



The Albanac

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

January 2024



Christmastime at St. Alban's

Saint Nicholas Bishop of Myra

“The giver of every good and perfect gift has called upon us to mimic God’s giving, by grace, through faith, and this is not of our ourselves.”

Saint Nicholas



A.J. and family, Ashley (mother) and Barbara and John Frey (grandparents) enjoying a visit with Saint Nicholas, aka Santa Claus. Also savoring the visit was Mason holding Sally Mae the beloved church cat.

On December 10, to the delight of the children as well as the adults, Will Horner portrayed Saint Nicholas, the Bishop of Myra. Nicholas was born in the 4th century in the village of Patara on the Mediterranean coast of Turkey. His parents were wealthy and devout Christians but died from an epidemic when Nicholas was very young. Nicholas inherited his parent’s wealth when he became of age.

Remembering the words of Jesus to “sell what you own and give the money to the poor,” Nicholas used his inheritance to help the sick, the sailors, the children and suffering. His gifts were mostly given in secret since he had no desire to be recognized for his generosity. Nicholas lived his life in faithful service to God. He died in 343 AD and was elevated to sainthood in 1446. The giving spirit of Nicholas’ life fashioned the fictitious and beloved character we now know as Santa Claus, Father Christmas, and Père Noël.



*Rev. Elisabeth and church members welcome Saint Nicholas to St. Alban's Church.
Pictured L/R - Susan, Betty, Sharon, Lance, Clarissa, the Frey Family,
Saint Nicholas, Mason, Betsy, Margaret Ann and Judy*





Mason making sure that Sally Mae had a visit with aka Santa Claus!



Carolyn Gent makes decorative Christmas items for the children's Sunday school

ECW—Annual Christmas Luncheon



On Saturday, December 2, members of the ECW gathered in the Parish Hall for the annual Christmas Luncheon catered by Kimble Bufkin of Vicksburg. Susan Price, outgoing president, decorated the tables with candles surrounded with traditional greenery. She suggested that the ECW support *Lifting Lives Ministries*—a family shelter in Vicksburg—by providing needed items instead of the traditional Christmas Ornament Exchange. This year *Lifting Lives* requested a supply of Clorox and baby wipes. The ECW met their request in abundance. Everyone was happy to have played a small part in lifting the lives of those in need, especially at Christmastime.

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The **purpose** of the ECW, established in 1871, is to empower women of the Episcopal Church to carry out Christ's work throughout the world. Their **Vision** is to be the eyes, ears, hands, and heart of Christ as He would have us to do.





*Emily (Biedenharn) and Liz (Curtis)*



*Luncheon catered by Kimbel Bufkin*





*Emily, Liz, Sharon and Betty all smiles at the annual event*





## Lighting the Advent Candles

*The four candles of Advent represent the four Sundays of Advent,  
symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love*



*Mason lights the candle of HOPE*



*Andrew lights the candle of PEACE*



*Taylor lights the candle of JOY*



*Fore lights the candle of LOVE*



## The Living Nativity



*Carolyn and Justin posing for the "baby in the manger" scene*



*"We Three Kings"- Thomas, Buck & Henry*



*Colby and Baby Charlie visiting "Dolly"*





*Mary John Biedenbarn & Dolly the mini-cow*



*God's helper Angels*



*Angels and Wise Men brave cold weather to portray the Living Nativity*



## Christmas Gifts for Lifting Lives Ministries



*Tommy, Beth, Terry, Harvey, Barnie, Stacy & Penny (not pictured)  
loading Christmas gifts for the families sheltered at Lifting Lives Ministries.*

Dear Friends,

Each year I wonder if we'll be able to do everything we want to do for the families at *Lifting Lives Ministries* for Christmas. And every year, the church community blows me away with generosity! Volunteers just left with a caravan of trucks and cars filled with toys and baskets of household supplies. There were bikes, dolls, clothes, stuffed animals...enough for everyone to have a good Christmas. Whether you went shopping, donated money, or helped get everything ready and delivered, thank you.

Your efforts will make a difference and spread love and joy to families who are having a rough year.

Blessings to all of you,  
Rev. Elisabeth





*Judy, Stacy, Barnie & Betsy wrapping gifts for Lifting Lives*



*The Parish Hall filled with gifts and toys for the children*



## Christmastime Snapshots



*Bonnie & David, Fore, Judy, Butch & Nancy making Advent wreaths*







*Jeff, Tommy, Josh & Bobby painting the doors and railing*



*Andrew visits goats displayed at Living Nativity*



*Salome (Sally Mae) continues to warm the hearts of church members*





*Stacy, Penny and Beth load presents for the children at Lifting Lives*



*Andrew assists Taylor lighting Advent candle*



*Beth, Tommy, Josh & Bobby painting door*



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## Annual Parish Meeting—Sunday, January 28

The Vestry has set the date for our Annual Parish Meeting for Sunday, January 28. The Eucharist will be held at 10:00 AM followed by the Parish meeting at 11:00 AM. The Vestry Nominating Committee has nominated Sharon Hanks for Senior Warden (2-year term) and Judy Morrissey & Judy Gavin for the Vestry (3-year terms). Nominations are still open; however, if you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for a Vestry position, please don't wait until the last minute. Serving on the Vestry is a responsibility that requires prayerful consideration on the part of those being called to serve and those electing.

### **Nominee for Senior Warden**

#### **Sharon L. Hanks**

I have been a member of St. Alban's since 1965. I was confirmed by the Right Reverend John M. Allin, then Bishop of Mississippi, on October 29, 1967. Along with my former husband Buddy Hanks, raised our three grown children at St. Alban's, where they have many fond memories. Even though they are all married and members of other denominations, they raised their children in their respective churches due to their Christian foundation and active participation at St. Alban's. I have loved, and continue to love, being part of the St. Alban's community by serving as a past Sunday School teacher to young children (many years ago), past member of the Vestry and Clerk of the Vestry, and member of the choir, altar guild, Episcopal Church Women (past president), and Finance Committee.

### **Nominees for Vestry**

#### **Judy Gavin**

Barnie and I moved to Vicksburg in February 2022 and quickly discovered St. Alban's, the church that would become our house of worship. We attend the 11:00 AM service where both of us serve as ushers. I am an active member of the ECW. Barnie and I love St. Alban's traditions, the rich liturgical year, and most of all, the wonderful and warm church members. I would be honored to serve on the vestry.

#### **Judy Morrissey**

I am a lifelong Episcopalian and have been a member of St. Albans about 55 years and attend faithfully. I have been on the Altar Guild and an ECW member for about as long. I have served on the vestry in the past and when I was younger, taught Sunday School. I love this little church—it has always been an important part of my life so I would like to serve on the vestry again.



## Elisabeth's Epistle

Christmas blessing to everyone! And, if you thought we had a lot going on in December, hang on to your hats! We start the new year off with a flurry of activity here at the church. Many of these events highlight our position as a church that is part of something bigger than ourselves. We are first and foremost part of the body of Christ, but we are also part of a local Episcopal community comprising three other churches, and part of a Diocese of over 80 churches. Maybe you are used to thinking of yourself as “just” a member of St. Alban’s. This January gives you a chance to think about being part of something much bigger than just St. Alban’s. I invite you to experience our Episcopal community at the following events:

- Saturday, January 6 at 5:30 PM at St. Alban’s—We have invited Christ Church, Holy Trinity, and St. Mary’s over for a joint Epiphany service, potluck & bonfire. We are providing chili and have asked the other church to bring drinks, bread, and dessert. Drop off your Christmas greenery at the bonfire pit to be burned. This is a great way to continue to build our Episcopal community in Warren County!
- Sunday, January 14 at 10:00 AM at St. Alban’s—Bishop Brian Seage makes his final visit to St. Alban’s. He will be confirming and receiving members and we will celebrate with a reception after the service. St. Alban’s will provide the meat, and we are asking you to bring a side dish to share.
- Saturday, January 20 at 10:00 AM at Chapel of the Cross, Madison—Meet and Greet with our candidates for bishop. Sign up online at [msbishopsearch.com](http://msbishopsearch.com) by January 12. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the candidates running for bishop and their vision for our diocese. The Meet and Greet will also be livestreamed.
- Friday, February 2-Sunday, February 4, Diocesan Annual Council at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, Ridgeland—Watch online or register to attend in person as we elect the 11th bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi.
- Sunday, February 4 at 10:00 AM, St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, Ridgeland—Everyone is invited to the closing Eucharist of Annual Council, no registration required. We will have one service of Morning Prayer at St. Alban’s at 10:00 AM this Sunday.



## Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

|                  |               |              |                 |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Alicia           | David & Diane | Kelley       | Norma           |
| Allan & Joan     | David W.      | Kenya        | Preston         |
| Allen K.         | Ed            | Lee          | Roger           |
| Barbi            | Frances       | Leesha       | Rose            |
| Caroline         | Fritz         | Libby        | Steve           |
| Cecil            | Jackson       | Lucas        | Teresa H.       |
| Charlene         | James         | Lynn         | Theresa K.      |
| Charlie & family | Jane          | Mark         | Tornado Victims |
| Clarence         | Jim           | Martha       | Vallye          |
| Dalton           | John          | Mike & Nancy |                 |
| David & Diane    | Kathy         | Nita         |                 |

For the departed: Tyler McRight and Peggy Jeanes.

## Liturgical Schedule

### SUNDAY SERVICES

|                       | January 7       | January 14            | January 21      | January 28            |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Rite I</b>         | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>10:00 AM</b>       | <b>8:30 AM</b>  | <b>10:00 AM</b>       |
| Lay Worship Leader    | Tommy Skinner   |                       | Ann Tompkins    |                       |
| Lector                | Sharon Cummins  |                       | Beth Sojourner  |                       |
|                       |                 | <b>Bishop's Visit</b> |                 | <b>Annual Meeting</b> |
| <b>Rite II</b>        | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>10:00 AM</b>       | <b>11:00 AM</b> | <b>10:00 AM</b>       |
| Lay Worship Leader    | Harvey Smith    | Richard Price         | Dawn Rickard    | Betsy Selby           |
| Lector                | Barnie Gavin    | Dawn Rickard          | Harvey Smith    | Penny Freund          |
| Greeters/ Ushers      | The Gavins      | Penny Freund          | The Gavins      | Penny Freund          |
|                       |                 | Nancy Hester          |                 | Ann Tompkins          |
| Prayers of the People | Dawn Rickard    | Harvey Smith          | Barnie Gavin    | Sara Gaul             |
| Chalice Bearer        | Dawn Richard    | Susan Price           | Penny Freund    | Barnie Gavin          |
| A/V System            | Buck Cooper     | Harvey Smith          | Jim Drake       | Harvey Smith          |

### WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

|                        | January 3      | January 10     | January 17     | January 24     | January 31     |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Healing Service</b> | <b>6:00 PM</b> | <b>6:00 PM</b> | <b>6:00 PM</b> | <b>6:00 PM</b> | <b>6:00 PM</b> |
| Lay Worship Leader     | Tommy Skinner  | Harvey Smith   | Tommy Skinner  | Harvey Smith   | Tommy Skinner  |



*Rebecca Drake, Rev. Elisabeth, Carolyn Gent, Richard Price  
and various other church members*