



The Albanac

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

April 2019



The Reverend Billie Abraham

Retires from St. Alban's Church

September 2008—April 2019

A Fond Farewell From Your Church Family

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words



Reverend Billie Blessing the Animals



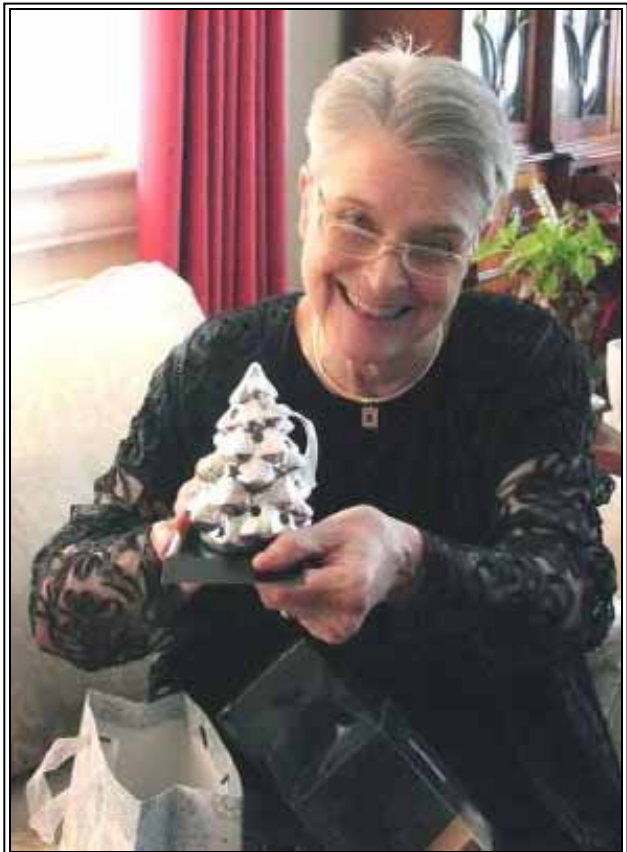
Palm Sunday with the Children



Bishop Brian Seage with The Reverend Billie Abraham and Rev. Deacon Josie Williams



Reverend Billie at Council in Jackson



Christmas Ornament Exchange with the ECW



Reverend Billie at Christmas Luncheon with St. Alban's Episcopal Church Women

Holy Baptism of Mads Gustave Lauritzen



The Holy Baptism of Mads Gustave Lauritzen took place at St. Alban's on March 24. The Rev. Billie Abraham, assisted by Deacon Josie Williams, officiated. Mads is the son of Shane & Reagan Lauritzen, brother of Remi & Roux (identical twins), and grandson of Rhonda & Gary Balsamo, maternal grandparents. Abigayle, Maddy and Katy Breau, family friends, were also present for the special occasion. The service was enhanced by the beautiful music of Patsy Simpson, organist.





Baptism Reception for Mads & Dexter

A reception was held for Mads Luritzen and Dexter Russell, son of Zane and Callie Russell, who was baptized on January 13, 2019. The beautifully decorated refreshment table featured two special “God’s Blessings” cakes and finger food. What a wonderful end to a blessed Sabbath!



St. Alban's – A Place in Time

William Mercer Green: Mississippi's First Episcopal Bishop

"The World Has Been Very Good to Me."

By Rebecca Blackwell Drake

In 1849, William Mercer Green, age 52, along with his wife, Charlotte Isabella, and a few of his thirteen children, moved from North Carolina to Mississippi after being elected to serve as the first bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. He was consecrated February 24, 1850, at St. Andrew's Church in Jackson—located approximately one mile west of the present cathedral. The consecration service was a momentous occasion for the new bishop as well as pioneer priests who, in earlier years, established Episcopal churches throughout the diocese.

Bishop Green was highly qualified for the new position. He was consecrated priest in North Carolina in 1823 and received a Doctorate of Divinity from the University of Pennsylvania in 1845.

During his first year in the diocese, he traveled thousands of miles around the state, preaching and confirming new members. His early travels were nothing short of miraculous since he traveled by stagecoach, train, horseback and even a mule when necessary. By 1860, after 10 years of strong leadership, Bishop Green had established thirty-three new parishes including St. Alban's, Bovina, St. Mark's, Raymond and St. Mary's, Bolton, just to name a few.

In 1860, as the diocese was reaping the joys of success, the unthinkable loomed ahead. Charlotte Isabella suffered a massive stroke and passed away on September 9th, leaving the bishop a widower at the age of 62. A year later as the rumblings of the Civil War began, young men from all across the state left "home and hearth" to bear arms against the enemy. The death count for members of St. Alban's was staggering, as was the case with other newly established parishes.



Sadly, only twelve of the thirty-three parishes remained after the war. Bishop Green briefly fled to Alabama before moving to Columbus to live with his daughter. In 1866, he moved to his newly built home on a mountaintop in Sewanee, Tennessee to be near the *University of the South*, an Episcopal seminary that he helped to establish in 1857. While serving as chancellor of the seminary, he continued the task of rebuilding the parishes that were lost.

In 1880, age 82, Bishop Green traveled to St. Alban's to consecrate the church that replaced the one destroyed during the Siege of Vicksburg. A loving congregation greeted him with tears of joy. He was *precious in their sight* having shared the best of times and the worst of times in earlier years.

In 1883, suffering from the infirmities of old age, he requested the help of an assistant. Rev. Hugh Miller Thompson was elected bishop coadjutor. During Bishop Green's absence, he assumed most of the work of the diocese.

Prior to his death, Bishop Green commented to a reporter from the *Nashville American Newspaper*: "The world has been very good to me" he commented. "I have passed for five times more than I am worth, and have received a hundred times more than I deserve. My life has four or five times been despaired of and yet here I am.... I have three times bid farewell to the General Assembly, and if I live until it meets again in October, I shall be ashamed to show myself there a fourth time."

The Rt. Rev. Wm. Mercer Green, the nation's oldest bishop, passed away at his home in Sewanee on February 13, 1887, age 89. He was laid to rest beside Charlotte Isabella in the Jackson City Cemetery. The bishop had spent his entire life proclaiming Christ's love for all and preaching the power of God's love to the rich and to the poor—an everlasting message to all races and nationalities.



—*Lift High the Cross, the Love of Christ Proclaim,
Till all the World Adore His Sacred Name—*

†Billie's Corner



The LORD'S Prayer

One of the things I clearly remember learning as a young child was The Lord's Prayer. My grandmother taught it to me one phrase at a time. I memorized the prayer in little increments over a period of weeks. I must have been in the first grade because I recall my teacher asking if anyone knew The Lord's Prayer. My arm jerked and waved wildly in the air; the teacher had no choice but to call on me. I stood up and proudly recited the prayer as fast as I could to get the words out. The fact that I didn't know the meaning behind the words didn't occur to me until I was much older.

At some point, I must have slowed down my speedy rendition of The Lord's Prayer and began to give some thought to the essence of the prayer. I can't recall one vivid moment in time when my reflective process began, but I can say that I have been unpacking the message of the prayer Our Lord taught us for years and years.

Sometimes world events have infiltrated the prayer. For incidence, the first word of The Lord's Prayer, "Our," took on a new significance after 9/11 when I was praying for the victims and the perpetrators—which was everyone depending on your point of view. "Our Father"—despite the massive pain and suffering that separated us, we share one Divine Father. If world peace were to ever occur, it would be because of "Our Father."

Sometimes personal events have influenced my understanding of the prayer. When I seemed to lack the ability to forgive, I questioned how I could pray; "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive others." If God's forgiveness of me depended upon my forgiveness of others, I was in a heap of trouble. I wasn't doing a very good job of forgiving others and I was sure that God wasn't forgiving me. I can't possibly state in one concise sentence my struggle to understand the process of forgiveness, but I can clearly state that praying The Lord's Prayer guided me to a humble acceptance of the infinite mercy of God for others and for me.

Certainly the interpretation I am going to share with you now will not be my final edition—the prayer has morphed into deeper meaning throughout my lifetime. No doubt it will continue.

Our Mother-Father God, who dwells throughout the heavens and beyond, and on this earth, and in every human being; holy be your Name. Your kingdom is within us and we are within your kingdom. May your good will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today grace upon grace. May your forgiveness of all of our sins transform us into new creations. And may we experience the radical, holy freedom that can only occur when we forgive others and ourselves of everything. Lead us away from our pride and ignorance, and deliver us from our selfishness. For God, you are forever giving birth to this universe; You are The Source, The I Am, The Being. In power, and majesty, and glory; with heartfelt gratitude. Amen.

What are we praying when we pray The Lord's Prayer? It is the enduring prayer that Christ Jesus gave to us.

In Peace,
Billie+



“Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another.”

John 1:16

April Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Tammy Kitchens | 19 Laurie Reece |
| 7 Ruth Green | 23 John Thomas Monti |
| 8 Dawn Rickard | 27 Ford Biedenharn |
| 10 Amy Burr | Sarah Jane Selby |
| Hayden Guynes | 29 Liz Curtis |
| Chad Toups | Frank W. Skinner, Jr. |
| 12 Payton Fulgham | 30 Allison Nieto |

April Anniversaries

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 16 Jim & Linda Dooley | 18 Gene & Wanda Warren |
| Charles & Lisa Langford | |

Prayers for the People

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Analiese Wasson Bryan | Donny Sanders | Marty Garton, Sr. |
| Ann Hanks | Ed Cooper | Martha Benson |
| Ann & Jimmy Jones | Eugene Quarles | Megan Cook Vincent |
| Barbara Ramsay | Fetty Judge | Millie Gasaway |
| Bertha Kolb | Glenda Ferguson | Natalie McMillian |
| Betty Biedenharn | Hollis Newman | Newell Graham |
| Bobbie Carlisle | Irv Jones | Nick Niolet |
| Brandi Tony | Jackson Monti | Nita & Aaron Tassin |
| Brady Morgan | Jim Ahner | Norma Jones |
| Bryan Brabston | Jim Dantin | Parker Ramsay |
| Carol Green | Joan Leese | Paula Fulton |
| Cathy Nestler | Kristi Biedenharn | Paula Lentz |
| Charlie Brantley & Family | Laurie Concannon | Peggy Lynn |
| Cynthia Strawn & Family | Laurie Reece | Peter Meyers |
| Dalton Glatt | Linda & Jim Dooley | Rachelle Ferris |
| Damion Hansford | Linda Washington | Robert Quinn |
| Dan & Mary Carleton | Liz Curtis & Family | Sherry Horan |
| David Pruett | Lucas Guynes | Steve Webster |
| Dianne Carlton | Marci Turner | The Selby Family |

Victims of Violence & Natural Disasters

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM. Phone: (601) 636-6687

Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Christian Education, 10:00 AM

Nursery, 10:00 AM

Children's Chapel, 11:00 AM

Tuesday

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

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:30 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Quiet Day, First Wednesday of Each Month, 7 AM—7 PM

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, 12:30 PM

Schedule of Events for April

Wednesday, April 3—Healing Service & Eucharist, 5:30 PM. *Mississippi Boychoir*, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, April 10—Healing Service & Eucharist. 5:30 PM. John Maxwell
Monologue, *Judas Iscariot*, 6:00 PM

Palm Sunday, April 14—*Sunday of the Passion*, procession & Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Sunday, April 14—*Second Sundays at St. Mary's*, “Blind Man Walking”, one-act play by
John Maxwell, playwright, Bolton, 4:00 PM

Monday, April 15 & Tuesday, April 16—*Stations of the Cross & Taizé Music*, 6:00 PM

Maundy Thursday, April 18—*Maundy Thursday*, 6:00 PM

Good Friday, April 19—*Liturgy of the Crucifixion*, 6:00 PM

Holy Saturday, April 20—Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM, the *Great Easter Vigil*, 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday, April 21—*Easter Day*, reception following 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
Eucharist, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 AM

Thursday, April 25—Vestry Meeting, 6:00 PM

Sunday, April 28—Rev. Billie's last Sunday at St. Alban's. One service, 10:00 AM
followed by potluck lunch on the grounds.



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rev Billie and Jim & Becky Drake

Liturgical Schedule for Sundays in April 2019

| | April 7 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> | April 15 Sunday of the Passion Palm Sunday | April 21 <i>Easter Day</i> | April 28 Second Sunday of Easter |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | Schedule of Readers for the Passion Gospel is forthcoming | | Rev. Billie's Last Sund ONE SERVICE 10:00 AM |
| First Reading | Isaiah 43:16-21 | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Isaiah 65:17-25 | Acts 5:27-32 |
| Psalm | Psalm 126 | Psalm 31:9-16 | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 | Psalm 150 |
| Second Reading | Philippians 3:4b-14 | Philippians 2:5-11 | 1 Corinthians 15:19-26 | Revelation 1:4-8 |
| Gospel | John 12:1-8 | The Passion According to Luke | John 20:1-18 | John 20:19-31 |
| LWL | 8:30 am 11:00 am | Tommy Skinner Herb Jones | Harvey Smith Richard Price | Theo Williams Betsy Selby |
| MC | Beth Guynes | Ann Tompkins | Beth Guynes | Ann Tompkins |
| OT Lector | 8:30 am 11:00 am | Penny Freund Ed Shelnut | Penny Freund Kerri Williams | Penny Freund Harvey Smith |
| Psalm | | | Sam Hall | |
| Epistle | | | Gloria Hall | |
| Crucifer & Acolyte | Koury Collins | Susan Price | Beth Guynes Gloria & Sam Hall | Jennifer Normand |
| Wooden Cross | | | Harris Southall | |
| Gospel Bearer | Deacon Josie | Deacon Josie | Gabby Rushing | Deacon Josie |
| Prayers of the People | Deacon Josie | Harvey Smith | Deacon Josie | Sharon Hanks |
| Oblation Bearers | Harvey Smith Sharon Hanks | Wilma Mitchell Ann Tompkins | Andy Hall Kristi Hall | Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter |
| Ushers & Greeters | Allan Leese Dawn Rickard | Lance Stewart Ron White | Josh Artman Jonah Artman | Allan Leese David Normand |
| Standing Communion Station | Deacon Josie Ann Tompkins | Deacon Josie Susan Price | Deacon Josie Theo Williams | Deacon Josie Harvey Smith |
| Altar Guild | Sharon Hanks Betsy Rushing | Mary Ann Wright Susan Price | Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner | Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey |
| Coffee Host | Sharon Cummins Ann Tompkins | Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter | Bring Your Favorite Easter Goodies | Potluck Lunch on the Grounds |
| Nursery | April & Ashley | April & Ashley | April & Ashley | April & Ashley |
| Children's Chapel | Betsy Selby | Betsy Selby | Children serve at 11:00 am Eucharist | Betsy Selby |
| Offertory Counters | Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Janice Herrington | Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Lance Stewart | Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Theo Williams | Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Michael Southall |
| Healing Service | April 3 Tommy Skinner | April 10 Theo Williams | April 17 Tommy Skinner | April 24 Theo Williams |