



# The Albanac

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

**August 2024**



*The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells  
Ordained & Consecrated 11th Bishop of Mississippi*

## The Ordination of The Rt. Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells



*My heart is full. I am so very grateful to God for calling me to serve this Diocese — and so grateful to all of you for the warm welcome you have shown me. ... I have committed to being a visible presence in the Diocese — and in the coming days, I will continue visiting our worshipping communities. I will, with you, explore intentional collaborations between our worshipping communities, to help us better share resources, dream together, and discern God's will for our ministry together. There is much to do — and with God's help and guidance, we will continue to make a difference in the world around us.*

*The Rt. Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells*

“Therefore, Father, make Dorothy a bishop in your Church. Pour out upon her the power of your princely Spirit, whom you bestowed upon your beloved Son Jesus Christ, with whom he endowed the apostles, and by whom your Church is built up in every place, to the glory and unceasing praise of your Name.” (The Book of Common Prayer, page 521)

With these words spoken by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, and with the laying on of hands of the 16 bishops gathered, the Rt. Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells was consecrated as the 11th bishop of Mississippi, and the first woman and person of color to hold the office.

She became the 1,167 bishop in the American succession, which dates back to the ordination of the Rt. Rev. Samuel Seabury in 1784 by bishops in the Scottish

Episcopal Church. While much has changed since then, the role of a bishop has not. Bishop Wells' charge is "to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church."

The ordination service, held in the Athletic and Recreation Center (The ARC) at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland, was a spirit-filled gathering. Several St. Alban's members had roles in the proceedings, including Diocesan Altar Guild Members Harvey Smith, Tommy Skinner, and Sharon Hanks, who helped set up for the service, including communion for hundreds. Buck Cooper, as president of the Standing Committee, read the testimonials certifying that a majority of Standing Committees had approved the ordination. Carolyn and Taylor Burton carried the St. Alban's banner. Andrew Cooper was an acolyte, and the St. Alban's cross and torches were carried in the entrance procession.

The day's liturgy was followed by a wonderful reception in the ARC's lakeside lobby during which members of the diocese and the many visitors were able to greet our new bishop.



Bishop Dorothy Wells and Presiding Bishop Michael Curry share a joyful moment to the delight of the congregation

Bishop Wells, who was ordained to the transitional diaconate and priesthood in the Diocese of West Tennessee, served as rector of St. George's Episcopal Church, Germantown, Tennessee, from 2013.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Bishop Wells completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Rhodes College, and her Juris Doctor degree from the Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law at the University of Memphis. She practiced employee benefits law for 18 years, at FedEx Corporation, and at Waring Cox, PLLC, before she left the practice of law to follow God's call to ordained ministry. She received her M.Div. from Memphis Theological Seminary, and her D.Min. from Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Bishop Wells has been committed to the work of community dialogue, racial healing, and justice and equity for all of God's people.

After being elected bishop-elect in the Mississippi Diocese, Wells commented "I am so humbled by the confidence that you have placed in me, and I am looking forward to being with you — to growing in relationship with you all, to serving alongside you and to walking alongside you in this tremendous journey with God."



Newly ordained Bishop Wells with her husband, Herbert, and daughters, Alexis and Meredith



An enthusiastic congregation shares in the excitement and emotions of the historic day





Presiding Bishop Michael Curry was chief consecrator; co-consecrators were retired Mississippi Bishop Brian Seage, Chicago Bishop Paula E. Clark, Alabama Bishop Glenda Curry & retired West Tennessee Bishop Don Johnson. Altogether, 16 bishops, including the presiding bishop, attended Wells' consecration.



Retired Bishops Brian Seage and Duncan Gray with Bishop Dorothy Wells



St. Alban's communicants Harvey Smith, Rev. Elisabeth, Tommy Skinner, Sharon Hanks & Lawson Selby enjoying the historic day

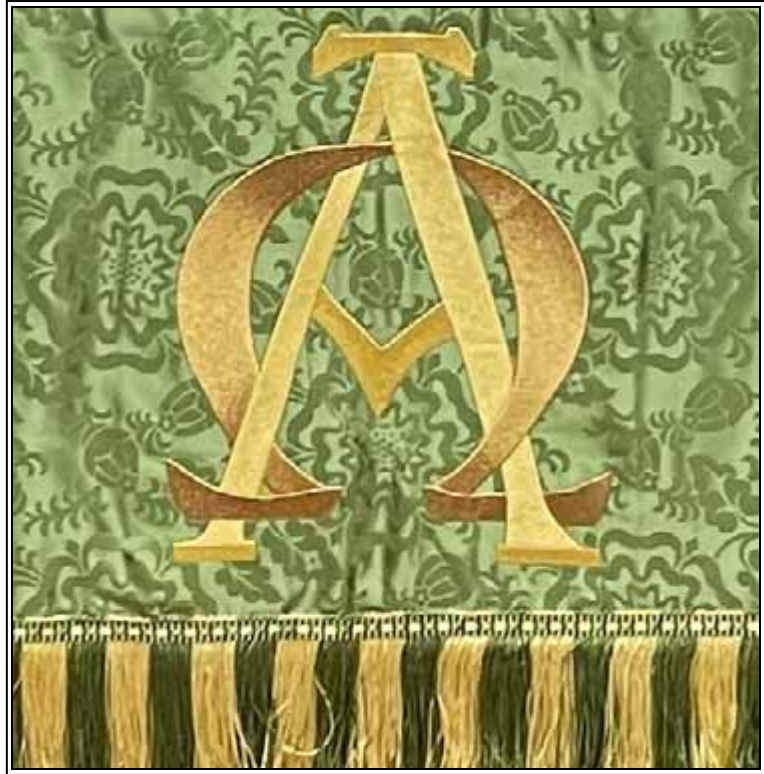


The Altar Guild prepares for the Consecration— Sharon Hanks, Tommy Skinner, Harvey Smith, Bishop-elect Wells, Beth Callahan & Lollie Everett

## “Ordinary Time”—Altar Frontal Dedication

On Sunday, June 2, the first Sunday in *Ordinary Time*, a beautiful handmade green altar frontal was dedicated to “The Glory of God” and “In Thanksgiving for the Service of St. Alban’s Altar Guild.” Rev. Beth Palmer, supply priest, delivered the dedication during the morning Eucharist.

Beth Guynes, long-time member of the Altar Guild, commented on the story behind the newly designed frontal, “Harvey Smith, treasurer of the Episcopal Diocese Altar Guild, discovered a bolt of green damask at the diocese storage facility in Bolton. The material was an exact match to the vestments and altar hanging at St. Alban’s. Harvey secured the fabric with the idea of creating an *Ordinary Time* frontal for St. Alban’s altar.”



After admiring the fabric, Beth contacted Denise Brown, a skilled seamstress in the diocese whose ministry is to make and repair vestments and altar hangings. Denise ‘worked her magic’ creating St. Alban’s frontal, placing the *Alpha and Omega* appliqué front and center. The back of the frontal bears a dedication to St. Alban’s Altar Guild. The striking beauty of the new frontal is the blending of the green and gold patterns throughout.

Thanks to Harvey and Beth for saving the fabric and creating the frontal design - to Rev. Elisabeth for her support – and to Denise Brown for creating such a beautiful treasure for St. Alban’s, one that will be admired for years and years to come.

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**Ordinary Time**—The longest season in the liturgical year that falls between Easter and Advent Christmas and Lent. The weeks between Christmas and Lent are the shortest part of Ordinary Time while the weeks between Pentecost and the Advent are the longest. In total Ordinary Time comprises 33-34 weeks of the liturgical year.





Most gracious Father who has called me your child to serve in the preparation of your Altar, so that it may be a suitable place for the offering of your Bod and Blood; sanctify my life and consecrate my hands so that I may worthily handle those Sacred Gifts which are being offered to you.

*National Altar Guild Prayer*

## Update from General Convention



I had the amazing opportunity to attend General Convention, the governing body of The Episcopal Church, in Louisville, KY in June. General Convention meets every three years and includes deputations from around the world who gather to do the business of the church. I went as an alternate deputy in the clergy order. Our deputation from Mississippi consisted of 4 clergy deputies, 4 lay deputies, several alternates in each order, Bishop Seage, and Bishop-Elect Wells. For the most part, my role was to learn from our more experienced deputies, although I also spent one day on the floor listening to debate and voting.

This was a particularly exciting General Convention because we elected a new presiding bishop. Many of you know current Presiding Bishop Michael Curry

from his visit to St. Alban's for Bishop Marble's funeral. Bishop Curry completes his 9-year term as presiding bishop this October. Stepping into the role will be Bishop Sean Rowe from the Diocese of Northwestern Pennsylvania. Bishop Rowe, at age 49, will be the youngest presiding bishop since Bishop William White in 1795! Bishop Rowe was elected on the first ballot and seems well-suited to leading the church at this time of great change.

On a personal note, I was able to connect with several priests I went to seminary with, including the Rev. Leon Sampson from the Episcopal Church in Navajoland. This was an exciting year for the churches in Navajoland, who successfully petitioned to become a missionary diocese, which will enable them to elect their own bishop. My family and I visited Leon and his family in Navajoland in 2018 and were so impressed with the mission of the Episcopal churches there as they do essential work like providing water and food to those in need.

Thank you again for letting me have the time to expand my knowledge of our church. If you have any questions about General Convention, I'd love to talk!

Backpack Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

*A Litany for Blessing Backpacks*

By Wendy Claire Barrie

For schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them  
each day, God of Wisdom, *We give you thanks.*

For this new beginning, for new books and ideas,  
God of Wisdom, *We give you thanks.*

For sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled,  
God of Wisdom, *We give you thanks.*

For the gift of making mistakes and trying again,  
God of Wisdom, *We give you thanks.*

Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as  
giving the right answers.

God of Wisdom, *Hear our prayer.*

For education equity in this country and around the world, that all children  
everywhere might have what they need to learn and grow,

God of Justice, *Hear our prayer.*



## Elisabeth's Epistle



## What did Elisabeth Learn at Camp?

Many of you know that I was asked to co-direct the elementary session at Camp Bratton Green this summer. What most of you may not know, however, is that I am NOT a camp person. As a child, I spent one homesick week at camp (although not Camp Bratton Green) and vowed never to go back. The elementary session provided some challenges of its own—heat indexes around 115, children scared of fireworks, and my co-director getting COVID. But now that I'm safely to the other side, I can say I'm becoming a little bit more of a camp person.

I want to share some of the things I learned at camp:

- Don't say the word "announcements!" This was a difficult lesson, one which involved a couple rounds of having water dumped on my head.
- Everyone has spiritual gifts. Our theme for camp was the delightful movie, *Encanto*, about a magical family with special gifts. We talked a lot about how God gives each of us gifts, but that sometimes it takes us awhile to figure them out.

- Camp is full of gifted people! From leading skits and music to boating and the ropes course, everyone contributed their gifts to make camp an amazing experience. Son of St. Alban's, Lawson Selby, is one of the gifted people serving on the Permanent Staff at camp this summer!
- If you're tired enough, you can sleep anywhere.
- Nothing beats the heat like a snowball from Kona Ice!
- Children don't need screens to have a great time. One of the most amazing things about camp is how much fun can be had with simple things like water balloons, whipped cream, and face paint.
- Leading elementary kids in worship is exhilarating! I was one of the oldest people at camp, which is amazing and makes me hopeful for the future of the church.
- Milk and cookies are the perfect pre-bed snack.



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## Outreach & Discretionary Funds 2024 Mid-Year Report

The Outreach Committee, chaired by Stacy Weaver, and composed of anyone in the congregation who is interested in outreach to our neighbors, is providing a mid-year report of outreach expenditures from January 1–June 30. The focus of our outreach efforts so far this year has been support for children & families in need and tornado recovery in Rolling Fork.

### **Support for Children & Families**

Lifting Lives Family Shelter Direct Support: \$737

Lifting Lives Food Donations: \$236

Lee's Heavenly BBQ Back-to-School Backpack Give-Away: \$1,500

### **In-Kind Food Donations to Storehouse Food Pantry**

In-Kind Uniform Donations to Lifting Lives Family Shelter

### **Outreach to Tornado Victims in Rolling Fork**

Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork for Rebuilding: \$5,700

Bishop's Discretionary Fund for Tornado Victims: \$156

### **Other Donations**

PAWS Rescue: \$500

Good Friday Offering for Churches in the Holy Land: \$268

### **Rector's Discretionary Fund**

Rev. Elisabeth also provides support to individuals and families through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. So far this year, \$3,427 has been given to assist people in the following categories:

Utilities Assistance (electric): \$2190

Rent Assistance: \$712

Children/Youth (e.g. camp fees): \$375

Food Assistance: \$150

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Outreach or the Rector's Discretionary Funds! If you would like to donate, please note that the Rector's Discretionary Fund is in need of donations. Please feel free to reach out to Rev. Elisabeth or Stacy Weaver if you have any questions about this report.

## Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Allan & Joan	Davis	Kathy	Mike D.
Allen K.	Ed	Kristin	Mike F.
Anita	Eunice	Lawson N.	Mike & Nancy
Becky	Fran	Leesha	Norma
Beth S.	Irv	Leigh Ann	Preston
Caroline	Jackson	Libby	Ricky
Cecil	James	Lonnie	Rose
Clarence & Betty	Jane	Lucas	Steve
David	John	Mary Lou	Theresa

For the departed: Dorothy Brasfield and John Tinsley.

## Liturgical Schedule

### SUNDAY SERVICES

	August 4	August 11	August 18	August 25
<b>Rite I - 8:30 AM</b>				
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins
Lector	Nancy Montague	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Sharon Cummins
<b>Rite II - 11:00 AM</b>				
Lay Worship Leader	Dawn Rickard	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton
Greeters/ Ushers	The Gavins	Bobby Barlow	The Gavins	Jeff Artman
Lector	Carolyn Burton	Susan Price	Kristi Hall	Dawn Rickard
Prayers of the People	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Sharon Hanks	Barnie Gavin
Chalice Bearer	Betsy Selby	Susan Price	Carolyn Burton	Dawn Rickard
A/V System	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	James Drake	Harvey Smith
Healing Minister	David Pruett	Harvey Smith	Penny Freund	Carolyn Burton
Vestry Person	Judy Gavin	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton	Jeff Artman
Altar Guild	Barbara Frey	Susan Price	Judy Morrissey	Samantha Mahloch
	Sharon Hanks	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins
	Nancy Montague			

### WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Healing Service resumes on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 PM starting August 7<sup>th</sup>.