



# The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
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**March 2024**



*Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells*  
Elected 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi

## A Holy Spirit Moment



**THE MISSISSIPPI  
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**A  
Holy Spirit  
moment**

The 197th Annual Council elects  
The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells  
the eleventh Bishop of Mississippi

## The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells

*Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a bishop for this Diocese, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and quip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen*



On February 3, history was in the making when Rev. Dr. Dorothy Wells was elected the 11<sup>th</sup> bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. The election took place during the 197<sup>th</sup> Annual Council held at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Madison. After the election the news spread far and wide, including the *USA Today*.



After the third ballot of voting, it was announced that Wells had been elected the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi. Everyone was ecstatic! She addressed the Council remotely via Zoom : *“Diocese of Mississippi: I am so humbled by the confidence that you have placed in me, and I am looking forward to being with you all – to growing in relationship with you all, to serving alongside you and to walking alongside you in this tremendous journey with God. We are called to be lovers of one another and of our God, and together there is virtually nothing that we cannot accomplish”*.

Bishop Brian Seage commented on the outcome of the election: *“This is a historic moment and this marks a new chapter in our history. It’s the first time we have elected a woman and the first time we have elected an African American as the bishop of the diocese. I think this speaks dramatically for this movement within our church.”*

Originally from Mobile, Alabama, Wells graduated from *Rhodes College* in Memphis with a bachelor’s degree in vocal performance. She continued her education by receiving a law degree from the *Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law* in Memphis. She practiced law for 18 years, first as a member of a local law firm and later as a corporate attorney for FedEx. Seeking to attain more *“self-satisfaction”* she enrolled in the *Memphis Theological Seminary* where she earned a Master of Divinity and later a Doctor of Divinity from *Emory University, Candler School of Theology* in Atlanta.

Rev. Wells credits much of her success in life to her early years at Rhodes College when her professors challenged her to *“Grow and become your best self.”*

During her career, she has served on the Alumni Association Executive Board of Rhodes College and the Board of Directors of the Margaret Hyde Council of Rhodes College. She has also been the recipient of many awards including the Black Student Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award in 2011 and the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Service Award at Rhodes’ Commencement in 2015. In 2014 she answered a call to become rector at St. George’s Episcopal Church in Germantown, Tennessee.

Along with her husband Herbert and their two children, Rev. Wells will soon be moving to Mississippi to settle in a new home and prepare for the Ordination Service to be held at St. Andrews Episcopal School on July 20<sup>th</sup>.



## Annual Council, February 2024

Those present at the 197th Annual Council of the Diocese of Mississippi on Saturday, February 3rd had a front row seat to history being made! St. Alban's sent a robust delegation to Council, consisting of Rev. Elisabeth, delegates Janice Herrington, Harvey Smith and Ann Tompkins, and alternate delegates Carolyn Gent Burton, Sharon Hanks, and Tommy Skinner. In addition, Susan and Richard Price, Buck Cooper, and Old River Convocation Youth Delegate, Henry Cooper were also present.

The major task before us on Saturday was the election of the 11th bishop of Mississippi from a slate of five well-qualified candidates. The morning started off a little slow, with our first vote for bishop being invalidated due to improper registration of voting devices. However, after we reconvened from lunch, we quickly got back to balloting. From that first valid ballot, it was clear that Bishop-elect Dorothy Sanders Wells had leads in both the clergy and lay orders. By the second valid ballot, she had won a majority of the clergy vote, but it took one more ballot for her to win both orders. Around 3:00 PM, we had the official announcement of the election of the 11th Bishop of Mississippi.



*St. Alban's delegation: front L-R— Janice Herrington, Rev. Elisabeth, Susan Price, Ann Tompkins & Sharon Hanks. Back row—Carolyn Gent Burton, Harvey Smith, Richard Price & Tommy Skinner.*

Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells joined us by video to express her thanks and eagerness to start our ministry together. Rev. Sanders Wells made history as the first woman and first African American person to be elected bishop of Mississippi. It was an amazing, Spirit-filled moment!

St. Alban's members continue to be actively engaged in the life of the Diocese. Richard Price was elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Diocese. Buck Cooper was elected president of the Standing Committee. Rev. Elisabeth chaired the Bishop's Address Committee and delivered the response to Bishop Seage's address to Council. Harvey Smith, Tommy Skinner, Sharon Hanks, and Ann Tompkins all served on the Diocesan Altar Guild preparing for worship during Council.

Please mark your calendars for July 20, when Bishop-Elect Dorothy Sanders Wells is scheduled to be consecrated at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland!



*The results of the third ballot electing Rev. Dorothy Sanders to be the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop for the Diocese of Mississippi.*





*It was a big weekend for the Diocese and St. Alban's. Congratulations to Richard Price for being elected to the Executive Committee and Buck Cooper as president of the Standing Committee!*



*Congratulations to Carolyn Gent Burton, St. Alban's newest lay worship leader*





*St. Alban's delegates prepare for the election of a new bishop*



*"Go forth for God, go to the world in peace"*



*Henry Cooper, Old River Convocation Youth Delegate, showing the electronic remote used for voting*





*The Diocesan Altar Guild sets the stage for Annual Council: Mary Jackson, Judy Ketchins, Susan Smith, Sharon Hanks, Ann Tompkins, Ann Milstead and Tommy Skinner.*



*Altar Guild members repairing for communion*





*Carolyn Gent Burton with daughter, Taylor, enjoying Annual Council and the historic election of Rev. Dr. Dorothy Wells as the 11<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi*

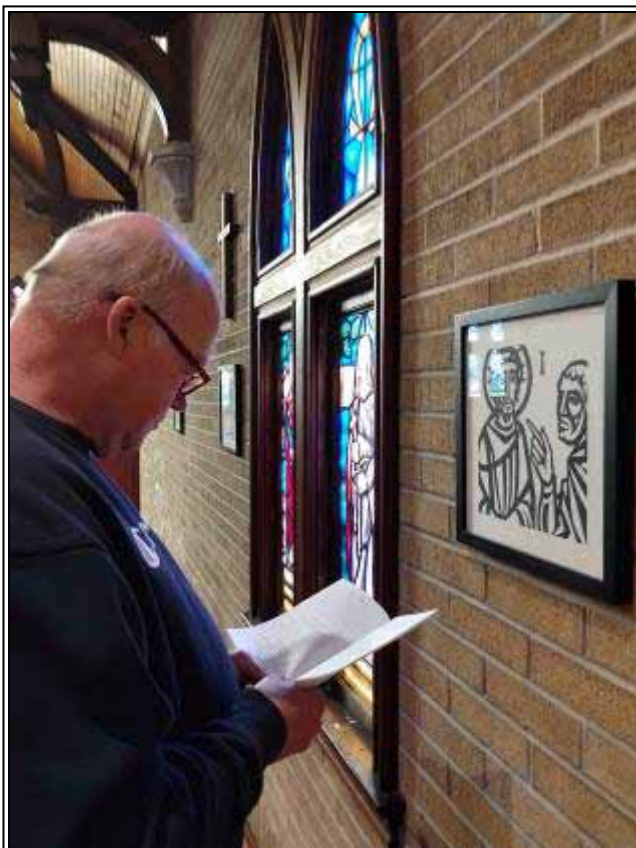


## Lenten Mini-Retreat

On Saturday, February 17, around 24 people gathered at the church for a mini-retreat on the first weekend of Lent. Led by Rev. Elisabeth, Carolyn Gent Burton, and Penny Freund, with help from Canada Stewart and Betsy Selby, the retreat was focused on exploring various ways to pray. Participants could choose indoor or outdoor activities based on their preferences. Outside, there was a self-guided walking meditation in the graveyard, as well as a self-guided Stations of the Cross in nature. Inside the nave were a variety of silent prayer practices to explore, including *lectio divina* (praying with Scripture), centering prayer, and another Stations of the Cross. In the Parish Hall, the labyrinth was set up as well as a prayer station featuring Mary, Untier of Knots. Penny Freund led sessions in mindful art in the large classroom, and Carolyn Gent Burton led sessions on making Anglican Prayer Beads. Finally, Rev. Elisabeth was available for individual prayer. We concluded the retreat with prayer and lunch together. Many thanks to all those who facilitated and participated in this event!



*Making Anglican Prayer Beads*



*Stations of the Cross*



*Centering Prayer*



*Walking the Labyrinth*



## Elisabeth's Epistle

Easter is early this year! Hopefully you have noticed that we celebrate Easter on March 31. But remember to also mark your calendars for Holy Week, the week starting with Palm Sunday on March 24. Holy Week is the most sacred time in our church year, the time in which we enter into the Paschal mystery, that is, the mystery of our redemption in Christ's death and resurrection. Throughout Holy Week, we recall the most important stories of our faith so that we can better discern the pattern of resurrection in our own lives.

We have a few changes to our Holy Week schedule this year. The first is that we will be doing more services in collaboration with the other Episcopal churches in Warren County. Each of our four churches will host one service during Holy Week and the first week of Easter. Here's when and where those services will be:

- **Tuesday, March 26, 6:00 PM, *Tenebrae Service*** at St. Alban's. Tenebrae is a service that dives deep into Jesus' Passion through readings from Lamentations and Psalms and the interplay of light and darkness.
- **Wednesday, March 27, 6:00 PM, *Stations of the Cross*** at St. Mary's. Together we will pray the stations that remember Jesus' last hours.
- **Saturday, March 30, 7:30 PM, *The Great Vigil of Easter*** at Christ Church. We will celebrate this first service of Easter by lighting the new fire, hearing the stories of salvation, and celebrating the resurrection.
- **Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 PM, *Station of the Resurrection*** at Holy Trinity. During Easter week, come walk a new way of resurrection life.

We will also have some familiar services at St. Alban's:

- **Thursday, March 28, 6:00 PM, *Maundy Thursday*** service will follow the same format as the past two years, starting with dinner together as we remember Jesus' last supper and culminating in the stripping of the altar and setting up the altar of repose in our own Garden of Gethsemane.
- **Friday, March 29, 12:00 PM, *Good Friday*** service. We will have one service on Good Friday; evening services are available at the other Episcopal churches
- **Sunday, March 31, *Easter Sunday***. Our 8:30 AM service will be held at the outdoor chapel, weather permitting. The 11:00 AM service will feature all the Easter hymns you love and will be held in the church.



## HOLY WEEK 2024

All services at St. Alban's except those in red



### 3/24 PALM SUNDAY

Services at 8:30 & 11:00 AM at St. Alban's  
*Remember Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem with a palm procession before each service*

### TUESDAY, 3/26, 6:00 PM

Tenebrae Service at St. Alban's  
*A service of light and shadows reflecting on the Passion with Psalms & Readings*

### WEDNESDAY, 3/27, 6:00 PM

Stations of the Cross at St. Mary's, 900 First North St.  
*Travel the via dolorosa with our Lord*

### 3/28 MAUNDY THURSDAY, 6:00 PM

Family-friendly dinner & service remembering  
the great commandment at St. Alban's



### 3/29 GOOD FRIDAY, 12:00 PM

*A quiet, reflective service with Passion reading at St. Alban's*

### 3/30 SATURDAY, 7:30 PM

The Great Vigil of Easter at Christ Church, 1115 Main St.  
*Light the new fire, hear the story of salvation, ring the Easter bells at the first service of Easter!*

### 3/31 EASTER SUNDAY AT ST. ALBAN'S

8:30 AM Outdoor Service (weather permitting)  
10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt & Flowering the Cross  
11:00 AM Festive Service in the Church



## Lord, Teach Us to Pray: Lenten Supper Series

Wednesdays, Feb. 21-March 20

6:00-7:30 PM



## Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Alicia	David K.	Jim	Mary
Allan & Joan	David W.	John	Mike D.
Allen K.	Frances	Kathy	Mike & Nancy
Angie	Davis	Lawson N.	Norma
Barbi	Debbie	Kenya	Preston
Caroline	Ed	Lee	Rose
Cecil	Eunice	Leesha	Steve
Charlene	Frances	Libby	St. Luke's Baton Rouge
Charlie & family	Fritz	Lucas	Teresa H.
Clarence	Jackson	Lynn	Theresa K.
Conner	Jane	Mark	Vallye

For the departed: Mark Johnson, Pam Carulla

## Liturgical Schedule

### SUNDAY SERVICES

	March 3 <b>Lent 3</b>	March 10 <b>Lent 4</b>	March 17 <b>Lent 5</b>	March 24 <b>Palm Sunday</b>	March 31 <b>Easter Sunday</b>
<b>Rite I – 8:30AM</b>					
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Lector	Sharon Cummins	Ann Tompkins	Beth Sojourner	Sharon Cummins	Tommy Skinner
<b>Rite II – 11:00AM</b>					
Lay Worship Leader	Carolyn Burton	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Richard Price	Harvey Smith
Greeters/ Ushers	Betty Rushing Penny Freund	The Gavins	Betty Rushing	The Artmans	Buck Cooper
Lector	Penny Freund	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Carolyn Burton
Prayers of the People	Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	Buck Cooper	Dawn Rickard
Chalice Bearer	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	Susan Price	Dawn Rickard
A/V System	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake	Jim Drake	Buck Cooper

### WEDNESDAY SERVICES

	March 6	March 13	March 20	March 27
Service 6:00 PM	Lenten Supper Series	Lenten Supper Series	Lenten Supper Series	Stations of the Cross (St. Mary's)



*Rev. Elisabeth, Sharon Hanks, Harvey Smith, David Pruett,  
Carolyn Gent, Richard Price*