



# The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi  
[www.stalbansbovina.org](http://www.stalbansbovina.org)

January 2023



*St. Nicholas Visits St. Alban's Church*

## Christmastime at St. Alban's

### Saint Nicholas Delights Children & Adults!

To the delight of the children, Will Horner portrayed the role of Saint Nicholas. Nicholas was born in the 4<sup>th</sup> century in the village of Patara located on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. His parents were wealthy and devout Christians but died from an epidemic when Nicholas was very young. Remembering the words of Jesus to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor,” Nicholas used his entire inheritance to help the sick, the sailors, the children and others who were suffering. His gifts were mostly given in secret since he had no desire to be recognized for his generosity.

As the Bishop of Myra, Nicholas lived his life in faithful service to God—a defender of the Christian faith. After his death on December 6, 343 AD, he was buried in the Cathedral Church of Myra and elevated to sainthood in 1446. With the passage of time, the giving spirit of St. Nicholas' life fashioned the fictitious and beloved character we now know as *Santa Claus*, *Father Christmas*, and *Père Noël*.





“The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic his giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of ourselves”  
Nicholas Bishop of Myra

## Margie Scott Reminisces Christmastime at St. Alban's

Margie was born in Bovina in 1929 and, at the age of five, her parents enrolled her and her siblings in Sunday School at St. Alban's Church. Even today, descendants of the Ahner family remains active members of St. Alban's. In 2012, when *"Lift High the Cross – The History of St. Alban's Church"* was published, one of the chapters reminisced Margie and her family's role in the church during the 1940s and 1950s. Margie's memories of 'times gone by' are precious as are her varied memories of Christmastime at St. Alban's Church.

"Christmas was always so special throughout my life at St. Alban's. Each year Santa would visit and bring us apples and oranges. This was quite a treat since stores didn't always have fresh fruit, but they did at Christmastime. Through the years, the Christmas traditions continued with beautiful services and music. Dr. Charles Kolb, Bertha's



husband, a devout Roman Catholic, always made time for St. Alban's choir. At Christmas, he attended the midnight service and would sing a solo in the choir's cantata.

"The Christmas tree for the Sunday School party was always a native cedar and was cut down by a member of the church. My husband, John, always knew someone who needed a cedar tree removed from their cow pastures.

"Santa always visited the kids at the church Christmas party giving out candy, apples, and oranges. The annual Christmas party was held the Sunday evening before Christmas and everyone would bring trays of sandwiches and sweets. The *Children's Christmas Pageant* took place prior to the party. The older children played the roles of the shepherds and wise men. The younger children were angels.

"Following the pageant everyone sang Christmas carols then, to the delight of the children, Santa would make an appearance to hand out gifts from beneath the tree. For many years Charles Kolb, Billy Kitchens and Jim Price played the role of Santa. Santa gave each child a bag of hard candy, an apple and an orange.

"By Christmas Day, everyone was prepared in their hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to hear the story of Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

ECW Annual Christmas Luncheon  
Saturday, December 3



Susan Price, ECW president

Children Light Advent Candles



Alison, November 27th



Mason, December 4th



Fore, December 11th



Briggs & Taylor, December 18th

Children Build Gingerbread Houses







## Living Nativity

On Sunday night, December 18, St. Alban's presented a drive-through Living Nativity. The children were excited about their roles portraying animals while the adults held the roles of Mary & Joseph and the Three Wise Men. For many decades, the Living Nativity has been an 'off and on' drive-through presentation. This year the weather was extremely cold so those who participated in the 'still setting' should be commended for their endurance.



Gifts for Lifting Lives Family Shelter



Church members donated clothes and toys for the children at *Lifting Lives*



Greening of the Church



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## Annual Meeting & Vestry Nominations

The Vestry has set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting for Sunday, January 22, 2023, following one service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM. This year the Vestry encourages everyone to attend the meeting in person, as it requires an extra level of preparation and support to run both an in person and an online meeting. If you have special circumstances that prevent you from attending in person, please let Elisabeth know by Sunday, Jan. 15, and we will make accommodations for you. Accommodations will only be available for those who have notified the church in advance of the meeting.

To be eligible to vote in the Annual Meeting, you must be at least 16 years old and a baptized communicant of St. Alban's, which means that your membership is recorded in our parish register and you faithfully participate in the life of the church. If you have any questions about church membership, please contact Elisabeth.

At the Annual Meeting, we will be electing a new Junior Warden (for a 2-year term) and a new member of the Vestry (for a 3-year term). The Vestry Nominating Committee has nominated Jeff Artman to stand for election as the new Junior Warden. The Vestry Nominating Committee has nominated Harvey Smith for election as a member of the Vestry. If Jeff is elected, we will also be filling the remainder of his 2-year term as a member of the Vestry, and the Nominating Committee is still seeking nominations for that position. To nominate yourself or someone else, or for information about qualifications to serve on the Vestry, please contact Senior Warden Penny Freund.

## Annual Council

Annual Council, which is the annual meeting of the Diocese of Mississippi, is being hosted by Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez in celebration of their 200th anniversary over the weekend of January 27-29, 2023. Council will be held at the Natchez Convention Center, in the heart of downtown Natchez. The closing Eucharist on Sunday morning will be held at the Natchez Convention Center at 10:00 AM. St. Alban's, as a parish of the Diocese, sends clergy and three lay delegates to Council. Attending this year as representatives of St. Alban's are Sharon Hanks, Clarissa Horner, and Dawn Rickard. Other members of St. Alban's are welcome and encouraged to attend Council. To attend on Friday and Saturday, you must register as a visitor (<https://annualcouncil.dioms.org>). You do not need to register to attend the closing Eucharist on Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. Please consider driving down to Natchez to experience the joy and fellowship of the Episcopal church from across the state! On Jan. 29 at St. Alban's, we will have one service of Morning Prayer at 10:00 AM.

## Elisabeth's Epistle

Did you know there are four Episcopal churches in Warren County? We are home to some of the oldest Episcopal churches in the Diocese of Mississippi, which spread outward from the Natchez area. Christ Church, Vicksburg, was organized in 1835, with St. Alban's following, and Holy Trinity and St. Mary's after that, all established in the 19th century.

Each of our churches has its own unique history. But as we look to the future, I believe that preserving and extending the legacy of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus movement in our corner of the world will increasingly mean working together. In 2022, we continued taking steps toward working together with our sister Episcopal churches in Warren County. We participated in a joint Vacation Bible School for children. We planned a collaborative Tenebrae service during Holy Week that unfortunately was canceled due to a tornado watch. St. Alban's hosted the other churches for a Pentecost cookout and bonfire as we celebrated the birthday of the church.

We are starting out 2023 with another joint venture that we hope is a sign of our commitment to continue to work, play, and pray together. On the Feast of the Epiphany, Friday January 6, we have invited the other Episcopal churches out to St. Alban's for a service, a potluck dinner, and a bonfire. What better way to wrap up the Christmas season and usher in our season of light and evangelism than by bringing our Episcopal family together?

I hope you will come join us on Friday the 6th, starting at 5:30 PM with Eucharist. If you can, please bring some chili to share. I look forward to strengthening the relationships that will strengthen our churches for the future.

*Merry Christmas to All and  
to All a Good Night*



**“Salome” the Church Cat**

Photograph by Andrew Cooper

## January Birthdays

1 Lonnie Carlton	18 Virginia Rue Selby
3 Lynda Hubbard	19 Kenon Ruska
4 Richard Selby	26 Anna Selby
8 Mary Carleton	27 Betsy Selby
17 Sergio Panelo	29 Susan Price

## Prayers of the People

### *For those Sick or in Need:*

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

*For the Departed:* Ann Sweeny, Meryem Sayilgan, and Georgia Turnage

Server Schedule

Date	Time	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	POP	A/V System	
<b>Sunday</b>				<b>One Service</b>				
1/1/2023	10:00 AM	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Betty Rushing	Dawn Richard	Buck Cooper	Buck Cooper	
<b>Wednesday</b>								
1/4/2023	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner						
<b>Sunday</b>								
1/8/2023	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Jim Price				
	11:00 AM	Dawn Richard	Ed Shelnut	The Artmans	Ed Shelnut	Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith	
<b>Wednesday</b>								
1/11/2023	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith						
<b>Sunday</b>								
1/15/2023	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Sharon Cummins	Jim Price				
	11:00 AM	Betsy Selby	Penny Freund	Dawn Rickard	Barney Gavin	Dawn Richard	Jim Drake	
<b>Wednesday</b>								
1/18/2023	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner						
<b>Sunday</b>								
1/22/2023	10:00 AM	Harvey Smith	<b>One Service - Annual Meeting</b>					
			Tommy Skinner	Judy Gavin	Penny Freund	Sharon Hanks	Sam Hall	
				Jim Price				
<b>Wednesday</b>								
1/25/2023	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner						
<b>Sunday</b>								
1/29/2023	10:00 AM	Ann Tompkins	<b>One Service</b>					



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:  
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