



The Albanac

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

May 2024



Sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism

Taylor's Holy Baptism

April 28, 2024

On Sunday, April 28, St. Alban's Church members, family and friends gathered in the Outdoor Chapel for Taylor's long-awaited baptism. The baptism by immersion was the first of its kind to be held at St. Alban's Church. Before being immersed, Rev. Elisabeth prayed, "We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it, we are reborn by the Holy Spirit." Rev. Elisabeth held Taylor with her arms as she was immersed. The spirit of the Lord was with everyone when the sign of the cross was marked on her forehead and Rev. Elisabeth proclaimed, "You are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own forever." The birds were singing and everyone was smiling as the congregation welcomed Taylor into the household of God.



Rev. Elisabeth blesses the water before the immersion— "Now sanctify this water, we pray you, by the power of your Holy Spirit, that Taylor is cleansed from sin and born again that she may continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our savior."



Family surrounds Taylor for the Presentation & Examination for Baptism



Following the immersion, Taylor receives a lit candle representing the "Light of Christ"



Church members, family and friends gather for the Baptism and Holy Eucharist





Lance Stewart, Guitarist

WADE IN THE WATER

“Wade in the water ,
Wade in the water, children,
Wade in the water,
God’s a-going to trouble the water.

Look over yonder, what do you see?
God’s a-going to trouble the water,
The Holy Ghost a-coming on me,
God’s a-going to trouble the water.

If you don’t believe I’ve been redeemed,
God’s a-going to trouble the water,
Just follow me down to the Jordan’s stream,
God’s a-going to trouble the water.”

(spiritual)



Mike & Ramona Pace and Canada & Margaret Ann Stewart taking in the ambiance of the day



Salome, the church cat, attended the service and received a lot of petting in the process



A picture-perfect day, one to remember as Taylor was sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism

Episcopal Church Women—Tour Historic Churches

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) hosted a field trip to Natchez and Church Hill on Saturday, April 20th. The group of thirteen carpoled to St. Mary's Chapel located on Laurel Hill Plantation. The trip began with rain, but by the time we arrived, it was dry and very pleasant. We walked the grounds and were in awe of the exterior and interior of the Chapel, which was built in 1839 on the privately-owned grounds of Laurel Hill Plantation, making it one of the oldest Episcopal churches in the State. Rev. Elisabeth led the group with a simple communion service that was very moving.

The group then traveled to Church Hill where we enjoyed great fellowship and meals at the Church Hill Variety. After lunch, we planned to tour Christ Church at Church Hill, but due to unforeseen circumstances, were unable to get into the church. We did, however, enjoy walking the grounds. The first church was built in 1820 and is recognized as being the "Cradle of Episcopacy in Mississippi." The present structure, which meets the second Sundays of each month, was constructed in 1858.

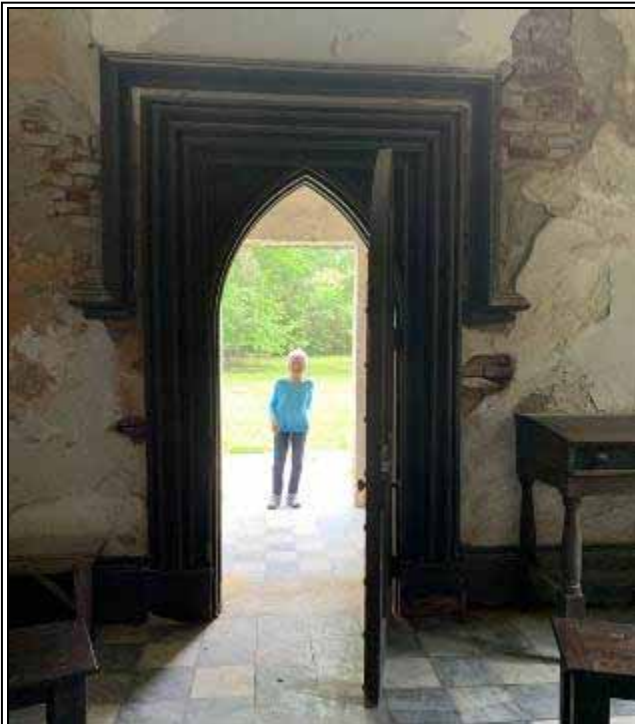


St. Mary's Chapel

While in Natchez filming a segment for "Looking Around Mississippi" Walt Grayson discovered St. Mary's Chapel and described it as being, "An oasis from the past, just out in the woods." The Gothic structure was built as a private chapel for William Mercer's family and all who worked on Laurel Hill Plantation. The plantation home burned in 1967 but today the chapel remains— "just out in the woods."



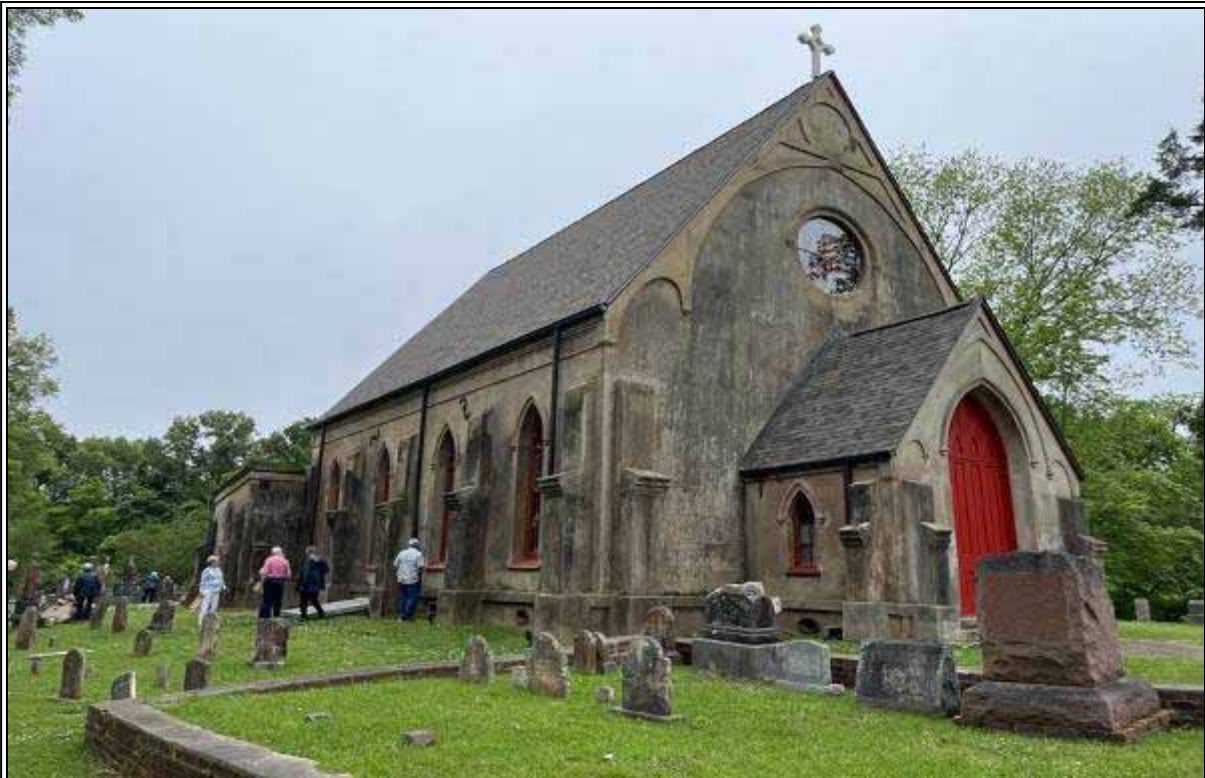
Touring St. Mary's Chapel: Tommy Skinner, Sharon Hanks, Barbara Torrey, Judy Morrissey, Rev. Elisabeth, Beth Guynes, Harvey Smith, Richard & Susan Price.



Judy Morrissey, a glimpse into the past



Rev. Elisabeth celebrates the Holy Eucharist in historic chapel —“a moving experience.”



Christ Church, "Cradle of Episcopacy in Mississippi"

The first Mississippi Episcopal congregation was founded at Church Hill in 1820. The current church building, built in 1857, is a national landmark.



Century-old oak tree on the grounds of Christ Church



Thirteen people attended the tour: Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, Beth & Terry Guynes, Susan & Richard Price, Nancy Montague, Tina Branan, Judy Morrissey, Harvey Smith, Beth Sojourner, Tommy Skinner, Barbara Torrey and Sharon Hanks.



Lunch at Church Hill Variety—delicious food!

Small Churches Conference

On April 12—13, St. Alban's took part in a conference for small church leaders held at Grace Episcopal Church in Canton. A previous small church conference was initiated by Bishop Marble but discontinued over 20 years ago. This new conference was an outgrowth of the monthly Zoom meetings for small church leaders that Elisabeth has been coordinating, and attracted over 60 participants representing over 20 small churches from around the diocese. Representing St. Alban's were the Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, Sharon Hanks, Janice Herrington, Harvey Smith, and Lance Stewart.

Our keynote speaker was the Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, who guided us in a participatory Eucharist focused on the strengths of small churches, and then joined Bishop Seage to reflect on the gifts small churches bring to this moment in church history. Lance Stewart was our preacher for morning prayer on Saturday morning, demonstrating the power of lay preaching and inspiring many others! Workshops were held on liturgy, small church stewardship, outreach, and cultivating our digital presence.



Lance Stewart addressing the conference



Rev. Fishbeck visits St. Alban's

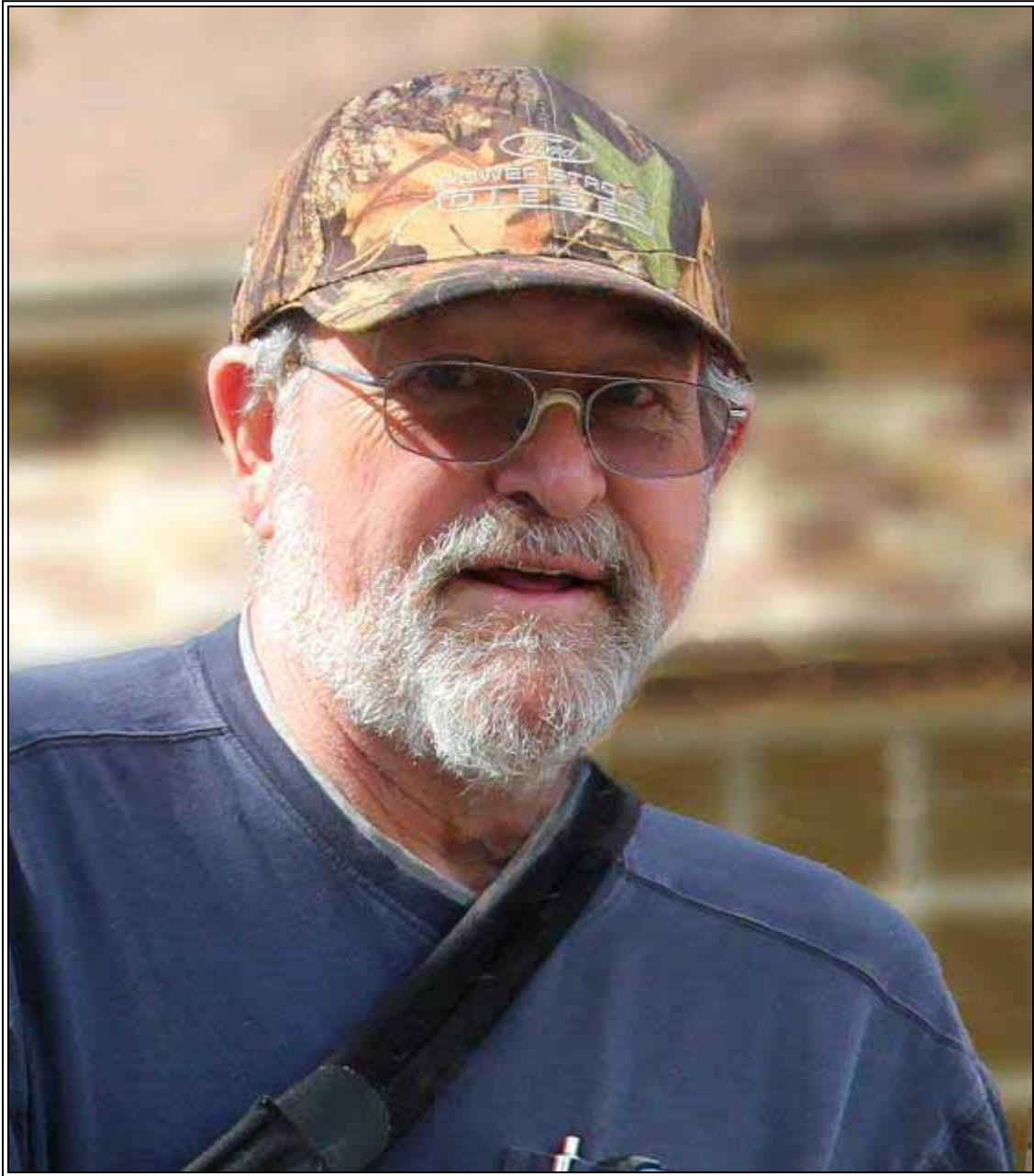
Elisabeth's Epistle

Baptisms are always special, celebratory days for the church. But Taylor's baptism on April 28 was something different from our norm—she was baptized by immersion, not just sprinkling with water. I imagine a lot of faithful members were scratching their heads and thinking, “We Episcopalians don't baptize by immersion!” And while that has been true of St. Alban's, it's not true of the church throughout history. The ancient church probably only knew baptism by immersion. Sprinkling with water came into vogue much later, during the Victorian era, when families started having private baptisms. The trend of sprinkling then influenced the design of churches like St. Alban's, where instead of a baptismal pool, the architecture permitted only a small font.

It was during the liturgical movement in the middle of the 20th century that the idea of baptism by immersion as being the standard was reclaimed by traditions like our own that had let it go. We can see the evidence of this in the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer*, where the instructions say the priest “immerses, or pours water upon, the candidate.” In the instructions, or rubrics, what is listed first is the preferred option, meaning our prayerbook expresses a preference for baptism by immersion!

But why? The sacrament of baptism certainly “works” whether or not the person is sprinkled or immersed. No matter the method, we still can see the imagery of cleansing from sin and incorporation into the church. But there is something about baptism by immersion that makes us aware, quite vividly, that baptism is also about death and rebirth. Both of my children were baptized by immersion, and during each one, there was a moment of panic as I handed my precious child over to be plunged underwater. The moment they went underwater was a breath-catching moment, a moment of passing through death into new life in Christ. As Paul puts it in his letter to the Romans, “Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.” Baptism by immersion reminds us of the power of these words, and the power of our incorporation into the body of Christ.

In Memory



Charlie W. Brantley

February 1, 1951—March 31, 2024

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11: 25

In Memory



David Wright

August 19, 1939—April 25, 2024

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16



Newly elected ECW officers—Judy Gavin, president, Dawn Rickard, vice president

**WARREN COUNTY FELLOWSHIP OF EPISCOPAL CHURCHES
PENTECOST COOKOUT & BONFIRE**

Come celebrate the birthday of the church!



**Sunday, May 19th
from 5:00-7:00 PM
at St. Alban's Bovina**



**Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs & drinks provided--
please bring sides & dessert to share!**

Water slide for kids! Bonfire at 6:00 PM!

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Allan & Joan	Eunice	Kristin	Norma
Allen K.	Frances	Lawson N.	Preston
Angie	Fritz	Leesha	Ricky
Caroline	Hunter	Leigh Ann	Rose
Cecil	Jackson	Libby	Shirley
Charlene	James	Lonnie	Steve
Clarence	Jane	Lucas	Sue
David K.	Jeff	Mark	Theresa
Davis	John	Mike D.	The Wright Family
Ed	Kathy	Mike & Nancy	

For the departed: Rev. David Langdon, Angela Smith, Wally McWhirter, Johnathan Beard, David Wright, and Ray Steed, Sr.

Liturgical Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

	May 5	May 12	May 19	May 26
Rite I – 8:30 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Tommy Skinner
Lector	Beth Sojourner	Tommy Skinner	Nancy Montague	Sharon Cummins
Rite II – 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Richard Price	Carolyn Burton	Dawn Rickard	Ann Tompkins
Greeters/ Ushers	Dawn Rickard	The Gavins	The Gavins	Betty Rushing
Lector	Susan Price	Wilma Mitchell	Harvey Smith	David Pruett
Prayers of the People	David Pruett	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton
Chalice Bearer	Carolyn Burton	Barnie Gavin	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard
A/V System	Jim Drake	Buck Cooper	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	No Service



Photography: Rev. Elisabeth, Jim & Becky Drake, Sharon Hanks, Richard Price, Beth Guynes, & Others