



THE ALBANAC

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA, MISSISSIPPI
stalbansbovina.org

March 2025

ST. ALBAN'S AT ANNUAL COUNCIL



Andrew Cooper carried the St. Alban's banner and Harvey Smith carried the Diocesan Altar Guild banner at the closing Eucharist of Annual Council on the coast.

ANNUAL COUNCIL



Tommy Skinner, Sharon Hanks, Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, Peggy Jones, and Harvey Smith



Buck Cooper addresses Council

The 198th Annual Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi was held January 31 - February 2 in Biloxi. Representing St. Alban's as delegates were Rev. Elisabeth, Sharon Hanks, Tommy Skinner, and Harvey Smith. Henry Cooper represented the Old River Convocation as a youth delegate. Henry and Elisabeth both served on the Response to the Bishop's Address Committee, with Henry writing the first draft of the response. Buck Cooper addressed Council as outgoing President of the Standing Committee, reflecting on a busy year with the election and consecration of the new bishop. St. Alban's member Peggy Jones, who has served as executive assistant for three bishops, was honored for her many years of service to the Diocese as she prepares to retire. The other big news was that the historic 200th anniversary of Annual Council will be held in Vicksburg. Go ahead and mark your calendars for Jan. 29-31, 2027. St. Alban's will be one of the sponsoring churches, along with Holy Trinity, Christ Church, and St. Mary's.

Lenten Offerings

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday, March 5, also known as Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, our primary service will be at 6:00 PM. An earlier service at 12:00 will be offered for those going out to make Eucharistic visits to our elderly and homebound members. As our prayerbook reminds us, we are invited “to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word” (BCP, p. 265). In addition to changes in our Sunday liturgy, we will have two groups during Lent that will help us prepare our hearts and minds for living into the joy of the resurrection at Easter. Please consider joining one of these as part of your Lenten discipline!

Speaking of Sin: Lenten Supper Series

Wednesdays

March 12, 19, 26, April 2, 9

6:00-7:30 PM

In our Wednesday evening soup supper series, we’re exploring sin and how we might see it, in the words of Barbara Brown Taylor in *Speaking of Sin*, as “a helpful, hopeful word” that helps us move from “guilt to grace.” Expect new ideas, good discussion, great food, and worship. If you are interested in helping provide soup and bread, please sign up at the church.

Ending Well: Coffee Talks on Preparing for Death

Tuesdays: March 18, 25 & April 1

10:00-11:00 AM

Been meaning to plan your funeral and get your affairs in order? The gift of organization and clarity about your wishes is one of the best gifts you can give your family. On Tuesday mornings in Lent, we will be discussing and sharing resources about funeral planning, decision making at the end of life, and leaving a legacy.

Snapshots from the Past Month



Carolyn Gent Burton & James Anderson lead our music



Fore shares about Cub Scouts



Blessing Sharon Hanks on her birthday

Elisabeth's Epistle

As we enter the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, March 5, you'll notice some changes in our worship. A little less music and more space for silence. No flowers and a simpler altar. The reading of the ten commandments and our confession of sin at the beginning of the service. No "alleluia" in our music or prayer. These changes help to set apart these forty days as something distinct, a time of preparation, repentance, and reflection on Jesus' journey to the cross. Just as Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness, we are called to undertake our own disciplines during this season, whether that be fasting from something or the addition of a discipline such as prayer, daily Scripture reading, or giving of our time or treasure.

Lent is also traditionally a time of repentance, and we'll be spending our Wednesday evenings during Lent talking about what we mean by sin, repentance, grace, and forgiveness. As we focus on sin and repentance, please consider whether you want to make a private confession during this season. Although we say a general confession of sin every Sunday, there are times when a private confession is needed. The Episcopal Church has a lovely stance on private confession, best summed up in the aphorism: "All may, none must, some should." Although I grew up in the Episcopal church, I was in seminary before I felt comfortable enough to seek out what you'll see listed in the Book of Common Prayer as "The Reconciliation of a Penitent" (p. 447). What I discovered was a beautiful practice offered by our church that speaks to our need from time to time to confess a specific sin and hear words of absolution and forgiveness proclaimed to us personally. While our general confession assures us of God's forgiveness, some of us benefit from a one-to-one conversation and assurance of pardon. Confession is an absolutely confidential act, and typically what is discussed during the rite is never brought up again. If you think you may want to make a private confession, please let me know. Also know that the other Episcopal priests in Vicksburg, Rev. Sam Godfrey and Rev. Rick Roessler, are also willing to hear your confession if it would be easier for you to do it with someone outside of our church family.

All of this focus during Lent on repentance is the spring housekeeping we do to tend to our souls in preparation for Easter. Just as many of us engage in "spring cleaning" our houses, God is calling each of us to a season of preparation and realignment as we do some deep cleaning in our souls. May we use this time to the glory of God, that we may enter Easter with joyful hearts.

Volunteers Needed!

Interested in getting more involved and contributing to our church family? Help is needed with the following projects:

1. Laying out and writing for the monthly newsletter
2. Updating our parish directory with recent photos
3. Digitization & preservation of our parish records
4. Cleaning out & organizing the basement
5. Organizing shelves in Parish Hall

Let Rev. Elisabeth or Senior Warden Sharon Hanks know if you would like to learn more about how you can help!



SMALL CHURCH COLLABORATIVE
FOR ALL LAY AND ORDAINED LEADERS OF SMALL CHURCHES

Get Out the Map!

2025 Small Church Conference

Where have we been and where are we going?

March 21-22
Grace Episcopal Church, Canton

For Wardens, Clergy, Ministry Leaders & Members of Small Churches:

- Network with other small church leaders!
- Leave with ideas for more effective ministry in your community!
- Celebrate the beauty of small churches!

 Register Here!

Elisabeth and a team of small church leaders are organizing the 2nd (annual?) Small Church Conference. The Canon to the Ordinary, Gary Meade, will be joining us as we talk about the challenges our small churches are facing and share resources to build up our churches and communities. All are welcome--please ask Elisabeth if you would like more information. Registration is only \$25 and includes Friday night dinner and Saturday lunch.

For more information, join the Small Church Collaborative email list by sending your contact information to emalphurs@stalbansbovina.org



Prayers of the People

For those sick or in need:

Allan & Joan	David & Melissa	Jay	Mike D.
Anita	Ed	Kathy	Mike & Nancy
Billie	Eva	Keith	Norma
Butch	Harold	Lawson N.	Richard
Charlie & Sue	Jackson	Lillie	Ricky
Clarence	James A.	Linda	Selinda
Dan G.	James W.	Mary Ann	Steve
Dan H.	Jane	Mary Lou	

For the departed: Joe Johnston and Eddie Monsour

Liturgical Schedule

	Mar. 2	Mar. 9	Mar. 16	Mar. 23	Mar. 30
Rite I - 8:30 AM					
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
Lector	Sharon Cummins	Nancy Montague	Beth Sojourner	Tommy Skinner	Sharon Cummins
Healing Minister	Tommy Skinner	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Rite II - 11:00 AM					
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Dawn Rickard	Carolyn Burton
Greeters/ Ushers	The Gavins	Bobby Barlow	The Gavins	Betty Rushing	The Gavins
Lector	Barnie Gavin	Kristi Hall	Susan Price	James Anderson	Dawn Rickard
Prayers of the People	Lance Stewart	Sharon Hanks	Buck Cooper	Barnie Gavin	Sharon Hanks
Chalice Bearer	Lance Stewart	Barnie Gavin	Susan Price	Carolyn Burton	Betsy Selby
A/V System	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith
Acolyte					
Healing Minister	Dawn Rickard	Carolyn Burton	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Dawn Rickard
Vestry Person of the Day	Harvey Smith	Bobby Barlow	Judy Gavin	Judy Morrissey	Mary Ann Wright
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Harvey Smith Judy Morrissey	Ann Tompkins Samantha Mahloch	Beth Sojourner Buck Cooper	Betty Rushing Cassandra Price	Nancy Hester Beth Guynes

Wednesday Healing Service

We will not have a healing service in March or April due to Lent. Join us on March 5 at 6:00 PM for Ash Wednesday, and then every Wednesday evening through April 9 for our Lenten series.