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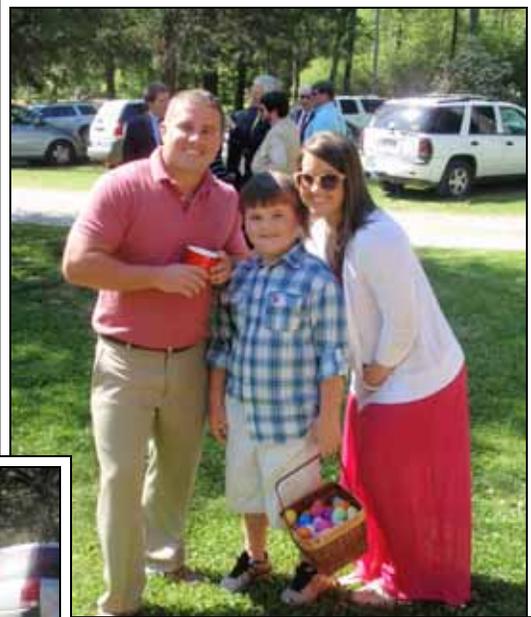
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Easter 2014





Easter Sunday at St. Alban's, 1936

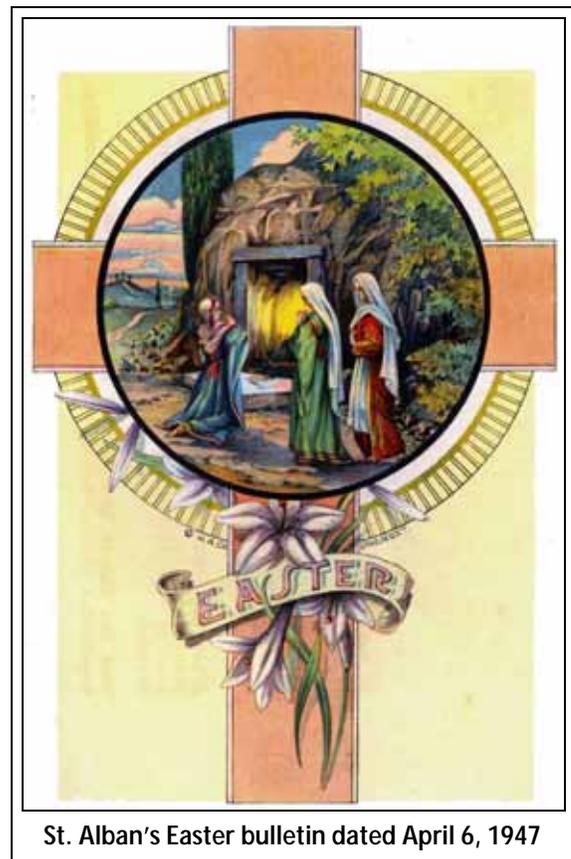
By Reverend Valentine Sessions, D.D.

Well, there are no words that can be collected and put together that would give a real description of the Field Day of the Bolton Field held in St. Alban's, Bovina, on Easter Day. It was all so great. A perfect setting for a perfect service. A beautiful day. All nature bursting forth and crying out to the soul the fact of the resurrection. The crowd. God's children. And many of them were present.

The beautiful chapel was filled to overflowing. The altar was banked with wonderful carnations—Easter Lilies and sprays of spirea—just enough decoration. Just right. At 11 o'clock the vested choir—made up of members from the Chapel of the Cross, the Good Shepherd, Terry and Bovina. Mrs. H. G. Thompson was the organist—the choir marched in—the music was perfect—sweet—and all that. We went on through the service—a wonderful response coming in great waves from the pews—the sermon—the offertory, Mr. Hugh Miller Thompson and his mother, Mrs. H. G. Thompson sang the offertory. Many received that Heavenly Food. The recessional. After all had talked a while on the lawn the dinner signal was given—and then all went into the Parish House for dinner. And a dinner it was.

That little faithful band at Bovina always goes the extra mile. Mr. Kay gave a fatted calf—Mrs. James a fatted lamb—baked hens—well—we do not know how many were given by Bovina folk—and they also gave the bread, tea and coffee—and the rest of the Field brought sweets and salads—etc. All had plenty to eat—and then some. We visited and the children played throughout the afternoon.

After this we all began to move toward the cars and before sun down all had headed for home. It was a great day.



St. Alban's Easter bulletin dated April 6, 1947

Rev. Sessions was rector of St. Alban's Church from 1919-1944. The 1936 article describing Easter at St. Alban's reflects his exuberant writing style and his unconditional love for the church. The beautiful 1947 Easter bulletin was also found in his files.

E C W Spring Luncheon



✠ Billie's Corner

May We Behold What We Are. May We Become What We Receive.

Have you noticed something different during the Celebration of the Eucharist? As I turn to face the congregation, just before the time to come forward to receive communion, I hold up the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation saying; *“May we behold what we are. May we become what we receive.”*

Where did I get these words? Why I am inserting those two sentences into our worship? I first heard these words being proclaimed during the Eucharist at The Monastery of Saint John the Evangelist. The Brothers did not take it upon themselves to insert new language into the Eucharist. The words were originally authored by Saint Augustine. This exhortation is rooted in the fourth century tradition of showing the sacred Bread and Wine to the congregation and announcing; *“Holy things for holy people.”*

The meaning behind *“May we behold what we are”* and *“May we become what we receive”* is Saint Augustine's variation of the ancient traditional words in the Celebration of the Eucharist.

We are called to look within ourselves to see our true selves; the self that God created us to be, and we are called to become the Christ we receive. One of my favorite authors, Cynthia Bourgeault, writes in her book, *The Wisdom of Jesus*, that the invitation behind this exhortation is:

We are being urged to identify the Godly part of our nature.
We are encouraged to continue our transformation into
the Godly part of our nature.
We acknowledge that God is both “out there” and “in here.”

Perhaps it is almost too good to be true—that God created us with a spark of the Divine within us—with a Godly part of our nature. It is the spark of the Divine that is our most true self. It is not limited to something that is beyond us in the heavens, but that God literally dwells within us—each one of us. God is both “out



there” and “in here.” We are being invited to look at God “in here” and be transformed by God’s indwelling.

Jesus knew that we needed nourishment to grow into the fullness of who God created us to be. Jesus instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper when he fed his dear friends a meal of bread and wine—bread that was consecrated into the Real Presence of Jesus’ body and wine that was consecrated into the Real Presence of his blood. Jesus continues to nourish us today, just as he did his closest friends at the Last Supper, with the words, “*Do this in remembrance of me.*”

At every Eucharistic celebration, we continue to “to do this in remembrance of Jesus.”

And we are invited to “*behold what we are and to become what we receive.*”

In peace

Billie+

Election of the 10th Bishop of Mississippi

The election of the 10th Bishop of Mississippi will take place at Reconvened Annual Council, St. Andrew’s Cathedral in Jackson on Saturday, May 3 at 8:30 AM. The candidates are:

- The Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, St. Titus Episcopal Church, Durham, NC
- The Rev. Marian Dulaney Fortner, Trinity Episcopal Church, Hattiesburg, MS
- The Rev. Dr. R. Stan Runnels, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Kansas City, MO
- The Very Rev. Brian Seage, St. Columb’s Episcopal Church, Ridgeland, MS
- The Rev. Ruth Woodliff–Stanley, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Denver, CO

The canonically resident clergy—The Very Rev. Billie Abraham and The Rev. Deacon Josie Williams and Annual Council delegates—Harvey Smith, Janice Herrington and Beth Guynes—will vote in the election for Bishop. Tommy Skinner will be seated as an alternate delegate and Clarissa Walker and Penny Freund will be seated as visitors.

Parish Weekend



✝ Josie's Journal

Deacon School

Deacon classes started on September 5, 2008, with formation taught by Gay Yerger. We met at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church in Jackson on Friday evenings from 6:00-8:30 p.m. There were four members in the *Class of 2011*. Worship rotated among the four of us.

I was introduced to journaling, *lecto divina*, breath prayer, centering prayer, holy listening and *daily examen* to shape my prayer life and assist me in formulating a rule of life. Formation was the only class that met all three years. During this time, I stayed at the Staybridge Suites, Jackson, every other weekend for three years.

We were introduced to the new online class, *The Diaconate*, offered by Church Divinity School of the Pacific with instructor, Rod Dugliss. The class met online from October 20—December 14. I was responsible for logging in, reading the assignments, writing my responses and posting responses on the website. A new assignment started each Monday. An interesting feature about this class was that it included students from all across the United States. The best thing about this class was that I could log on at 1:00 am and post my responses. I enjoyed the flexibility. Required reading included: *A Life Worth Living*, *Deacons in the Liturgy*, *Many Servants* and *The Christian Moral Life*.

The Rev. Greg Proctor was the local instructor for the online class. I was introduced to the *North American Association for the Diaconate*. Assignments included writing prayers of the people to be read aloud during class.

Also featured in the first year was CPE (Clinical Pastoral Education). During CPE my living quarters were in the Microtel Hotel in Brandon, where classes were held at the United Methodist Church. Class studies were *An Omen or Not* and *Clinical Pastoral Education* that started September 26, 2008, and ended May 9, 2009. We met on Friday from 6:00—8:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m. Students were allowed to select their own placement for CPE. Prior to this, all CPE field practice



was conducted in a hospital setting. The site I chose was the Warren County Juvenile Detention Center and Warren County Youth Court. The supervisor, Dr. Curt Burge, did not approve of my selection but I wanted my practice to be genuine and not artificial or forced.

I was required to write a case study for each class meeting (five to ten pages) and a theological reflection (two pages) on topics selected by Dr. Burge. The case study and theological reflection were to be distributed to class members and Dr. Burge; in this case ten copies. Both were critiqued in class by fellow students and Dr. Burge. I prepared a mid-term and a final evaluation to submit to Dr. Burge. The evaluations were of my classmates, the supervisor, Dr. Burge and me as a person. I read a total of twelve books for this class.

Spring classes started January 9, 2009, with Formation on Friday night and Church History with Rev. Lynn Barker on Saturday. The required texts were: *A History of the Christian Church*, *Documents of the Christian Church*, *Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2006*, *The New Zealand Prayer Book* and *Not Angels, but Anglicans*. Class included listening to lectures and defining terms used in the lectures. Two book reports were required. My selections were *New Wine* and *God's Secretaries*. The final course for the spring semester was *The Hebrew Bible* with Rev. James Bowley, instructor. The class met on Saturdays at Millsaps College where Dr. Bowley is the Chair of the Religion Department. The class was conducted with lectures, reading assignments and discussion. The final assignment was an evaluation of the course, an explanation and description of how I would use the books of *Numbers*, *Isaiah* and *Esther* as a clergy person.

During deacon school, books, travel, meals, and tuition were my responsibility. Tuition was \$1,000 each year. The second and third years St. Alban's contributed half of my tuition.

Peace,

Josie

*This is the third in a series of articles to explain the role of the deacon. I appreciate the feedback I received from the first article. I look forward to your feedback and questions. Call me at 601-994-4370 or email me at josiew48@gmail.com with questions.

What Happened to the Confession of Sin?

Easter is such a grand feast that it cannot be limited to one Sunday. Easter is an entire season—fifty days of celebration. Fifty days to ponder the wonder of what happened to us because Jesus was resurrected from the dead.

No one actually knows what happened in the darkness of the cave where Jesus' dead body was entombed. Once the great stone was rolled across the entrance, the mystery of the resurrection took place without any eye witnesses. We know that Jesus' lifeless body was resurrected and was alive in a divinely mysterious way, and at the same time, comfortably familiar way.

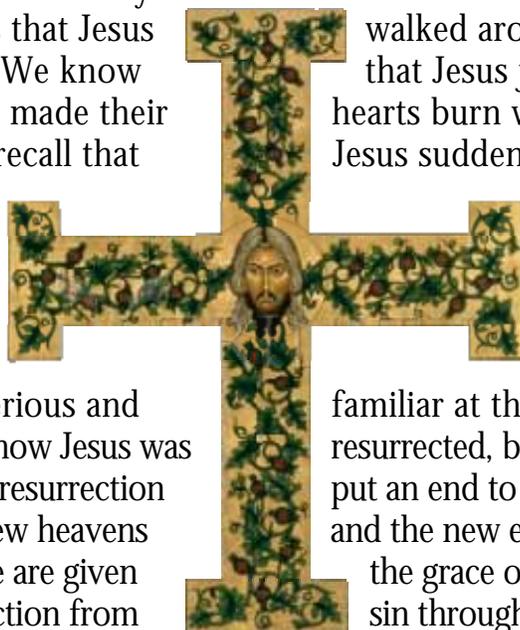
The gospels tell us that Jesus mistaken for a gardener. We know the road to Emmaus and made their explained Scripture. We recall that rooms and offered followers. Jesus cooked the Sea of Galilee. recognized at first reveal himself to his followers—he was mysterious and

We may not know how Jesus was Jesus was resurrected. His resurrection us into a new life—the “new heavens earth” in which we live, we are given of sin. Jesus offers resurrection from

During the *Great Fifty Days of Easter*, the Confession of Sin is optional. In place of asking for forgiveness of our sins, we can call to mind God's unconditional love that He offers us as the means to be transformed from sin into repentance. For fifty days, we can remember that without God's unconditional love we would never be able to turn away from our sins. Left to ourselves, we step onto the “hamster wheel” and spin around, repeating the same sins over and over. It is only with God's unconditional love that our lives can be transformed. It is the surrender of our wills to God that changes us and draws us into a deeper more intimate relationship with God, and therefore, a deeper and more intimate relationship with ourselves and others.

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace. So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer



May Schedule

Saturday, May 3: Election of Bishop of Mississippi, Saint Andrew's Cathedral

Sunday, May 4: Eucharist in Outside Chapel, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Blue Grass Eucharist at 11:00 AM with music performed by *The Angel Bandits*.

A light lunch will be served in the Parish House with music by *The Angel Bandits*.

Monday, May 5–Saturday, May 10: Rev. Billie will be on retreat at the Monastery of Saint John the Evangelist, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Wednesday, May 7: Quiet Day—*Come In, Be Still, Say a Prayer, Light a Candle, Leave in Peace*. The church will be open from 7:00 AM –7:00 PM.

12 Steps for Spiritual Wholeness, Parish House, 7:00 AM

Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM—Noon Prayer, noon—Evening Prayer, 5:00 PM

Healing Service, 6:00 PM

Sunday, May 11: Special Mother's Day Eucharist, featuring a *Medley of Ave Maria* sung by Mary Carleton. A Reception will follow the Eucharist in the Parish House.

No service in May at St. Mary's, Bolton

Tuesday, May 13–Thursday, May 15: Rev. Billie will be in New Orleans for LSU Medical School Graduation Ceremony for her daughter, Jeanne Lunz.

Saturday, May, 17: ECW Meeting, 9:00 AM, Parish House

Monday, May 19: Vestry Meeting, 6:00 PM, Parish House

Tuesday, May 20–Saturday, June 31: Rev. Billie will be in Grayton Beach, Florida, with her family for our annual vacation.

Sunday, June 15: Special Father's Day Eucharist. Reception following in the Parish House.

Monday, June 16–Wednesday, June 18: Vacation Bible School—*Make a Joyous Noise until the Lord*. VBS will be held at St. Paul's Church, Bovina. St. Alban's is the host community.

Thursday, July 24: Evensong at St. Philip's Church, Jackson. *Conference on Church Music and Liturgy*. Josie and Theo Williams, Marci Turner, Clarissa Walker, David McLaughlin and Mary Carleton will participate in the service.

Tuesday, August 12: Dinner at Gibbs Grocery

May Birthdays

1 Jay Sciro	16 Matthew Guynes
2 Scott Burr	17 Carey Price
Robin Toups	18 Lillie Lovette
4 Christopher Price	John Tompkins
5 Les "Butch" Ferguson	19 Dan Carleton
Tanner Kitchens	Amanda Rose Price
8 Conner Ferguson	22 Billie Abraham
9 Lindsay Bailey	24 Dalton Glatt
10 Grant Toups	27 Ben Porter

May Anniversaries

18 Carey & Amanda Price	29 Richard. & Susan Price
22 Buddy & Jane Hanks	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Sharon Perkins	Morgan Gates	Larry Lambioette
Charlotte Biedenharn	Anna	Sherry Horan
Richard Massey	Lucas Guynes	Jackson Monti
Alice Pronger	Mary Ellen Flowers	Michael Stevens
Lawrence Fields	Betty Meyers	Phillip Doiron
Fran Ross	Edd Greer	Modena Henry
Rev. Matt Buckles	Claudia Black	Rev. Jim Biedenharn
The Sid Champion Family		Mary Margaret Brabston

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in May

	May 4 <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i>	May 11 <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	May 18 <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	May 25 <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>
First Reading	Acts 2:14a,36-41	Acts 2:42-47	Acts 7:55-60	Acts 17:22-31
Second Reading	1 Peter 1:17-23	1 Peter 2:19-25	Psalm 31:1-5,15-16	Psalm 66:7-18
Gospel	Luke 24:13-35	John 10:1-10	1 Peter 2:2-10	1 Peter 3:13-22
Psalm	Psalm 116:1-3,10-17 Blue Grass Eucharist Outside Chapel	Psalm 23	John 14:1-14	John 14:15-21 8:30 Eucharist 11:00 Morning Prayer
Lay Worship Leader				
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins
11:00 a.m.	Betsy Selby	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith	Deacon Josie
Master of Ceremonies	Beth Guynes	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	
Crucifer	Beth Guynes	Koury Collins	Clarissa Walker	
Gospel Bearer	Deacon Josie	Genevieve Walker & Children	Deacon Josie	
Lector	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut	Bertha Kolb	
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	
Oblation Bearers	Jenni & Caroline Sciro Linda Gerache	Kelsey Artman Jess Gates	Margo Massey Richard Massey	
Ushers & Greeters	Joey Gerache Jay Sciro	Dan Carleton Allan Leese	Charlie Brantley Dalton Thames	Allan Leese Theo Williams
Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel	Marci Turner	Ann Tompkins	No Children's Chapel
Altar Guild	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing
Eucharistic Minister	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut		
Coffee Host	Light Lunch in Parish House	Reception in Parish House	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter	Wilma Mitchell Bonnie Pruett
Wednesday Healing	May 7 Tommy Skinner	May 14 Theo Williams	May 21 Ann Tompkins	May 28 Tommy Skinner