



The Albanac

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

January 2012

ECW Christmas Brunch & Ornament Exchange December 17, 2011



Christmas Living Nativity

Once again, Ann Jones coordinated our Annual Living Nativity. And once again, the St. Alban's community worked to make the event a grand success. The seventy-five cars that drove through our luminary lined driveway and around our



living nativity scenes were offered a glimpse of the true



meaning of Christmas. The preliminary construction work, the costumed characters, the food preparation, the fellowship, and the clean-up were all parts of the whole, making the Living Nativity a life-giving ministry for our members and guests.



Christmas Worship Services

The church was greened. The brass was polished. The nativity scene was assembled and the poinsettias were placed. The church was ready for the celebration of the Birth of the Infant Jesus.

Joan Leese and the St. Alban's choir enriched our worship of God with a fabulous concert before the Christmas services.

Our choir manifests the words of the psalmist:

*Be joyful in God, all you lands;
sing the glory of his Name;
sing the glory of his praise.*

Psalm 66: 1



† Billie's Corner

"Become aware of God within you. Announce it, pronounce it, produce it and give birth to it"
Meister Eckhart, 13th Century German Theologian, Philosopher, & Mystic

What happens when we become aware of God within us? What happens when we announce it, pronounce it, produce it and give birth to it? We hear ourselves say it. We listen to the truth of the words. And, we become what we say about ourselves! In psychological language it is called positive reinforcement. In theological language it is called faith.

Our faith in God is the foundation of our life together as the community of Saint Alban's Church. What we announce, pronounce, produce and give birth to defines us. Our mission statement is an indicator of who we are. A mission statement should be simple and to the point—a phrase that is true and easy to remember. While our mission statement is true, it is not easy to remember. I suspect very few of us could repeat our mission statement,

*To spread the good news of Jesus Christ by sharing the gospel,
loving one another as He loves us,
and sharing the many blessings of this parish
with those in our community and the world.*

The vestry has been discerning a revised mission statement. We studied mission statements from other churches. We determined what we thought was essential and what we thought was too wordy. After several months of discussion, the vestry turned to Holy Scripture and unanimously agreed on the words from the prophet Micah 6:8b.

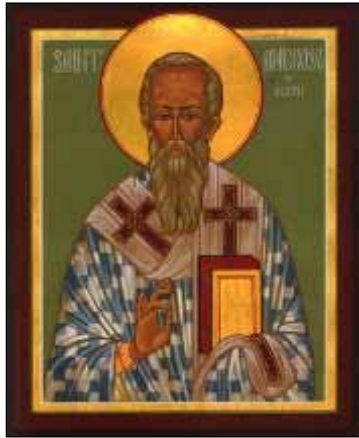
*To do justice,
And to love mercy,
And to walk humbly with our God.*

With these three virtues, Micah knit together the basic principles for living a Godly life. With these three virtues, we recognize the standards on which Jesus lived his earthly life. What more could the community of Saint Alban's Church ascribe to do!

How can we make these words become who we are as the community of Saint Alban's Church? By announcing them, pronouncing them, producing them and giving birth to them. We will move far beyond remembering our mission statement—to becoming our mission statement.

In peace
Billie†

✠ Josie's Journal



During Advent we studied the Saint of the day on Wednesday evenings at the healing service. We started with *Ambrose* on December 7th. He was elected Bishop of Milan even though he had not been baptized. He went on to become one of the Four Greek Doctors and one of the Four Latin Doctors of the Church. We have service music and hymns in our hymnal that he wrote centuries ago.

John of the Cross was the Saint on December 14th. He is one of the foremost poets of the Spanish language; writing his poetry on paper given to him by his guards while in prison. He assisted *St. Teresa of Avila* in the founding of the

Carmelites who were called “discalced” (barefoot). He died of erysipelas (inflammation of skin) after been imprisoned in a dank dungeon in a monastery because of his beliefs.

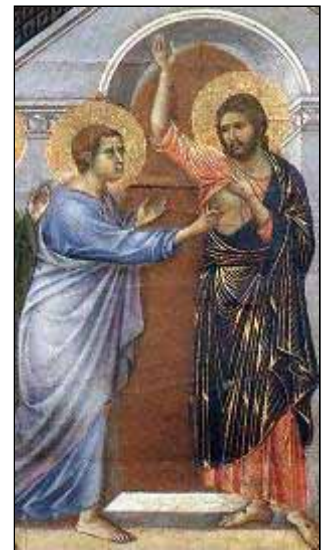
Saint Thomas was featured on December 21st. We remember him primarily for his doubt about the risen Christ. Thomas encouraged the disciples to accompany Jesus to Bethany to visit Lazarus even though their lives would be in jeopardy. We don't hear of this account often. Thomas' claim to fame is his encounter when he touched the wounds in Jesus' hand and put his hand in Jesus' side and exclaimed “My Lord and My God.” Thomas did what many of us are afraid to do. He asked questions because he did not understand. Thanks be to God for Thomas.

The Holy Innocents were the Saints on December 28th. They were the male babies that Herod ordered murdered because he did not want one of them to be the Messiah and become King. Herod was so paranoid that he killed the Jewish Sanhedrin and one hundred officials after he became king. He even had his own sons assassinated to remove them from inheriting the throne. Herod had a plan, but God had a bigger plan, and the Messiah escaped and died for us on the Cross.

Will we be a Saint in our own right for Christ using the gifts he has given us? Advent is over. Christmas is here. The light has arrived. How will we use our light? How will we let our light be known to others? We have been given the gift of light; how we use it or misuse it is up to us. We have been entrusted with the responsibility to do the right thing because it is the right thing to do.

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, 9:30–11:00 a.m.

January Events

Sunday, January 8

Second Sundays at St. Alban’s

10 a.m. — Holy Eucharist

11 a.m. — Pot Luck Lunch & Annual Parish Meeting

Second Sundays at St. Mary’s

4 p.m. — *Candlelight Choral Evensong* with the St. Phillip’s Choir
David O’Steen, choirmaster; James Martin, featured soloist

Monday, January 16

6 p.m. — Vestry meeting, parish hall

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

January Birthdays

3 Linda Hubbard	17 Sergio Panelo
4 Richard Selby	19 Kenon Ruska
8 Mary Carleton	26 Anna Selby
12 Hannah Huntley	Karen McCraw
16 Joy Brabston	27 Betsy Selby
Sadie Williamson	29 Susan Price
	31 Robert Ulmer

January Anniversaries

27 Bo & Kristen Gayle	27 Stanley & Deborah Lee
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Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

Cathy Ingram	Bobbie Jean Abraham	John Meritt
Shirley Rumpfelt	Jay	Mary Kavanaugh
Joe Bonelli	John Williams	Lauren Stamm
Frances Marble	Kay & Jerry McWilliams	Ethel Kendrick
Johnny Bottom	Sharla Donahoe	Jan Robinson
Jean Roberts	Joe Gerache	The Gerache Family
Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford	Charles & Lou Housholder
Betsy Selby	Minnie Hardy	Mary Ellen Dunaway
Richard Selby	Pat Pierce	Walker Biedenharn
Charles Selby	Ruth Barnes	George Hammack
Lawson Selby	Lessye Williams	Bill Mobley
David & Anna Selby	Bill Brunson	Cathy Wilkerson
Jewel Miller	Glen Miller	Lessie Baker
Rusty Henderson	Scott	Heather
Jean Saxton	Karen McCraw	Janie Ahlirc
Tim Davis	Harold Lee	Robert Mashburn
Elizabeth Cliett	Jim Dantin	Ann Ammons
	Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz	

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 January

	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29
	The Holy Name	First Sunday after The Epiphany	Second Sunday after The Epiphany	Third Sunday after The Epiphany	Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany
First Reading	Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-10	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm	Psalm 148	Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-5, 12-17	Psalm 62: 6-14	Psalm 111
Second Reading	Galatians 4:4-7	Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7: 29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Luke 2:22-40	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28
Eucharistic Minister					
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	Parish Meeting 10:00 AM Eucharist	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
11:00 a.m.	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Betsy Selby
Master of Ceremonies	Ann Tompkins	Jennifer Normand	Deacon Josie	Susan Price	Beth Guynes
Acolytes					
Crucifer	Ann Tompkins	Michael Rangel	Rachel Sullivan	Beth Guynes	Mignon McDaniel
Gospel Bearer	Kerri & Peter Williams	Koury Collins	Josh Sullivan	Genevieve Walker	Joshua McDaniel
Lector	Theo Williams	Ed Shelnut	Bobby Sullivan	Susan Price	Bertha Kolb
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Sharon Hanks	Deacon Josie	Linda Walker	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Becky Drake Margie Scott	Richard & Jim Price	Shay & Bobby Sullivan	Jeff & Kelsey Artman, Josh & Jonah	Terry Brantley Lisa Langford
Ushers & Greeters	John Scott, Jeff. Josh & Jonah Artman	David Normand John Tompkins	Jim Drake Bobby Barlow	John Scott Alan Leese	Charlie Brantley Kevin McDaniel
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Lisa Langford	Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Kerri Williams	Cassandra Price Margie Scott	Sherry Horan Sharon Hanks
Eucharistic Visitor	Deacon Josie		Deacon Josie	Sandra Melsheimer	Deacon Josie
Coffee Host	Sherry Horan Margie Scott	Pot Luck Overseers Betsy Selby Lia Langford	Ruth Green Lisa Langford	Betsy Selby, Ann Jones, Betty Biedenbarn	Terry Brantley Harvey Smith
Wednesday Healing	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith