



The Albanac

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

May 2021



Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!

Children's Easter Egg Hunt





Flowering the Cross for Easter

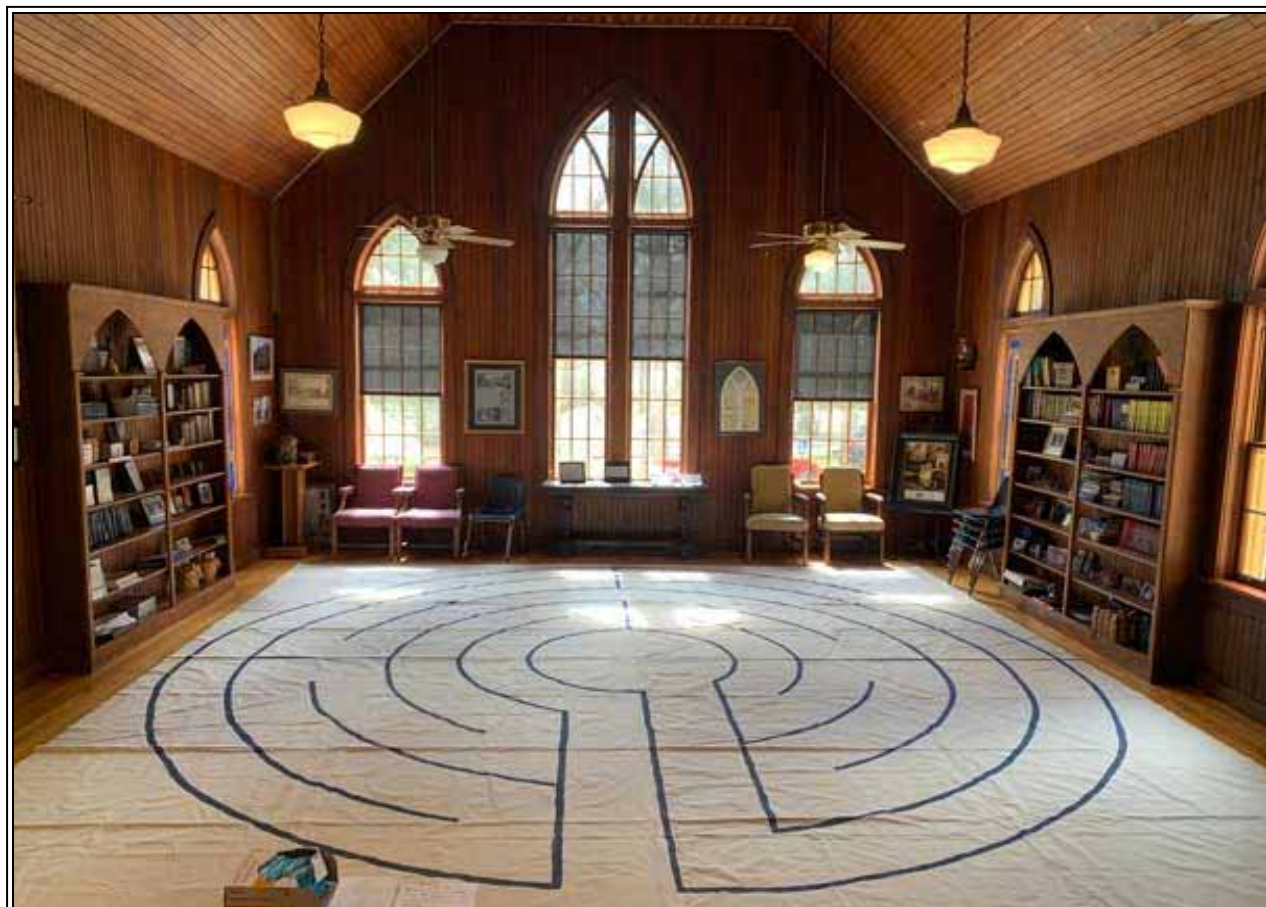


Children counting Easter egg money to donate to missions



Judy Morrissey & family enjoying Easter Day

Labyrinths Versus Mazes



A *Maze* is a puzzle to be solved. It has twist and turns and blind alleys. A left-brain task that requires logical, sequential, analytical activity to find the path in and out. On the other hand, a *Labyrinth* has only one path—the way in is the way out. The path leads you on a circuitous path to the center and out again. It involves intuition, creativity and imagery. With a labyrinth there is only one choice: to enter or not to enter.

A labyrinth is an ancient symbol that relates to wholeness, combining the imagery of the circle and the spiral into a meandering but purposeful path. It represents a journey to our center and back again out onto the world. The labyrinth has always been associated with unity with God and conversation with the divine, with spirituality, worship, and the sacred mystery. Three stages of the walk are:

- **Releasing**, letting go of the details of your life. A time to open the heart and quiet the mind.
- **Receiving**, when you reach the center, stay as long as you want; it is a place of meditation and prayer.

- **Returning**, following the same path out you are joining God, your Higher Power or the healing forces at work in the world.

There is no right way to walk the labyrinth. Just follow the path. Some walk with their hands palms up, others walk with their hands folded. The walk may be joyous or somber. It might be thoughtful or prayerful. You may use it as a walking meditation. Children often run as fast as they can in a playful manner. Choose a different attitude from time to time. Be serious, prayerful or playful. Play music or sing. Pray out loud. Be attentive to your experience.

Some general guidelines are: Focus, pause and wait at the entrance. Become quiet and centered. Bow, nod or some other gesture as an acknowledgment and then enter. Observe the process as you move toward the center. Stay for a while; leave when it feels appropriate. If others are walking, respect the sacredness. Pause and let them pass. There is no rush. Simply relax and let what happens happen. After exiting, turn and face the entrance. Give an acknowledgment of ‘ending’, as if to say *Amen*. Reflect on your experience by journaling or drawing.

We want to thank Rev. Elisabeth for making the canvas labyrinth for the Parish Hall.

Dale Gibson



Garden labyrinth—a walk of contemplation, meditation and prayer

Congratulations to Graduating Seniors

Ashley Patterson became part of the St. Alban's family through her cousin, April Kelly, who has tended to our nursery children for several years. From her first Sunday with us, Ashley has been a hit with the children! They love her smile, her laugh, and her ability to calm anxious little ones whose parents disappear for an hour to attend church! Ashley has missed being in the nursery with the children as much as they have missed being there with her and April. After graduating from Warren Central in a few weeks, Ashley will be attending Southwest Mississippi Community College. She plans to enter the Nursing program there while performing with the Redline Dance Team.



Hope Hudson is the granddaughter of Ms. Harriett Gray. She is a senior at River City Early College where she is a Dean's Scholar, a member of the Chick-fil-A Leadership Academy, and Key Club President. In her free time, she enjoys performing on stage with the Vicksburg Theatre Guild. She began attending St. Alban's with Clarissa Horner this year and participated in several EYC activities. In the fall, she will attend the University of Southern Mississippi to study Psychology.

From the Senior Warden

Concerning our Priest in Charge

The letter of agreement among the Bishop, Vestry and Elisabeth Malphurs that was signed in 2019 established Elisabeth as the Deacon/Priest-in-charge at St Alban's for a period of two years. As part of the letter of agreement, Elisabeth and the Vestry agreed to a Mutual Ministry Review, to be undertaken at approximately 10 months and 20 months into her tenure. The purpose of this review was to provide her and the Vestry with goals for the parish, assess how well we are fulfilling responsibilities and identify areas of potential conflict or disappointment.

The three goals identified during the first review were:

1. Increase average Sunday attendance
2. Work with the other Episcopal churches
3. Identify new leaders

We had to modify some goals due to the pandemic; but reaffirm these goals as still relevant. In the review conducted last month, we looked at challenges and strengths, and recognize even more the need for leadership and stewardship of resources. We still need to find a new treasurer and increase financial giving to the operating budget as opposed to specific areas of giving. We also seek new leadership in outreach and youth programs. If you feel a calling in any of these areas, please speak to us about volunteering and help get these programs moving.

Elisabeth's tenure as Priest-in-charge expires at the end of June and we have several options. The Vestry can either offer her the position as Rector or we can let her tenure expire and we begin the search process for a new rector. Elisabeth has two options as well, she can accept the Vestry's offer or not.

It is my intention at the May Vestry meeting to propose a resolution offering Elisabeth the position of Rector of St Alban's. Assuming it passes and she accepts, the resolution goes to the Bishop for approval and we draft a new letter of agreement that would be effective on 1 July. Since Elisabeth came among us in July of 2019, we have been blessed to have her spiritual leadership and prayerful guidance. I believe she has a mutual sense of mission, core values and goals for St Alban's and has been the right person to lead St Alban's during this pandemic. I am confident she will continue to lead us on the right path as rector, priest and teacher.

Richard Price



*“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these
who are members of my family, you did it to me”
Matthew 25:40*

Outreach is an integral part of St. Alban’s. It’s part of how we follow God’s commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves. And yet, an interesting thing happened when we held an initial meeting to organize an outreach committee. We realized we needed to start with some basics—defining what outreach is, for example. What makes outreach different from reaching out to those in our parish community whom we haven’t seen for a while or who are sick? What makes outreach different from reaching out to our neighbors and inviting them to church? Is outreach just local, or is it global? Does outreach mean financial contributions, volunteering time, or other support? Or all of the above?

At our initial outreach committee meeting, we talked about some of these questions, as well as broader questions such as our vision for outreach at St. Alban’s. Are there certain passages from Scripture that guide our vision? Perhaps Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.” Or perhaps, with our great interest in caring for children, we might be guided by Mark 9:37, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

These questions are guiding us as we form an outreach committee which will be tasked with overseeing the organization and promotion of outreach at St. Alban’s. This effort is just getting started, and all are welcome to join. We’ll be having another organizing meeting soon—stay tuned!

Rev. Elisabeth

Kindness: Pass It On

May is not typically a month that brings to mind thoughts of love. One exception, of course, is Mother's Day, when we naturally think of the love we feel toward our mothers. Conversely, it's a day when we, who are mothers, think of the love we feel toward our children—the people who gave us the title of mother.

Love has been on my mind a great deal during the past few months. Thinking back to Christmas, the great love of our Father who sent Jesus to be our redeemer when we, as humans, had made it abundantly clear that we could not follow His laws on our own, no matter how much God loved us.

The man-made holiday of Valentine's Day also brings love to mind. Not too long after February's love-themed holiday, we celebrated Easter, during which we thought of the ultimate love that Jesus showed when He gave His life to save us from our sinful demise. It seems no other love could ever come close to that love Jesus showed for all of us. I suppose the love that has been on my mind and heart recently is akin to that ultimate love.

As I've shared in previous writings, it's so important to share our love for one another. True love is not just the romantic feeling between two individuals. Real, true love is our love for our fellow man, whether a friend or stranger. It isn't just something to talk about, or another thing for me to write about. True love is our purpose is in this life.

So many times, throughout my life, I've been told I was a romantic, that I see the world through rose-colored glasses. The truth is I've seen some of the evil that people can inflict on others, the hatred that we humans can show. I've also seen the love that perfect strangers can share with one another, by helping during a crisis or simply sharing a smile with someone as we travel through life. I've always chosen to give others the benefit of the doubt, even when they don't reciprocate. If that makes me naïve or gullible, that's alright. I sleep better that way.

My biggest challenge is, and has always been, making the rest of the world see the benefit of kindness. How can we get through to others that all the world really needs is for us to love each other? Perhaps we could end wars and violence. It all begins with kindness. It can start with something as seemingly simple as no longer hurting each other's feelings. Children would stop bullying other children or saying hurtful words to each other. It has to start in order to have any resulting peace. Let's begin with us. This congregation of believers has shown love for one another and our community. You all showed love to me when I was a stranger. We can do this! Let's continue the command Jesus gave us: "Love one another."

Dawn Rickard

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

I remember the strange sensation at the beginning of the pandemic when all of a sudden all of my plans and appointments were cancelled. There was a brief moment, before my time started filling up again with Zoom meetings and online worship, when my schedule was blank. I'm sure you've had your own experience of shedding certain things over this past year. Sometimes I found the experience disorienting and unpleasant, like when we had to cancel family vacations. But, other times, I have found a sense of freedom in clearing the decks and focusing on essentials. I've been thinking about this as we figure out what our post-pandemic lives are going to look like. What have we learned during this time about how we want to live? Are there certain things we started this year that we want to keep doing? Are there certain things we can leave behind?

In our church life, we've had a similar process of subtracting and adding. We've had periods where our life together felt very stripped down. Yet at the same time, we added things we had never done before: livestreamed worship, group meetings over Zoom, daily morning prayer over Facebook. As things start to feel more normal around the church, with more people gathering in person for worship and groups, we need to ask some similar questions about what we've learned during this past year. What have we adopted during the pandemic that we need to continue doing? Are there things we stopped doing that we can let go of? As a small church, we must always discern where the Holy Spirit is guiding us. Where is there energy? What needs attention? Where is God's call to us, right now, in this moment? I hope you'll consider these questions with me, and even better, I hope you'll share your thoughts as we start planning for the future.

May Birthdays

2 Robin Price Toups	17 Carey Price
4 Christopher Price Bitsy Sloan	18 John Tompkins
5 Tanner Kitchens	19 Dan Carleton Amanda Rose Price
10 Colby Langford Grant Toups	24 Dalton Glatt Gloria Hall
11 Brantley Dunaway	27 Ben Porter Jim Dooley
15 Gabby Rushing	28 Briggs May
16 Matthew Guynes Will Johnson	

May Anniversaries

4 Easy & Mary John Biedenharn	29 Richard & Susan Price
18 Carey & Amanda Price	30 Michael & Sally Southall
22 Buddy & Jane Hanks	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:



Aleister	Earline	Nita
Ann & Jimmy	Estella	Norma
Anna	Glenda	Parker
Ashlee & Mack	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Patty
Barbara	Jackson	Peter
Betty	James	Ria
Bill & Karen	Kristin	Ruth
Bobbie	Laurie	Shelby Lynn
Charlie & Family	Lee Davis	Suzanne
Cooper	Lisa & Charlie	The Pruett family
Cynthia	Mark\	The Torrey family
Dan & Mary	Martha	Theresa
David	Mary Frances	
	Mary Jo	

COVID-19 Weekly Events

Adult Formation Groups In-Person Meetings resume in May

Sunday School, Bibles & More, Spiritual 12 Steps and Ultreya
will be In-Person at the Church or on Zoom

Please call the office if you need help with Zoom

Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite I, Parish Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, Nave, 11:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Monday — Friday

Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Tuesday

Bibles & More, Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. Group from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II with Prayers for Healing, 6:00 pm

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Thursday

Ultreya, 12:00-1:00 p.m.



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rev. Elisabeth and Rebecca Drake

Server Schedule

Date	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Usher	Notes/Camera
Sunday				
5/2/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith	Sharon Cummins Buck Cooper	Beth Sojourner Stacy Weaver Theo Williams Jim Drake
Wednesday				
5/5/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner		Harvey Smith
Saturday				
5/8/2021	2:00 PM	Betsy Selby		
Sunday				
5/9/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Theo Williams Richard Price	Tommy Skinner Beth Guynes	Jim Price Ann Tompkins Dale Gibson Outdoor Chapel Buck Cooper
Wednesday				
5/12/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruett		Harvey Smith
Sunday				
5/16/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins David Pruett	Beth Sojourner Sharon Hanks	Jim Price Buck Cooper Harvey Smith
Wednesday				
5/19/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams		Harvey Smith
Sunday				
5/23/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Theo Williams	Penny Freund Kerri Williams	Jim Price The Halls Jim Drake
Wednesday				
5/26/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner		Harvey Smith
Sunday				
5/30/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Harvey Smith Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner Susan Price	Jim Price Allan Leese Dawn Rickard Buck Cooper