



# The Albanac

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

**April 2014**

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## The Happening Experience

On the weekend of March 21—23, St. Alban's Church became the home for twenty youth and three chaperones from all across the diocese. They moved into the church with sleeping bags, inflatable mattresses, backpacks, luggage, crates of arts & crafts supplies, computers, cell phones and iPads. The essentials of life filled every nook and corner of our Parish House, kitchen,

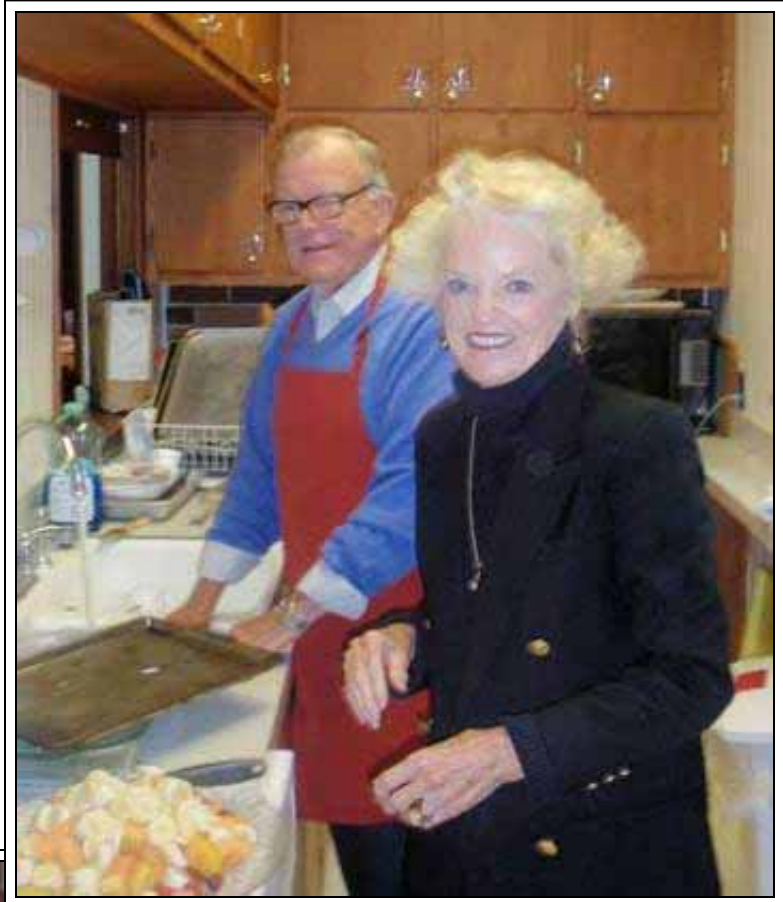


Sunday School classrooms and business office. Our church was packed with the energy that only youth can exude.

The youth were here to participate in the *Happening Reunion*. They were the seasoned youth who had previously participated in a *Happening Experience*—the teenager version of Cursillo—a renewal retreat. They were here to assist the *Happening Experience* staff who were guiding approximately eighty teenagers housed at Holy Trinity Church. During the weekend at St. Alban's, the youth enjoyed arts and crafts projects,

outdoor activities, a special breakfast on Sunday morning with church members and performing for the 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist.

Sometimes it is easy to look at the Church in today's society and wonder if there is a future for the Church. Seeing the enthusiasm and sensing the Christian community formation that exists within the *Happening Experience*, I have no doubt that the future is bright. The teenagers are committed to living and spreading the Good News of the Gospel. They sing it, they talk it, they live it!

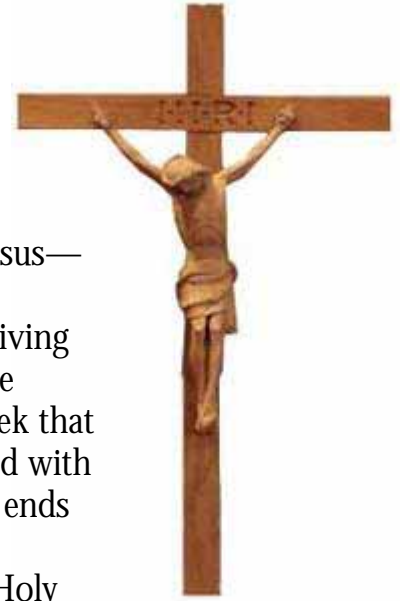




## Holy Week

The truth is there is no way around Holy Week. There is no way to skip the pain of Holy Week. There is no shortcut to Easter. We are called to make the journey from Palm Sunday to Monday—Tuesday—Wednesday—Maundy Thursday—Good Friday—Holy Saturday Morning—The Great Vigil of Easter—to Easter Sunday. We are called to walk the way of the cross with Jesus—just as Jesus walks the way of the cross with us.

We started the journey on Ash Wednesday and have been living into Lent by our special Lenten practices that may become lifetime practices. Now we are approaching the holiest of weeks—the week that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on the back of a donkey and was greeted with Hosannas. This is celebrated at the Eucharist on Palm Sunday and ends with the discovery of the empty tomb at the celebrations of the Resurrection Eucharist on Easter Sunday. Let us journey through Holy Week as a community of pilgrims.

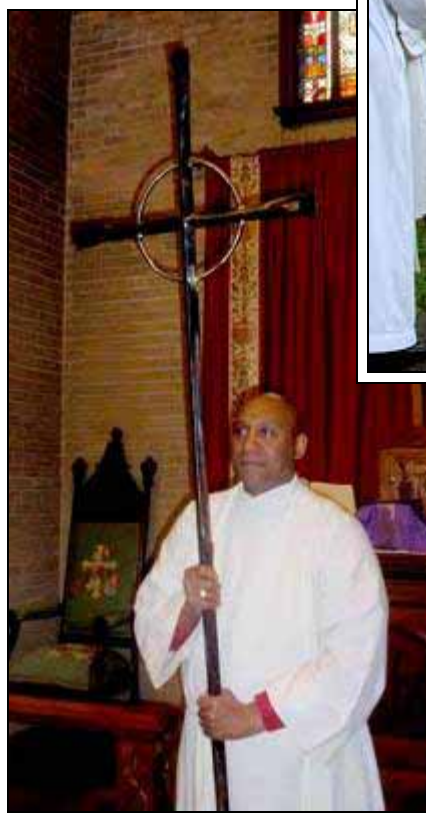


- April 13. Palm Sunday Procession and Eucharist, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
- April 14. Monday of the Holy Week, Stations of the Cross, 9:00 AM
- April 15. Tuesday of Holy Week, Stations of the Cross, 9:00 AM
- April 16. Wednesday of Holy Week, Stations of the Cross, 9:00 AM, Healing Service & Eucharist, Vocal and Instrumental Music, 6:00 PM
- April 17. Maundy Thursday Eucharist, 6:00 PM
- April 18. Good Friday Service, 6:00 PM
- April 19. Holy Saturday Morning Service, 8:30 AM, The Great Vigil of Easter, 6:00 PM
- April 20. Easter Sunday Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 AM, Reception 10:00 & Noon

### ***A Gate Called Truth***

*Just outside Jerusalem  
we came to a gate called TRUTH.  
We called the gatekeeper to let us in.  
“The latch is not on,” he replied.  
“Anyone who will can enter.”  
We went closer, but seeing how great  
and how heavy was the gate,  
we looked for a way around.  
There must be a way around.*

*Ann Weems*



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✠ Billie's Corner

***Lenten Arts Programs, 2014***

***Invocation of the Holy Spirit***

*Most powerful Holy Spirit,  
come down upon us  
and subdue us.  
From heaven,  
where the ordinary  
is made glorious,  
and glory seems  
but ordinary,  
bath us  
with the brilliance  
of Your light  
like dew.*

Once more this year, Saint Alban's Church offered a journey through Lent that included the weekly Healing Service & Eucharist, a communal meal of homemade soup and bread and an evening of performing arts.

The combination of worship, sharing food with others and exposure to performing arts is a sure formula for shifting from the analytical left side of our brains to the creative right side of our brains. Somehow, our minds can become clear of the demands upon our time and we become available to the timeless energy of the Holy Spirit. The arts facilitate a glimpse of *Divine Mystery*.

Certainly the Cajun music of Sandra Melshiemer and the *Dirty Rice Band*, the voices of the *HimSingers* and the mellow music of the *Celloscapes* have offered the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to infiltrate our minds.. We have two more performances to anticipate, *The Lewis Family Singers & Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir*, April 2, and John Maxwell's dramatic monologue, *Judas*, April 9.

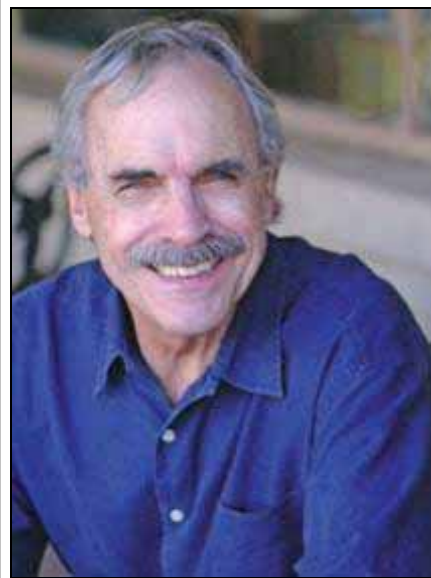
Don't miss them! Bring guests! See you there!

In peace

Billie+



*The Lewis Family Singers &  
The Champion Hill MB Church Gospel Choir*  
**April 2**



John Maxwell, *Judas monologue*  
**April 9**



*The HIM Singers*



*Dirty Rice Burners*



*Celloscapes*



## *Deacon Discernment*



### *My Timeline from Discernment to Ordination as a Deacon*

**October 2006**—**A Day on the Diaconate** is designed for those exploring a call to the diaconate. *This is the first step in examining a call to the diaconate.*

**January 29, 2007**—**Formation of discernment committee.** After meeting with my rector, Rev. Ann Whitaker, she obtained permission from Bishop Gray to form a discernment committee, a committee of nine persons who meet nine times. *If no approval from the Bishop the process would end here.*

**August 31, 2007**—**Meeting with Bishop Gray.** Bishop Gray encourages me to let the process work and to enter it prayerfully. *If the Bishop does not consent process ends here.*

**December 27, 2007**—**Discernment Committee Report sent to St. Alban's Vestry.** *If the vestry does not approve the report the process ends here.*

**January 2008—St. Alban's Vestry Approves Discernment Committee Report.**

**June 2008—Diocesan Committee Meeting.** Committee meets with Theo and me separately. *If the committee does not consent process ends here.*

**March 2008—Meeting with Bishop Gray.** *If the Bishop does not consent process ends here.*

**April 28, 2008—Psychological Examination.** *If psychological exam raises questions process ends here.*

**August 13, 2008—Admitted as Postulant.** Aspirant---from application process until admitted to school. Postulant---school until final recommendation to Bishop. *If final recommendation was not given process ends here.*

**September 5, 2008—Deacon School Begins.** Friday: 6:00-8:30 Spiritual Formation. Saturday: 8:30-4:00 Class.

**December 2010—Deacon School Ends**

**January 15, 2011—Ordination to Diaconate.** *The end result of the process. Goal reached.*

The process to become a deacon is a long one but it works. Had I not had patience at the beginning, I certainly did by the end. My goal to become ordained as a deacon has been reached, but the work has just begun.

Peace,

Josie

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\*This is the second in a series of articles to explain the role of the deacon.

I appreciate the feedback I received from the first article. I look forward to your feedback and questions. Call me at 601-994-4370 or email me at [josiew48@gmail.com](mailto:josiew48@gmail.com) with questions.

## Election of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Mississippi

At the 2013 Annual Council, Bishop Duncan Gray announced his plans to retire. His decision set in motion the process for the election of the 10<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Mississippi. After a year of prayerful discernment and diligent work, the slate of candidates was announced:

- The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, St. Titus Episcopal Church, Durham, NC
- The Rev. Marian Dulaney Fortner, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hattiesburg, MS
- The Rev. Dr. R. Stan Runnels, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Kansas City, MO
- The Very Rev. Brian Seage, St. Columb's Episcopal Church, Ridgeland, MS
- The Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver, CO

More information about each nominee, walkabouts and the voting process is available on the Diocese of Mississippi website, <http://msbishopsearch.org/>

### **How Can You Meet Each Nominee?**

Walkabouts are being held from one end of the diocese to the other. The nominees will walkabout from room to room to meet you and answer your questions. Walkabouts are open to everyone. Registration is available on the website, <http://msbishopsearch.org/walkabouts-registration/>

### **Walkabouts Schedule & Locations**

- South Mississippi— Tuesday, April 8, Coast Episcopal School, Long Beach
- Middle Mississippi—Wednesday, April 9, St. Andrew's Upper School, Ridgeland
- North Mississippi—Thursday, April 10, All Saints' Episcopal Church, Granada

Walkabouts in each location will begin with check-in at 5:30 PM and Walkabouts at 6:00 PM. Light refreshments will be available at each gathering.

### **When is the Election for Bishop of Mississippi?**

The election will take place at Reconvened Annual Council, St. Andrew's Cathedral in Jackson on Saturday, May 3, 8:30 AM

### **Who Votes in the Election for Bishop of Mississippi?**

- Canonically resident clergy of our diocese vote for the election of the next bishop. From St. Alban's—The Very Rev. Billie Abraham and The Rev. Deacon Josie Williams
- Annual Council Delegates from each parish or mission vote. From St. Alban's—Harvey Smith, Janice Herrington and Beth Guynes.
- Tommy Skinner will be seated as an Alternate Delegate and Clarissa Walker and Penny Freund will be seated as visitors.

## 2014 Lenten Arts Series Program

**Wednesday, April 2**

*The Lewis Family Singers and The Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir*

**Wednesday, April 9**

John Maxwell, *Judas* monologue

## April Schedule

### *Holy Week Services*

**Palm Sunday, April 13:** Palm Sunday Procession & Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

**Monday & Tuesday, April 14 & 15:** Stations of the Cross, 9:00 AM

**Wednesday, April 16:** Stations of the Cross, 9 AM, Healing Service & Eucharist, 6 PM

**Thursday, April 17:** Maundy Thursday Service, 6:00 PM

**Friday, April 18:** Good Friday Service, 6:00 PM

**Saturday, April 19:** Holy Saturday Service, 8:00 AM, The Great Vigil of Easter, 6:00 PM

**Easter Sunday, April 20:** Holy Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 AM, Easter Reception, 10:00 AM & Noon

### *April Calendar of Events*

**Wednesday, April 2:** Quiet Day, 7:00 AM, throughout the day

Come In—Be Still— Light a Candle—Say a Prayer—Leave in Peace

**Wednesday, April 2:** Lenten Arts Program, *Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir*, 7:00 PM. Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

**Saturday, April 5:** ECW Spring Luncheon, Wanda Warren's Home, 11:30 AM

**Wednesday, April 9:** Meet the Candidates for Bishop, Walkabouts, St. Andrew's Upper School, Jackson, 6:00 PM

**Wednesday, April 9:** Lenten Arts Program, **John Maxwell, *Judas***, monologue, 7:00 PM, Healing Service & Eucharist, Soup Dinner, 6:00 PM

**Sunday, April 13—Sunday, April 20:** Holy Week and Easter

**Sunday, April 13: Second Sundays at St. Mary's Church, Bolton, *Stations of Cross*,** Readings and Sacred Anthems & Motets, 4:00 PM

**Tuesday, April 22:** Vestry Meeting, Parish House, 6:00 PM

**Friday, April 25—Sunday, April 27,** Parish Weekend, Big House, Gray Center

## April Birthdays

1 Charlotte Biedenharn	15 Joan Parsons
2 Jay Harper	Jennifer Harper
3 Sandra Melsheimer	18 Maggi McCarthy
7 Ruth Green	Greg Tierce
John Scott	23 Jack Monti
8 Olivia Lee	27 Ford Biedenharn
10 Amy Burr	Russell Sumrall
Hayden Guynes	29 Liz Curtis
Chad Toups	Frank W. Skinner, Jr.
12 Payton Fulgham	30 Allison Nieto

## April Anniversaries

16 Charles & Lisa Langford	23 Jay & Jenni Sciro
17 Jim & Joyce Butler	28 Michael & Jana Guynes
18 Gene & Wanda Warren	

## Prayers for the People

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

Sharon Perkins	The Kitchens family	Larry Lambioette
Charlotte Biedenharn	Anna	Sherry Horan
Richard Massey	Lucas Guynes	Jackson Monti
Alice Pronger	Mary Ellen Flowers	Michael Stevens
Lawrence Fields	Betty Meyers	Jessie Ross
Fran Ross	Edd Greer	Buddy Ragsdale
Mary Margaret Brabston		Allen & Claudia Black

## Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in April

	<b>April 6, 2014</b> <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	<b>April 13, 2014</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i>	<b>April 20, 2014</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	<b>April 27, 2014</b> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 2:14a,22-32
<b>Second Reading</b>	Romans 8:6-11	Philippians 2:5-11	Colossians 3:1-4	1 Peter 1:3-9
<b>Gospel</b>	John 11:1-45	Matthew 26:14-27:66	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 130	Psalm 31:9-16	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24	Psalm 16
				Parish Weekend at Big House
				Morning Prayer
<b>Lay Worship Leader</b>				
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Betsy Selby	Susan Price	Jennifer Normand	
<b>Acolytes</b>				
<b>Crucifer</b>	Beth Guynes	Koury Collins	Jennifer Normand	
<b>Gospel Bearer</b>	Deacon Josie	Susan Price	Genevieve & Children	
<b>Lector</b>	James Anderson	Ed Shelnut	Mary Carleton	
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Deacon Josie	Sharon Hanks	Beth Guynes	
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Margo Massey Richard Massey	Linda Gerache Jenni Sciro	Artman Family	
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames	Joey Gerache Jay Sciro	Dan Carleton David Normand	Terry Brantley Charlie Brantley
<b>Children's Chapel</b>	Marci Turner	Linda Walker	Kerri Williams	No Children's Chapel
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Margie Scott	Sharon Hanks Betty Rusing
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>		Ed Shelnut Susan Price		
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Margie Scott Beth Guynes	Butch Mitchell David & Bonnie Pruet	Easter Reception	Terry Brantley Charlie Brantley
<b>Wednesday Healing</b>	<b>April 2, 2014</b> Tommy Skinner	<b>April 9, 2014</b> Harvey Smith	<b>April 16, 2014</b> Ann Tompkins	<b>April 23, 2014</b> Theo Williams