



The Albanac

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

May 2012

Parish Weekend at Gray Center

For those who attended the Parish Weekend at Gray Center it was obvious that *one* is never too old to go camping! Camp in this case was the wonderful “Big House” located on the property at the entrance of a large and beautiful lake on the outskirts of Canton. In 1946, when the land was purchased for the Mississippi Episcopal Diocese, Bishop Gray, Sr. announced the “good news” in *The Church News*: “We have acquired a conference center and camp site in Madison County which will be known as Rose Hill.” The property was described as consisting of 210 acres including a forty-acre lake and two houses, one quite large and arranged like a hotel. The 1940s two-story





house was lovingly nicknamed *The Big House*.

Over the weekend of April 13-15, parish members filled *The Big House* for a weekend of fun and fellowship. Between Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, campers enjoyed fishing, boating, riding bikes, hiking and all of the fun activities associated with camp life. The thrill of the weekend for Beth Guynes was landing a five-pound bass which won the fishing rodeo! Over the

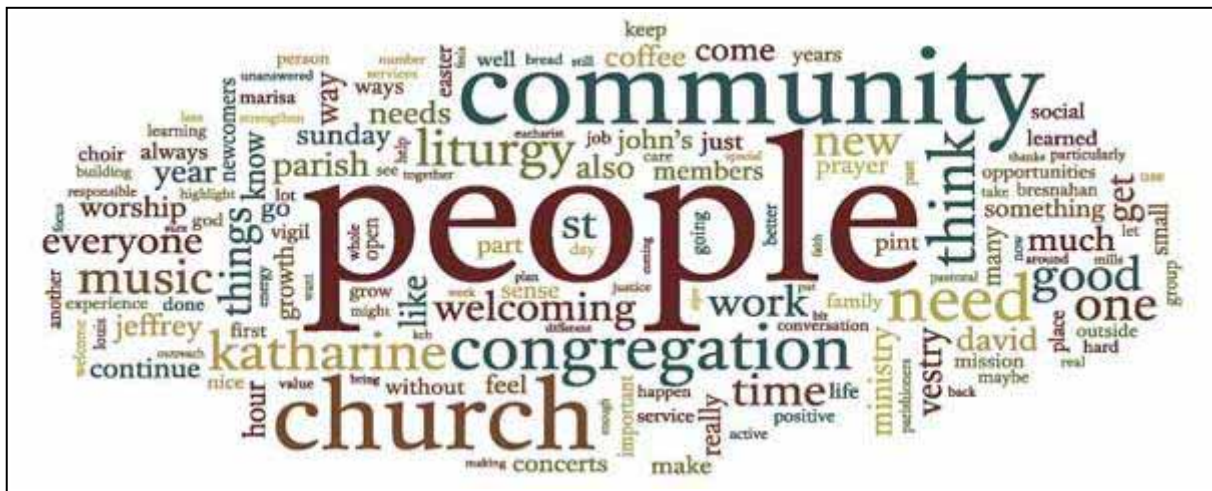
weekend special music was provided by Karen McCraw and Rodney Ham. On Saturday night, everyone gathered for a fish fry catered by Terry and Charlie Brantley, master chefs.

The weekend was enjoyed immensely by all and if a hymn had been sung before parting ways, instead of *Kumbaya* it would have been, *Bless be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love, The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*



The Second Sunday Schedule is Changing!

Beginning in May, we will resume our usual two Eucharist schedule on the second Sunday of each month. With the exception of Mother's Day, we will continue to have a pot luck breakfast on the second Sunday of each month. The pot luck breakfasts will serve as a time to share a communal meal, a time to visit, a time to invite a friend and time to present community outreach and inreach ministries. The breakfast will take place between the two worship services at 10:00 a.m.



Outreach Ministry 2012

The vestry is trying a new format for outreach. Based on charities that St. Alban's members are already involved in, we hope to organize community involvement for large projects and focus on timely donations for smaller projects.

How can a small church approach an ongoing outreach ministry without overwhelming its resources of finances and energy? How can we involve members who have the time to contribute as well as those who would rather make a financial contribution? For example, St. Alban's vestry is inviting Vicksburg's and Port Gibson's Episcopal churches and all of Bovina churches to a meeting to explore funding to construct a new Habitat house. Habitat for Humanity already has the \$35,000 needed for materials in hand. What is left is a way to build. The donations of \$30,000 in cash or of "in kind" labor by qualified workers is needed to complete the construction.

On a smaller scale, in May we are focusing on collecting funds for *Nets for Life*. *Nets for Life* works to eliminate malaria in some of the most remote areas of sub-Saharan Africa by providing life-saving prevention training and long-lasting insecticide-treated nets. A donation of \$12 provides one net. Through May 25, we have the opportunity to make our dollars go even further. During this period, any

donation made to the *Nets for Life Inspiration Fund* will be matched dollar-for-dollar thanks to a group of Episcopal Relief & Development donors.

Also in May, St. Alban's will host a Sit and Knit (or Crochet) day to make scarves and hats for the *Christmas on the River* program. Join us on May 5 from 9 a.m. to noon as we knit or crochet and visit. Patterns suitable for beginners will be available. *Christmas on the River* is the inland waterways counterpart to *Christmas at Sea*, and it's implemented by Seaman's Church Institute's river chaplains. Scarves and hats are included in boxes presented to merchant marines each Christmas.

Acting as the vestry's Outreach Committee, Terry Brantley, Ann Tompkins and Kenon Ruska will be organizing a monthly "Collection Sunday" to meet a specific need for several other groups, such as school supplies in late summer and other items for the *Christmas on the River* program in the fall. We want to begin making a presentation on the Second Sunday for a "charity of the month." A list of groups that we have been made aware of is listed below. If you are aware of other needs, please let one of us know.

Bovina Elementary School
Camp Bratton Green
Christmas on the River
Christmas at Sea
Good News Bible Club
Habitat for Humanity
Magazine Ministry
Meals on Wheels

Mississippi Children's Society
Nets for Life
Salvation Army
Dr. Bobby Cooper *Jubilee Singers* Scholarship
Seed Sowers Trust
United Way
Warren County Youth Court needs
Warren County Women's Shelter

Vestry Mutual Ministry Review

The vestry participated in a diocesan Mutual Ministry Review (MMR) during April administered by the Reverend Canon David Johnson. The review was a "360-degree" format where lay leaders and clergy review each other and themselves in all elements of their roles as church leaders. This was the first MMR by the St. Alban's vestry and clergy. The process will be repeated again in three years.

The review probed forty-six key areas to reflect on the desire to accomplish God's will for the parish and to seek improvement in the parish ministries and how they are offered. The review also sought to understanding of parish ministry as mutually shared. This included the responsibility of both the laity and clergy. The review was not an attempt to place blame for any past shortcomings. The anonymous questionnaire was completed on-line and evaluated by Canon Johnson.

On April 24th, Canon Johnson met with the vestry to discuss the review results. In general, the vestry exhibited a strong knowledge of the church's mission, administration and responsibilities. Weaknesses and successes were probed and discussed. The MMR placed emphasis on celebrating our successes as well as identifying our challenges. The results will provide the clergy and laity with a roadmap for establishing our goals and prioritizing resources.



St. Alban's Letterbox

Letterboxing is a hide-and-seek type game played in Great Britain, the United States and much the rest of the world. Letterboxers hide small, weatherproof boxes holding a logbook and a rubber stamp in publicly-accessible places and distribute clues to find the box on several web sites. Seekers have their own logbook and rubber stamp. When a box is found, the logbooks are cross-stamped as proof that the hidden box has been found and the box replaced for the next finder. Letterboxers can also register their find on-line and leave a message for the box owners.

St. Alban's has a letterbox hidden in the cemetery. Karen McGraw created our stamp from a photograph of the Rose Window. Kenon and Karen have hidden a letterbox under a log and leaves near a cedar stump under a large cedar tree. Several letterboxers have found our letterbox and left messages indicating their appreciation of the beauty of St. Alban's. Last year a traveler from Michigan visited St. Alban's to find the box. The box was last found on January 31.

Letterboxing originated in Dartmoor, Devon, England, when a Dartmoor guide placed a bottle for visitors' cards at Cranmere Pool on the northern moor in 1854. From this, hikers on the moors began to leave a letter or postcard inside a box along the trail—hence the name “letterboxing.” The next person to discover the site would collect the postcards and mail them. Interest in letterboxing in the United States is generally considered to have started with a feature article in the Smithsonian Magazine in April 1998. Clues to American letterboxes are commonly published on several different websites.

†Billie's Corner

*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished...
And on the seventh day God finished the work God had done,
and God rested from all the work God had done...
God made it a Holy Day.
Genesis 2: 1-3*

Time to *rest!* We have completed a lot of work and now it is time to rest! I am referring to the *rest* we experienced at *The Big House* on the grounds of Camp Bratton-Green during our Parish Weekend. This year our Parish Weekend was planned for the weekend after Easter. A look back on the commitments we completed during the past four months included—*Annual Council, Lenten Art's Programs and Soup Dinners, The Bishop's Visitation, Holy Week Services and Easter*—not to mention the routine demands of our daily lives. The winter and spring months were overflowing with new opportunities for creativity and demands of our “to do lists.” Could this describe how God felt on the seventh day when He completed the work of creation? We don't know the answer to that question but we do know that God rested.

The rhythm of work and Sabbath is essential for the well being of each of us—individually and as a community. The Parish Weekend offered a Sabbath after a long stretch of work. Our time at *The Big House* was loosely scheduled. We gathered for meals and prayers at designated times. Other than that, we were free to simply rest. Rest came in a variety of ways. Some folks (Terry Guynes) fished from pre-dawn to post-dusk. Some folks walked. Some folks biked. Some folks napped. Before the weekend ended, everyone gathered on the screened-in porch to rock and to visit. For me, the experience of porch time was reminiscent of evenings spent on the porches of my grandparent's house. I recall neighbors drifting back and forth from porch to porch, visiting and catching up on the latest news.

The highlight of the weekend was the celebration of the Eucharist around the dining room table in *The Big House*, followed by the fish fry, catered by Charlie and Terry Brantley. Our weekend crowd expanded with the arrival of additional St. Alban's folks who came over for the day. No one marked our time. No deadlines. No rush. The spirit of Sabbath descended upon us. Sabbath was easy. *The Big House* offered hospitality, the weather was perfect, the lake was glistening with the reflection of the sunlight, the fish were biting, the food was abundant and the company was enjoyable.

*“This is the ‘parish weekend’ the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.”
Adapted from Psalm 118: 24*

In peace
Billie+

✝ Josie's Journal

Abide

This word appears in the gospel readings for the next two Sundays. Just what does it mean? The dictionary defines “abide” as living up to a promise. At St. Alban’s we are living up to our promise to pray for each other, worship together weekly and give to those in need.

St. Alban’s outreach in April and May is ***Nets for Life***. This program is designed to send mosquito nets to Africa to combat the death rate of 3,000 children per day who die from malaria. To date we have collected \$800.00. Way to Go!!!! The Episcopal Relief and Development will match donations dollar for dollar through the month of May. It is not too late to contribute. Checks may be made payable to St. Alban’s with “NETS” on the note line. Cash is also okay. Nets are \$12.00, but any amount can be donated. I will report the final total at the end of May.

Each week following Sunday service I recycle the bulletin inserts and deliver them to the Warren County Jail. I recycle old *Forward Day by Day* booklets, put a St. Alban’s label on them and leave them in waiting rooms when I have appointments that require a wait time.

Let me tell you about my diaconate work for May:

- April 30-May 2: I will be at Gray Center for a workshop on preaching provided by the Episcopal Preaching Foundation.
- April 30: Visit to school of child I am guardian *ad litem*
- May 5-6: Gray Center Cursillo
- May 10-12: Deacon’s Retreat at Gray Center
- May 15: Visit school for children I am guardian *ad litem*
- May 16: Court—Guardian *ad litem*
- May 18-19: Gray Center for the Bishop’s Annual Stewardship Summit
- May 22: Prepare for court on May 31
- May 31: Court—Guardian *ad litem*

I will keep you informed of my activities so that you can continue all your wonderful, much needed and appreciated prayers. I will give you an update on the conferences in next month’s Albanac. Until then.

In Peace,

Josie

May Events

Thursday, May 3 – Sunday, May 6

Cursillo

Ann Tompkins, sponsored by Betsy Selby, Barbara King, sponsored by Deacon Josie and Theo Williams, The Rev. Billie Abraham, spiritual director.

Friday, May 11

Quiet Day with the Bishop

Gray Conference Center, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Sunday, May 13

Mother's Day Luncheon

The Mother's Day Luncheon will be served after the 11:00 AM Eucharist in the parish hall. Sign-up now for our Annual Mother's Day Luncheon prepared by Harvey Smith, Tommy and Frank Skinner. Look for the Hot Pink Sign-Up Sheet in the parish hall or contact Harvey Smith, hws1@att.net or 601-331-0373.

Tuesday, May 15

Habit House Planning Meeting

All Saint's Rectory, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18 – Saturday, May 19

Bishop's Annual Stewardship Summit

Gray Conference Center

Sunday, May 20

11:00 a.m. – Graduation Honoree Sunday at 11 a.m. Eucharist

12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. – Sip & See, Keith, Jill and baby Douglas, at Rectory

4:00 p.m. Second Sunday at St. Mary's Bolton

Monday, May 21

Vestry Meeting

Saturday, May 26

Bishop's BBQ

Gray Conference Center

May Birthdays

2 Scott Burr	17 Carey D. Price
Robin Toups	18 Lillie Lovette
4 Christopher Price	John Tompkins
5 Tanner Kitchens	19 Dan Carleton
9 Lindsay Bailey	22 Billie Abraham
10 Grant Toups	24 Dalton Glatt
16 Matthew Guynes	27 Ben Porter

May Anniversaries

22 Buddy & Jane Hanks	29 Richard & Susan Price
29 Newell & Mary Margaret Brabston	

Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

Cathy Ingram	Bobbie Jean Abraham	Betty Pace
Debbie Fowler	Jay	Mary Kavanaugh
Joe Bonelli	John Williams	Lauren Stamm
Frances Marble	Jessie Ross	Ethel Kendrick
Johnny Bottom	Jan & Bobby Robinson	Mary Pipes
Jean Roberts	Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford
Layla Gray	Harold Lee	Michael Morrissey
Sharon Cloud	Matthew Jordon	Ailene Graves
James Rumfelt	Jim Dantin	Walker Biedenharn
Joe Gerache	Becky Clanton	George Hammack
Ann Ammons	Edell Mixon	Bill Mobley
The Gerache Family	Bill Brunson	Buz Pickens
Jewel Miller	Glen Miller	Ada Hubbard
Rusty Henderson	Missionaries in Mali Africa	Charles Floyd
Elizabeth Cliett	Tom Biedenharn	Scott
Tim Davis	Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz	
Betsy, Richard, Charles, Lawson, David & Anna Selby		

Departed: Charles Chiplin

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

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

Liturgical Schedule Sundays in May

	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27
	Fifth Sunday of Easter	Sixth Sunday of Easter	Seventh Sunday of Easter	Day of Pentecost Whitsunday
First Reading	Acts 8:26-40	Acts 10:44-48	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Acts 2:1-21
Psalm	Psalm 22:24-30	Psalm 98	Psalm 1	Psalm 104: 25-35,37
Second Reading	1 John 4:7-21	1 John 5:1-6	1 John 5:9-13	Romans 8:22-27
Gospel	John 15:1-8	John 15:9-17	John 17:6-19	John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
	Morning Prayer	Mother's Day Luncheon		Supply Priest: The Rev. Lynn Barker
Eucharistic Minister				
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	Richard Price	Tommy Skinner	Tommy Skinner
11:00 a.m.	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
Master of Ceremonies		Beth Guynes	Beth Guynes	Ann Tompkins
Acolytes				
Crucifer		Michael Rangel	Beth Guynes	Genevieve Walker
Torch Bearer		Josh Sullivan Shay Sullivan		
Gospel Bearer		Koury Collins		Kerri & Peter Williams
Holy Sprit Kite		Rachel Sullivan		Clarissa Walker
Lector		Ed Shelnut	Bertha Kolb	Theo Williams
Prayers of the People	Harvey Smith	Bobby Sullivan	Deacon Josie	Linda Walker
Oblation Bearers	Margie Scott Beth Guynes	David Pruitt Bonnie Pruitt	Jim Drake Becky Drake	Kerri & Peter Theo Williams
Ushers & Greeters	John Scott Ann Jones	Bobby Barlow Jim Drake	Jeff Artman Allen Leese	Bobby Barlow Charlie Brantley
Altar Guild	Susan Price Kerri Williams	Cassandra Price Margie Scott	Sherry Horan Sharon Hanks	Mary Ann Wright Lisa Langford
Eucharistic Minister		Ed Shelnut		
Coffee Host	Sherry Horan Margie Scott	Luncheon	Lisa Langofrd Ruth Green	Charlie Brantley Terry Brantley
Lay Worship Leader Wednesday Evening	Betsy Selby	Ann Tompkins	Richard Price	Tommy Skinner