



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5430 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
www.stalbansbovina.org

August 2012

Pardon Our Dust (again)

Plans have been in the making for quite some time to renovate the church bathroom. The bathroom as well as the Sunday school class rooms, office and kitchen were an addition to the church in 1969 and dedicated to Rev. Val Sessions who ministered to St. Alban's for twenty-five years. The bathroom facility has served the church well but now needs a new floor and new fixtures.

Jim Drake, Bobby Barlow and Jim Horan armed themselves with



crow-bars and hammers to remove the walls, flooring, the lavatory and toilet. Removal of the flooring unveiled the fact that the underlying floor was badly rotted — making a dangerous situation for anyone who entered. The plan is to make the old bathroom as attractive as the new one that was completed in 2011.

The Men's Work Force works hard and plays hard. Mostly they enjoy the camaraderie and the feeling of accomplishment once they see a project to completion. For sure, church goers are spoiled to the luxury of having two bathrooms instead of just one. The men hope to finish the project within a few weeks.

August Outreach

It's almost time for a new school year to begin. On July 27, Betsy Selby and Anne Tompkins helped the teachers at Bovina Elementary to get ready for the new school year. They bound handbooks for all of the sixth-grade handbooks and one-half of the fifth-grade books. Betsy also delivered school supplies, such as pencils, paper, crayons, etc.

When school starts, volunteers are needed to help students with reading. If you have some extra time and can volunteer, please let Betsy know. Bovina Elementary is an integral part of our community and a wonderful opportunity for outreach.

Stewardship as a Way of Life

"Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us to do the work God is calling us to do."

In an effort to expand the theology of stewardship to a way of life and not merely financial pledge time, members of the stewardship committee met on Wednesday evening, July 25th. Brainstorming was the agenda. A starting point is to heighten our awareness of the call to be faithful stewards of the abundant gifts God showers upon us. This includes not only our financial resources, but our bodies, our time, our talents, our estates and creation itself. Christian spirituality is grounded in lifelong, year-round stewardship.

We already practice stewardship without realizing it. Now is the time to begin to be intentional stewards!

Find Us on Facebook

St. Alban's is extending its outreach to the community with the use of "Social Media." In addition to our website, we have a Facebook page with information about St. Alban's, announcements, events, photo albums and reader comments. Jennifer Normand has volunteered to manage the page.

www.facebook.com/stalbansbovina



† Billie's Corner

Collect for Quiet Confidence

*O God of peace,
who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved,
in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength:
By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence,
where we may be still and know that thou art God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer

I made my first silent retreat in 1994. Let me clarify, I had made many one-day silent retreats, but I had never committed to several days of silence. Three days of silence seemed monumental. Talking was my mode of operation. I was accustomed to filling empty space with words. Quiet made me nervous. I was sure I would leave the retreat center with a halo above my head after three days of silence.

The halo didn't appear, but the appreciation for stillness with God did appear. I didn't know what to expect as I drove to the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Grand Coteau, Louisiana. Somehow, the thought entered my mind that I would make the trip without the company of music on the radio. I would begin the silence in the car while approaching the retreat. I discovered that my arm and hand seemed to have a life of their own. I kept catching myself reaching down to the radio power switch.



Upon arriving, the retreat mistress said that rest was the first thing on the agenda. She told me that everyone arrives exhausted from making all the necessary arrangements to leave their busy lives for some quiet days. She showed me my cell, gave me a map of the building and the grounds, as well as a schedule for the times for the Daily Office and for meals. She told me I was free to decide whether I would participate in any of the prayer times and meal times. Nothing was mandatory. Then she said she would check on me the next morning.

I was alone in a silent world for the first time in my life. After getting settled into my cell, I discovered the retreat mistress knew what she was talking about when she said *rest* was the first thing on the agenda. I took a long nap. I woke in time for Evening Prayer and dinner. After a stroll around the grounds, I settled in for my first night.

The three days drifted by. I had a sense of time slowing down. I spent days and evenings in the chapel or in my cell, in solitude or in communal prayer. Mostly, I became comfortable with the stillness offered by the silence. I stopped telling God prayers and I listened to the prayers God offered in the language of silence.

To my delight, the retreat center provided bikes for cruising around the streets and grounds. On the second morning, I biked. I noticed the traffic signs posted throughout the retreat center. I stopped at each one and thought about their significance. They seemed to be telling me far more than traffic directions.

STOP — Upon arrival that is precisely what I had to do. The external world of the retreat house was in perpetual STOP. My internal chatter didn't pay a bit of attention to STOP. The chatter kept banging around in my head.

SLOW — I needed to SLOW down mentally and physically. The slow pace was radically different from my life as a homemaker and first grade teacher. Shifting from high gear to low gear took some adjusting.

ONE WAY — One way of slowing down was to stay in the present moment, be aware of my surroundings and, sink into the peace Jesus promised: *"My peace I leave with you, my peace I give you."*

SLOW DANGEROUS INTERSECTION — I discovered the need to SLOW at the DANGEROUS INTERSECTION of departure from the world of silence and return to the noise of the world. The danger was leaving the silence behind until I could return to make my next retreat. The challenge was to nurture the silence once I returned to the active world of home.

After all these years, I have discovered that silence doesn't just appear. I must be intentionally quiet. The practice of a brief silence in the early hours of the morning has gradually made it way into my daily routine. It has also gradually found its way into my awareness throughout the day.

Silence isn't the end product of a prayer discipline; silence is the beginning of active ministry. God's first language may be silence, but God is fully immersed in everyday life. I have discerned that it is a rhythm of silence and action that brings order to daily life. Shhh!



In peace
Billie+

† Josie's Journal

A Time To Give

All things come of thee O Lord and of thine own we have given thee.

I Chronicles 29:14b

We profess these words each Sunday, but do we embrace them? Are they a part of our thinking and being or are they just familiar words we hear in the offertory prayer?

Stewardship is taking a year round place in our lives. What will it look like in your life? How do we give to God who has everything? Each of us will have to answer as God sends us wisdom and understanding. As communicants of St. Alban's Church, we give not only of our money but also of our time and talents. Everyone has something to give.

I suggest that we pray to God for guidance and follow what comes. I am going to give cheerfully with a grateful heart for all the blessings God has bestowed, is bestowing, and will bestow on me. What will you give of your time, talent, and finances to God this coming year? The choice is ours to make it a great year or not?

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

In Peace,

Josie+

It's a Small World After All

An interesting note by Carol Owens Hayes was left on St. Alban's Facebook page this month. She had heard that a picture of her great-great aunt, Caroline Johnson Townsend, hung in St. Alban's Church and wrote to request a copy of the photograph. Caroline and Samuel Townsend played a prominent role in the establishment of St. Alban's Church when they signed the Articles of Association in 1857 to establish the Church of the Nativity, soon renamed St. Alban's Church. The Townsends owned a large plantation in Bovina known as Owl's Roost. The plantation was raided and all but destroyed during the Union occupation of Bovina. Thanks to Carol Hayes who shared with us some of her family history, we have learned that Caroline's parents lived in Connecticut where her father, William Gale Johnson, founded the Johnson Dye Works. Caroline's brother, Nicholas Johnson, was called "Captain Nick" because he sailed to the West Indies to get a specific kind of wood that was boiled to make indigo dye for denims... thus, the beginning of blue denim.

Caroline's descendants have letters dated 1862-1863 that were written between Caroline and her father. When the war threatened, William Gale begged Caroline to bring her children, Matilda Louisa and an infant, Mary, home to Connecticut. Caroline declined saying that she and the family would be "fine." Caroline later wrote that the Union soldiers had stolen all of their belongings and freed the slaves, leaving the family with nothing. Following the surrender of Vicksburg, tragedy struck when Caroline died on July 26, 1863, at the age thirty-six. Two weeks later, on August 9th, Mary, one and a half year-old, also died. Both were buried in St. Alban's Cemetery. Family members later learned the Mary's coffin had been made with wood from the kitchen table since that was all that was left. Today the burial site of the Townsend family holds a prominent place in St. Alban's Cemetery and yearly the family is remembered during the annual Cemetery Stroll.

Carol Owens Hayes and other family members are very interested in the upcoming book by Rebecca Drake and Kenon Ruska, "Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Church" and have already placed orders for five books. How rewarding when the past catches up with the present.

August Events

Summer Vacation Schedule — No Sunday School

No Sunday School during the summer months — August, August & August

Wednesday — Healing Services

Holy Trinity Church, noon

Christ Church, 12:15 p.m.

St. Alban's Church, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 2 — Cursillo Grouping, noon

St. Alban's Parish Hall

Saturday, August 11 — Diocesan Gathering, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Bishop Duncan Gray invites you for a diocesan gathering to discuss General

Convention. Register at http://www.dioms.org/digital_faith/events/3152752

St. James Church, 3921 Oak Ridge Drive, Jackson, Mississippi

Sunday, August 12 — St. Alban's Holy Eucharist, 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Pot luck breakfast between services

Sunday, August 12 — Second Sunday at St. Mary's, 4:00 p.m.

Feast of St. Mary. Wanda Warren, solist

Monday, August 13 — Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 28 — St. Alban's & St. Mary's group dinner

Gibbs Gibbes Grocery, Learned (Gibbs Grocery 601.885.6833)

Call Terry Brantley 601.977.4338/601.573.0064 or email at her at

tbrantley@sfbic.com to make reservations. A head count is need by August 20th.

August Birthdays

1 Terri Ulmer	21 Kate Abraham
4 Woody Hanks	23 Carter Guynes
6 David Normand	24 Julia Lee
15 Greg Williamson	26 Bobby Barlow
17 Jake Artman	26 Tracye Hogan
17 Josh Artman	27 Jean Ethridge
17 Bill Curtis	27 Terry Guynes
18 Beth Williamson	27 James Price
19 Bo Gayle	28 Max Rangel
19 David Wright	

August Anniversaries

3 Russell & Stacey Sumrall	21 Robert & Terri Ulmer
21 Alan & Joan Leese	27 Bryan & Joy Brabston, Jr.

Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

Cathy Ingram	Tom Pharr	Fredrick Hunter
Debbie Fowler	Jay	Mary Kavanaugh
Joe Bonelli	John Williams	Harold Lee
Frances Marble	Jessie Ross	Puddin Milano
Debbie Gorney	Jan & Bobby Robinson	Walker Biedenharn
Jean Roberts	Ed & Bessie Norwood	Elizabeth Hopkins
Ashleigh Ford	Layla Gray	Ailene Graves
Letty Fry	Charles Floyd	James Rumfelt
Jim Dantin	M. K. Smith	Ann Ammons
Edell Mixon	Bill Mobley	The Gerache Family
Bill Brunson	Buz Pickens	Jewel Miller
Glen Miller	Ada Hubbard	Mary Jane Holman
Pete Phifer	Raymond Henderson	Elizabeth Cliett
Tom Biedenharn	Missionaries in Mali Africa	Tim Davis
John Jenkins	Lynn Jenkins	Joan Leese
Beth Rawls	Brandon Marshall	Parker Ramsey
Mollory Cessna	Bobby Godwin	Amber Ross
Mr. Graves	The Graves family	Bobby Temple & family
	Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz	

Departed: Bubba Gerache; Rusty Henderson; George Hammick

Pray for men and women of the Armed Forces, especially:

Cynthia Horan Christoph Martin Billie Hubbard Lt.. Jonathan Fanelli Ronald Duplessi

Liturgical Schedule Sundays in August

	August 5	August 12	August 19	August 26
	Tenth Sunday after Pentecost	Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost	Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost	Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
First Reading	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a	2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14	1 Kings 8:(1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43
Psalm	Psalm 51:1-13	Psalm 130	Psalm 111	Psalm 84
Second Reading	Ephesians 4:1-16	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Ephesians 5:15-20	Ephesians 6:10-20
Gospel	John 6:24-35	John 6:35, 41-51	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69
Eucharistic Minister 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Harvey Smith Ann Tompkins	POT LUCK BREAKFAST Ann Tompkins Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith Richard Price
Master of Ceremonies	Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes	Beth Guynes	Susan Price
Acolytes Crucifer Gospel Bearer	Koury Collins Kerri & Peter Williams	Michael Rangel Deacon Josie	Genevieve Walker Clarissa Walker	Beth Guynes Deacon Josie
Lector	Ed Shelnut	Bertha Kolb	Theo Williams	Susan Price
Prayers of the People	Betsy Selby	Sharon Hanks	Linda Walker	Beth Guynes
Oblation Bearers	Jennifer Normand John Tompkins	Becki Ferguson Les Ferguson	Janice Herrington Terry Brantley	Becky Drake Jim Drake
Ushers & Greeters	Jeff & Josh Artman David Normand	Jim Drake Bobby Barlow	Charlie Brantley Allan Leese	Theo Williams Kerri & Peter
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Lisa Langford	Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Kerri Williams	Cassandra Price Margie Scott
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Shelnut			Susan Price
Coffee Host	Marge Scott Sherry Horan	Sandra Melsheimer Becki Ferguson	Charlie Brantley Terry Brantley	Lisa Langford Ruth Green
Wednesday Healing	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Betsy Selby	Tommy Skinner