



The Albanac

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

February 2012

St. Alban's Co-hosts Annual Council, February 3-5 "Celebrating One Church"

*A city set on a hill cannot be hid.
Matthew 5: 14*

The time will be here for us to gather and celebrate who we are as a diocesan family—one body, under one Lord, one faith, one baptism. It is our pleasure to invite you to Vicksburg, a historic old river city, set on a hill, where we plan to let our light shine as we come together as one around the theme of our 185th Annual Council, "Celebrating One Church." All communicants of the diocese are invited and encouraged to attend.

The opening session will begin on Friday evening as participants gather to enjoy food and fellowship prior to the scheduled business meeting. The bishop's annual address to the diocese and Evening Prayer will take place following the business session. Saturday will be a day of continuing business meetings while exploring the sights and sounds of Vicksburg. The day will culminate with a *Down South Catfish Dinner* at the Convention Center while enjoying the music of the *Patrick Smith Band*. The weekend will conclude Sunday morning with a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, a service that brings the entire diocese together for worship and praise.

The host churches, *Saint Mary's*, *Christ Church*, *Holy Trinity*, and *Saint Alban's* are working to prepare for your visit and look forward to your arrival. Please join us as we come together to work, relax, catch up with each other and worship as one.



185th Council steering committee: Susan & Richard Price, chairpersons; Sam Godfrey, Billie Abraham

† Billie's Corner

... you are being rooted and grounded in love.
Ephesians 3:17a

I taught the first grade for years. For the most part, the innocence of childhood has not been diluted in the life of a six-year-old. First graders are a combination of excitement about learning, growing up, and playing. The children especially looked forward to seasonal class parties.

The first party of the school year to be celebrated was Halloween. The excitement level was high and so were emotions. The heightened anxiety level of the Christmas season was the undercurrent of the entire month of December.

By the time February 14th arrived, the children had become veteran students—at least as seasoned as a six-year-old could be. They had time to really know each other and new friendships were formed. For the most part, little girls were special friends with other little girls. Little boys were special friends with other little boys. Valentine's Day was always celebrated with a class party.

Over the years, favorite seasonal party. On this occasion, friendships were not limited by gender. Everyone gave everyone else a card. To celebrate the day, children brought to school a shoe box with a slot cut into the top. Each box was decorated and labeled with the name of the child.

receive Valentine cards. The amazing aspect of the card exchange was watching the children open their cards, read the message and thank the giver. As the children read their cards, there were a lot of squeals, running around and hugs.

One year, a little girl arrived at school with Valentine cards larger than the typical ones. Her cards were large enough to write a message on the back—not one of the small cards that had just enough space to sign the giver's name. She had written a love note to each child in the class. Her mother told me that she was very particular about selecting cards, wanting them to be large enough to write a message on the back. She had started working on the cards a few days in advance, but the final night before the party she stayed up late getting each card completed. She could not be coaxed into a mere signature. Everyone had to get a special message.

Through her determination to tell everyone that she loved them, I see a human reflection of God's universal love for us. God doesn't have favorites. In the words of Brother Curtis Almquist, the former superior of the Society of Saint John, *"God loves you. Who you are, what you are, how you've gotten to be where you are: God knows and loves all*



that... God has plans for a relationship with you that lasts forever...when you're sleeping, God is dreaming up ways to be with you. When you're working or walking or weeping, God is catching up with you in the wind across your face, in the singing of a bird, in the free fall of laughter, in the soothing touch of a friend. You are the apple of God's eye."

If Brother Almquist had stopped there, his message would have sounded like a feel good Hallmark card or the simple love messages of a six-year-old child. But, he didn't stop there. God's love is mature beyond our understanding. It is gentle when we need gentleness and it is tough when we need toughness. As we face the challenges and disappointments in life's events, in other people and in ourselves, we can draw on God's love to sustain us. In times of doubt and disappointment, we can rely on the resilience of God's love. It is God's love that guides us through pain and heals us.

Brother Armquist sums up his thoughts on love with these words; *"Someone has said that the Gospel—the good news—is bad news before it is good news. The bad news is that our lives are incomplete, perhaps even unmanageable, without the God who created us. The good news is that God knows it. That God knows us and loves us, makes it not just good news but terrific news. For God is offering us the gift of love."*

Christmas Gift from St. Alban's



Christmas is the time of gift giving. You gave me a gift I will treasure forever. With your gift certificate from The Attic Gallery, I selected a three collage series that grabbed my attention when I first saw them. Mary Hardy is the artist who created the collages; she is from the Mississippi coast. She incorporates images and words in her artwork.

The first and last images in the series show a little girl standing in the shadows of an arched doorway. On the first collage, Mary Hardy stenciled words under threshold of the arched doorway, *"Every Day Is A Good Day For Hope."* The middle image is a childlike angel with a large hand resting on the angel's head and at the bottom edge of the collage is a miniature One Way street sign pointing up. On the third collage under the threshold of the arched doorway is the word HOPE.

The combination of the little girl, the angel and the theme of hope brought unexpected tears to my eyes. Frederick Buechner says of tears, *“Tears are not only telling you something about the secret of who you are, but more often than not God is speaking to you through them of the mystery of where you have come from and is summoning you to where you should go next.”*

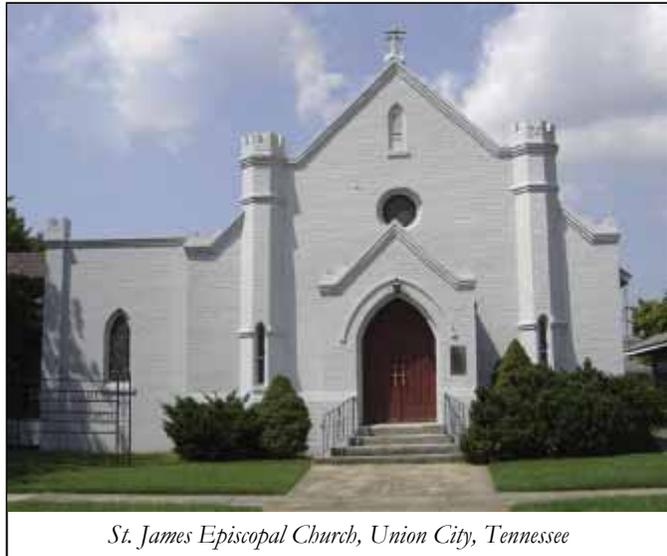
The framed collage dominates my breakfast room wall. They speak to me as I pass through the room or as I am eating a meal. They speak of hope. Thank you for giving me a source of hope.

The Trip to Bountiful

As you may recall, a couple of years ago, I made a road trip to my childhood home places. I compared my trip to the movie, *The Trip to Bountiful*. I explained to you that the movie was about an old lady who longed to return to her childhood home. I am once again stepping into the movie plot. I am the old lady who longs to return to her childhood home.

I have been invited to baptize my godson’s twins at Saint James Episcopal Church in Union City, Tennessee on Sunday, February 19th. Union City is the town where my family was living at the time of my parent’s car accident. The neighboring town, Paris, Tennessee, is my father’s hometown and the town where my sister was raised by our paternal grandparents. It holds a special place in my heart. Several families who knew my family are still living there. What an incredible opportunity to combine the privilege of baptizing my godson’s twins and a visit to my childhood hometown.

The twins are the son and daughter of Richard and Anna Graham and the grandchildren of Bettie and Richard Graham. They were born on December 6, 2011. Their names are longer than they are— Newell Poindexter McKay Graham and Stella Pearl McWhorter Graham.



St. James Episcopal Church, Union City, Tennessee

In peace
Billie+

✠ Josie's Journal



Epiphany is the season of light, which to some might explain why we say “I had an Epiphany,” referring to that moment where an idea comes to us and the “light” comes on. I had one of my own while writing this article. I realized that I have been ordained as a deacon for one year (January 15, 2011) and this caused me to reflect on the charge from Bishop Gray: “...*God calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word, and example, to those among whom you live, and work and worship.*”

This past year at St. Alban's I have proclaimed the Gospel, announced the Nicene Creed, led the Prayers of the People, set the Table and administered the bread or wine. I have visited parishioners at home and in the hospitals. I have been a Eucharistic visitor carrying the elements to those who have been absent. I have been with you during happy times: birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, weddings, as well as sad times: death and burials.

Through it all we have been a community, a family. I feel truly blessed to be able to make your burden light which helps to brighten our days here at St. Alban's. Being here with you and among you as we share each other's lives has brightened mine.

May the coming year provide varied and rich opportunities for us to be with and among each other as we continue to grow and share.

In Peace

Josie+

Winter Schedule

Second Sundays Schedule, "Bring a Friend"

Pot Luck Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall
Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., one service only.

Wednesdays

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, 7:00–8:00 a.m.
Men's Work Force, 10:00 a.m.
Healing Service & Holy Eucharist, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Bible Study every Tuesday, 9:00–10:30 a.m.

February Events

Annual Council, February 3-5, Vicksburg

Hosted by St. Alban's, St. Mary's, Holy Trinity and Christ churches

Friday — Ice breaker

Bishop's address

Saturday — Business meetings

Down Home Catfish Dinner

Patrick Smith Band

Sunday — Closing Eucharist, 10 a.m.

Sunday, February 12

Second Sundays at St. Alban's

9 a.m. — Pot Luck Breakfast

10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist (Instructed Eucharist)

Second Sundays at St. Mary's

4 p.m. — *Organ Concert*, Brother Vincent Ignatius, Organist and
Choirmaster, Trinity Episcopal Church, Natchez

Monday, February 13

6 p.m. — Vestry meeting, parish hall

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

6 p.m. — Holy Eucharist (Healing)

Sunday, February 26 – March 4

The Reverend John Jenkins, guest teacher and preacher

Wednesday, February 29

Lenten Arts Series

6 p.m. — Healing Service and Soup Dinner

7 p.m. — Jubilee Singers

February Birthdays

1 Charlie Brantley	16 Joyce Butler
4 Georgia Turnage	19 Linda Kitchens
5 Sharon Hanks	21 David Selby
6 Michael Abraham	22 Mary Margaret Brabston
10 Joe Rangel	Jane Hanks
11 Bonnie Pruett	24 Ian Ulmer
14 Beth Guynes	Walker Biedenharn
Charles Langford	Joshua McDaniel

Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

Cathy Ingram	Bobbie Jean Abraham	Betty Pace
Joe Bonelli	John Williams	Lauren Stamm
Shirley Rumfelt	Jay	Mary Kavanaugh
Frances Marble	Kay & Jerry McWilliams	Ethel Kendrick
Johnny Bottom	Jan Robinson	Betty Harrison
Jean Roberts	Tom Biedenharn	Michael Morrissey
Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford	Mary Ellen Dunaway
Natalie Bailess	Minnie Hardy	Ailene Graves
James Rumfelt	Jim Dantin	Walker Biedenharn
Joe Gerache	Ruth Barnes	George Hammack
Ann Ammons	Lessye Williams	Bill Mobley
Bill Brunson	Cathy Wilkerson	Lessie Baker
Jewel Miller	Glen Miller	Janie Ahlirc
Rusty Henderson	Scott Cleo	Karen McCraw
Elizabeth Cliett	Harold Lee	Tim Davis
Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz	The Gerache Family	

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

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

Liturgical Schedule Sundays in February

	February 5	February 12 Second Sunday	February 19	February 26
	<i>Fifth Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	<i>Sixth Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	<i>Last Sunday after The Epiphany</i>	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>
First Reading	Isaiah 40:21-31	2 Kings 5:1-14	2 Kings 2:1-12	Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm	Psalm 147:1-12, 21c	Psalm 30	Psalm 50:1-6	Psalm 25:1-9
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 9:16-23	1 Corinthians 9:24-27	2 Corinthians 4:3-6	1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel	Mark 1:29-39	Mark 1:40-45	Mark 9:2-9	Mark 1:9-15
Eucharistic Minister	Annual Council No service at St. Alban's Church	10:00 Eucharist Betsy Selby	Morning Prayer Deacon Josie Tommy Skinner Deacon Josie Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith Ann Tompkins
8:30 a.m.				
11:00 a.m.				
Master of Ceremonies		Beth Guynes	Deacon Josie	Jennifer Normand
Acolytes				
Crucifer		Michael Rangel	Betsy Selby	Koury Collins
Torch Bearer				Rachael Sullivan
Gospel Bearer		Beth Guynes	NA	Josh Sullivan
Lector		Sandra Melsheimer	Betsy Selby	Ed Shelnut
Prayers of the People		Deacon Josie	NA	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers		Max Rangel Becki Rangel	NA	Shay Sullivan Bobby Sullivan
Ushers & Greeters		Easy Biedenbarn Ann Jones	John Scott Allen Leese	Bobby Barlow Jim Drake
Altar Guild		Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Kerri Williams	Cassandra Price Margie Scott
Eucharistic Minister				
Eucharistic Visitor		Sandra Melsheimer	Deacon Josie	Sandra Melsheimer
Coffee Host		Pot Luck Sandra Melsheimer Becki Rangel	Betsy Selby Ann Jones Betty Biedenbarn	Ruth Green Lisa Langford
Wednesday Healing	Ann Tompkins	Deacon Josie Tommy Skinner Healing Service Only	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins