



The Albanac

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

March 2014

February Ice Storm Creates Beauty

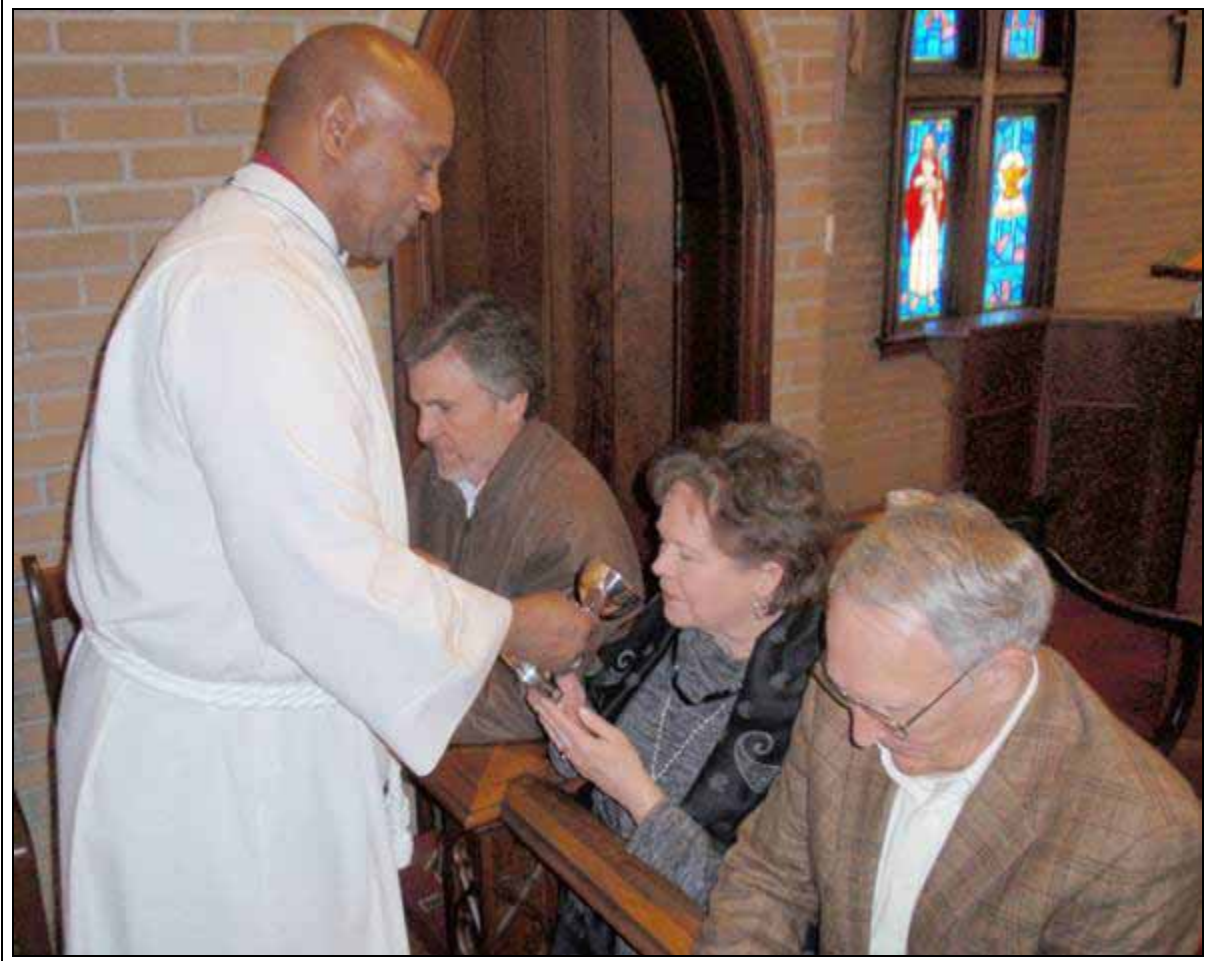


Outdoor Chapel Blanketed in Ice



Photography by Rev. Billie Abraham

Theo Williams, New Lay Worship Leader



Have you noticed a new Lay Worship Leader at St. Alban's Church? For months, Theo Williams participated in weekly Lay Worship Leader classes. The classes were taught by Dave Benway at Christ Church. Theo completed the required series of questions in the subject areas of Church History, Liturgy, Bible and Doctrine. He was officially and prayerfully installed as a Lay Worship Leader by Bishop Duncan Gray at the 2014 Annual Council.

Theo's initial experience of offering the chalice during the Eucharist took him by surprise. He was stunned as he lowered the chalice to the communicant and heard himself say, *The Blood of Christ and the Cup of Salvation*. He was offering the Real Presence of Christ. In Theo's words, "I wondered who was saying those words? Was it me?" To receive Holy Communion means union with one another in Christ in the Sacrament of His Body and Blood. For Theo, offering the chalice and leading the worship has added an unexpected depth to the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Genevieve Walker, World Traveler

Don't try to keep up with Genevieve Walker—just listening to her schedule can be overwhelming. Genevieve is the Captain of the *High Steppers* Dance Squad at Hinds Community College. For the past two years she has performed lead roles in the select dance troupe known as *Montage*. Genevieve is on the Dean's Academic List and is a member of *Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society*. Genevieve has been named to *Who's Who among Students in American Junior Colleges*.

All of Genevieve's hard work has been rewarded with the opportunity to participate in a Cross Cultural Awareness Program that includes travel to Ireland, Scotland, and Italy. Genevieve will perform with Hinds Community College dancers in each country, as well as attend local dance performances. A highlight of the trip will be the *Edinburgh Festival Fringe*, known as the largest arts festival in the world.

Genevieve has received partial scholarship support to cover the expenses. Of the \$3,650 total, Genevieve is responsible for \$1,386. A payment of \$414 is due in March. The balance of \$850 is due at a later date.

No doubt, our community will want to support Genevieve. Knowing the generosity of our community, it would be no surprise if the needed funds were provided in the next few weeks. Please make your check to St. Alban's and designate your donation to Genevieve Walker's trip.



The Ministry of Get Well Cards



Every Sunday Deacon Josie dismisses church with the familiar words, *Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord*. Then, in a forceful voice she lovingly reminds the congregation— “don’t forget to sign the get well cards!”

Week after week, Josie places get well cards on top of the piano in the Parish House. Each card bears the name of someone in the church family who is sick and in need of prayer and healing. As parishioners enjoy an after church visit, they take the time to sign the cards, often with an encouraging personal note.

The Get Well Cards are a wonderful part of Josie’s vast ministry to the community of St. Alban’s. Every week, she mails the cards to the sick and shut-ins—a reminder that they are loved and not forgotten - and that the congregation of St. Alban’s is praying for their recovery.

The ministry of the Get Well Cards is uplifting—to those who sign the cards and to those who receive the cards. They are a reminder that all are loved and missed “when we are absent one from another.”

✠ Billie's Corner

What Is This Thing Called Lent?

Several of the new members of St. Alban's community have asked me to lead them through the liturgical season of Lent. I am happy to slow down and take a fresh look at the Liturgical season that precedes Easter. For me it is easy to be so familiar with Lent that I take the significance of Lent for granted. I can move into an "automatic pilot" mindset.

Lent extends for six and half weeks, but is only forty days long. Sundays are not considered to be in Lent. Every Sunday is considered a Resurrection Feast Day. A great debate was made in seminary as to whether Easter was considered the GREAT Resurrection and all other Sundays were considered as LITTLE Resurrections. I came down on the side that asserted there is nothing little about the Resurrection on any day of the week.

The season of Lent is a preparation time for Easter. During Lent, we will make the journey with Jesus as he travels to Jerusalem—to his trial, conviction, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. It is a season that promotes reflection about Jesus' relationship with us and our relationship with



Jesus. We are encouraged to make a commitment to spend time reading and praying Holy Scripture. We are also encouraged to take on a special Lenten discipline such as: committing to read a Lenten meditation book; praying the Daily Office; spending time in contemplative prayer; or attending special worship services. Some choose to fast.

Lent is a season for each of us to make an in-depth self-examination of our words and actions, then to surrender to God's unconditional love and mercy that will transform us and provide us with the grace to repent of our sins.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes will take place at Noon and 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 5. Ash Wednesday sets in motion a reminder that we are mortal with words the priest prays as ashes are being imposed in the shape of a cross on foreheads: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

We are here on earth---the Kingdom of God---for a limited time. Don't waste it a moment! Live into the fullness of God's unconditional love and mercy. Let God's unconditional love and mercy transform us into all that God desires for us. We can only do this with God's help!

In peace

Billie+

2014 Lenten Arts Series Program

Wednesday, March 12

Sandra Melsheimer & *The Dirty Rice Burners*, French Cajun Music

Wednesday, March 19

Sam Puckett and *The HIM Singers*

Wednesday, March 26

Amanda Morato & Marcelo Vieira, *Celloscapes*
(The musical group that played at Dinner on the Grounds)

Wednesday, April 2

The Lewis Family and *The Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church Gospel Choir*

Wednesday, April 9

John Maxwell, *Judas monologue*

✝ Josie's Journal

The Role of the Deacon

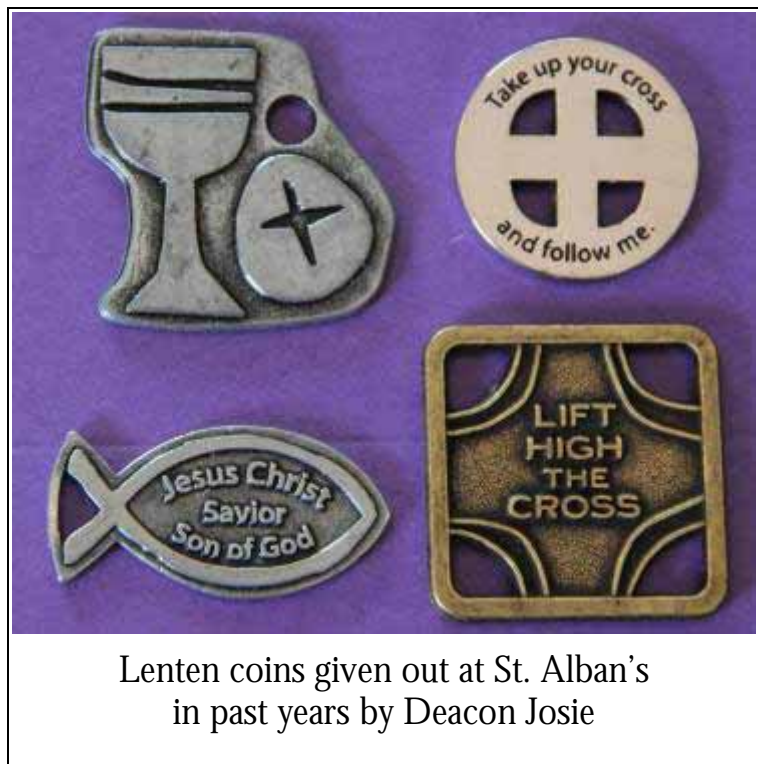
The ministry of the deacon has its origin in the life and ministry of Christ and, in the history of the early church. It is given shape, meaning and purpose in the words of the Baptismal Covenant. As a deacon I am to study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them and to model my life upon them.

As we approach Lent I would like to share some of my Lenten disciplines with you. For the past ten years I have given Lenten coins to parishioners and visitors. This year the coin is a small fish with the inscription, *Jesus Christ – Savior - Son of God*. I will also be giving out Lenten calendars to new members at St. Alban's.

Another new discipline I chose to explore is baking bread. I am learning to bake Amish Friendship Bread and share the starter with others. If you would like to receive a starter let me know and I will get you one and you can be on your way to baking.

My Lenten discipline for this year includes a variety of reading materials:

- *Lenten Meditations 2014*, a publication from Episcopal Relief and Development
- *Lent 2014 God's Gift of Life: A Lenten Study Based on the Revised Common Lectionary*
- *The Definitive Guide to Lent Madness 2014*
- *A Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals: Plenty Good Room*
- *Reading With the Bishop*



Lenten coins given out at St. Alban's in past years by Deacon Josie

The *Lenten Meditations*, *Guide to Lent Madness* and *Reading with the Bishop* resources are on the table in the Parish House. I encourage you to select a discipline that you would like to explore so that it is not a burden but a chance for growth. When you start your Lenten discipline and find that you have fallen behind, just start over where you are and continue. Do this as many times as needed. The important thing is that you make the attempt.

Remember to *GIVE UP GUILT FOR LENT*.

Peace,

Josie

*This is the first in a series of articles designed to explain the role of the deacon. I invite your questions to help in the writing of future articles. Please call me at 601-994-4370 or email me at josiew48@gmail.com.

March Schedule

Sunday, March 2, Slate of Candidates for Bishop of Mississippi Announced

Monday, March 3, Dinner at Gibbs Grocery, Caravan depart from St. Alban's, 5:00 PM

Tuesday, March 4, Fat Tuesday, Pancakes Suppers at St. Mary's, Vicksburg & Christ Church

Wednesday, March 5, Ash Wednesday Quiet Day, Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes, Noon & 6:00 PM

Friday, March 8, Stations of the Cross Prayer Service, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 12, Healing Service & Soup Dinner, 6:00 PM
Lenten Arts Program: Sandra Melsheimer & *Dirty Rice Burners*, 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 13, Cursillo Welcome Home Pot Luck Dinner, St. Alban's Parish House, 6:00 PM

Friday, March 14, Stations of the Cross Prayer Service, 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 15, Lay Leadership Conference, St. James' Church, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Sunday, March 16, Jim Dantin, son-in-law of Sharon Hanks & Buddy Hanks, Guest Preacher, Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Tuesday, March 18, Vestry Meeting, light dinner, 5:30 PM, meeting, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 19, Healing Service & Soup Dinner, 6:00 PM
Lenten Arts Program: Sam Puckett & *HIM Singers*, 7:00 PM

Thursday, March 20, PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY: Stations of the Cross Prayer Service, 6:00 PM

Friday, March 21 - Sunday, March 23, Happening Reunion

Friday, March 21 - Saturday, March 22, *Daughter's of the King* Spring Retreat, Gray Center

Wednesday, March 26, Healing Service & Soup Dinner, 6:00 PM
Lenten Arts Program: Amanda Morato & Marcelo Vieira, *Celloscapes*, 7:00 PM

Friday, March 28 - Saturday, March 29, Grief Retreat, Rebuilding after the Loss of a Relationship, Gray Conference Center

Friday, March 28, Stations of the Cross Prayer Service, 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 29, Cursillo Fourth Day, St. Philip's Church, 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Holy Eucharist, Rite I, 8:30 AM

Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM

Children's Chapel, 11:00 AM

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 11:00 AM

Wednesday

Twelve Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, 7:00 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Noon

March Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Michael Guynes
Lisa Langford
Parker Ramsay | 15 Lanore Fulgham
Ben Harper |
| 2 Casey Ferguson | 22 Becki Ferguson |
| 7 Anita Collins | 24 Jeff Artman
Olivia Curtis |
| 10 Michael Rangel | 27 Stacey Sumrall |
| 11 Sherry Horan | 31 Clare Huntley
Jenni Sciro
Bobby Sullivan |
| 12 Jeanne Lunz | |

March Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 9 Greg & Beth Williamson | 16 Bill & Liz Curtis |
| 11 Michael & Ashley Abraham | |

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Anna | Sandra Price | Richard Massey |
| Sherry Barton | Jay | Fran Ross |
| Jackson Monti | Lucas Guynes | Sherry Horan |
| Edel Mangum | Carol Langford | Terry & Charlie Brantley |
| Denise Gellespie | Joshua Hampton | Jessie Ross |
| Damien Hansford | Amanda Warren | Junette Tomlin |
| Margaret Lowry | Scott Phipps | Warren Doiron |
| Kevin Hicks | Jessica | Ethan Claburn |
| Alicia Sharp | Alice Pronger | Joyce Atkins |
| Larry Lambioette | Jeannie McVoy | Dr. John McCall |
| Mary Ellen Flowers | Mary Elizabeth | Cursillo |
| Kristy Kitchens | The Kitchens Family | John Scott |
| Joan Brown | Edd Greer | |

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in March

	March 2	March 9	March 16	March 23	March 30
	<i>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>
First Reading	Exodus 24:12-18	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Genesis 12:1-4a	Exodus 17:1-7	1 Samuel 16:1-13
Second Reading	2 Peter 1:16-21	Romans 5:12-19	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Romans 5:1-11	Ephesians 5:8-14
Gospel	Matthew 17:1-9	Matthew 4:1-11	John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42	John 9:1-41
Psalm	Psalm 2	Psalm 32	Psalm 121	Psalm 95	Psalm 23
Lay Worship Leader					
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner
11:00 a.m.	Theo Williams	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby
Master of Ceremonies	Beth Guynes	Betsy Selby	Susan Price	Jennifer Normand	Koury Collins
Acolytes					
Crucifer	Beth Guynes	Koury Collins	Susan Price	Jennifer Normand	Koury Collins
Gospel Bearer	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie
Lector	Mary Carleton	Ed Shelnut	Bertha Kolb	Penny Freund	Ed Shelnut
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Penny Freund	Deacon Josie	Sharon Hanks	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Richard Massey Margo Massey	Linda Gerache Jenni Sciro	David Pruett Bonnie Pruett	Margo Massey Betty Rushing	Terry Brantley Janice Herrington
Ushers & Greeters	Allan Leese Dan Carleton	Joey Gerache Jay Sciro	Dalton Thames Sara Porter	David Normand Richard Massey	Charlie Brantley Allan Leese Linda Walker
Children's Chapel	Ann Tompkins	Jennifer Normand	Clarissa Walker	Marci Turner	Linda Walker
Altar Guild	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Margie Scott Ed Shelnut	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner
Eucharistic Minister					Ed Shelnut
Coffee Host	Margie Scott Beth Guynes	Dalton Thames Sara Porter	David Pruett Bonnie Pruett	Betsy Selby Ann Jones	Terry Brantley Charlie Brantley
Wednesday Healing	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	April 2
	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner