



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5430 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
<http://stalbansbovina.org>

March 2011

God Loves a Willing Worker

God loves a willing worker — he must love **Kenon Ruska**. For years, Kenon has served as the editor of *The Albanac*. However, Kenon's increased responsibilities at her business, Merit Hills Stable, are demanding her time so she can no longer continue this ministry. A stable full of horses, in addition to all of her other obligations, require her time, attention and energy.

Kenon is known for sharing her gifts. Her actions reflect her investment in the life of Saint Alban's Church. Kenon is a faithful member of our worshiping community. She has served on the vestry as Senior and Junior Warden and sings in the choir. Kenon's passion for researching and recording history was made evident in the 2008 publication of the *Saint Alban's Church* sesquicentennial history. Her leadership skills have provided direction for our Fall Founder's Day Festival. The Civil War Quilt that she made and donated to ECW as a fund raiser is an example of her creativity and her generosity. Kenon is also active in the development of ministry at Saint Mary's Church Episcopal, Bolton.

The Saint Alban's community thanks Kenon for her years of service as editor of *The Albanac*. Kenon, your faithful ministries are appreciated! Thank you!

St. Alban's Youth in the Spotlight

Ford Biedenharn was named captain of the football team and was awarded the highest football honor, *The Virgadanio Award*, at the recent Saint Aloysius School Athletic Banquet.

Elliott Bexley received two awards for Best Linebacker and Most Versatile.

Genevieve Walker is performing in the Vicksburg High School production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. The performances will take place in the school auditorium on Friday, March 18, 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 19, 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$7.00. Please contact Genevieve for advance tickets.



St. Alban's Outreach Program

St. Alban's outreach to revitalize St. Mary's Episcopal, Bolton, through the *Sundays at St. Mary's* arts series, has been very successful. On February 13th, *The Jubilee Singers*, an all-male choir from Hinds Community College in Utica, delighted the overflowing crowd with a concert of sacred music. Dr. Bobby Cooper, conductor, recalled his childhood years in Bolton and his memory of St. Mary's Church: "As I walked to the colored school each day, I would pass by St. Mary's Episcopal Church and wonder what it looked like inside. And now, here I am with my choir singing in this beautiful church." A crowd of 125 from various churches and towns, filled the pews to hear the internationally famous choir perform.

The next event in the *Sundays at St. Mary's* series will take place on March 13th, 4:00 p.m. The service will feature John Maxwell performing his monologue, *Me and My Shadow ~ The Story of Judas*. The monologue will serve as the sermon prior to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Maxwell, a native of Mississippi and a graduate of Ole Miss, has achieved recognition throughout the south as a playwright and actor. *The Story of Judas* represents his most recent Biblical monologue.

Following Maxwell's presentation, The Very Reverend Billie Abraham will celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Immediately following, a reception will be held in the parish hall of the church.

St. Alban's Lenten Arts Programs

Mark your schedule for the *St. Alban's Lenten Arts Programs* which will take place each Wednesday beginning March 16th. There will be five weeks of scheduled programs and each program will be preceded by the Holy Eucharist Healing service at 6:00 p.m. followed by a Soup Dinner in the parish hall at 6:30 p.m. The Lenten Arts Programs will take place at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

6:00 PM Holy Eucharist Healing

6:30 PM Soup Dinner

7:00 PM Arts Program

Wednesday, March 16: *An Evening of Irish Music*

Sandra Melsheimer and *Bridging the Gap*

Wednesday, March 23: *An Evening of Organ Music*

Bro. Vincent Ignatius of St. Joseph Monastery, Natchez

Wednesday, March 30: *An Evening of Spiritual & Gospel Music*

Jubilee Singers, Hinds Community College, Utica

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

† Billie's Corner

*O God in Trinity,
you made us to need each other and to grow best with companions;
bless those who shall sit or talk or work together here.
May they share your care and understanding.*

Susan and Richard Price are stewards of the All Saints' School rectory for the Diocese of Mississippi. They invited the Saint Alban's community to participate in a house blessing service at the rectory that took place on Saturday, February 25. The above prayer is from the service for The Blessing of a Home in the New Zealand Prayer Book. It was one of the prayers offered during the blessing celebration as our community moved through the rectory, asking God's blessings on the living room, study, dining room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms.

Following the blessing service, we shared a meal and spent a leisurely evening visiting with each other. Before we left, we assisted in the clean-up. We were the living body of the church at All Saints as much as we are the living body of the church at Saint Alban's. We assembled together, we prayed to the honor and glory of God, we asked for God's blessings, we offered each other the sign of peace, and we shared a meal together. Our community left "in peace to love and serve the Lord."

The prayer from The Blessing of a Home expresses an innate longing for communal life, God in Trinity, made us to need each other and to grow best with companions. God calls us to community life. Community is defined as a group that belongs to a particular place, that shares fellowship, and that is rooted in a common belief system. Our center of operation is Saint Alban's Church where we exist to witness to Christ and in Christ. We need each other to make up the Body of Christ. We companion each other in the complexities and joys of our lives.

Our community cannot be contained in the walls of the Saint Alban's Church. We spill out into the world fortified by our communal experience to proclaim God's love for us and our love for God, and to offer God's love to others.

At our best we are reflections of the image of God that dwells within us. At our worst we are stiff-necked people with harden hearts. We are frequently somewhere between our best and our worst. No matter where we are on the continuum, we are a diverse group of individuals drawn together by the Holy Spirit.

Saint Alban's community can be compared to the crazy quilt my great grandmother made from scraps of fabric left over from her hat making business. The quilt is pieced together from a variety of fabrics in various shapes and sizes, colors and textures. The random fabric pieces are stitched together to make a unique quilt.

That describes Saint Alban's Church. We are composed of distinct individuals stitched together by our faith in God to make a community. One difference exists between my great grandmother's quilt and the Saint Alban's metaphorical quilt. My great grandmother's quilt was bound on all four sides to make a perfect square. It was never going to get larger. Our Saint Alban's quilt is not bound. More pieces can be continually added and the shape can be organic.

Saint Alban's Church is on a journey to mature into a blessed community that is grounded in our shared experience of God's guidance and grace. We may slip and slide along the way, but we are on the right path.

In peace,
Billie+

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

March Events

March 5, Saturday

EYC Road Trip to Jackson, 9:00 AM

March 9, Wednesday

St. Mary's, Bolton, 12:00 noon

Ash Wednesday, Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

St. Alban's, Bovina, 6:00 PM

Ash Wednesday, Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

March 12, Saturday

Yoga and Creative Retreat, 9:00 AM

March 13, Sunday

Sundays at St. Mary's, 4:00 PM

Me and My Shadow ~ The Story of Judas

Holy Eucharist

March 14, Monday

Monthly Vestry Meeting, 5:30 PM

March 16, Wednesday

Holy Eucharist, 6:00 PM & Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM

Lenten Arts Program, 7:00 PM, *An Evening of Irish Music*

Sandra Melsheimer and Bridging the Gap

March 20, Sunday

Acolyte Training, 10:00-10:30 AM

Lector Training, following 11:00 AM Eucharist

EYC, St. Alexis, 3:00 PM

March 27, Sunday

Eucharistic Minister & Eucharistic Visitor Training, 10:00-10:30 AM

Acolyte Training, following 11:00 AM Eucharist

March 30, Wednesday

Holy Eucharist, 6:00 PM & Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM

Lenten Arts Program, 7:00 PM, *The Jubilee Singers*,

Hinds Community College

March Birthdays

1	Michael Guynes Lisa Langford Parker Ramsay	12	Jeanne Lunz Ben Harper
7	Camile Bexley	17	Jimmy Jones
10	Michael Rangel	22	Becki Rangel Olivia Curtis
11	Sherry Horan	24	Kaylan Marie Sumrall
		31	Stacey Sumrall Clare Huntley

Anniversaries

11	Michael & Ashley Abraham	16	Charles and Lisa Langford
16	Bill & Liz Curtis		

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
Mary Ann Haley	Isabelle Kelly	Sheila & Bubba Evans
Alvin Barrett	Carol Bowden	Lewis Montgomery
Parker Ramsay	Alice Latham	Newell Brabston
Mike Ray	Jay	Darlene Meisenholder
Whit Porter	Julia Gates	Bob Cannon
Frances Marble	Phyllis	Johnny Bottom
Jean Roberts	Charlotte Biedenharn	Dee McCain
Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford	Charles & Lou
Housholder		
Jimmy Hanks	Richard Allen	Stephanie Lucas-Nelson
Arthur Tohill	Allen Teller	Rowdy Bridges
Theresa Hopkins	Jeff Dennis	Tedi Levi
Jan Robinson	Kathryn McCormick	Rev. Clifton McInnis
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

	March 6	March 9	March 13	March 20	March 27
	<i>The Transfiguration of Our Lord</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:00 p.m.	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>
First Reading	Exodus 24:12-18	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17	Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7	Genesis 12:1-4a	Exodus 17:1-7
Psalms	Psalm 99	Psalm 103:1-14	Psalm 32	Psalm 121	Psalm 95
Second Reading	2 Peter 1:16-21	2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10	Romans 5:12-19	Romans 4:1-5, 13-17	Romans 5:1-11
Gospel	Mathew 17:1-9	Mathew 6:1-6,16-21	Matthew 4:1-11	John 3:1-17	John 4:5-42
Eucharistic Minister					
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	Betsy Selby	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Richard Price
11:00 a.m.	Richard Price		Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins
Acolytes					
Crucifer	Koury Collins	Beth Guynes	Caden Black	Rachel Sullivan Shay Sullivan	Koury Collins
Torchbearers					
Gospel Book Bearer	Beth Guynes	Deacon Josie	Joshua Mc Daniel	Josh Sullivan	Beth Guynes
Lector	Susan Price	Sharon Hanks	Theo Williams	Ed Shelnut	Sandra Melsheimer
Prayers of the People	Linda Walker		Deacon Josie	Kelsey Artman	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Clarissa Walker Genevieve Walker	Jim Drake Becky Drake	John & Margie Scott	Lisa Langford Betha Kolb	Theo, Kerri & Peter Williams
Ushers & Greeters	Jim Drake Bobby Barlow	Bobby Barlow John Scott	Charlie Brantley Kevin McDaniel	Jeff Artman Bobby Sullivan	John Scott Ann Jones
Altar Guild	Sharon Hanks Sherry Horan	Margie Scott	Mary Ann Lisa Langford	Judy Morrissey Ann Jones	Mickey Barlow Margie Scott Ed Shelnut
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Shelnut				Ed Shelnut
Eucharistic Visitor	Deacon Josie			Deacon Josie	
Coffee Host	Betsy Selby Ann Jones		Terry Brantley Kay McWilliams	Margie Scott Sherry Horan	Sandra Melshemier
Wednesday Healing			March 16 Ann Tompkins	March 23 Tommy Skinner	March 30 Harvey Smith