



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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www.stalbansbovina.org

February 2023



Photograph courtesy of Logan Peay

Feast of the Epiphany
The Burning of the Greens

Celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany

The Light of Jesus Shines in the Darkness



On Friday night, January 6, St. Alban's hosted a multi-church gathering to celebrate the *Feast of the Epiphany*. Joining in the celebration were members of three Episcopal churches in Vicksburg—Holy Trinity, Christ Church and St. Mary's Church. The celebrations began with an *Epiphany Eucharist* followed by a *Chili Potluck Dinner* in the Parish House and ending on the church grounds with a *Christmas greenery bonfire*—traditionally known as the *Burning of the Greens*. The centuries-old tradition is symbolic of *Christ being the Light of the World*.



The Baptism of James Andrew Rushing

January 8, 2023

You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever



Reverend Elisabeth with Jordan & Genevieve holding newly baptized son





Holy Baptism of James Andrew surrounded by family



Linda Walker, proud grandmother, holding baby James



The Rushing and Walker families rejoice in the afterglow of James' baptism



Church Members Gather for Annual Parish Meeting

On Sunday, January 22, members of St. Alban's Church gathered in the nave for the 2023 parish meeting. Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs provided each member with a wonderful hand-out of the meeting agenda that contained detailed reports from the rector, the junior & senior wardens and numerous committees.

The meeting was conducted by Rev. Elisabeth, presiding officer, and assisted by Sharon Hanks, vestry clerk. One of the most important items of the meeting was the election of three new vestry members. Of the election, Rev. Elisabeth commented, "We thanked outgoing Junior Warden David May and outgoing vestry member Herb Jones. We elected Jeff Artman as the new Junior Warden. We elected Harvey Smith to the open 3-year vestry seat, and Betty Rushing to fill the 2-year remaining term of Jeff Artman's seat. Thank you to our newly elected vestry members for their willingness to serve the church!"

During the meeting, Rev. Elisabeth presented David May with a bag of gifts and thanked him for the years he served as junior warden. Those attending the Parish meeting enjoyed a cup of coffee and a slice of King Cake.





Newly elected officers—Jeff Artman, junior warden, and Betty Rushing & Harvey Smith, vestry



David May outgoing junior warden receives a token of appreciation



Sharon Hanks, clerk, and Rev. Elisabeth, rector, preside over the annual meeting

196th Annual Council of The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi Natchez Convention Center, January 27-29, 2023

Over the weekend of January 27-29, Episcopal Churches statewide gathered at the Natchez Convention Center for the 196th Annual council hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez. The delegates representing St. Alban's Church were: Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, Sharon Hanks, Clarissa Horning, Dawn Rickard, and Janice Herrington (alternate).

Harvey Smith, Tommy Skinner, and Sharon Hanks also served during Council on the Diocesan Altar Guild, preparing for all the worship services. Clarissa Horner sang in the Diocesan Choir for the closing Eucharist. Rev. Elisabeth chaired the Committee on the Bishop's Address, which provided a response to the Bishop's address on Saturday afternoon.

If you interested in serving as a delegate for the next Annual Council, please let Rev. Elisabeth know by February 15, as we will be appointing next year's delegation at our February Vestry meeting.



St. Alban's delegates—Tommy Skinner, Sharon Hanks, Janice Herrington (alternate) & Dawn Richard.
(Not pictured—Rev. Elisabeth, Harvey Smith & Clarissa Horner)



Rev. Elisabeth and members of the Altar Guild with the beautiful altar backdrop



Altar Guild members, Tommy Skinner, Sharon Hanks & Harvey Smith prepare the altar for the closing Holy Eucharist



Janice Herrington & Clarissa Horner enjoying social hour

New Basketball Goal at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter*

Toward the end of the year, we had a request for a new basketball goal at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter*. The previous goal was donated by St. Alban's and had gotten A LOT of use. This time, we ordered an even sturdier goal, but it required several steps for installation. That's where Josh and Jeff Artman came to the rescue! Big thanks to the Artmans, and some residents of *Lifting Lives*, including Boy Scout Quincy, for setting the goal in concrete and attaching the backboard and basket. Basketball has returned better than ever to *Lifting Lives*!



Looking Ahead: Ash Wednesday & Lent

Our season of preparation for Easter, Lent, begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on February 22. This season is a time for fasting, prayer, and service as we seek to ready our hearts for the joy of Easter. Please consider joining in some of the following events:

- **Pancake Breakfast, Sunday, February 19:** The Sunday before Lent starts, join us between services for a pancake breakfast—one more feast before the fast! Contact Amanda Harris if you want to help.
- **Ash Wednesday, February 22:** Rev. Elisabeth will be presiding at two Ash Wednesday services. Our St. Alban's service will be at 6:00 PM. However, if it is easier for you to come to a daytime service in town, Elisabeth will be at Holy Trinity (900 South St. Vicksburg) at 12:00 noon.
- **Lenten Quiet Morning at St. Columb's, Saturday, February 25:** Rev. Elisabeth will be leading a Lenten Quiet Morning at St. Columb's (550 Sunnybrook Rd, Ridgeland) organized by the Daughters of the King. The focus of the retreat is "Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength and Mind," and we'll be using the *Living Compass Lenten* devotional, which is available at the church. St. Alban's members, both women and men, are welcome to join—watch the weekly email for info about registering!
- **Lenten Retreat at St. Andrew's Cathedral, February 24-25:** "Spiritual Formation Furthering the Beloved Community" featuring the Rev. Ed Bacon is being offered Friday evening (6:30-9:00 PM) and Saturday morning (9:00-11:30 AM) at the St. Andrew's Cathedral (305 E. Capitol St., Jackson). Register through the Diocesan website (dioms.org).
- **Lenten Series:** More info will be coming about this year's Lenten series—for now, just mark your calendars for Wednesday evenings in March, when we will gather for dinner, discussion & worship.

In Memory

John Mahlon Tompkins

May 18, 1941 — December 28, 2022



*I am resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.
Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die.*

John 11:25

The New Year 2023



A Prayer for a New Beginning

Here we are a month into a sparkling, shiny new year. Prayers are sent up to the Lord for peace, brotherhood, and love for one another. If the goodwill we have for each other at St. Alban's could be spread throughout the rest of the world, what a peaceful, wonderful world this would be.

Many people make resolutions for the New Year, often for personal goals such as losing weight, saving money for a vacation or a new home, getting along better with family, and various other things. As for my New Year's resolutions, I pray that God will show me the path in life to follow—I pray that I will not cause pain or sorrow to anyone, either physically or emotionally—I pray I will not bring pain to any of God's creatures (last year, I accidentally ran over a turtle)—I pray that God will guide me in ways that I can work to help improve the quality of the lives of animal, both large and small.

More than these things, I pray I will learn to listen for the *Spirit of God* whispering in the wind to me and guiding me along the way. I want to be assured that the paths I choose are the right ones. In past years, God has always guided me, although at times my humanity deafened me to His words. So, I pray now in this moment that my path will always be aligned to His will and that my intentions will always be only those of love. My hope is to show *The Light of the World is Jesus* to everyone I meet and, to be a channel through which the *Word of God* is shared.

Lastly, I will continually ask forgiveness for the many mistakes I have made, especially for any hurt I might have caused to my loved ones and others in the past. My prayer, dear Lord, is to walk beside you for the remainder of my life on earth. *Amen.*

Dawn Rickard

Elisabeth's Epistle

Preparing for Lent

I've had compassion on my mind. I was invited by the Daughters of the King at St. Columb's Episcopal Church in Ridgeland to facilitate a Lenten Quiet Morning on Saturday, Feb. 25 on the theme of compassion. All St. Alban's members and friends are welcome to attend, and I'll have more details soon. The topic of the quiet morning—practicing compassion—has already captured my heart, and I hope it will inspire us this Lent. The theme comes from a Lenten devotional published by Living Compass, which will be available at the church. In this devotional, the writers define compassion as being moved by the suffering of others to respond in a way that alleviates suffering. In other words, compassion is more than just a feeling; it is also a response, and hopefully, action.

But as we all know, there are times when it is difficult to cultivate compassion. Especially during the pandemic, the idea of “compassion fatigue” as it related to our health care workers and first responders entered the popular consciousness. We have all probably had times when we felt depleted, unable to respond with compassion to the suffering we see around us. This Lent, we are invited to reflect on compassion—what it is, where it comes from, and how we can develop our capacity for compassion.

As I've been meditating on this theme, I've been picturing compassion as a reservoir. We don't fill our reservoirs of compassion ourselves; rather, they are filled from a source—from The Source of all love and compassion. Our Source, our living God, is pure compassion, revealed most clearly for us in the life and death of Jesus Christ. Depending on the level of your reservoir, one of your tasks this Lent might be to strengthen your connection to this Source, through intentional prayer practices and time set aside to be with God and to experience God's compassion.

But what feeds the reservoir is only one part of our compassion “system.” Reservoirs also have dams and spillways for regulating the flow of the water out of the reservoir. When the water level gets too low, the spillway is closed to give the reservoir a chance to refill. I think of spillways as the “rule of life” that guides us in setting healthy boundaries so that we don't give more of ourselves than is sustainable. This might include practices like Sabbath, limits on technology use, and attending to our health and wellness. Lent might be a time to look at our spillway—if we're being depleted too quickly, what might need to change in the structure of our days and weeks?

Finally, reservoirs have a purpose. Our largest area reservoir, “the Rez,” isn't just a recreational area; it supplies drinking water to the Jackson metro area. It meets critical needs and relieves human suffering. We are like that, too. Jesus gave us a new commandment: love one another as he has loved us. We were created to show compassion, created to be moved by the suffering of others and respond. If your reservoir is full, and your spillway is in good shape, maybe your task this Lent is to clarify your purpose. Where are you being called to act with compassion in the world right now? Who or what is moving you to respond to relieve suffering? I look forward to a Lent in which we intentionally work to increase our capacity to respond to the world with compassion.

February Birthdays

1 Charlie Brantley	19 Linda Kitchens
5 Sharon Hanks	20 Christine Nelson
6 Lucas Guynes	21 David Selby
11 Bonnie Pruett	22 Jane Hanks
14 Beth Guynes	25 Walker Biedenharn
Charles Langford	27 Barbara Torrey
18 Janice Herrington	

February Anniversaries

11 Josh & Maggie McCarthy

Prayers of the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Allan & Joan	Fritz	Maurice & Family
Ann & Jimmy	Irv	Mike
Becky	Jackie	Nick, Lacey & Family
Becky Jo	Jackson	Nita
Biedenharn/Selby Family	Joe & Katharine	Norma
Bill & Karen	Joel & Colby	Pete & Family
Charlene	Jonathan & Family	Ruth
Charlie & Family	Kay	Steve
Dalton	Libby	Suzanne
David	Lucas	Tallmadge
Freda	Mark	Wayne
	Martha	

For the Departed: Roger Fillebaum, Beverly Wall, Matteal Sanders & Michael Lloyd

Server Schedule

Date	Time	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	POP	A/V System
Sunday							
2/5/2023	8:30 AM	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Richard Price	Buck Cooper	Betty Rushing	Penny Freund	Dawn Richard	Jim Drake
Wednesday							
2/4/2023	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner					
Sunday							
2/12/2023	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Sharon Cummins	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Dawn Richard	Penny Freund	Kristi Hall	Barney Gavin	Sharon Hanks	Sam Hall
Wednesday							
2/11/2023	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith					
Sunday							
2/19/2023	8:30 AM	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	Judy Gavin	Lance Stewart	Lance Stewart	Jim Drake
Wednesday							
2/18/2023	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner					
Sunday							
2/26/2023	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Clarissa Horner	Dawn Richard	Nancy Hester	Ed Shelnut	Buck Cooper	Buck Cooper



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 Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake, Carolyn Gent, Harvey Smith
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