



The Albanac

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

February 2019



*Elisabeth Malphurs to be Deacon-in-Charge
at St. Alban's Episcopal Church*

Elisabeth Malphurs Appointed Deacon-in-Charge



We are delighted that Bishop Seage announced the appointment of Elisabeth Malphurs as Deacon-in-Charge at St. Alban's Church. Elisabeth will graduate from Virginia Theological Seminary in May 2019 with a Master of Divinity. The Bishop's plans are that she will be ordained to the transitional diaconate in early June 2019 and will begin her ministry at St. Alban's on July 1, 2019. Elisabeth will be ordained to the priesthood in January 2020.

Elisabeth was born and raised in Jackson. She graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina, majoring in religion and received a master's degree

in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Elisabeth is a licensed, certified social worker with experience in the areas of community mental health, services for people who are homeless, and domestic violence. She currently serves as seminarian at Christ Church on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

She is married to her high school sweetheart, Buck Cooper, and they have two sons, Henry (11) and Andrew (7). Buck is a teacher, currently teaching geometry and physics at the high school level. As a family, they love to travel, camp, watch baseball, visit national parks, and walk their Corgi, Scout.

Beth Guynes
Senior Warden

St. Alban's Represented at 192nd Annual Council



Dexter Coen Russell



Dexter Coen Russell
Son of Callie & Zane Russell
Brother of Navy Hale

Holy Baptism: Dexter Coen Russell



The baptism of Dexter Coen Russell took place on Sunday, February 13, 2019, during the 11 o'clock Eucharist. The Reverend Billie Abraham, assisted by Deacon Josie Williams, officiated. Pictured are: parents, Zane (holding Dexter) and Callie with daughter Navy Hale; godparents, Gloria and Sam Hall; and grandparents, Debbie and Mike Rankin.



Remembering Sunday School & The Birthday Song

By Rebecca Blackwell Drake

The years 2011-2012 found me deep in research as I began writing, *Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Church*. My plan was to capture the history in chapters—each chapter chronicling the times and events of years gone by. In order to make the book unique, I chose hymn titles for each chapter, letting the lyrics set the ambiance for the story. In the end, *Lift High the Cross* numbered 30 chapters of memories.

One of my favorite stories is found in Chapter 24—*Children are a Gift from Heaven*—a sweet story of “The Birthday Song” told to me during a phone conversation with Eleanor Scott Price. Eleanor began her Sunday school years at St. Alban’s in childhood (circa 1930s) and remained a lifelong member until her death in 2016.

During our phone conversation, she recalled Sunday school at St. Alban’s in earlier times. The children and adults would assemble in the nave for prayer and singing before going to their age-appropriate classes. During the general assembly, they also celebrated birthdays with a special arrangement of *The Birthday Song*. I’ll never forget Eleanor relating the essence of the Sunday school story—then, before hanging up, sweetly singing *The Birthday Song*.



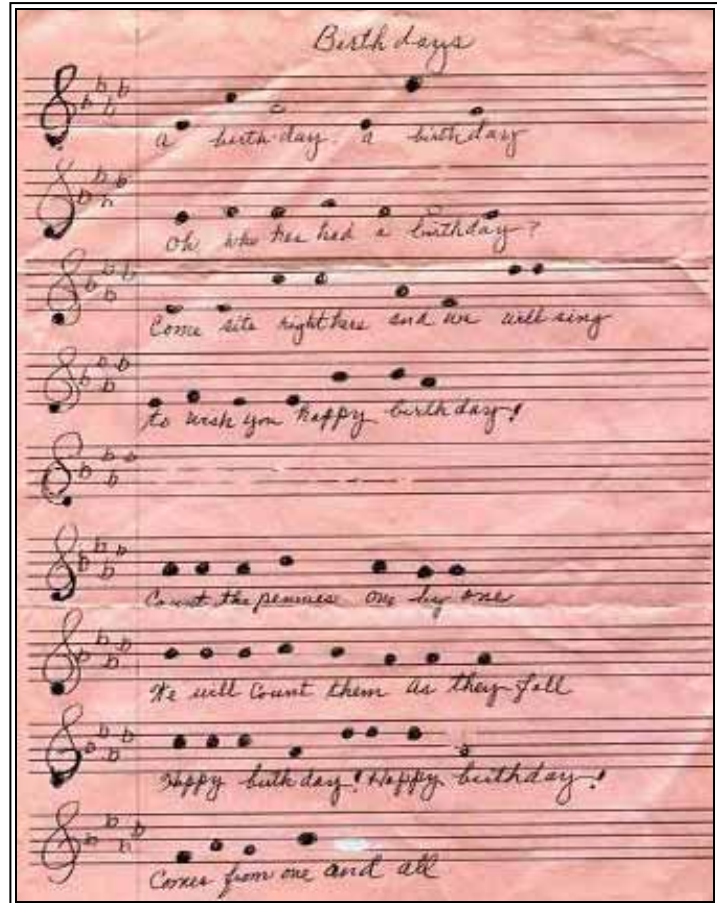
Eleanor Scott Price— 1925-2016

Children are a Gift from Heaven

“Sunday school was held at ten o’clock and everyone, young and old, would assemble in the nave to share in prayer, scripture and song. One of the favorite hymns sung during the opening service was *Stand Up*,

Stand Up for Jesus. The children would squirm with excitement as they waited for the Sunday school superintendent to ask, “Does anyone have a birthday to celebrate?!” Everyone loved that question. If anyone, young or old, had a birthday they went forward and dropped pennies in a collection box while everyone sang exuberantly, *A birthday, a birthday, oh who has had a birthday? Come stand right here and we will sing to wish you Happy Birthday. Drop the pennies one by one – we will count them as they fall. Happy Birthday, Happy Birthday comes from one and all.*

“The number of pennies dropped in the collection box corresponded to the person’s age. That only added to the excitement. To save time, the adults dropped nickels, quarters or dimes in the box. The money collected was added to the Sunday school funds to be used for special project throughout the year.”



A few people in the church remember singing *The Birthday Song*. However, the lyrics and music were lost over time—that is until the first week in January 2019 when Beth Guynes found a folder of old church materials and gave the folder to me to research the contents. One of the first things I found in the folder was a sheet of pink paper where someone had written the lyrics and melody to *The Birthday Song* in the key of A-flat.

Eleanor also recalled that on sunny days, the Sunday school class often met outside under the big oak tree. The children’s voices could be heard singing, *Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tell me so; little ones to Him belong; they are weak but He is strong. Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.*

What a beautiful memory—children singing of God’s love for the *little ones*—a love they would forever carry in their hearts.

† Billie's Corner

Three Wisdoms

"Hop! Hop!" said the hare.

"Go slow," said the snail.

"Pace yourself," said the cheetah, "it's a long run."

M. C. Richards

"Hurry Up. Slow Down. Pace Yourself—It's a Long Run." I first read these words years ago in a book, *The Crossing Point*, by M. C. Richards. I was at a point in my life when I was beginning to realize that I couldn't maintain the hurry up mindset that had driven me since my adolescence. Hurry up had its advantages—it got me through the time in life when my to-do list was overflowing with the worthy goals coming at me in all directions—a college degree, a teaching career, marriage, motherhood, community volunteer, and active church goer. The never ending to-do list that had been my source of energy and motivation finally wore me out. I realized that I had to slow down when I became perpetually frustrated and exhausted with feeling the pressure of time always bearing down on me—always too much to do and not enough time to do it.

There is a big difference between realizing the need to slow down and actually slowing down. Hurry up had been the primary force in my life for a lot of years. My first step in the slow down process was to take off my wrist watch. I put it in the dresser drawer and thought my hurry up instincts were put away too. BUT NO! That is not what happened. I discovered an internal clock that was programed inside of me. I didn't need to look at my watch to see what time it was—I still knew the time and I still knew that I had too much to accomplish. What I discovered was that slowing down was a slow process.

At this point in my life, age 71, I can say that I have spent as many years hurrying up as I have spent in slowing down. And now I realize the value of pacing myself. There will always be times when I have too much to do, and there will always be times when I can slow down and let my soul catch up with me. The difference is a sense of balance—hurry up no longer consumes me—slow down is no longer an effort. The two live in harmony within me, at least most of the time.

For me pacing myself meant finding time each day for quiet. I have observed that a quiet start in the morning infiltrates the rest of the day. I still have plenty to do with the remaining portion of my workday, but now I sense a red flag when any frantic feeling comes over me due to the pressure of time bearing down on me. When that familiar frantic feeling manifests itself, I have learned that a slight pause and several deep breaths can quiet me. I am far more productive when I am not in a state of urgency.

Does my story sound familiar? Has time become your enemy? Take time to cultivate a sense of quiet. Get comfortable with stillness. Practice tranquility. Learn to see with the eyes of your soul and hear with the ears of your heart. *"Pace yourself, it's a long run."*

In Peace,

Billie+

✝ Josie's Journal

EPIPHANY

We are in the midst of Epiphany—the season of light. The Tuesday night Bible class at St. Alban's is currently studying *Embracing An Adult Faith*, a five-week study with a DVD and study guide narrated by Marcus Borg.

Session 1 God

Question: What does God look like in your world?

Session 2 Jesus

Question: Who is Jesus to you?

Session 3 Salvation

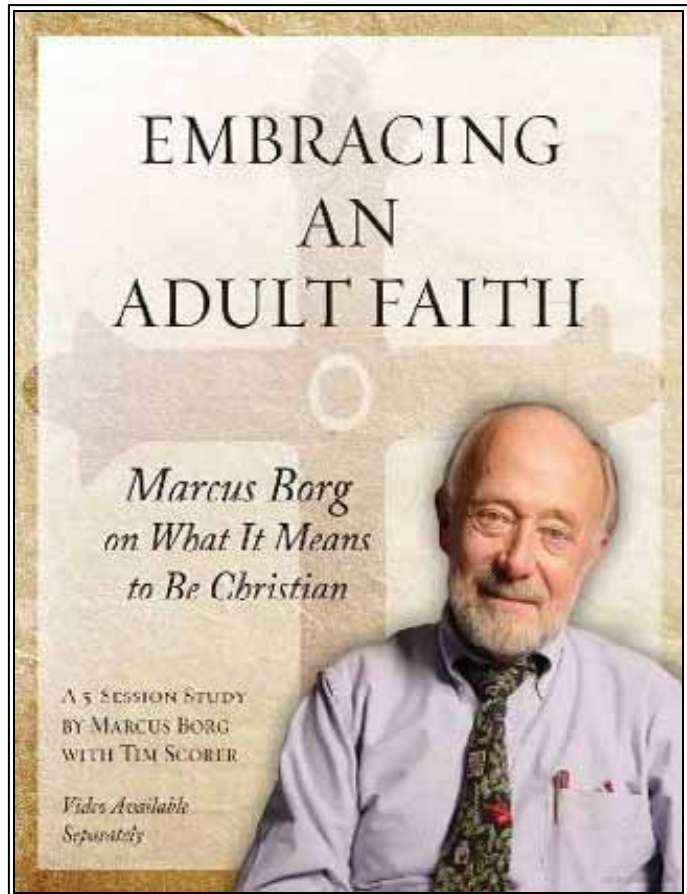
Question: Describe what salvation looks like to you.

Session 4 Practice

Question: List four practices in your worship life.

Session 5 Community

Question: How do you see your faith community?



Consider joining us on Tuesday night from 6:00-8:00 PM. The study guide can be used independently without the DVD. Think about it.

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Christ Peace,
Josie

The Building Project



About two years ago we discovered termite and water damage at the church and thus began the long process of planning, calculating, comparing, discussing, decision making, pledging and finally construction work. Our community formed a Building Community, worked with an architect, selected a contractor, initiated a Capital Campaign, filled up a storage unit after major downsizing, and finalized bank financing. On Monday, January 7, internal construction began with the demolition of the existing kitchen and all the walls throughout the western end of the building. Exterior construction began with dirt work on property in the back of the church.

We are continuing to build God's church—the physical church and the spiritual church. We are practicing good stewardship by taking care of the church structure and the surrounding grounds. We are also stewards of the faith God implanted within us by worshipping together, by reaching out to the needs of the world, by caring for each other, and by the practice of generosity and holy hospitality. We are a living church community; always searching, always growing, always serving.

Where is God leading us? Into the future!

Rev Billie Abraham



February Birthdays

1	Charlie Brantley	18	Janice Herrington
4	Georgia Turnage	19	Linda Kitchens
5	Sharon Hanks	20	Christine Nelson
6	Michael Abraham	21	David Selby
	Lucas Guynes	22	Mary Margaret Brabston
11	Bonnie Pruett		Jane Hanks
14	Beth Guynes	24	Ian Ulmer
	Charles Langford	25	Walker Biedenharn
16	Joyce Butler	27	Barbara Torrey
	Joey Gerache		

February Anniversaries

11 Josh & Maggi McCarthy

Prayers for the People



Analiese Wasson Bryan	Dan & Mary Carleton	Liz Curtis & Family
Ann Hanks	Dianne Carlton	Lucas Guynes
Ann & Jimmy Jones	Donny Sanders	Martha Benson
Barbara Ramsay	Ed Cooper	Megan Cook Vincent
Bertha Kolb	Eugene Quarles	Millie Gasaway
Betty Biedenharn	Fetty Judge	Natalie McMillian
Brandi Tony	Glenda Ferguson	Norma Jones
Brady Morgan	Hollis Newman	Parker Ramsay
Bryan Brabston	Jackson Monti	Paula Lentz
Carol Green	Jim Dantin	Peggy Lynn
Cathy Nestler	Joan Leese	Peter Meyers
Charles Haley	John Tompkins	Rachelle Ferris
Charlie Brantley & Family	Kim Wittmer	Robert Quinn
Cynthia Strawn & Family	Kristi Biedenharn	Sherry Horan
Dalton Glatt	Laurie Concannon	Steve Webster
Damion Hansford	Linda & Jim Dooley	The Selby Family
	Linda Washington	

Victims of Violence & Natural Disasters

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Phone: (601) 636-6687

Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Christian Education, 10:00 AM

Nursery, 10:00 AM

Children’s Chapel, 11:00 AM

Lifting Lives Family Shelter Outreach Ministry

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:30 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Quiet Day, First Wednesday of Each Month, 7 AM—7 PM

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, 12:30 PM

Schedule of Events for Febuary

Wednesdays, February 9–February 27—*Walking the Mourner’s Path*,
Rectory, 10:30–Noon (eight weeks)

Sunday, February 10—*Second Sundays at St. Mary’s*, Bolton, 4:00 PM. Eucharist,
Midwinter Reveries—Prelude, Offertory, Postlude—by Lee Farrar Bailey, Tenor
accompanied by Bruce Lesley

Saturday, February 16—*Vestry Retreat* at the Rectory, 8:30 – 11:30 AM

Wednesday, February 20—*Annual Pancake Supper*, Bovina UMC, 7:00 PM

Sunday, February 24—Bishop Seage’s Visitation, Laying on of Hands,
Confirmations, Receptions & Reaffirmations, 10:00 AM

Lenten Arts Series

Wednesday, March 13—*Full Circle*. Fiddle Fest

Wednesday, March 20—*Patrick Smith Band*

Wednesday, March 27—*Clarissa Davis, Vocalist, Mike Davis, Accompanist*

Wednesday, April 3—*Mississippi Boychoir*

Wednesday, April 10—John Maxwell Monologue



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Harvey Smith, Rev Billie, Sharon Hanks & Becky Drake

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in February 2019

	February 3 Epiphany 4	February 10 Epiphany 5	February 17 Epiphany 6	February 24 Epiphany 7
			Children's Eucharist at 11:00 am	Bishop Seage Visitation
				ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 am
First Reading	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Isaiah 6:1-8	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Genesis 3:11, 15
Psalm	Psalm 71:1-6	Psalm 138	Psalm 1	Psalm 37:1-12, 41-42
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50
Gospel	Luke 4:21-30	Luke 5:1-11	Luke 6:17-26	Luke 6:27-38
LWL	8:30 am Harvey Smith 11:00 am David Pruett	Tommy Skinner Herb Jones	Theo Williams Betsy Selby	Richard Price
MC	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes
OT Lector	8:30 am Penny Freund 11:00 am Ed Shelnut	Penny Freund Mary Ruth Jones	Penny Freund Gloria Hall Sam Hall	Laurie Reece
Psalm			Peter Williams	Blair Harris
Epistle			Beth Guynes Gloria Hall Sam Hall	Susan Price
Crucifer & Acolyte	Koury Collins	Jennifer Normand	Harris Southall Gabby Rushing	
Wooden Cross				Gabby Rushing
Gospel Bearer	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Gabby Rushing	Betty Rushing
Prayers of the People	Wilma Mitchell	Sharon Hanks	Peter Williams Kerri Williams	Susan Price
Oblation Bearers	Wilma Mitchell Bonnie Pruett	Ann Tompkins Betty Rushing	Southall Family	Kerri Williams Peter Williams
Ushers & Greeters	Dawn Rickard Theo Williams	David Normand Richard Price	Josh Artman Jonah Artman	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter
Standing Communion Station	Deacon Josie Ann Tompkins	Deacon Josie Harvey Smith	Deacon Josie Theo Williams	Deacon Josie Richard Price
Altar Guild	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes Liz Gent	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing
Coffee Host	Ann Tompkins Sharon Cummins	Kerri Williams Theo Williams	Hall Family Betsy Selby	Potluck Luncheon
Nursery	April & Ashley	April & Ashley	April & Ashley	April & Ashley
Children's Chapel	Betsy Selby	Betsy Selby		
Offertory Counters	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Lance Stewart	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Herb Jones	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Michael Southall	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Beth Guynes
	February 6	February 13	February 20	February 27
Healing Service	David Pruett	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner	David Pruett