



The Albanac

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

May 2016



St. Mary's Chapel at Laurel Hill Plantation

The Episcopal Church Women Visit Natchez



On Saturday, April 9th, the ECW, accompanied by church members and friends, enjoyed a springtime road trip to Natchez. After a scenic drive down Highway 61, the group visited several antebellum Episcopal churches—*St. Mary's Chapel* on Laurel Hill Plantation, located on Highway 61 south of Natchez, and *Christ Church* at Church Hill, a rural community north of Natchez. Afterwards, the group visited Stanton Hall, a Greek Revival mansion, where they dined at the popular *Carriage House Restaurant*.

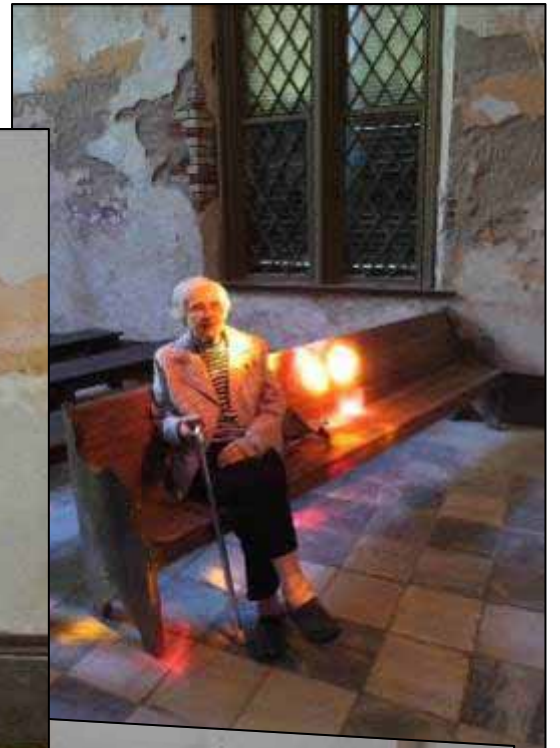
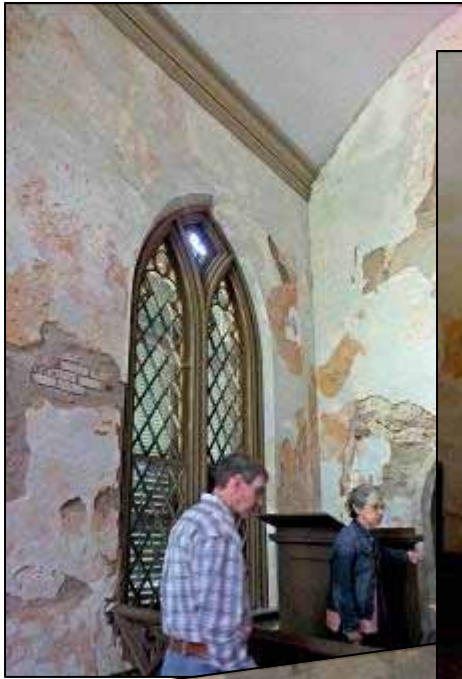
Enjoying the outing were: David and Bonnie Pruett, Cassandra Price, Eleanor Price, Susan Price, Judy Morrissey, Wanda Warren, “Butch” Mitchell, Beth Guynes, Anne Hatchett, Rev. Hugh Jones, Sharon Hanks, Mary Carleton, Harvey Smith, Tommy Skinner, and Frank Skinner.

Visiting St. Mary's Chapel at Laurel Hill Plantation

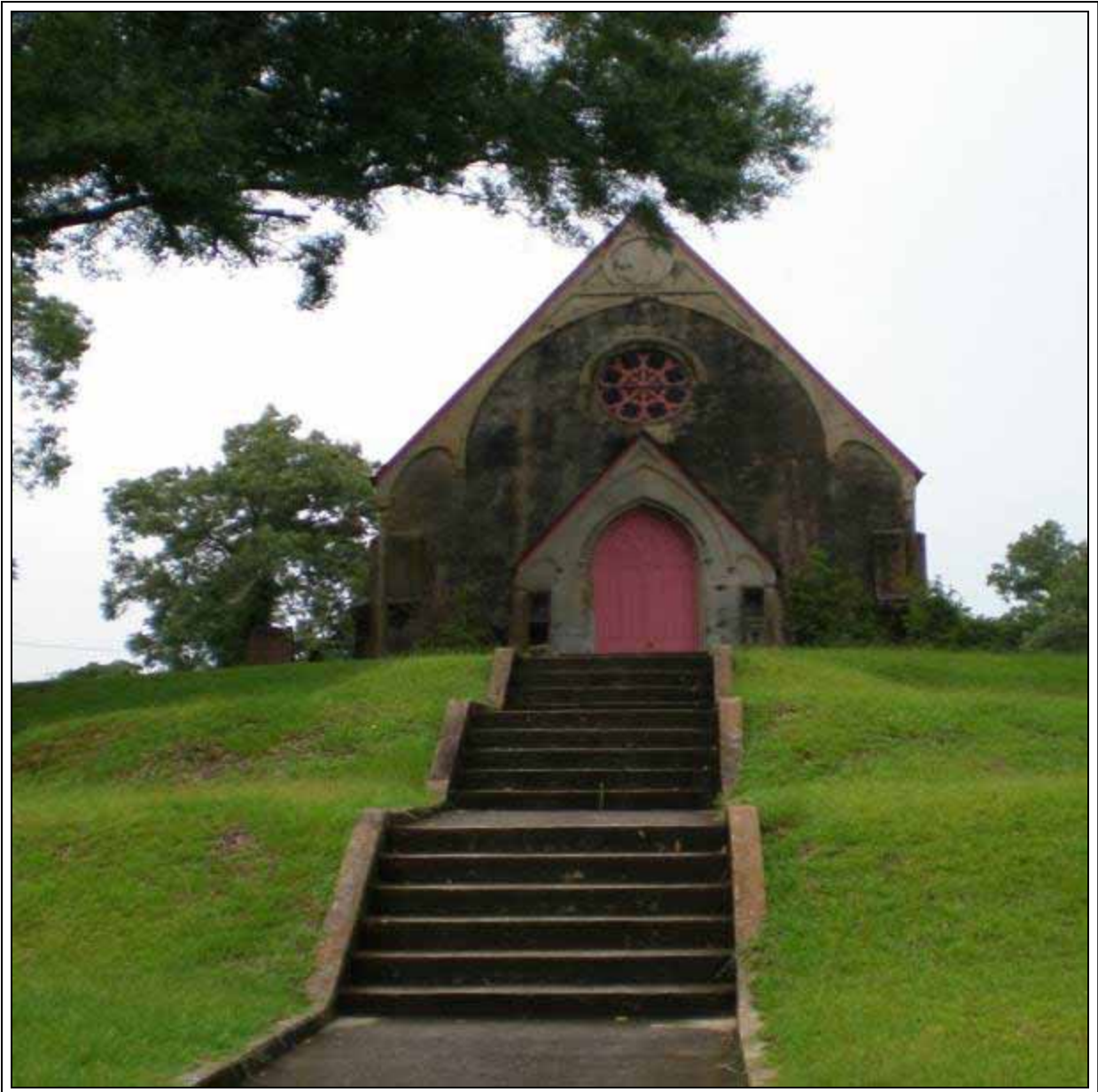
St. Mary's Chapel, a Gothic Revival architectural jewel, is one of the oldest churches in the diocese. It was built in 1839 by Dr. William Newton Mercer, owner of Laurel Hill Plantation, and used as a private chapel by family members. The miniature chapel was consecrated in 1839 by Rev. James Otey, a frontier Episcopal bishop serving Mississippi. Sadly, the chapel was only used for eleven years before becoming inactive. Tragic deaths in the family most likely contributed to the decline. The church has remained consecrated for the past 177 years.



Interior of St. Mary's Chapel



St. Mary's statues and memorials are still there and it stands, facing an all-devouring time, alone with its memories.



Christ Church: “Cradle of Episcopacy in Mississippi”

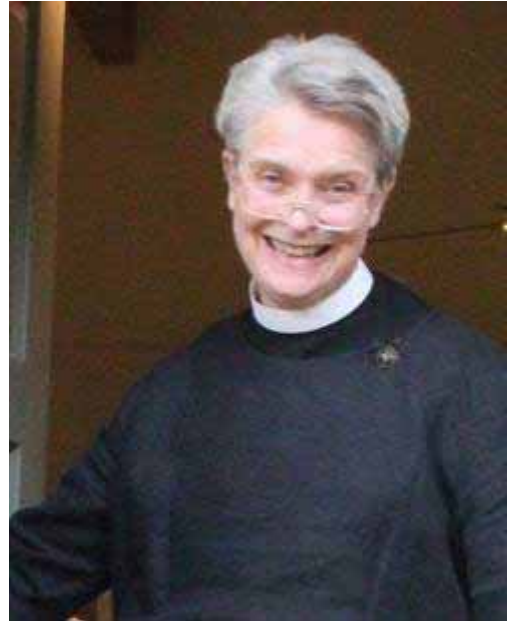
Christ Church, located north of Natchez, is recognized as the *Cradle of Episcopacy in Mississippi*. The first *Christ Church* was built circa 1820— thirty years before Rev. William Mercer Green was consecrated as the first bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi. Time erased the first and second churches but the current *Christ Church*, built 1857-1858, remains an exquisite example of Gothic Revival architecture.

Photography of St. Mary’s Church and Christ Church by Mary Carleton and Harvey Smith

Reverend Billie Leaves for Sabbatical

Sunday, April 17th, Rev. Billie delivered her final homily before embarking on a ten-week sabbatical that would take her to the rural monastery of *The Society of Saint John the Evangelist*, West Newbury, Massachusetts, and their urban monastery in Cambridge. After the retreat, her plans are to visit Deer Island, Maine—New York City—Grayton Beach, Florida, and finally back to her home near Enid Lake before returning to St. Albans on July 3rd.

During her final days in Bovina, Rev. Billie was excited and looking forward to the sabbatical—the first few weeks to be spent at the monasteries in Massachusetts followed by a visit to Deer Island, a picturesque tourist destination off the coast of Maine. She also plans to spend time with family—visiting her daughter and son-in-law in New York City before returning home for her grandson’s high school graduation. In May, she will meet with the family for their annual vacation on the sandy beaches of Florida before returning to her new cottage, *Gratitude*, located near the shores of Enid Lake.



During the April 17th Eucharist, the congregation recited Psalm 23—scripture that would become the backdrop for Rev. Billie’s morning homily, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul...” After serving as deacon of St. Alban’s Church since 2008, the time had finally come for Rev. Billie to rest—to *lie down in green pastures and restore her soul*—the time had come to slow down and enjoy *being* instead of *doing*.

Perhaps Mother Teresa said it best when she wrote of the need for quiet time and prayer in our lives: *We are called to withdraw at certain intervals into deeper silence and aloneness with God... to be alone with Him — not with our books, thoughts, and memories but completely stripped of everything... In silence, we will find new energy and true unity.*

*May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face, The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

†Billie's Corner

“Enough”

*Worry and stress are not hard for us, God,
we do them without thinking.*

*There is always the potential of threat to our security,
our comfort, our health,
our relationships, our lives,
and we foolishly think that we could silence
the fear if we just had enough money, enough insurance,
enough toys, enough stored away for a rainy day.*

It's never enough, though:

The voice of our fear will not be dismissed so easily.

But in the small, silent places within us is another voice:

one that beckons us into the foolishness of faith,

*That points our gaze to the birds and flowers,
that, in unguarded moments, lets our muscles relax,*

and our hearts lean into love ones;

in unexpected whispers we hear it,

calling us to remember your promises,

your grace, your faithfulness;

And suddenly, we discover

That it is enough.

Amen

By John Van De Laar

In Peace

Billie†

✠ Josie's Journal

Alleluia! Christ Is Risen The Lord Is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! Alleluia!

The joy of Easter is still with us; the lilies may be gone and the incense dispersed into thin air but the presence of Jesus remains. As we approach the Ascension of our Lord, we must remember His commandment given in John 13: 34— *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

Loving people can sometimes be difficult but that is what we are charged to do— love our family, friends, neighbors, enemies, straight people, gay people, white people, black people, honorable people, dishonorable people and the list goes on. Jesus loved everyone and if we want to be like Him then we must follow His commandments. I want to be like Jesus so I am trying to learn to love everyone without judging.

The Baptismal Covenant asks us *to respect the dignity of every human being* without adding qualifiers or detractors. I must learn to do the same. If I am to call myself *a follower of Jesus*, every person deserves to be loved and treated with dignity. Since my days on earth are numbered, then I want to be the best follower and believer that I can be. Jesus can answer any questions that I have because He knows what is in my heart. I remember a song that I sang as a child: *Search me Lord. You know when I'm right, You know when I'm wrong. You know where I go, You know where I belong. You know what I do, You know my little secrets, too. Search me, touch me, cleanse me through and through.* Those lyrics ring true today. I pray daily that Jesus will remove the things from my heart that prevent me from being *Wholly Thine*.

Ascension marks the time when Jesus leaves us and sends the Holy Spirit to be our Comforter. If we heed His commandments, we can be assured that one day we will be with Him in Paradise.

Christ Peace,
Josie+



St. Alban's Welcomes Reverend Hugh Jones



On Sunday April 24, Rev. Hugh Jones began a two-month ministry as supply priest during Reverend Billie's absence. An eager and appreciative congregation greeted him for his first sermon to the St. Alban's Community.

Rev. Jones felt quite at home at St. Alban's, Bovina, since the last church he served before retiring in 2008 was St. Alban's Church in Hixson, Tennessee. Ironically, their church newsletter was also named *The Albanac*. During the Eucharist, he was introduced to a sound different from that of any of the other churches he has served—a train blowing its horn while rumbling along the tracks only a few feet from St. Alban's.

During the sermon, Rev. Jones gave a brief sketch of his life and his ministry: "I was born in 1948 and grew up on the New Jersey side of metropolitan New York City. After moving south, I attended Sewanee for three semesters before transferring to and graduating from Millsaps College. I returned to Sewanee for seminary (1973-1976) and was ordained deacon that same year at the Cathedral in Jackson. Afterwards, I served as the Curate at St. John's Church, Laurel, Mississippi, for two

years and was ordained priest at the end of the first year. While in the Diocese of Mississippi, I served on the Executive Committee and directed camps at Bratton-Green. From 1978 until 1985, I served as Chaplain at Mississippi State while earning a doctorate in counseling.”

Rev. Jones retired in 2008 after a ministry that spanned over three decades. However, for seven years, he continued to serve as interim rector of various parishes. In 2014, he moved to Ridgeland and made his home at *The Breakers* on the Ross Barnett Reservoir.

Reverend Jones has three grown children: Ben, a biologist on the staff of the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga; Abram, a seminarian at the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin; and Mary who lives at Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas. All three are married—Abram and Mary and their spouses have one child each and Ben and his wife are expecting their first child in June.

The community of St. Alban’s welcomes Rev. Jones in our midst and looks forward to his spiritual guidance in the weeks to come.



United Thank Offering Spring In-gathering—May 8th

United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through the UTO, men, women, and children nurture the habit of giving daily thanks to God. These prayers of thanksgiving start when we recognize and name our many daily blessings. Those who participate in UTO discover that thankfulness leads to generosity.

United Thank Offering is entrusted to promote thank offerings, to receive the offerings, and to distribute the UTO monies to support mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and in invited Provinces of the Anglican Communion in the developing world.

May 8th is designated as the Spring In-gathering for the UTO. There are blue boxes for coins and UTO envelopes placed in the pews for your prayerful contribution.

Schedule of Events

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM
 Adult Sunday School, Parish House, 10:00 AM
 Choir Practice, Nave, 10:00 AM
 Children’s Chapel during 11:00 AM Eucharist

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM
 Centering Prayer Support Group, 8:30 AM
 Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, Noon
 Bible & More Discussion Group, Parish House, 6:00–8:00 PM

Wednesday, May 4—First Wednesday Quiet Day, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Come In, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Be Still, Leave in Peace.

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, Parish House, 7:00 AM

Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM—Centering Prayer, 9:30 AM—*Silence*—Noonday

Prayer—*Silence*—Evening Prayer, 4:00 PM—Centering Prayer, 4:30 PM—*Silence*

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 8—**Mother’s Day Reception in Parish House**

Sunday, May 15—*Pentecost Sunday*, **WEAR RED**

Children’s will serve at 11:00 AM Eucharist

Sunday, May 22—*Trinity Sunday*

Final Day for Adult Sunday School, Parish House, 10:00 AM

End of Year Waterslide Party for Children

No Children’s Chapel during Summer

Vestry Meeting at Rectory, 10:00 AM

Monday, May 30—Memorial Day

Sunday, June 12—Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop, Visitation & Celebration of

Holy Eucharist, Vicksburg Convention Center, 11:00 AM

No Eucharist or Morning Prayer at St. Alban’s on Sunday, June 12

May Birthdays

2 Scott Burr	18 John Tompkins
Robin Toups	19 Dan Carleton
4 Christopher Price	Amanda Rose Price
5 Tanner Kitchens	22 Billie Abraham
9 Lindsay Bailey	24 Dalton Glatt
10 Grant Toups	Gloria Hall
16 Matthew Guynes	27 Jim Dooley
17 Carey Price	Ben Porter

May Anniversaries

18 Carey & Amanda Price	29 Richard. & Susan Price
22 Buddy & Jane Hanks	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Ann Hanks	Glenda Ferguson	Mary Ruth Jones
Aryana T. Strawn (infant)	Glenda Thornton	Millie Gassaway
Barbara Ramsay	Hallie Jo Ragsdale	Norma Jones
Bertha Kolb	Jackson Monti	Parker Ramsay
Betty Biedenbarn	Jim & Sherry Horan	Rachelle Ferris
Bill & Liz Curtis	Jim Dantin	Rebecca Clark
Charlie Brantley & Family	Jimmy O'Neal	Rose Akers Kellum
Christine Frisbee	Larry Lambiotte	Ruth Green
Dale Gibson	Linda & Jim Dooley	The Selby Family
Dalton Glatt	Lucas Guynes	Trey Engelhart
Damion Hansford	Margie Scott	Walker Biedenbarn
	Dan & Mary Carleton	

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in May

	May 1 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	May 8 <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	May 15 <i>The Day of Pentecost: Whitsunday</i>	May 22 <i>Trinity Sunday First Sunday after Pentecost</i>	May 29 <i>Second Sunday after Pentecost</i>
First Reading	Acts 16:9-15	Acts 16:16-34	Acts 2:1-21	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	1 Kings 18:20-39
Psalm	Psalm 67	Psalm 97	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Psalm 8	Psalm 96
Second Reading	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	Romans 8:14-17	Romans 5:1-5	Galatians 1:1-12
Gospel	John 14:23-29	John 17:20-26 <i>Mother's Day</i>	John 14:8-17, 25-27	John 16:12-15	Luke 7:1-10
Lay Worship Leader					
8:30 a.m.	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner
11:00 a.m.	Richard Price	David Pruett	Herb Jones	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith
Master of Ceremonies	Susan Price	Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes	Betsy Selby	Jennifer Normand
Crucifer & Acolyte	Susan Price	Koury Collins Canada Stewart	Beth Guynes Heaven Leigh & Sunny Faith Peter Williams Mary Ellen Dunaway	Canada Stewart	Jennifer Normand
Holy Spirit Kite					
Banner Bearer					
Gospel Bearer	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie	Gabby Rushing	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie
Crucifer			Brantley Dunaway		
Torch Bearers			Sam Hall Lawson Selby		
Old Testament Lector					
8:30 a.m.	Penny Freund	Penny Freund	Gloria Hall	Penny Freund	Penny Freund
11:00 a.m.	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut		Ann Tompkins	Mary Ruth Jones
Epistle Lector			Peter Williams		
Prayers of the People	Rev. Josie	Bruce Carleton	Rev. Josie	Sharon Hanks	Rev. Josie
Oblation Bearers	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames	Herb Jones Mary Ruth Jones	Sam Hall Lawson Selby	Rymn Parsons Joan Parsons	Charlie Brantley & Chatty Dunaway
Ushers & Greeters	Allan Leese Peter Meyers	Lance Stewart Leigh Divine	Jonah & Josh Artman	Lance Stewart Leigh Divine	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames
Lord's Prayer			Heaven Leigh Sunny Faith David Pruett		
Eucharistic Minister	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut		Theo Williams	Herb Jones
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Beth Guynes	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing
Coffee Host	Butch Mitchell Bonnie Pruett Betty Rushing	<i>Mother's Day Reception Hosted by Vestry</i>	Pentecost Potluck Pick-ups - Everyone	Herb & Mary Ruth Rymn & Joan	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames
Children's Chapel	Betsy Selby Betty Rushing	Betsy Selby Betty Rushing	<i>Children's Eucharist</i>	<i>Waterslide Party</i>	<i>No Children's Chapel Summer Vacation</i>
Offertory Counters	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Herb Jones	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Janice Herrington	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Theo Williams	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Jennifer Normand
Healing Service	May 4 Ann Tompkins	May 11 Tommy Skinner	May 18 Theo Williams	May 25 Tommy Skinner	