



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5430 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
www.stalbansbovina.org

April 2011

St. Alban's Website

St. Alban's now has a new and more extensive website designed to feature everything from news releases to scheduled events. The site is destined to become a favorite to all who visit.

The theme of the website is the church motto, *Come to the Country*. The theme is carried forward throughout the site in graphics. The home page is quite attractive as it features a revolving collection of church photographs ~ the church grounds as well as the interior of the sanctuary. The homepage entices visitors to *Come to the Country*.

Take some time to explore the various tabs which lead you to all facets of church activities and self-guided worship. There is now access to *The Daily Office* and *Preparing for Sunday* which includes annotated Gospels, Scriptures and Psalms. The tab for "Parish Life" includes the liturgical schedule, church calendar, coming events and ministries. The new Rector & Deacon page has Billie's monthly messages and news from Josie's ministry.

The only way to really learn the new St. Alban's site is to explore it for yourself. The site features the latest in photography techniques that help to enhance your viewing experience. As the old saying goes, "A picture is worth a thousand words." Just to see some of the church members as they participate in worship services brings everything to life.

Enjoy your church website, www.stalbansbovina.org, and share it with friends. In the future, we hope this site will reach not only the members of St. Alban's but other churches in the Episcopal Diocese as well.

The screenshot shows the homepage of St. Alban's Episcopal Church. At the top, there is a header with the church's name and address: "ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BOVINA, MISSISSIPPI". Below this is a navigation menu with links: "CLOSER LOOK", "SPIRITUALITY & WORSHIP", "REACHING OUT", "PARISH LIFE", and "RECTOR & DEACON". The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a "News" section with a "Spotlight" on "St. Alban's Youth in the Spotlight" and a "ST. ALBAN'S HISTORY" button. In the center, there is a large image of the church grounds with the motto "COME TO THE COUNTRY". On the right, there is a "Worship Schedule" section with a table of services for Sunday and Wednesday. Below the main content area, there is an "Events" section with a "Weekly Schedule" and a "VIEW THE PARISH CALENDAR" button. At the bottom, there is a "VIEW THE ALBANAC" button.

Once Upon a Time

Once upon a time the story goes, a preacher ran through the streets of the city shouting, “We must put God into our lives. We must put God into our lives.” And hearing him, an old monastic rose up in the city plaza to say, “No, sir, you are wrong. You see, God is already in our lives. Our task is simply to recognize that.”

Wisdom Distilled from the Daily

Joan Chittister

St. Alban's Lenten Arts Programs

Mark your schedule for the remaining *St. Alban's Lenten Arts Programs*. The programs are preceded by the Healing Service & Holy Eucharist at 6:00 PM followed by a Soup Dinner in the parish hall at 6:30 PM. The Lenten Arts Programs take place at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Healing

6:30 PM Soup Dinner

7:00 PM Arts Program

Wednesday, April 6: *An Evening of Sculpture*

Dr. Sam Gore, Sculptor, Mississippi College

Wednesday, April 13: *An Evening of Choral Music*

St. Alban's Church Choir, Joan Leese, Organist

Never Too Late to Say Thank You

We extend our thanks and appreciation to Sandra Melsheimer and Bridging the Gap for *An Evening of Irish Music* which took place on March 16th. The musicians enjoyed playing the music as much as the audience enjoyed listening! Thanks to Charlie Brantley and Ann Jones for providing the soup and bread.

We also extend our thanks and appreciation to Brother Vincent who presented us with *An Evening of Organ Music* on March 23rd. Brother Vincent had as much fun describing the music and playing the organ as we did listening! Thanks to Tommy and Frank Skinner for preparing the soup and Sandra Melsheimer for the bread.

A heartfelt thanks to *The Jubilee Singers* of Hinds Community College, Utica Campus, who presented an uplifting *Evening of Spiritual & Gospel Music* on March 30th. The famed men's ensemble is under the direction of Dr. Bobby Cooper. Billie Abraham prepared the soup which was enjoyed by all.

†Billie's Corner

*If GOD doesn't guard the city,
the night watchman might as well nap.
It's useless to rise early and go to bed late,
and work your tired fingers to the bone.
Don't you know GOD enjoys
giving rest to those he loves?*

*Psalm 27
The Messenger Translation*

God enjoys giving us rest. Why do we resist rest? Why is it so difficult to honor a Sabbath day in our weekly routines? I cannot count the times I have heard someone say, “I don't know how I ever had time to work. I stay so busy since I retired.” How many times I have internalized anxiety at having far too many things to do in far too little time? More times than I care to admit.

Something wonderful occurred when my grandchildren and I arrived at Gray Center a week ago. We unloaded the car and got settled in our cottage. It was at this point that Jack and Kate noticed the lack of a television and the lack of cell phone reception. After the initial shock passed, we settled down to play Dizzios (an updated version of Dominos).

We talked about sleeping late in the morning, preparing waffles for breakfast and riding our bikes. I announced to the children and to myself, “We don't have to be in a hurry. No one is marking our time. We are not on a schedule.” I surprised myself with those words.

We really didn't have to do anything at an appointed time for the next 48 hours. The lack of a schedule was almost unsettling, for the children as well as me. Their day-to-day lives are packed with school, friends, sports, gymnastics, and church activities.

We adjusted! We stopped checking the time. We stayed in our pajamas until late morning. We rode bikes between rain showers. Jack and Kate gloated when they beat me at the games we played. We slowed down.

The fact that this leisurely rhythm was such an attention-getter tells me how unusual it is. After the children returned to Oxford and I returned to Bovina, I reread a chapter from Barbara Brown Taylor's book entitled *An Altar in the World*. The name of the chapter was “The Practice of Saying No — Sabbath.” I recalled that this chapter grabbed my attention when I read it several months ago. But of course, I had gotten busy and forgotten Barbara's words of wisdom.

The following is the paragraph that spoke loud and clear to me: “Most people I know want to talk about why it is impossible for them to practice Sabbath. If you want to try it, then make two lists on one piece of paper. On one side of the paper, list all of the things you know give you life that you never take time to do. Then on the other side, make a list of all the reasons why you think it is impossible for you to do those things. That is all there is to it. Just make two lists, and keep the piece of paper where you can see it. Also promise not to shush your heart when it howls for the list it wants.”

OK. I admit, I read this formula, but I didn't actually make my two lists. Barbara Brown Taylor admits that developing a rhythm of Sabbath was not easy for her either. She suffered burn-out from ministry and left parish work to teach at a college. The struggle to say no followed her into her new career, but, she is “practicing” the practice of saying no.

If I am going to make my two lists, I have to stop writing this letter. I have to stop looking at my to-do list and think about the life giving things that I have pushed to the back burner. To tell you the truth, it is far easier to add to my to-do list than to make myself stop accomplishing tasks and give myself some Sabbath time.

WARNING: I see a red flag! Is my “say no” list going to become one more thing to do? Before I write my lists I am going to read another chapter in Brown’s book, *The Practice of Being Present to God*. I must remind myself, whether I am saying yes or no, the journey is all about being aware of God’s presence in the yes’s and the no’s. It’s all about God!

Don't you know GOD enjoys giving rest to those he loves.

In peace,
Billie+

St. Alban's Rule of Life

We aspire to....
worship weekly
pray daily
learn constantly
serve joyfully.

Weekly Schedule

<u>Sundays</u>	Adult and Children's Sunday School 9:50 – 10:50 AM
<u>Tuesdays</u>	Bible Study 9:30 – 11 AM
<u>Wednesdays</u>	12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, 7:00–8:00 AM Men's Work Force, 10:00 AM Healing Service & Holy Eucharist, 6:00 PM

April Events

Gray Center, “Big House Parish Weekend”

Friday April 1–Sunday, April 3

Hamburgers and Vegetable Burgers are the menus for our Saturday evening’s meal. The makings for the charcoal fire and the condiments (mustard, mayonnaise, catsup, pickles, lettuce and tomatoes) will be provided. Needed: hamburger patties and vegetable burgers patties, cheese, and buns.

Bedding and towels are provided. Bring a quilt for extra warmth at night. A reminder: Funds are available for lodging expenses at “The Big House.” The fee is \$49.00 per night, per person. Pay what you can.

The Big House offers a screened in porch with rocking chairs. The porch has a long history as a place to sit and visit! Bring your fishing poles! We will bless our meals with the traditional Johnny Appleseed Blessing. We will close our days with Compline and celebrate the Holy Eucharist on Sunday at 10:00 AM.

Morning Prayer at St. Alban’s

April 3, 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

The Rev. Deacon Josie Williams
Harvey Smith

Fish Fry Cancelled

The decision has been made that we will cancel the Fish Fry this year. The preparation and the actual event are more than we can handle during Lent. Betsy Selby is discerning the possibility of chairing the Fish Fry next year, Sunday, April 22, 2012.

April Birthdays

1	Bobby Sullivan	18	Jennifer Harper
2	Charlotte Biedenharn		Greg Tierce
3	Jay Harper	23	Jack Monti
7	Sandra Melsheimer	27	Ford Biedenharn
	Ruth Green		Russell Sumrall
8	John Scott	29	Liz Curtis
10	Olivia Lee		Frank W. Skinner, Jr.
	Amy Burr	30	Allison Nieto
	Hayden Guynes		
	Chad Toups		

Anniversaries

16	Charles & Lisa Langford	23	Joseph & Linda Gerache
17	Jim & Joyce Butler	28	Michael & Jana Guynes
18	Gene & Wanda Warren		

Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

Anne Grogan	Ethel Pickens	John Stout
Charles Hanks	Jim Wiseman	Sarah Kelly
John Williams	Ruthie Gray	Bryan Brabston
John Jenkins	Anne Meadows	Rusty Henderson
Pat Pierce	Isabelle Kelly	Sheila & Bubba Evans
Alvin Barrett	Carol Bowden	Lewis Montgomery
Parker Ramsay	Marvin Pritchard	Newell Brabston
Mike Ray	Jay	Darlene Meisenholder
Whit Porter	Julia Gates	Bob Cannon
Frances Marble	Phyllis	Johnny Bottom
Jean Roberts	Louis Field	Charles & Lou Housholder
Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford	Stephanie Lucas-Nelson
Fannie Mae Gibbons	Richard Allen	Rowdy Bridges
Arthur Tohill	Allen Teeter	Tedi Levi
Carol Steed	Becki Logue	R. A. Logue
Charlotte Biedenharn	Jeff Dennis	Francis & George Hammack
John Tompkins	Kathryn McCormick	Jimmy Jones
Dr. James Valentine	Liz Curtis	Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz

Pray for men and women of the Armed Forces, especially:

Bo McCloud	Christoph Martin	Cynthia Horan
Billy Hubbard	Don Wandembergh	Carlos Wandembergh

Liturgical Schedule

Sundays in April

*note that April 3 is Morning Prayer led by Josie Williams and Harvey Smith

	April 10	April 17	April 24
	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday	<i>Easter</i>
First Reading	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Isaiah 50:4-9a	Acts 10:34-43
Psalms	Psalm 130	Psalm 31:9-16	Psalm 118:12,14-24
Second Reading	Romans 8:6-11	Philippians 2:5-11	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel	John 11:1-45	Matthew 26:14- 27:66	John 20:1-18
Eucharistic Minister			
8:30 a.m.	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Tommy Skinner
11:00 a.m.	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins
Crucifer	Kerri Williams	Kevin McDaniel	Koury Collins
Torch Bearer			Shay & Josh Sullivan
Gospel Bearer	Susan Price	Joshua McDaniel	Bobby Sullivan
Acolytes	Michael Rangel	Mignon McDaniel Beth Guynes	Rachel Sullivan Caden Black (Holy Spirit Kite)
Lector	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut	Sharon Hanks
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Theo Williams	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Becki & Max Rangel	Jim & Becky Drake	Mignon & Joshua McDaniel
Ushers & Greeters	Greg Tierce Jeff Artman	Jim Drake Bobby Barlow	Charlie Brantley Kevin McDaniel
Altar Guild	Cassandra Price Margie Scott	Sharon Hanks Sherry Horan	All Altar Guild members
Eucharistic Minister		Kerri Williams	Ed Shelnut
Eucharistic Visitor		Deacon Josie	
Coffee Host	Becki Rangel Sandra Melsheimer	Terry Brantley Kay McWilliams	EVERYONE!
Wednesday Healing	April 13 Tommy Skinner	April 20 Harvey Smith	April 27 Harvey Smith

Liturgical Schedule Easter Week

	April 21	April 22	April 23	April 24
	Maunder Thursday 6:00PM	Good Friday 6:00PM	Easter Vigil 6:00PM	Easter
First Reading	Exodus 12:1-14a	Isaiah 52:13-53:12	Listed below	Acts 10:34-43
Psalms	Psalm 78:14-20 & 23-25	Psalm 22	Psalm 33:1-11 Canticle 8 Psalm 42:1-7 Psalm 98	Psalm 118:12,14-24
Second Reading	1 Corinthians 11: 23-32	Hebrews 10:1-25	No second reading	Colossians 3:1-4
Gospel	John 13:1-15	John 18:1-37	John 19:38-42	John 20:1-18
Eucharistic Minister 6:00 PM	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner Ann Tompkins
Crucifer	Beth Guynes	Susan Price	Beth Guynes	Koury Collins
Torch Bearer				Shay & Josh Sullivan
Gospel Bearer	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Betsy Selby	Bobby Sullivan
Acolytes	Beth Guynes	Susan Price	Beth Guynes Betsy Selby	Rachel Sullivan Caden Black (Holy Spirit Kite)
Lector	Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith	Mike Beiser (Genesis 1:1-2:2) Harvey Smith (Exodus 14:10-15:1) Laura Beiser (Ezekiel 36: 24- 28) David Pruett (Zephaniah 3:12-20)	Sharon Hanks
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	—	Linda Walker	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Kerri, Peter, Theo Williams	—	Clarissa & Genevieve Walker	Mignon & Joshua McDaniel
Ushers & Greeters	Ann Jones John Scott	Jim Drake Bobby Barlow	Jim Horan John Scott	Charlie Brantley Kevin McDaniel
Altar Guild	All Altar Guild members	All Altar Guild members	All Altar Guild members	All Altar Guild members
Eucharistic Minister				Ed Shelnut
Eucharistic Visitor				
Coffee Host	No Refreshments	No Refreshments	Betsy Selby Ann Jones	EVERYONE!