



The Albanac

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

February 2016



Louisa Townsend Palmer
Benefactor of the 1936 Palmer Trust to St. Alban's Church

Photograph of Louisa Townsend Palmer

By Rebecca B. Drake

Recently, a rare sepia photograph of Louisa Townsend Palmer was added to the photography collection that hangs in the sacristy hallway of St. Alban's Church. Louisa, born in 1851, was a *Cradle Episcopalian* who was a member of St. Alban's until 1863 when Vicksburg fell. Louisa was only 12 years old when her recently widowed father, Samuel Townsend, a charter member of St. Alban's, sent her and her siblings to Connecticut after their plantation was ravaged during the Siege of Vicksburg.

The books, *Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Church* (2012) and *Owl Roost Plantation, The Civil War Letters of Samuel and Caroline Townsend* (2014) tell the story of the Townsend family before, during and after the war. Their story, especially the letters written from *Owl Roost Plantation* during the siege, reveals a tapestry of emotions similar to those found in the epic novel, *Gone With The Wind*.

When writing *Owl Roost Plantation*, I continually searched for pictures of Matilda and Louisa Townsend, the oldest daughters of Samuel and Caroline who both sustained a lifetime attachment to St. Alban's Church. The search left me empty-handed.

Then, just several weeks before *Owl Roost Plantation* was due to go to print, the curator of the New London Historic Society (Connecticut) called to say that he had located a photograph of Louisa Townsend in the files. The picture, dated 1863, was



Photography by Giles Bishop, 1863, New London, Connecticut

taken in New London by Miles Bishop, a famous fashion photographer. He noted on the back of the photograph that Louisa was *the daughter [granddaughter] of a Southern Planter by a mulatto woman.*

Thirteen years later, on May 16, 1876, Louisa married Frank Loomis Palmer, a multi-millionaire industrialist from New London. Details of the marriage are unknown but when Giles Bishop learned of the marriage, he pulled Louisa's childhood photograph from his files and inscribed "Mrs. Frank Palmer (Townsend)" on the front. The inscription was the key needed for me to document the photograph as being Louisa Townsend Palmer who was born in Bovina, Mississippi.

Today, as I look at Louisa's picture that hangs in the sacristy hallway, I see a 12-year-old child who witnessed more tragedy than most people in a lifetime—I see a child who helped to nurse her mother, Caroline, and baby sister as they lay dying from dysentery; all at the hands of the enemy—I see a young girl whose father, Samuel, was compelled to send her and her siblings to Connecticut to live with their wealthy grandparents; there was no turning back – it was a one-way trip—I see a 12-year-old child forced into adulthood, holding her siblings hands while leaving Bovina—and, I see a 12 year old child gathering the strength to leave her beloved father, her beloved church and the only life she had ever known behind.

Despite the tragedy of her early life, Louisa remained dedicated to the church. Both she and her husband were stewards of Christ and supported numerous schools, hospitals and churches throughout Connecticut. Louisa also remained faithful to St. Alban's in Bovina, the church of her childhood, and was blessed to make several trips home to be with her father, Samuel, before his death in 1880.

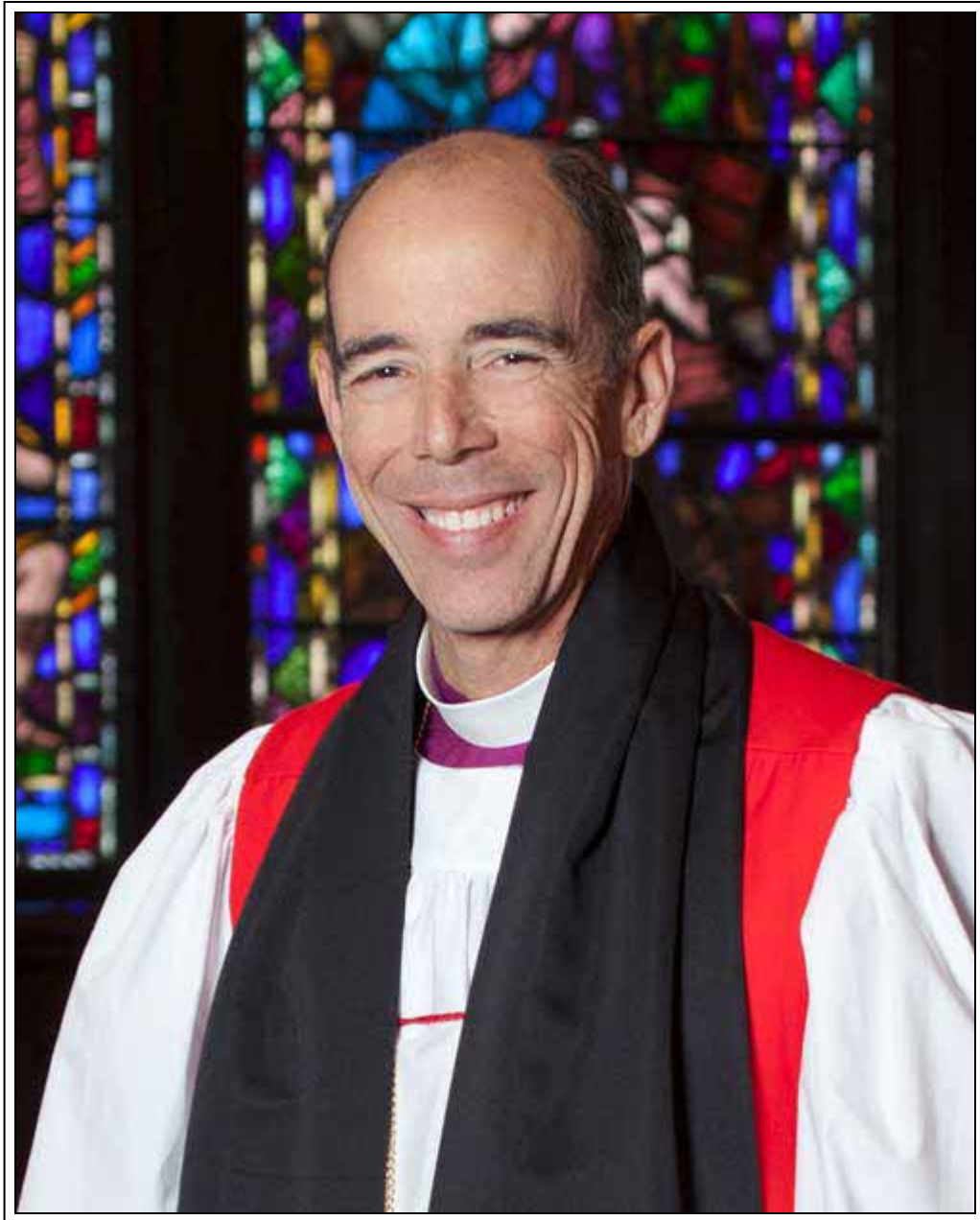
After her husband's death, Louisa expressed to her daughter, Virginia, her wishes for distributing the Palmer fortune. One of her requests was to bequeath St. Alban's a large sum of money in trust. Louisa passed away in 1925 and Virginia in 1936. Virginia's *Last Will and Testament* honored her mother's wishes and appropriated St. Alban's Church \$30,000 in trust, a magnanimous gift that helped St. Alban's through the Great Depression, World War II and other difficult times. The Palmer Trust remains in effect today and is worth approximately a quarter of a million dollars.

Just think, the penniless, heartbroken child who left *Owl Roost Plantation* and the spoils of war was later abundantly blessed with God's Amazing Grace. It was Louisa's faith —faith she learned as a child at St. Alban's—that sustained her as she made the long journey to her *Eternal Home.*

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day...

2 Timothy 4: 7-8

Bishop Brian Seage to Visit St. Alban's
Sunday, February 14th



Meet & Greet, 9:00 AM
Holy Eucharist, 10:00 AM
Luncheon in the Parish House, 11:00 AM

† Billie's Corner

“I did not enter Lent, Lent entered me.”



I am writing this letter on Saturday, January 23. Yesterday I awoke to the forecast of a winter storm and dangerous driving conditions. I could hear the wind howling and see snowflakes falling. Since I'm not one to venture out on icy roads, I made the decision to cancel my plans to drive to Greenwood for Walter Brueggemann's lecture event to be held at The Church of the Nativity. God surprised me with a totally unanticipated Sabbath.

Although the driving conditions did not turn out to be hazardous between Bovina and Greenwood, I stayed home. Instead of organizing every minute of my day with tasks, I pulled out old journals and began to read what I had written years ago. In doing so, I came across a sentence that got my attention, *“I did not enter Lent, Lent entered me.”* This was written in 2001.

Lent is the forty day period before Easter. I grew up thinking of Lent as a time when I was tested by God to give-up something enjoyable in order to make myself worthy of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Wasn't that ridiculous?! As if giving up Cokes and candy could make me worthy of the Easter event. I must admit that my adult understanding of Lent had not matured much since my childhood days.

How did the focus of the season of Lent shift from something about my contrived actions to something that happened to me? In 2001, I lived in Jackson and was a member of the St. Andrew's Cathedral community. The Cathedral offered small group gatherings during Lent and I participated in a group that met weekly to make art, write words, listen to music and share insights. No one was an accomplished artist, writer, musician or theologian. We just gathered together and opened ourselves to the Holy Spirit's creative energy.

What occurred during those weeks of Lent was that our preconceived Lenten efforts moved out of the way to make room for revelation and wonder that was beyond our own efforts. Lent was not about what we were doing to prepare for Easter. Lent was about what was happening to us and in us.

How can Lent enter our St. Alban's community this year? Can we step into the flow of creativity and allow it to have its way with us? Our Lenten Arts Programs offer the opportunity to gently shift from the analytical left side of our brain to the visionary right side of our brain. The performers bring us music and lyrics as well as passion and artistry. We do not need a plan of action. In fact, calculated plans could only get in the way. We just have to show up and listen. The Holy Spirit, the Divine Agent of Creativity, will lead us through Lent and into Easter in ways beyond our imaginings.

Perhaps there is one plan we do need to make; plan to be present for each of the Lenten Arts Programs—then sit back and “listen with the ears of our hearts.” This year we will not enter Lent, Lent will enter us. And oh the difference that can make!

In Peace

Billie+

Episcopal Church Women

The ECW met on Saturday, January 16, 2016. At a previous meeting the decision was made to give proceeds of the *Country Market* to various outreach organizations throughout 2016. The ECW pays Diocese dues and purchases the Forward Movement publications—inspirational meditation pamphlets published by the Episcopal Church. In addition to these payments, it was agreed to donate \$500 to Meals on Wheels (up from \$300), \$500 to the Little Light House where Lucas Guynes goes and \$250 to Haven House.

It was agreed that the ECW would try to meet the second Saturdays of the month. Our next meeting will be Saturday, February 13, at 9:30 AM in the Parish House. We want to discuss a fun trip for the spring and need your suggestions. All women of the church are members of the ECW, and we look forward to your participation at our next meeting.

Sharon Hanks
ECW President

† Josie's Journal

Lent



LENT is a sacred time of preparation, penitence, self-reflection and renewal. During Lent, it is customary to “give up” something that you enjoy for a period of 40 days. This could mean food/drink such as Starbuck’s lattes & Blue Bell ice cream or it could be movies & games. The view that I take of Lent is not to *give something up* but to *take on something new*. This year, I am reading *The Gift of New Creation: A Lenten Study Based On The Revised Common Lectionary*.

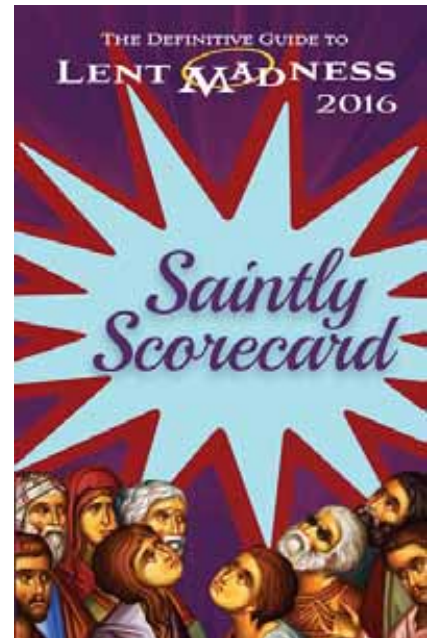
Also, I am excited to once again to play the game *Lent Madness*. This is a tournament-style elimination bracket starting with thirty-two saints. Each match-up remains open for twenty-four hours and you vote for your favorite saint. The first round consists of a biographical synopsis of each saint. The biographies can be read online at www.lentmadness.org or in *The Sainly Scorecard*, a booklet with the biographies and the bracket.

Sixteen saints make it to the Sainly Sixteen; eight to the Elate Eight; four to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship and one as winner of the *Golden Halo*.

I encourage you to participate this year and learn about people just like us. Some are familiar—Julian of Norwich, Barnabas and Sojourner Truth. Others are not so familiar—Drogo, Elmo and Denis. The challenge is on! Read about the saints even if you don’t vote. See me if you have questions. There is a poster size bracket of saints that will be displayed in the parish house so you can track your progress.

Christ Peace,

Josie+



Lenten Arts Series

Join Us for Wednesday Evening Arts Events

Healing Service, 6:00 PM
Homemade Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM
Lenten Arts Program, 7:00 PM
Bring Guests—No Charge



Wednesday, February 17
*An Evening with Thulani Mnisi,
Tenor & Kipp Gill, Organist*

Wednesday, February 24
*An Evening of Sacred Choral
Music*

Performed by
**The Jubilee Singers and
Daughters of Bobby Cooper**
Hinds Community College
Dr. Bobby Cooper Conductor



Wednesday, March 2
*An Evening of Gospel
Music*

Performed by
The Lewis Family Singers
From the Champion Hill
Missionary Baptist Church



Wednesday, March 9
An Evening of Organ Music
Performed by
Dr. David Mahloch, Organist
Jackson State University

Wednesday, March 16
An Evening of Choral Music
Performed by
The Mississippi Girlchoir
High School Chorus



Schedule of Events

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM
 Adult Sunday School, Parish House, 10:00 AM
 Choir Practice, Nave, 10:00 AM
 Children’s Chapel during 11:00 AM Eucharist

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM
 Centering Prayer Support Group, 8:30 AM
 Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Noon
 Bible & More Discussion Group, Parish House, 6:00–8:00 PM

Monday, February 1–Sunday, February 7—Rev. Billie will be visiting her daughter and son-in-law in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Wednesday, February 3—*First Wednesday Quiet Day*, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

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

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM

Morning Prayer, 9:00 PM—Centering Prayer, 9:30 PM—*Silence*—Noon Prayer—*Silence*—

Evening Prayer, 4:00 PM—Centering Prayer, 4:30 PM

Healing Service & Evening Prayer, 6:00 PM

Sunday, February 7—The Rev. Gates Elliott, Supply Priest. **No Confirmation / Reaffirmation Class**

Wednesday, February 10—**Ash Wednesday**. Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes, Noon & 6:00 PM

Friday, February 12—Stations of the Cross, 5:00 PM

Saturday, February 13—Altar Guild brass polishing, 8:30 AM

Sunday, February 14—Bishop Seage’s Annual Visitation. Baptisms, Confirmations, and Reaffirmations. Meet & Greet, 9:00 AM. **Please Note— Only One Eucharist, 10:00 AM.** Children will serve at the Eucharist and sing the Anthem. Potluck luncheon following the Eucharist in the Parish House

Sunday, February 14—Bishop Brian Seage’s Annual Visitation, St. Mary’s Church, Bolton, 4:00 PM

Tuesday, February 16—Vestry Meeting, Rectory, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, February 17—Lenten Arts Program, *An Evening with Thulani Mnisi*, Tenor & Kipp Gill, Organist, 7:00 PM

Friday, February 19—Stations of the Cross, 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 21—Post Confirmation/Reaffirmation Class & Soup Luncheon, Rectory following the 11:00 AM Eucharist

Wednesday, February 24—Lenten Arts Program, *An Evening of Sacred Choral Music*, The Jubilee Singers & Daughters of Bobby Cooper, Hinds CC, Dr. Bobby Cooper conductor

Friday, February 26—Stations of the Cross, 5:00 PM

Sunday, February 28—*Celebrate our Diversity; Celebrate our Unity—Black History Sunday*, Marci Turner, Guest Preacher. Post Confirmation/Reaffirmation Class & Soup Luncheon, Rectory following the 11:00 AM Eucharist

Wednesday, March 2—*An Evening of Gospel Music*, The Lewis Family Singers

Wednesday, March 9—*An Evening of Organ Music*, Dr. David Mahloch

Wednesday, March 16—*An Evening of Choral Music*, The Mississippi Girlchoir, High School Chorus

Sunday, March 27—*EASTER*

February Birthdays

1 Charlie Brantley	16 Joey Gerache
4 Georgia Turnage	18 Janice Herrington
5 Sharon Hanks	19 Linda Kitchens
6 Michael Abraham	21 David Selby
11 Bonnie Pruett	22 Mary Margaret Brabston
14 Beth Guynes	Jane Hanks
Charles Langford	24 Ian Ulmer
16 Joyce Butler	

February Anniversaries

11 Josh & Maggi McCarthy

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:



Betty Biedenharn	Dalton Glatt	Rachelle Ferris
Kathy Gergo	Catherine Riggs	Jim & Sherry Horan
Bertha Kolb	Lucas Guynes	Jim Dantin
Parker Ramsay	Linda & Jim Dooley	Millie Gassaway
Barbara Ramsay	Jackson Monti	Evan Olievera
Glenda Ferguson	Mary Ruth Jones	Bare Ahner
Charlie Brantley & Family	Ann Hanks	Kristi Biedenharn
Bob & Yvette	Karen Bates	Aryana T. Strawn (infant)
Walker Biedenharn	Frances Weissinger	The Wasson Family
Larry Lambiotte	Dan & Mary Carleton	The Greene Family
Richard & Margo Massey	Dale Gibson	Norma Jones
Dick Taylor	Lawrence Fields	Bob Bell
Louise Gray	Damion Hansford	Mary Ellen Flowers
Libby Mulloy	Richard Stone	The Chaney Family
Erin Worthy	Mat Mitchell	Desi Leeann Eaton
Bill & Liz Curtis	Bonnie Pruett	

Lurgical Schedule—Sundays in February

	February 7 <i>Last Sunday after Epiphany</i>	February 14 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	February 21 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	February 28 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>
First Reading	Exodus 34:29-35	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18	Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm	Psalm 99	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Psalm 27	Psalm 63:1-8
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17-4:1	1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Gospel	Luke 9:28-36	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35	Luke 13:1-9
		Bishop's Visitation One Service 10:00 AM		
Master of Ceremonies	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes	Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins
Crucifer & Acolyte		Beth Guynes Brantley Dunaway Gloria Hall Theo Williams Sam Hall	Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins
Holy Spirit Kite				
Banner Bearer				
Gospel Bearer	Rev. Josie	Gabby Rushing	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie
Crucifer/Wooden Cross	Peter Williams	Mary Ellen Dunaway	Peter Williams	Peter Williams
Torch Bearers		Sunny Faith Heaven Leigh Ann Tompkins		
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Shelnut		Herb Jones	
Lay Worship Leader				
8:30 a.m.	Theo Williams		Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith
11:00 a.m.	Ann Tompkins	Richard Price	Betsy Selby	David Pruett
Old Testament Lector				
8:30 a.m.	Penny Freund		Bitsy Segrest	Penny Freund
11:00 a.m.	Ed Shelnut	Canada Stewart Lawson Selby	Herb Jones	Mary Carleton
Epistle Lector				
Prayers of the People	Beth Guynes	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie	Bruce Carleton
Oblation Bearers	Anita Collins Janice Herrington	Sunny Faith Heaven Leigh	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames	Becky Drake Betty Rushing
Ushers & Greeters	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames	Josh Artman Jonah Artman Peter Williams	David Normand Rymn Parsons	Dan Carleton Allan Leese
Lord's Prayer				
Altar Guild	Cassandra Price Beth Guynes	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner
Coffee Host	Betsy Selby Ann Tompkins	Parish Potluck Luncheon	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames Cynthia Strawn	Wilma Mitchell Bonnie Pruett Rev. Billie
Children's Chapel	Betsy Selby Betty Rushing	No Children's Chapel	Marci Turner Ann Tompkins	Marci Turner Ann Tompkins
Offertory Counters	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Janice Herrington	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Herb Jones	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Jennifer Normand	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Theo Williams
Healing Service	February 3 Ann Tompkins	February 10 Tommy Skinner	February 17 Theo Williams	February 24 Tommy Skinner