



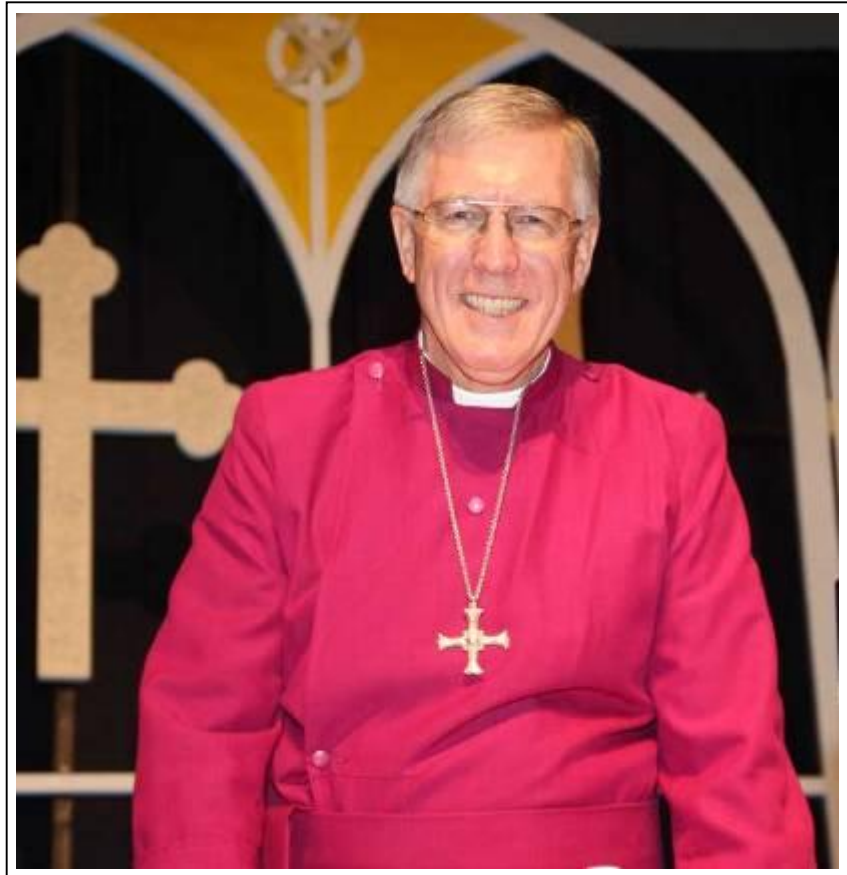
The Albanac

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

March 2012

Bishop Gray to Visit St. Alban's on March 11th

On Sunday, March 11, Duncan M. Gray III, the ninth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi, will make his annual visit to St. Alban's. A congregational meeting will begin at 9 a.m. in the Parish Hall to meet and greet the bishop. During the meeting, Bishop Gray will talk about ministries that are near and dear to his heart. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist will take place in the nave at 10:00 a.m. Confirmation and reaffirmations are included in the celebration of the Eucharist.



Bishop Gray, a native of Canton, is the third generation of his family to serve as bishop of Mississippi. His grandfather, Duncan M. Gray Sr. became bishop in 1943 and his father, Duncan M. Gray, Jr. in 1974.

A Pot Luck Luncheon will be held in the Parish Hall at 11 a.m. Following lunch, the bishop will meet with the vestry in the rectory.

After leaving St. Alban's, Bishop Gray will travel to St. Mary's, Bolton, for a 3:00 p.m. congregational meeting followed by a 4:00 p.m. celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Jubilee Singers Receive Standing Ovations



On Wednesday, February 29, the internationally acclaimed *Jubilee Singers* of Hinds Community College, Utica Campus, performed for the Lenten Arts Program Series at St. Alban's Church. The audience expressed their appreciation by giving the performers and the conductor, Dr. Bobby Cooper, two standing ovations.

"This year will mark my 40th year as choir director at Hinds Community College in Utica, Dr. Cooper commented. "I'm looking forward to a full season of performances. I'm also excited about seeing and visiting with many of my former students who will be returning to share in the yearlong celebrations." Dr. Cooper's reputation as a first rate choral director is widespread. The students who take part in the *Jubilee Singers* demonstrate his skilled leadership with their outstanding performances.

Dr. Cooper arrived at Utica Community College in 1972 to teach in the music department. After learning the "musical background" of the colored institute, he decided to revive the *Utica Institute Jubilee Singers*, an organization of singers that dates back to 1925 and the earliest history of the *Utica Normal and Industrial Institute for the Training of Colored Young Men and Women*.

As early as 1926, the group began making bus tours of the United States. The money they received for concerts helped to help support the Utica based school. The singers, whose style was inspired by the *Fisk Jubilee Singers* of Nashville, performed in New York as well as other major cities across America. Those memorable performances helped to establish *Utica Institute* as one of America's premiere colleges for the advancement of colored students.

In 1972, after Dr. Cooper joined the Utica College faculty as music instructor and choir director, he revived the name, *Jubilee Singers*, and accepted the challenge of reestablishing the unique style of singing popular during the 1920s. "The early singers performed Negro spirituals to help raise funds for the school during the 40-year Holtzclaw era," stated Cooper. "I was so moved by the original group's history, dedication and purpose, I felt compelled to revive the unique quality of the historical plantation-era music."

To attain the unique quality of the original *Jubilee Singers*, Dr. Cooper worked from the original music sheets of days gone by. Today that unique sound has become the hallmark signature for the group. In keeping with the original *Jubilee Singers* (1925-1926), the talented singers receive accolades from audiences all across America as well as abroad.

The *Jubilee Singers* concluded the concert promising to return to St. Alban's next year. Dr. Cooper announced that the graduating sophomores would return next year to sing for him. That was wonderful news since his remark indicated that the famed conductor will most likely not be retiring at the close of the 2012 school year, a year that marks the end of 40 years of service to Hinds Community College. Dr. Cooper's work is treasured and admired by Hinds Community College, his students, and all the audiences who have had the opportunity to attend one of his unforgettable concerts.

By Rebecca Blackwell Drake



Dr. Bobby Cooper is a native of Bolton, Mississippi. Former students credit him for their success in the field of music. He is a musician par excellence. He is a teacher par excellence. If Dr. Cooper retires after 40 years of service, as planned, he will always be remembered by those whose lives he has touched.

Lenten Arts Series Schedule

6:00 p.m. — Healing Service

6:30 p.m. — Soup Dinner

7:00 p.m. — Arts Program



February 29, An Evening of Sacred Music

Jubilee Singers, Hinds Community College, Utica

March 7—An Evening of Sculpture

Dr. Sam Gore, Mississippi College

March 14—An Evening of Drama

John Maxwell, Playwright & Actor

March 21—An Evening of Singing & Fiddling

Sandra Melsheimer, Bridging the Gap

March 28—An Evening of Choral Music

St. Alban's Church Choir, Joan Leese, Organist

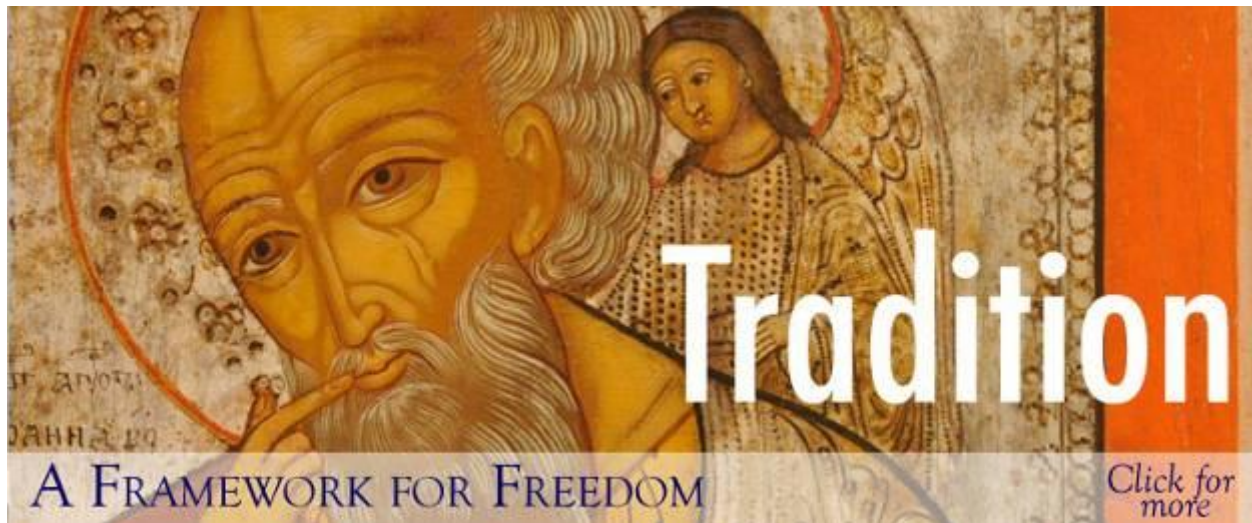
Lent Is Not Over Yet!

St. Alban's Church is being invited into the world of Lenten technology. The following are suggestions for Lent.

The Bishop's Bible Challenge

Bishop Duncan Gray is offering reflections on gospel readings. All the gospels are covered throughout the Lenten season. Go to The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi web site, <http://dioms.org>. A link to sign in for the Bishop's Bible Challenge is on the right hand side of the home page. Simply type your email in the appropriate space and instructions will follow. The schedule for assigned readings is included. It's not too late to get started!

Lent with The Society of Saint John the Evangelist



A Framework for Freedom

Billie's Corner referred to the Lenten videos produced by the Brothers of Saint John the Evangelist. You can sign up to receive their daily video email by going to Lent with SSJE web site at <http://ssje.org>.

Brother, Give Us A Word, SSJE

You can sign up to receive a daily meditation from the Brothers of Saint John the Evangelist that will come throughout the year. Each morning you will receive an email that will highlight a word. A few sentences of explanation will follow. The sentences are taken from the Brothers' sermons. If you wish to read the entire sermon, a link is provided.

✠ Billie's Corner

*"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,
to the observance of a holy Lent ..."*

Ash Wednesday Service, *Book of Common Prayer*

I've been giving thought to the invitation I read at the Ash Wednesday service. We were invited to observe a holy Lent. The invitation went on to suggest ways to observe a holy Lent, "by self examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self denial; and by reading and meditation on God's holy Word." It occurred to me that we could think of this as an invitation to live a holy life, not just a holy six weeks.

Applying the worn out cliché, "Today is the first day of the rest of your life," perhaps we could think of Lent as being the first season for the rest of our lives. What would our lives be if we incorporated the disciplines that the *Book of Common Prayer* suggested each day of our lives? What if these disciplines became a Rule of Life, an everyday occurrence for the rest of our lives? Our lives would certainly grow to be more God centered.

Actually, we have a Rule of Life at Saint Alban's Church and within it is the opportunity to integrate the particular spiritual disciplines suggested by the *Book of Common Prayer* for a Holy Lent. Our Rule of Life is simple: ***We aspire to worship weekly, pray daily, learn constantly, serve joyfully and live generously.***

During Lent, I am watching a daily video entitled *Framework for Freedom*. The Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist are presenting the value of a Rule of Life. One of the brothers emphasized that a Rule of Life provides order to the chaos of our daily living. Brother Curtis Almquist said that a Rule of Life offers a cadence and rhythm to life that can sustain us as we face the challenges and the rewards of everyday life.

Our simple Rule of Life is an instrument to help us become our truest selves. By worshipping, praying, learning, serving and giving, we become who God created us to be. As Brother David Vryhof noted in one of the videos, the end result is not following the Rule of Life, but drawing closer to God and becoming aware of God's presence 24/7.

We have been offered the invitation to observe a holy Lent and to live a holy life. May this Lent continue for the rest of our lives. May we rely on our Rule of Life to draw us closer to God, closer to each other and closer to the needs of the world.

In peace

Billie+

185th Council



✝ Josie's Journal

St. Alban's had a vendor's booth at the Regional Career Fair held at the Vicksburg Convention Center on February 7, 2012. Two thousand students from Vicksburg High, Warren Central High, Grove Street, St. Aloysius, Porter's Chapel, Hinds AHS, South Delta, Port Gibson and Claiborne County Career and Technical Center viewed the exhibits.

The students were given the opportunity to meet representatives from all major Mississippi universities, Nashville Auto & Diesel College and AmeriCorps. Public service careers could be explored at the Vicksburg Police Department, Warren County Sheriff Department, District Attorney's Office and Vicksburg Fire Department booths. Military aspirations were discussed at the Mississippi National Guard, US Army, US Marines and US Air Force exhibits. The Win Job Center displayed advertised options available at their office. Displays were provided by the Child & Parent Center, MADD, United Way of Central Mississippi, River Region, Promise Health Care and River City Chiropractic Clinic for those interested in medical careers.

You might be thinking why did St. Alban's have a booth? I wanted showcase St. Alban's and all that it has to offer. My display consisted of bulletin inserts, *Forward Day by Day*, Lenten booklets, *Our Daily Bread* booklets, *Lenten Prayer Cards*, Bibles and the *Book of Common Prayer*. Everything on the table was available to take home except the Bible and the BCP. At the end of the day I had three booklets left. I took over one hundred handouts.

I talked with students who asked "What is Lent?" "Where is your church?" My response to the Lent question went like this: "Lent is the forty days before Easter. It starts with Ash Wednesday, the day after Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras and ends on Easter. During Lent you can take on something or give up something. The something is determined by the individual. The something you give up should be something you like. So don't give up broccoli for Lent if you don't eat broccoli. You might decide to give up one hour of texting on your phone each day! You might decide to take on doing your chores at home, obeying your parents, being on time for curfew. You might consider dropping pennies and loose change in a jar and at the end of Lent put it in the collection plate at church."

This was an opportunity to plant a seed and was well worth the day spent at the convention center. During the break at the career fair I visited the display booth and gave out last year's Lenten coins to all the presenters.

In Peace,

Josie

March Events

Friday, March 2

Camp Bratton Green BBQ Cook-off and Open House

10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 4

The Rev. John Jenkins, guest teacher and preacher

Thursday, March 1

A Walk Through The Book of Common Prayer

11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m., Parish Hall

Tuesday, March 6

Tour of Episcopal Churches in Jackson

10:00 a.m., Meet at St. Andrew's Cathedral. Tour St. Alexis, St. Philip's and Chapel of the Cross.

Friday, March 9

Quiet Day at Gray Center

9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m., Quiet Day led by Bishop Duncan Gray. To register visit the Center for Ministry website at www.centerforministry.com.

Saturday, March 10

Practice for Bishop Gray's Visitation, Confirmation and Reaffirmation

10:00 a.m., St. Alban's

2:00 p.m., St. Mary's

Sunday, March 11

Bishop Gray's Visitation, Saint Alban's

9:00 a.m., Meet and Greet Bishop Gray.

10:00 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Reaffirmation

11:00 a.m., Pot Luck Luncheon in Parish Hall

Vestry meeting with Bishop Gray

Bishop Gray's Visitation, Saint Mary's

3:00 p.m., Congregational Meeting with Bishop Gray

4:00 p.m., Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Reaffirmation

Reception to follow in Parish Hall

Monday, March 12

5:30 p.m., Vestry Meeting, light dinner, 6:00-7:00 p.m., meeting

Friday, March 30—Saturday, March 31

ECW Spring Conference, *Building Relationships Through Reconciliation*

3:00 p.m. – Gray Center



March Birthdays

1 Michael Guynes	15 Ben Harper
1 Lisa Langford	22 Jimmy Jones
1 Parker Ramsay	22 Becki Rangel
7 Camile Bexley	24 Jeff Artman
10 Michael Rangel	24 Olivia Curtis
11 Sherry Horan	31 Clare Huntley
12 Jeanne Lunz	31 Bobby Sullivan

March Anniversaries

9 Greg & Beth Williamson	11 Michael & Ashley Abraham
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Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

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

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 March

	March 4 Second Sunday in Lent	March 11 Third Sunday in Lent	March 18 Fourth Sunday in Lent	March 25 Fifth Sunday in Lent
First Reading	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm	Psalm 22:22-30	Psalm 19	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalm 51:1-13 or Psalm 119:9-16
Second Reading	Romans 4:13-25	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10
Gospel	Mark 8:31-38	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33
Eucharistic Minister		<i>Bishop's Visitation</i>		
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	10:00 a.m. Eucharist Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner
11:00 a.m.	Richard Price		Richard Price	Harvey Smith
Master of Ceremonies	Susan Price	Ann Tompkins	Susan Price	Beth Guynes
Acolytes				
Crucifer	Susan Price	Michael Rangel	Clarissa Walker	Rachael Sullivan
Torch Bearer				
Gospel Bearer	Beth Guynes	Koury Collins	Kerri & Peter Williams	Theo Williams
Lector	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut	Genevieve Walker	Bertha Kolb
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Linda Walker	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Betsy & Lawson Selby	Max & Becki Rangel	Jim & Becky Drake	Shay & Josh Sullivan
Ushers & Greeters	Easy Biedenham & Ann Jones	Richard Price & Jim Drake	Jeff Artman & Charlie Brantley	Bobby Sullivan & Allen Leese
Altar Guild	Sherry Horan Sharon Hanks	Mary Ann Wright Lisa Langford	Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Kerri Williams
Eucharistic Minister		Deacon Josie		
Eucharistic Visitor	Sandra Melsheimer	Deacon Josie	Sandra Melsheimer	Deacon Josie
Coffee Host	Margie Scott & Sherry Horan	POT LUCK Sandra Melsheimer & Becki Rangel	Ruth Green & Lisa Langford	Charlie & Terry Brantley
Wednesday Healing	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner