanks to St. Alban's Church. She is a hard worker and doesn't like to ask for help, so I know she really appreciated the gift.

Lance Stewart and Margaret Stewart—I contributed \$50 to the *Stewpot Community Services* and my mom, Margaret Stewart, did so as well.

Jim & Becky Drake—After receiving the “Blessing Project” honoring Deacon Josie, Jim and I knew immediately that the money would go to *The Good News Bible Club* in Raymond. The Bible Club was established around 1970 to help underprivileged children and their families who live in an area of town known as the *Gravel Pit*, previously the Raymond Dump. Club leaders told us of a woman in their midst who had just been diagnosed with cancer. She has three young children to care for so the money will be spent to help cloth and feed her children.



Judy Morrissey— I used the money from the “Blessing Project” to donate to the family of Oterrious Marks, a six-year old boy who was killed February 21st during a drive-by shooting at a park in McComb. He and four friends were playing basketball when the drive-by shooting occurred. Oterrious was the only one killed. WLBT featured a GoFundMe page asking people to help the Oterrious family. Four teenagers were arrested and are now facing charges for the murder.

Harvey Smith—My Blessing Project funds were spent on flowers for a former longtime member of our congregation who has entered hospice.

Ann Tompkins— I chose to give the "Blessing Project" money to the *Vicksburg Family Development Center*. The center provides services for children and families to educate and inspire them to be the best they can be.

Butch Mitchell—I gave the money to a young single mom with 2 little girls. She works at a pawn shop, usually 6 days a week. She was very happy to accept it. (I explained where it came from).

John Tompkins—I shared my “Blessing Project” money with *The Good Shepherd Community Center*. The center’s mission is to help children and families through a preschool program, free medical clinic, and a literacy program.

Christine Nelson & Pat Martz (who were watching online)—We delivered our ‘envelopes’ to the *Salvation Army* in Vicksburg. We made a pickup grocery order at Walmart and took it there.

Buddy & Jane Hanks—We donated the money to the *Community Food Pantry* since it is a favorite of Josie's.

Jeff, Suzanne, Josh &

Jonah Artman—We, as a family, chose to honor Josie by donating the \$50 each, for a total of \$200, to the *Lifting Lives Family Shelter*. We hope this money will be used to lift the lives of the families the shelter serves.

Tommy Skinner—Provided funds for a needy first grader at *Bovina Elementary School* to provide clothing and shoes.

Richard & Susan Price—Richard and I drove into a drug store parking lot in downtown Jackson. There was a very small older lady all bundled up walking down the sidewalk and she entered the store ahead of us. She appeared to have been living rough and I struck up a conversation with her. She had lived in old motel that rented out rooms long term. The place closed down recently without notice, leaving her and her partner on the streets. She said she had macular degeneration and was holding one eye open with fingers in order to see and was trying to get some meds for the eye condition without success. I offered the \$50 to her in honor of Deacon Josie Williams. She was especially grateful for she would not get her next benefit check until the end of the month.



Annual Parish Meeting

St. Alban's Annual Parish Meeting was held Sunday, February 6th, to elect new officers and conduct committee reports. Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs assisted by Sharon Hanks, clerk, presided over the meeting held in the church nave as well as on Zoom. Penny Freund was elected senior warden to serve a 2-year term and Carolyn Gent and Jeff Artman, were elected to serve 3-year terms on the vestry.

Special thanks were given to: John Bonar who served faithfully as church treasurer for many years, and to Jane Hanks and Nancy Hester who were appointed Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer at the January Vestry meeting; Richard Price who fulfilled his 2-year term as senior warden; and Dalton Thames and Janice Herrington who rolled off the vestry after serving a two-year term. Special thanks were also given to Jim Drake and Harvey Smith, for the installation of a new sound system that paved the way for live-streaming services online.



L-R— Carolyn Gent & Jeff Artman, vestry members, Penny Freund, senior warden, and Nancy Hester, assistant treasurer. Not pictured Jane Hanks, treasurer

In Loving Memory



Barbara Parker Ramsay

November 24, 1930 – February 17, 2022

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses. (BCP, p. 445)

My thoughts often turn to this instruction from the Book of Common Prayer as our liturgical year rolls toward Lent. Lent, after all, begins with Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded of our mortality in stark terms: “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” But Lent should also be a time when, as we walk the way of the cross with Jesus, we take stock of our own lives. It is a good time to review our wills or to contact a lawyer about drafting one. It is also a good time to think about how we want to be remembered and write down our wishes for our funerals.

I have been reminded of this recently with the deaths of two long-time members of our church, Betty and Barbara, who took this responsibility seriously. Betty and Barbara both planned for their deaths and left instructions about their wishes. I can't tell you what a gift this is to families. The death of a loved one is already a disorienting time, and to have guidance about some of the many decisions that must be made is a comfort and a relief.

So what can you do? I urge you this Lent to take seriously the opportunity to reflect on your mortality and do some planning. Do you have an updated will in place? Have you completed an advanced healthcare directive, which designates someone to make health care decisions for you if you are incapacitated and states your wishes regarding life-prolonging treatments? Have you specified your preferences concerning funeral arrangements and burial? We have a helpful liturgy planning worksheet at the church that you can fill out to specify your wishes regarding your funeral—just ask me and I'll give you a copy.

Finally, make sure those closest to you know where to find these important documents. I recommend keeping a copy of your funeral wishes on file at St. Alban's. For other documents, consider making a list noting where the original can be found and who has copies. I know these are difficult topics to consider. But as Christians, it is part of our Gospel witness to plan for death, knowing as we do that it is Jesus' resurrection that gives meaning and purpose to our lives.

Lenten Thoughts



As a child in New Mexico, I often attended Mass at a Catholic church with friends. Many of them would come to school on Ash Wednesday with ashes on their forehead, having attended early morning Mass with their parents. When I asked about the ashes, they explained about Ash Wednesday and the practice of *fasting* during Lent. They also told me about what they were “giving up” for Lent. This got me to thinking about what I might give up as well, although I did not fully understand the concept of *fasting* at that time.

During my teenage years, I attended a Lutheran Church and learned more about Lent and other seasons in the liturgical calendar. However, I never explored the reason for “giving something up” during the season of Lent. Some years later, I attended another Lutheran Church and asked the pastor about the practice of *fasting*. He explained that, during Lent some choose to practice “self-denial” by *giving up* certain things—food or drinks—while others choose to *give more* of themselves through Bible study and focusing on how to better serve Jesus.

That seemed like a great idea to me and it still does. If I set aside an extra thirty minutes (or more) in service to the Lord during Lent, perhaps that could become a good habit, a positive pattern that could be maintained beyond Lent. After all God has done for me, it seems that the least I can do is to give back. Good practices promote more good practices so spending time reading *The Word* is the best habit I can imagine.

It also seems to me that Christians who don’t observe Lent are really missing out on an important part of the Christian path. Just as Advent helps to prepare for the birth of Christ, Lent helps to prepare for His death. Everyone has the option to experience Lent in the way that works best for them. However, during the 40 Days of Lent, let us go forth with a prayerful intent and a thankful heart. This is our way of preparing for a glorious Easter Day.

Dawn Rickard

March Birthdays

1 Michael Guynes Lisa Langford	11 Sherry Horan
7 Anita Collins Herb Jones	21 James William Touns
8 Eleanor Claire Monti Harlie Reece	24 Jeff Artman
	25 Penny Freund

Prayers for the People

Allan & Joan	Cynthia	Jeff & Darlene	Mike
Amanda	Dantin Family	Jeff H.	Nita
Ann & Jimmy	David	Jimmy	Norma
Bill & Karen	Elba	John & Lynn	Pat
Bob	Estella	Kelley	Ria
Charlene H.	Fritz	Lee	Rickard
Charlene P.	Gary	L.D.	Ruth
Charlie & Family	Isabel, MK & Ted	Loretta	Sharon
Cora Lee	Irv	Mack	Steve
Dan & Mary	Jackson	Marcia	Theresa

For the departed: Woody May, Jim Shirley, Bartlett Dougherty, Barbara Ramsay, Ricky Lowery, Sylvia Anderson, Ronnie Guynes and Danny Ray Meadors.



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rebecca & Jim Drake

Weekly Events

Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite I, 8:30 am
Holy Eucharist Rite II, 11:00 am*
Sunday School, 10.00 am

Tuesday

Bibles & More. This group will be joining the Wednesday Lenten series and will resume Tuesday meetings in Easter

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 am
Faith & Science over Supper during Lent, 6:00-7:30pm.

Thursday

Ultreya, 12:00-1:00 pm

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

Event Calendar

Wednesday, March 2—Ash Wednesday services 12:00 and 6:00 pm*

Wednesdays in Lent—Faith & Science over supper, 6:00-7:30pm.

Sunday, April 10—Palm Sunday

Thursday, April 14—Holy Thursday

Friday, April 15—Good Friday

Saturday, April 16—Holy Saturday

Sunday, April 17—Easter Sunday

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

Server Schedule

Date	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Wednesday					
<i>Ash Wednesday</i>					
3/2/2022	12:00 Noon Ann Tompkins 6:00 PM Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
Sunday					
3/6/2022	8:30 AM Harvey Smith 11:00 AM Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins Dawn Rickard	Jim Price Lance Stewart	Betsy Selby	Jim Drake
Wednesday					
3/9/2022	6:00 PM	<i>Faith & Science over Supper</i>			
Sunday					
3/13/2022	8:30 AM Tommy Skinner 11:00 AM Harvey Smith	Beth Sojourner Clarissa Horner	Jim Price Ann Tompkins Dawn Rickard	Penny Freund	Buck Cooper
Wednesday					
3/16/2022	6:00 PM	<i>Faith & Science over Supper</i>			
Sunday					
3/20/2022	8:30 AM Ann Tompkins 11:00 AM Richard Price	Tommy Skinner Beth Guynes	Jim Price Peter Williams Kerri Williams	Lance Stewart	Harvey Smith
Wednesday					
3/23/2022	6:00 PM	<i>Faith & Science over Supper</i>			
Sunday					
3/27/2022	8:30 AM Harvey Smith 11:00 AM Betsy Selby	Tommy Skinner Kerri Williams	Jim Price The Artmans	Dawn Richard	Jim Drake