



The Albanac

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

June 2023



Honoring Graduating Seniors

Graduation Blessing



Josh Artman, Rev. Elisabeth & Lawson Selby

“In every beginning is an ending, O Lord, and to every end something new begins. Our brothers, Josh and Lawson, have graduated from high school, and are ready now for new learning and experiences. Grant that childhood’s innocence and hope may remain alive in them, bringing joy as they mature. Grant that they may hear your still small voice in their hearts, saying, “this is the way; walk in it.” Help them to preserve old friendships while creating new ones. Grant that we who love them may help them to find their own voices, their own words, and their own work in Christ’s true way, who knows the people they were created to be. And may God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless them and keep them, this day and always. *Amen.*”

Changes: Prayers and Services Honoring Rites of Passage

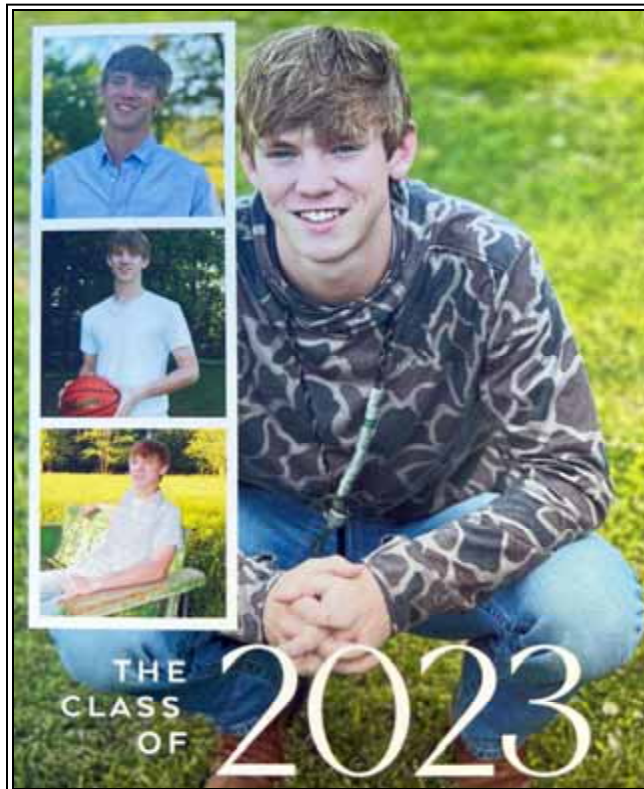


Ashleigh Holliday, Suzanne, Josh, Jeff & Jonah Artman



Steve Sikes, Lawson, Marin Sherwin, and Ruthie Sikes

Congratulations to Josh and Lawson!



Baptism of Robert Winter Price

On Saturday, May 13, we baptized Robert Winter Price, son of Robert and Bekka Price, grandson of Maura and Martin Jeliffe, and great-grandson of Joy Brabston. Winter, as he is known, was fascinated by the water as he was baptized at the same font as his great-grandfather, Bryan Brabston, was baptized 90 years ago.



*(L-R) Robert & Bekka holding Winter,
Rev. Elisabeth with sister, Natalie, and Harvey Smith, assisting*

Baptism of Charlotte Lane Langford



On Sunday, May 28, Rev. Elisabeth baptized Charlotte Lane Langford, daughter of Joel & Colby Langford. Present for the baptism were—Charles & Lisa Langford and Rodger & Kim Hopkins, grandparents; Ruth Green and Teresa Hopkins, great-grandmothers; Anna & Austin Hopkins and Audrey & Ian Roach, godparents.

A beautiful reception was held in the Parish Hall following the baptismal service.



Charlotte Lane—Sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever

Pentecost Sunday ~ Come Holy Spirit Come



On Pentecost Sunday, May 28, St. Alban's celebrated the *Birthday of the Church* and the *Baptism of Charlotte Lane Langford*. Andrew Cooper led the Pentecost processional (and recession) flying the *Dove Kite*, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Seeing the *Dove Kite* in flight, encircling the nave, is always a special moment for the congregation.

The Feast of Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter, is recognized as one of the seven principal feasts of the liturgical year. The celebratory day universally recognizes Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit gave birth to the church in order to fulfill Christ's mission on earth. *The Common Book of Prayer* also names Pentecost to be a day "especially appropriate for baptisms." What a wonderful day for Charlotte to be "sealed in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever."

The joyous feast day at St. Alban's was celebrated by wearing red, a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection.

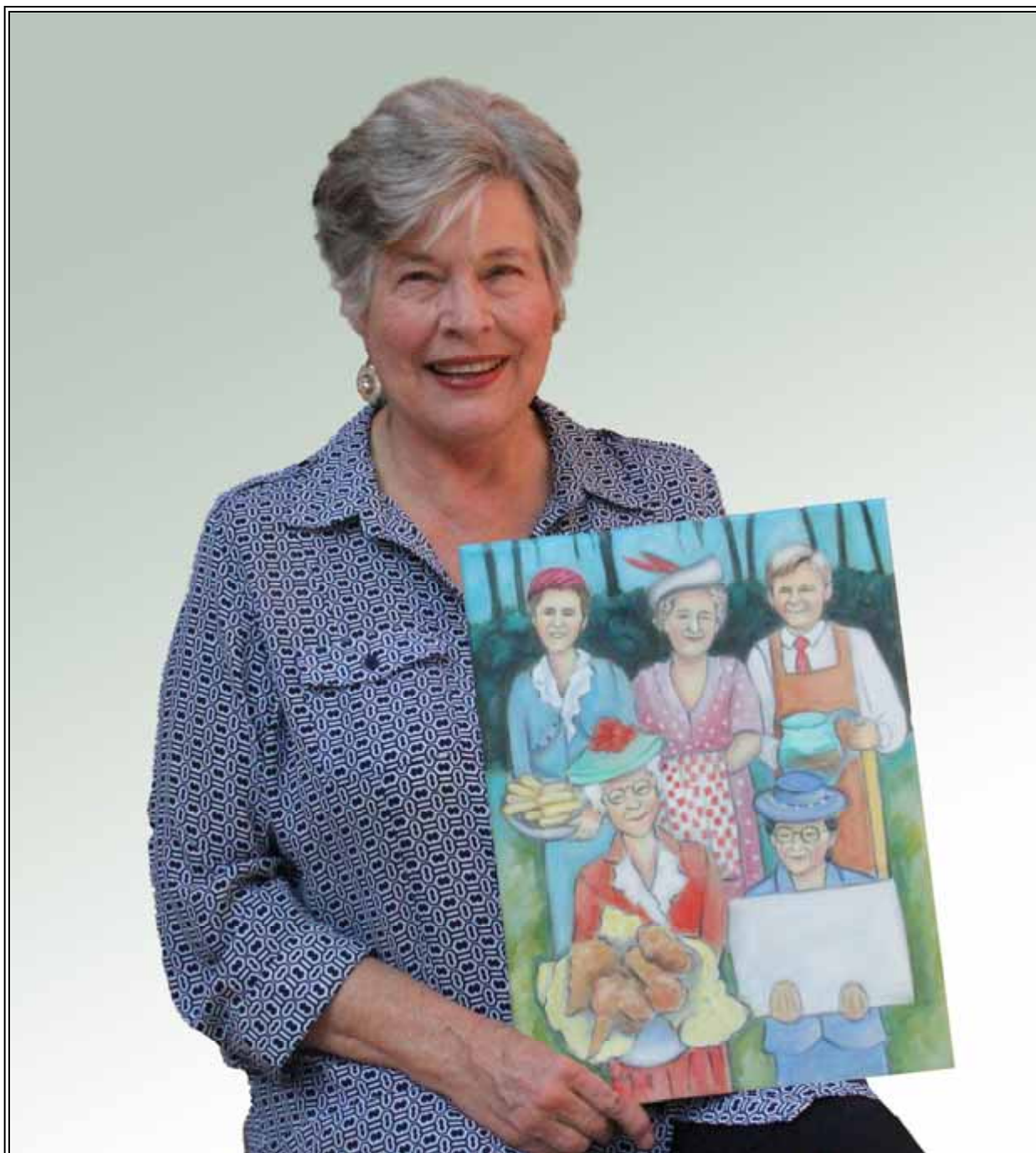
Pentecost Sunday ~ Picnic & Bonfire

On the evening of Pentecost, May 28, St. Alban's hosted parishioners from the other Episcopal churches in Vicksburg, Holy Trinity, Christ Church, and St. Mary's. As Lance Stewart explained before leading us in singing "Happy Birthday," Pentecost is regarded as the "birthday of the church" because, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were empowered to start spreading the Gospel. We had a great time celebrating with grilled hamburgers and hotdogs prepared by Buddy and Jane Hanks, Penny Freund, Betty Rushing, and Buck Cooper, side dishes brought by our guests, and a red velvet birthday cake from Christ Church. The evening concluded with a bonfire in our new bonfire pit. Thank you to all those who helped prepare and clean up!





In Memory



Mary Ann Biedenbarn Jones

December 29, 1942 — May 24, 2023

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting

Remembering the Life of Ann Biedenharn Jones

“Ann was born on December 29, 1942, the oldest of seven children of Eric and Betty Lassiter Biedenharn, and died on May 24, 2023. Ever devoted to her family, Ann was also a talented artist whose paintings will continue to bring joy to future generations. She was always positive, looking for and finding the good in everyone. She could talk and connect with anyone she met. In addition to her considerable artistic gifts, she was a teacher who loved both to discuss the inspiration for her artwork and to help others find their artistic inspiration.

“Raised on Blue Lake Plantation, a farming and cattle operation in Bovina, Ann loved nature and animals, and was always drawn back to rural settings. She graduated from H.V. Cooper High School in Vicksburg in 1961 before attending the Mississippi State College for Women and graduating from the University of Mississippi, where she focused on the visual arts. She married Jimmy Jones in 1967, and they welcomed two children, Liz and Jim. She was a devoted caregiver to both Jimmy and her mother in recent years.

“Ann wore many professional hats over the course of her life. This included work with Warren County school students under a Mississippi Arts Commission grant, service as Executive Director of Vicksburg Main Street, development of the Vicksburg Factory Outlets as a partner with GJSB Development Company, and entrepreneurship with her husband, including Mississippi River Tours, The Red Duck, and J. Richard’s Deli.

“However, her true calling was always painting. She set goals for her artistic development that led to the production of a tremendous portfolio, showings in galleries around the country, and numerous commissions. She worked primarily in oils, with a focus on wildlife, flowers, family portraits, and pet portraits.

About her art, she said, *‘When I began loving art as a child, I had no idea where it would lead me. I have been blessed with encouragement, education, a stable family life and dogged determination...Each painting that an artist does is an invention and an exercise in problem solving. Therefore it is enriching to the mind and soul.’* Ann illustrated several children’s books and produced a retrospective of her work, *Ann Biedenharn Jones: Life and Art*. A lifelong member of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Bovina, she supported the church throughout her life, and enriched it with her art, which hangs in almost every room.”

From the Obituary of Ann Biedenharn Jones
May 31, 2023

St. Alban's Lay Preachers

Throughout this past year, a group of four lay preachers at St. Alban's have met monthly with Elisabeth to learn about the art of preaching. Buck Cooper, Richard Price, Susan Price, and Lance Stewart committed themselves to studying homiletics with the goal of delivering a sermon to the congregation, which each of them did with resounding success. The purpose of this lay preaching group was twofold: to encourage spiritual depth in the participants and to open the eyes of the congregation to the idea that all of us, clergy and lay alike, are called to proclaim the good news! This group of preachers took their job very seriously, plumbing the depths of Scripture and seeking to hear what God might be saying to this congregation right now. We have been enriched by their perspectives and commitment to sharing their faith. Elisabeth will be forming a new preaching group toward the end of the summer to meet throughout the next academic year. If you would be interested in joining the next group, please let Elisabeth know.



Looking Ahead...

Sunday, June 18—The 11:00 AM service we will join St. Mary's Episcopal Church Vicksburg for worship and a potluck in celebration of Juneteenth (see below). St. Mary's will provide chicken and has asked us to bring side dishes. The 8:30 AM Eucharist will be held as normal.



Sunday, June 25—ONE Service at 10:00 AM to celebrate the Feast of St. Alban, followed by a potluck lunch.

Bishop Search: Listening Sessions. Interested in following the search for the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi? The Search Committee has posted information and a timeline on their website: <https://msbishopsearch.com/home>.

The Search Committee has announced listening sessions around the Diocese in order to hear from clergy and laity. The closest listening session to us will be held on Sunday, June 4 at 3:00 PM at St. Columb's in Ridgeland. This session will also be available to follow online. We will organize drivers from St. Alban's to attend the listening session at St. Columb's—please let Elisabeth know if you are willing to drive or if you would like a ride by Wednesday, May 31.

Wednesday, June 28—Join us at Holy Trinity at 6:00 PM for the installation of their new rector.

Elisabeth's Epistle

Moving is stressful. Although I'm thrilled that Buck and the boys will be closer to school in our new house, I am not enjoying the process of moving. Thank you for your prayers and support through it all.

As we make this adjustment as a family, we are also making an adjustment as a church. I do believe the average parishioner at St. Alban's won't notice any difference based on where I live, but that doesn't mean there won't be any changes. As I told you in my letter, my schedule will be the same: I'll be working from the church Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday; working from home on Friday; and of course attending special events and responding to emergencies as they arise. Of course, what this doesn't account for are the times I end up letting people into the church or meeting contractors there at odd (and often unannounced) hours. Our Wardens, Penny Freund and Jeff Artman, also carry a significant amount of this responsibility and volunteer many hours each week. I feel very good about the communication between the three of us and our ability to continue to manage the maintenance of the physical plant between us. But there may be times, especially if you are someone who helps out with the building and grounds, when we could use extra hands to help us manage.

There is another more subtle change that I've been thinking about. I will be less likely to run into those of you who live in Vicksburg when I'm out grocery shopping or running errands in town. This issue of my presence in the community came up at our last Vestry meeting, when I invited the former Senior Warden from All Saints Episcopal Church in Grenada to join us. Like a lot of churches in this time of increasing clergy retirements and decreasing ordinations, All Saints found themselves needing to get creative when they called a rector who lived a significant distance from the church. Their former warden said that the arrangement was working out quite well, but that it takes good communication on all sides. One of my goals as your rector is that you should always feel comfortable calling or texting me and should never perceive that I am "too busy" to talk to or meet with you. I hope that as we get used to this new arrangement, you will continue to let me know when you need to talk, or even better, let me know if you want to get coffee or lunch together. You—the people of St. Alban's—are my delight and my calling, and I am looking forward to our continued ministry together.

June Birthdays

1 Theo Williams	21 Lawson Selby
12 Cassandra Price	22 Jimmy Jones
13 Kerri Williams	Mary Ruth Jones
16 Henry Cooper	24 Amanda Monti
19 Sabastian Panelo	26 Laura Cook

June Anniversaries

1 Elisabeth Malphurs & Buck Cooper	13 Carroll & Beth Sojourner
5 Chad & Robin Price Troups	14 Terry & Beth Guynes
7 David & Anna Selby	15 Sergio & Eva Panelo
9 James & Cassandra Price	17 Matthew & Lauren Guynes

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

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

For the departed: Wayne Long, Ann Biedenharn Jones

Server Schedules

SUNDAY SERVICES

Rite I, 8:30 AM	June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins Tommy Skinner	Tommy Skinner Sharon Cummins	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	One Service, 10:00 AM
Rite II, 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Service at	Betsy Selby
Greeters/ Ushers	Betty Rushing	Dawn Rickard	St. Mary's	The Gavins
Lector	Carolyn Gent	Buck Cooper	Episcopal Church	Dawn Rickard
Prayers of the People	Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith	Vicksburg.	Carolyn Gent
Chalice Bearer	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	Holy Eucharist	Harvey Smith
A/V System	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	& Reception	Harvey Smith

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	June 7	June 14	June 21	June 28
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	No service



Photography by: Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake, Carolyn Gent