



The Albanac

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

May 2023



St. Alban's Celebrates Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday was the start of our Holy Week at St. Alban's, and we observed it with a traditional palm procession and reading of the Passion. Our service began at the Outdoor Chapel by remembering Jesus' entry to Jerusalem and the crowds that greeted him with palm branches and cheers. Waving our own palm branches, we processed to the church, where the mood turned more solemn as we entered the story of Jesus' Passion and death.



Richard Price, Cross-bearer, leads the joyful processional from the Outdoor Chapel to the entrance of the church where the celebratory mood changes to somber. Before entering the church, Rev. Elisabeth prays: "...Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord."

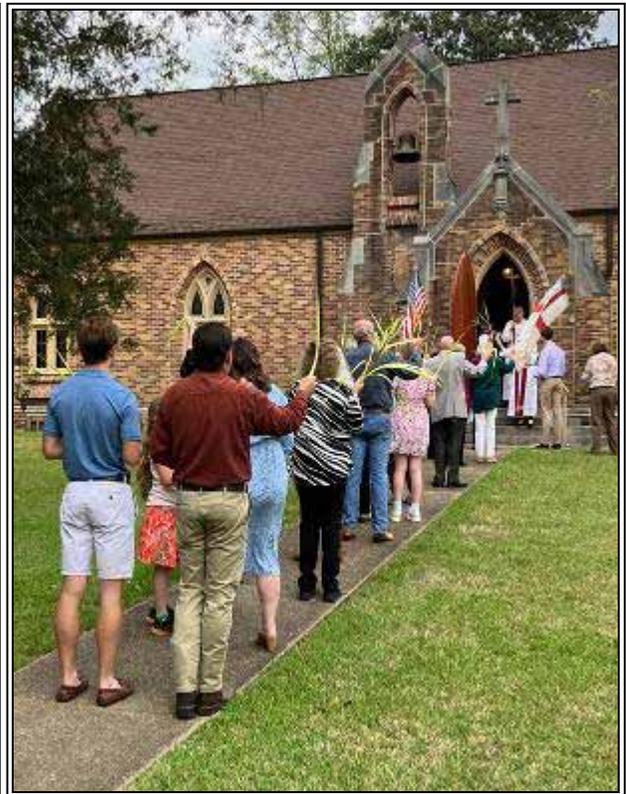


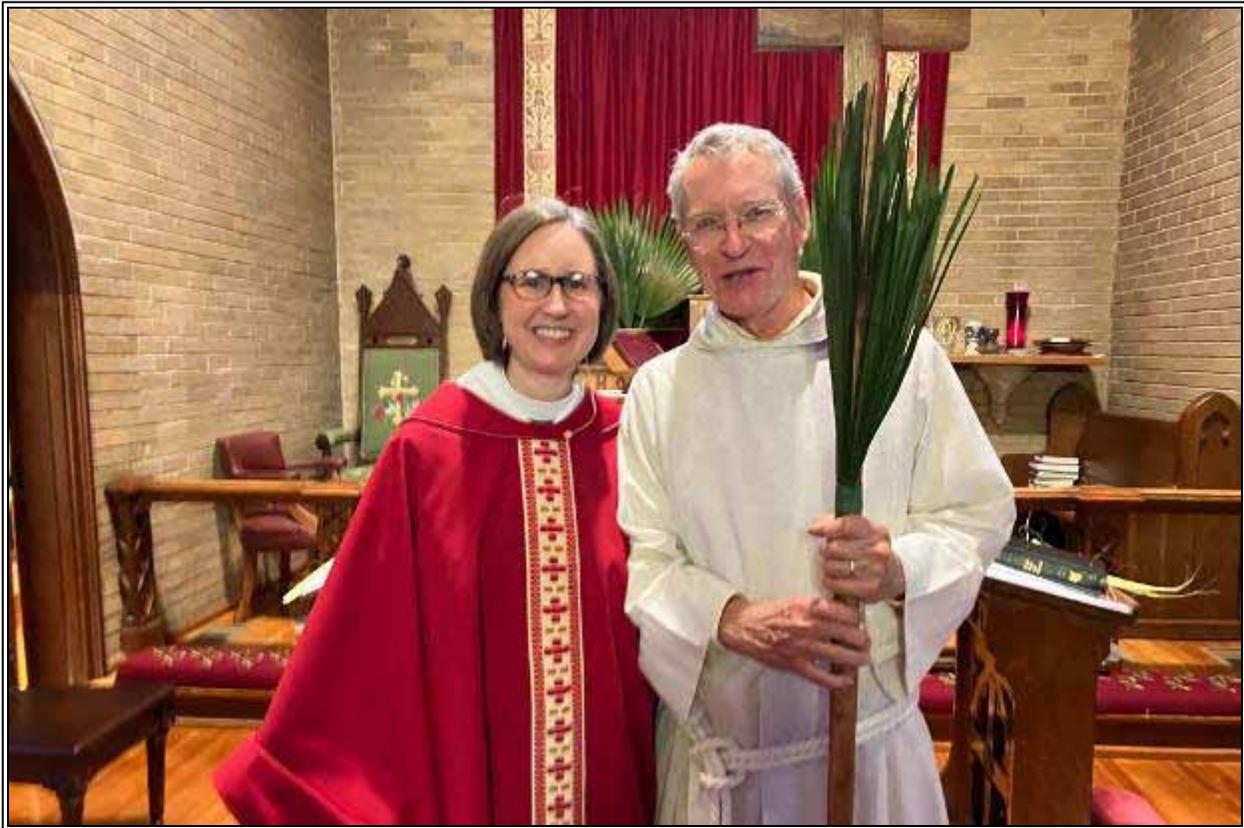
Waving palms reminds us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem before his crucifixion





"Blessed is he who cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest"





Richard Price displays his new handmade wooden Palm Sunday Cross



Mason & Taylor enjoy making palm crosses

Tenebrae

A Service of Light and Shadows

On Holy Wednesday, the Episcopal Churches of Warren County came together at Christ Church for a joint service of Tenebrae. Tenebrae, meaning “darkness” or “shadows,” has been practiced by the church since medieval times. The service provided an extended meditation upon Jesus’ suffering and death, using readings from Lamentations and Psalms. Readers from each of the four churches alternated readings, and in between readings candles were extinguished, reminding us of the power of evil, sin and death. At the very end of the service, a loud noise was made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the Jesus’ death, a dramatic ending plunging us deeper into the mysteries of Holy Week.



Attending the Tenebrae service held at Christ Church were: Marie Cunningham, Rev. Sam Godfrey, Linda Tolliver, Jim Miller, Garrett Wallace and Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs

Maundy Thursday

On Maundy Thursday, we remember Jesus sitting at dinner with his disciples, giving them a new commandment to “love one another as I have loved you,” and giving them two tangible ways to understand this love: washing one another’s feet and sharing bread and wine as the sacrament of his body and blood. To help us more fully appreciate this great love Jesus had for his friends, we, too, gathered around tables and shared a simple meal together. We washed each other’s feet and shared communion together. One of the highlights of this year’s Maundy Thursday was the Garden of Gethsemane created in the Parish Hall by Tommy Skinner and Jeff and Josh Artman. It provided a beautiful place to pray and reflect, just as Jesus did on the night before he died.





Lance Stewart leads hymn singing



In keeping with The Last Supper, those attending dined on Mediterranean fare



Garden of Gethsemane created in the Parish Hall by Tommy Skinner and Jeff & Josh Artman



Fore explores the garden features



The garden featured a beautiful butterfly, sleeping rabbit, large fish and scary spider



Sally Mae investigates the garden's rabbit



Fore & Rev. Elisabeth celebrate communion

Easter Vigil

We reimagined our Easter Vigil this year to incorporate more movement and contrast between light and dark as we built toward the joyful proclamation that “Christ is risen!” and celebrated the first service of Easter. The first part of our service was held outdoors, where we lit the new fire in the cemetery at sundown, remembering our ancestors who have died. We then processed to the Outdoor Chapel, where we gathered around a fire to hear the stories of God’s saving works through history, interspersed with simple songs. As the darkness grew, we processed toward the church, stopping at the door to ring bells and shout, “Alleluia, Christ is Risen!” We were welcomed into a bright and beautiful church, filled with flowers and decorated to the hilt.



Clarissa and Henry participate in the Easter Vigil bonfire service to hear stories of God’s saving works through history, interspersed with simple songs

Easter—He is Risen



The Flower Cross in the Parish Hall added to the glory of Easter Day



Linens, candles and Easter lilies adorn the Altar



*Organist, Dr. David Mahloch, Rector, Elisabeth Malphurs,
Acolytes, Hayden, Andrew & Wyatt, and Lay Worship Leader, Harvey Smith*



Harvey Smith and Rev. Elisabeth watch as Julian, Taylor, Andrew, Fore, Sarah Jane, Rue and Rosie search for their "Alleluia" signs that were hidden the Sunday before Lent and recovered on Easter Day. The children and congregation were delighted since the activity was a wonderful way to teach the children that Alleluias are omitted during the 40 days of Lent

Easter Egg Hunting with a Purpose!

Carolyn Gent, Stacy Weaver, and Buck Cooper organized the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Due to rain the hunt was held inside. The children found play money in their plastic eggs that was converted to real money and donated to missions



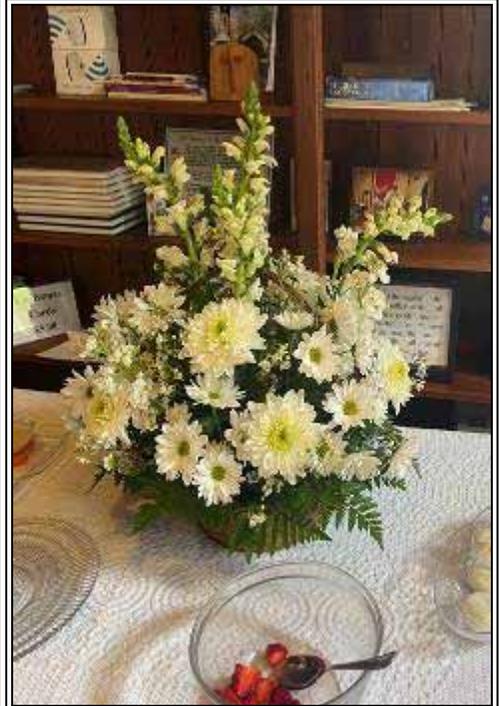


After counting their money, the children donated \$950 to support tornado victim relief in north Mississippi, demonstrating that they can have fun and do good at the same time



Holy Week Snapshots





Dr. Ojus & Jane Malphurs on Palm Sunday with grandsons, Andrew & Henry

Church Members Build Bonfire Pit



Tommy Skinner, Josh Artman, Jeff Artman, and Susan & Richard Price built a permanent bonfire pit adjacent to the Outdoor Chapel. The pit can be used for special services such as Pentecost, Burning of the Greens (Christmas) and the Easter Vigil



Oral History



Have you ever had the experience of being in a crowd of people at a party, in a classroom, in a Sunday School class, or shopping mall and looked around engaged in “people watching”? Airports are especially interesting as travelers from other places hustle, ride, or stroll to their next gate. There are millions of different types of looks, behaviors and cultures in the bigger airports and it can be just fascinating.

We come to various events at St. Albans and we worship, work, volunteer, sing, create, and listen regularly to the people who populate the pews. I was seated recently near Ed Shelnut whom I knew slightly and was familiar with his elegant reading of scripture. But as we chatted and I asked him questions as new acquaintances do, I heard a story that was so interesting that I began to formulate a plan.

I realized that I know only the smaller parts of my community and since I haven’t been here all my life I don’t know the rest of their stories. I remembered that as a librarian we became interested in oral histories about the time Steven Spielberg released the film “Schindler’s List.” Their stories have a theme and are often dark and without spiritual lightness due to the enormity of the impact of the Holocaust. But oral history can be quite different.

I had a high school student assigned to me as a mentee and was delightfully entertained and my heartstrings were tugged as she related her story to me. She was only 17! What a treasure. When after two separate lunch dates she finished her story, she said “Now you tell me your story. Because when we share our stories we become friends.” I have continued to listen to stories and share mine as the years have gone by. I am interested in how our lives take a weaving or circuitous path instead of the ones we have so carefully planned out! You must know the old joke: How do you make God laugh? Tell Him your plans.

I asked Ed if he would share his story with me and with us, St. Albans community. He graciously agreed and now I have a wonderful story to share with you. I did not stop with Ed’s story, however. I looked around at some of the folks I see all the time. So a book started to grow in my mind. I will be interviewing all who are INTERESTED IN SHARING their stories.

Penny Freund

Elisabeth's Epistle

Everyone knows there are 40 days in Lent. But how many days are there in Easter? The Easter season is 50 days, also known as The Great Fifty Days, from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. There are so many things I love about this. The first, and most obvious, is that our season of celebration and joy in the resurrection is longer than our season of preparation and penitence. The number 50 itself is significant—in Jewish numerology, the number seven is the number of wholeness, completeness, or perfection. God created the world in seven days after all! The Easter season is seven times seven, or seven weeks of seven days (49, plus one for Easter), so perfection multiplied by itself. If every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection, the Easter season is a concentrated period of celebration of God's work to redeem all of creation. It is a time of rejoicing, of seeing in Jesus' resurrection the promise God has made to us all.

We mark this celebratory season in our worship by adding in some extra "Alleluias," by singing festive music, by using our best white vestments and altar paraments. But you can mark this season in your personal life as well. I encourage you to adopt an "Easter discipline" just as you would a Lenten discipline. Your Easter discipline should be something that helps you experience wonder and awe in God's creation and the redemption of creation. Perhaps you might make a point of noticing one new flower or plant each day. Maybe you might spend five minutes thinking about people and things for which you are grateful. Or perhaps you might spend time writing about the ways you experience rebirth and resurrection in your life. This is holy time—celebrate!

May Birthdays

2 Robin Price Toups	16 Will Johnson
4 Christopher Price Bitsy Sloan	17 Carey Price
5 Tanner Kitchens	19 Amanda Rose Price
10 Colby Langford Grant Toups	24 Gloria Hall
15 Gabby Rushing	27 Ben Porter Jim Dooley
16 Matthew Guynes	28 Briggs May

May Anniversaries

4 Easy & Mary John Biedenarn	22 Buddy & Jane Hanks
18 Carey & Amanda Price	29 Richard & Susan Price

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Allan & Joan	David	Mark
Amanda & Ken	Donna & Family	Mike & Nancy
Ann & Jimmy	Fritz	Nita
Baby Waylon	Jackson	Norma
Becky Jo	James	Steve
Carolyn	Katherine & Family	Teresa
Charlene	Kelley	Tom & Judy
Charlie & Family	Leesha	Wayne
Dalton	Libby	Tornado Victims
David H.	Lucas	

For the departed: Sally Owen, Baby Mazeigh Shows, Rev. John Stone Jenkins, Julia Hamilton, Martine Frey, Joe Surkin, and Jesse Matherne

Server Schedules

SUNDAY SERVICES

Rite I, 8:30 AM	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	No 8:30 am service
Lector	Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins	Beth Sojourner	
Rite II, 11:00 AM				10:00 am service
Lay Worship Leader	Richard Price	David Pruett	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby
Greeters/ Ushers	Dawn Rickard Betty Rushing	Buck Cooper	The Halls	Ann Tompkins
Lector	Penny Freund	Ed Shelnut	Dawn Rickard	Carolyn Gent
Prayers of the People	Carolyn Gent	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper	Dawn Rickard
Chalice Bearer	Penny Freund	Ed Shelnut	Ann Tompkins	Dawn Rickard
A/V System	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	May 3	May 10	May 17	May 24	May 31
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner



Photography by: Rev. Elisabeth, Jim Drake, Rebecca Drake, Carolyn Gent & Harvey Smith