



The Albanac

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

December 2023



Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

The literal meaning of Eucharist is Thanksgiving!

What is the literal meaning of Eucharist? Thanksgiving! When we celebrate the Eucharist, we give thanks for all God has done for us through Jesus Christ. Every once in a while, it's helpful to stop and consider all the ways our celebration of the Eucharist helps us give thanks. That is why on Nov. 19, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, we held a special all ages Sunday school focused on the Eucharist, and continued our observance with an “annotated” Eucharist. Rather than an “instructed Eucharist,” when we stop to explain parts of the service, our “annotated” Eucharist contained explanatory notes in the service bulletin.



November 19th Acolytes—Fore, Taylor, Andrew and Briggs

Baking Bread

Before the service, children & adults gathered for Sunday school in the kitchen to make bread together to be used for the 11:00 AM Eucharist. As we shaped our loaves and baked them, we talked about sacraments, which our prayerbook defines as “an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace.” We discussed how bread and wine become the tangible, visible signs to us of Jesus’ presence with us. The spiritual grace of Eucharist is the central mystery of our faith—that Jesus has given himself, all of himself, out of love for us so that we might be reconciled to God, incorporated into the very body of Christ. This is a mystery that is best understood through the ritual of the Eucharist—it is a mystery that is hard to explain, that has to be experienced with all of our senses—taste and touch included. There was a lot of excitement about eating the bread we had baked together and that God had blessed. It was a reminder to all gathered that we are lucky enough to celebrate Thanksgiving every Sunday!





Thanksgiving Day at St. Alban's

On Thanksgiving Day, eighteen people attended the annual Thanksgiving gathering at St. Alban's. The day started with Morning Prayer, led by David Pruett, and was followed by a delicious Thanksgiving Dinner. Some of those attending brought casseroles and pies while Tommy Skinner, John & Grace Skinner and Penny Freund helped to cook and serve the main courses. The tables in the dining room were beautifully adorned with handcrafted Thanksgiving decorations. For sure a good time was had by all!



Colors of the Liturgical Year

On November 26, the Sunday school class, young and old, met to discuss the importance of the liturgical calendar in our worship, including the significance of the colors associated with the liturgical seasons. The liturgical calendar begins with Advent represented by the colors blue or violet followed by; Christmas (white), the Feast of Epiphany (white), the Season after Epiphany (green), Lent (violet), Easter (white), Pentecost (red) and the Season after Pentecost (green). The color green, as used in Ordinary time, represents the longer periods of time between major events in the life of Jesus, a time when we are called to grow in our discipleship. To illustrate the liturgical colors, Fore displayed the green chasuble as used in Ordinary time, Dawn the white chasuble associated with Christmas and Easter, and Andrew the violet chasuble associated with Lent. The class was very informative and enjoyed by all, and extra handouts created by Carolyn Gent are available for anyone wanting to learn more.



Elisabeth's Epistle

Advent is almost here! We have a later start to Advent this year because Christmas Eve, and the fourth Sunday of Advent, fall on a Sunday. So the season will feel very short. Advent is a season of preparation—preparation for Christmas, but also for Jesus' return. As such, it's a time for us to look inward, to how we are preparing our hearts and lives for the coming of our Lord.

There are several ways we traditionally observe this season:

- **Changes in the sanctuary:** you'll notice that we use greenery instead of flowers during Advent. In part, this is because Advent, like Lent, should be simpler, a time when we pare down so we can focus on what matters most. The color of our vestments also changes to blue. Not quite the penitential color of purple that we use for Lent, the blue reminds us that this is still a time of preparation and waiting.
- **Advent wreath:** We will light a candle each week of Advent. I particularly love this tradition because it reminds us that even as the darkness surrounds us and the days grow shorter, we have the light of Christ to guide us. On the first Sunday of Advent, you are invited to create an Advent wreath to take home and use during the season.
- **Musical changes:** We will use the piano this Advent to set a softer, more reflective tone that will contrast with the joy of Christmas. Our Advent hymns are some of the best in the hymnal—full of minor chords and evocative lyrics. You will notice that we don't sing the Gloria during Advent; it will come back for Christmas.

I hope you will join us for Advent this year. This season in our church life stands in particular contrast to the culture around us, which seems to get busier each year. The calling of Advent is a calling to slow down, to build in more time for reflection, and to simplify so that we are present for the true meaning and joy of Christmas.

It's Not Too Late to Pledge



It's not too late to make a pledge of support to St. Alban's for 2024...Just put your pledge cards in the offering plate or fill out on the St. Alban's website, stalbandsbovina.org/campaign.htm.

Sunday School Schedule

Each Sunday through Advent, we're holding our Inquirers' Class, for newcomers and old-timers alike. Here's the schedule:

- November 26: Joint Children & Adult Sunday School: Happy new year! Learning about the Liturgical Calendar
- December 3: Joint Children & Adult Sunday School: Making Advent Wreaths
- December 10: All about Bishops & Church Governance
- December 17: A Brief History of Anglicanism, Wrap-Up

We'll meet each Sunday from 10:00-10:45 AM, in person in the Parish Hall, or over Zoom. This class is particularly appropriate if you are considering being confirmed or received at the Bishop's visit in January, but all are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ADVENT OUTREACH DRIVE

(STARTING THE WEEK BEFORE ADVENT!)

Sunday, Nov. 26: Laundry Detergent

Sat. Dec. 2, ECW Luncheon: Baby & Clorox Wipes

Sunday, Dec. 3: Hand & Dish Soap

Sunday Dec. 10: All-Purpose Cleaner, Lysol, Hand Sanitizer

Sunday Dec. 17: Toilet Paper & Paper Towels

Help us fill baskets with household supplies to deliver at Christmas to the families living at Lifting Lives! Bring new, unopened supplies & drop them off in the Parish Hall.

ADVENT AT ST. ALBAN'S

ADVENT 1: DEC. 3

Services at 8:30 & 11:00
Advent Wreath-Making
between services

ADVENT 3: DEC. 17

Services at 8:30 & 11:00
5:00-6:30 PM
Living Nativity



ADVENT 2: DEC. 10

Services at 8:30 & 11:00
St. Nicholas visits after
the 11:00 service

ADVENT 4: DEC. 24

Service at 10:00 AM
Followed by Greening
the Church

*Christmas Services on Sunday, Dec. 24
5:00 PM & 8:00 PM*

CHRISTMAS AT ST. ALBAN'S BOVINA

SUNDAY, DEC. 24, 2023

10:00 AM

Service of Holy Eucharist for the
Fourth Sunday of Advent,
followed by the greening of the church



5:00 PM

Family-friendly Christmas Eucharist

Lessons & carols followed by a simple
Eucharist--come as you are!

8:00 PM

Christmas Eucharist

A traditional service with beautiful
music, incense, & candlelight



All are welcome! 5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina

THE WARREN COUNTY FELLOWSHIP OF EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

Epiphany Eucharist, Potluck, & Burning of the Greens

**SATURDAY,
JAN. 6, 2024**

Bring greenery to burn
and a dish to share as we
celebrate the light of Christ!

5:30 PM Eucharist
6:00-ish Potluck
at St. Alban's Bovina

- St. Alban's: Chili
- St. Mary's: Drinks
- Holy Trinity: Bread
- Christ Church: Dessert

A quiet, meditative service for anyone for whom the holidays are difficult. All are welcome.

Longest Night

A service of light in the midst of darkness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

6:00 PM

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA

Walking the Mourner's Path

"Transforming grief into joyful living."

- 8-Week small group for people experiencing grief following the death of a loved one
- Facilitated by trained leaders & clergy
- Starting January 16th at St. Alban's Episcopal Church Bovina-- registration required
- See mournerspath.com for info

***To speak with a facilitator and reserve your place,
please call the church office at 601-636-6687.***

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Alicia	Dooley family	Kenya	Norma
Allan & Joan	Ed	Lee	Preston
Allen K.	Frances	Leesha	Roger
Barbi	Fritz	Libby	Rose
Caroline	Jackson	Lucas	Steve
Celcil	James	Lynn	Teresa H.
Charlene	Jane	Mark	Thersea K.
Charlie & Family	John	Martha	Tornado Victims
Dalton	Kathy	Mike & Nancy	Vallye
David	Kelley	Nita	

Server Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

	December 3	December 10	December 17	December 24	December 31
Rite I, 8:30 AM					
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	No 8:30 Service	
Lector	Sharon Cummins	Beth Sojourner	Ann Tompkins		
Rite II, 11:00 AM					One Service at 10:00 AM
Lay Worship Leader	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Gent	Dawn Richard	Harvey Smith
Greeters/ Ushers	Bobby Barlow	Betty Rushing	The Artmans	Ann Tompkins	Betty Rushing
Lector	Carolyn Gent	Penny Freund	Dawn Rickard	Sharon Hanks	Sharon Hanks Dawn Rickard Tommy Skinner Ann Tompkins
Prayers of the People	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Buck Cooper	Ann Tompkins	
Chalice Bearer	Lance Stewart	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Harvey Smith	
A/V System	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	No Healing Service



*Photography by: Rebecca B. Drake, Carolyn Gent,
Penny Freund & Richard Price*