



# The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi  
[www.stalbansbovina.org](http://www.stalbansbovina.org)

**November 2020**



*The Blessing of the Animals*



“All Creatures Great and Small, The Lord God Made Them All”















## Our America



When I was growing up, my father was in the Air Force. After living in Brazil for a few years as a baby, we lived in several different states. When I began attending school, it was at an elementary school on an air force base in Nevada. At that school, as well as public schools I attended later, we always began our school day with a short prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. My elementary school classes included music class, during which we learned many patriotic songs extolling the blessings of this country. Most of my school days occurred the years when many young adults were being sent to Viet Nam and the news media was inundated with events taking place in the war effort or controversies surrounding it.

For one reason or another, I developed an intense love for the U.S.A. As I got older and studied more American and world history, I learned that the US is not perfect, nor are its leaders. Regardless of our shortcomings, however, this is a nation that has fought for and believed in freedom since its inception. I have traveled to other countries and fallen in love with some of them, but I am grateful to live in this country, where we have the liberty to worship and believe the way we choose. I will always remember and honor those people who have fought for our freedoms, and I will always love all the songs of America I learned when I was young.

Each of us is first and foremost a creation of God. Beyond that we are members of a family, citizens of the world in which we live, and finally, citizens of the United States of America. It is important to remember that decisions we make affect not only ourselves, but everyone in this great country, and every creature in this wonderful universe that God made.

As we approach the election of our President and other officials, it is important to remember that each of us is different. Regardless of our political choices, we are all Americans. Our differences in opinion don't change who we are or what our hearts feel.

A quote by Audre Lorde in her book of poems, *Our Dead Behind Us: Poems*, says it best—"It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences." After all, God made us each unique and that uniqueness defines who each person is. We become friends based on common interests, regardless of how we differ. Please keep our nation and our Church in your prayers as we approach Election Day.

*Dawn Rickard*

## Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

### What do Episcopalians believe about the Bible?

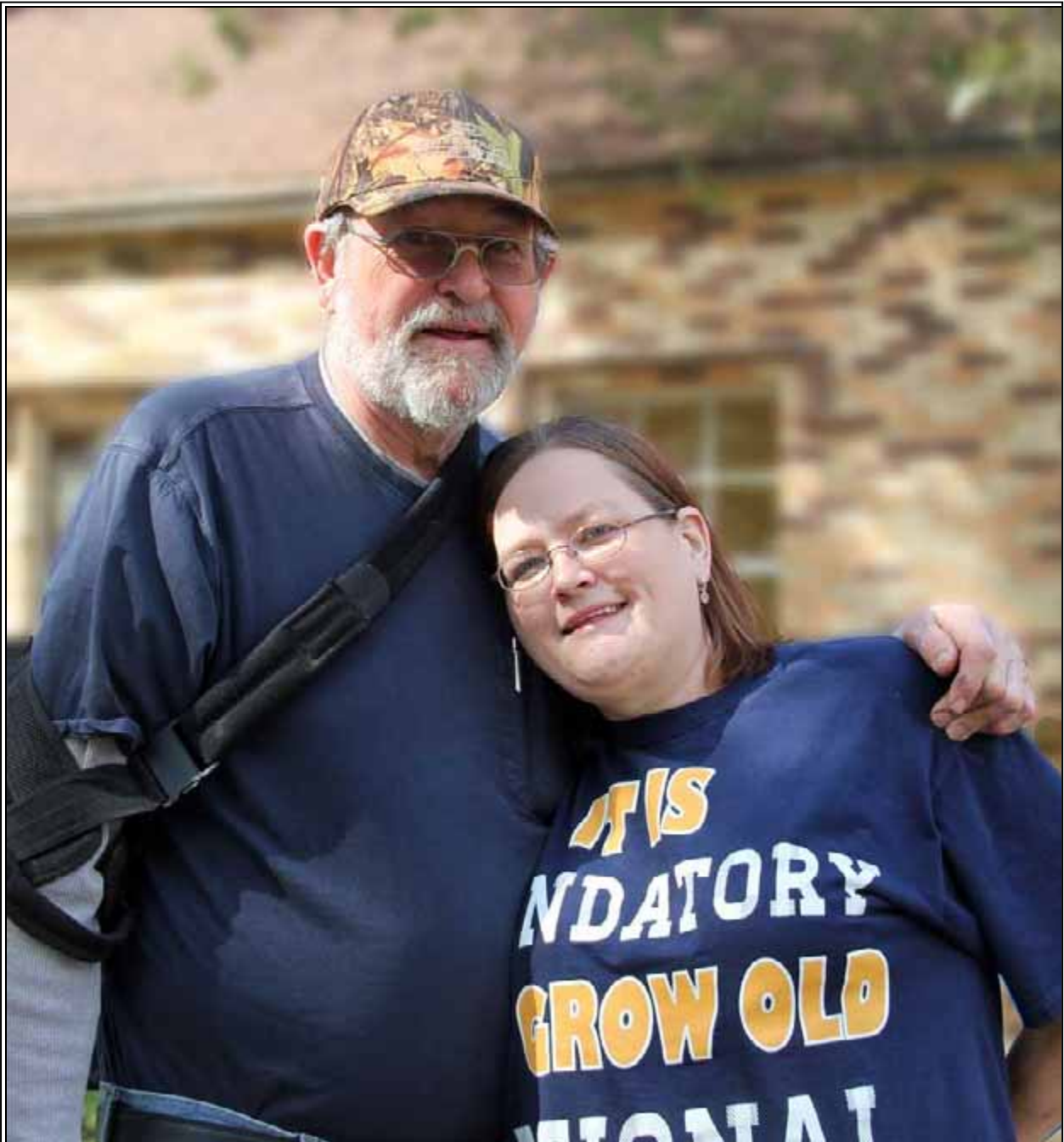
We are having some great discussions about the Bible around St. Alban's these days! I've been privileged to sit in on a number of our group meetings—online, in person, youth, adults—and what has interested me the most are the questions that have come up about how we engage with the Bible. We live in a time and place in which there is a lot of talk about Biblical literalism and the inerrancy of Scripture. But it's important to realize that a literal reading is just one way of reading the Bible.

In fact, the idea of Biblical literalism as the only way to read Scripture is actually a relatively new phenomenon, dating back just to the 19th century. For most of Christian history, faithful Christians have recognized a variety of ways to read the Bible. In addition to a “face-value,” literal reading, Christians have read the Bible allegorically or spiritually. Christians have long recognized that the Bible is a collection of various types of writing, assembled over many thousands of years. The way we read Paul's letters will necessarily be different from how we read the poetry of the Psalms or the parables that Jesus told. As we travel this year through *The Path*, we are using a narrative approach to Scripture, engaging the richness of the Biblical story for what it reveals to us about God and God's relationship with humanity.

If you look at our catechism in the *Book of Common Prayer* on page 853, you'll see a section on Holy Scripture, in which we affirm that the Holy Scriptures are “the Word of God because God inspired their human authors and because God still speaks to us through the Bible.” I love this definition, because it affirms what I know to be true about the Bible: the Bible is different from other things I read. The Bible is different for two reasons: 1) God inspired the initial writing and collection of these texts over many thousands of years, and 2) God still speaks through the stories contained in the Bible, providing guidance to us today. We can affirm these truths about Scripture and also recognize that the Bible was written by humans, who were limited by their time and place. As Episcopalians, we believe that the Bible “contains all things necessary for salvation” and we believe in drawing upon the resources of our tradition and our own reason as we interpret the Bible. May our journey through the Bible continue, drawing us ever closer to God!



In Memory



*Chastity Dunaway*

Daughter of Charlie Brantley  
March 10, 1972 ~ October 18, 2020

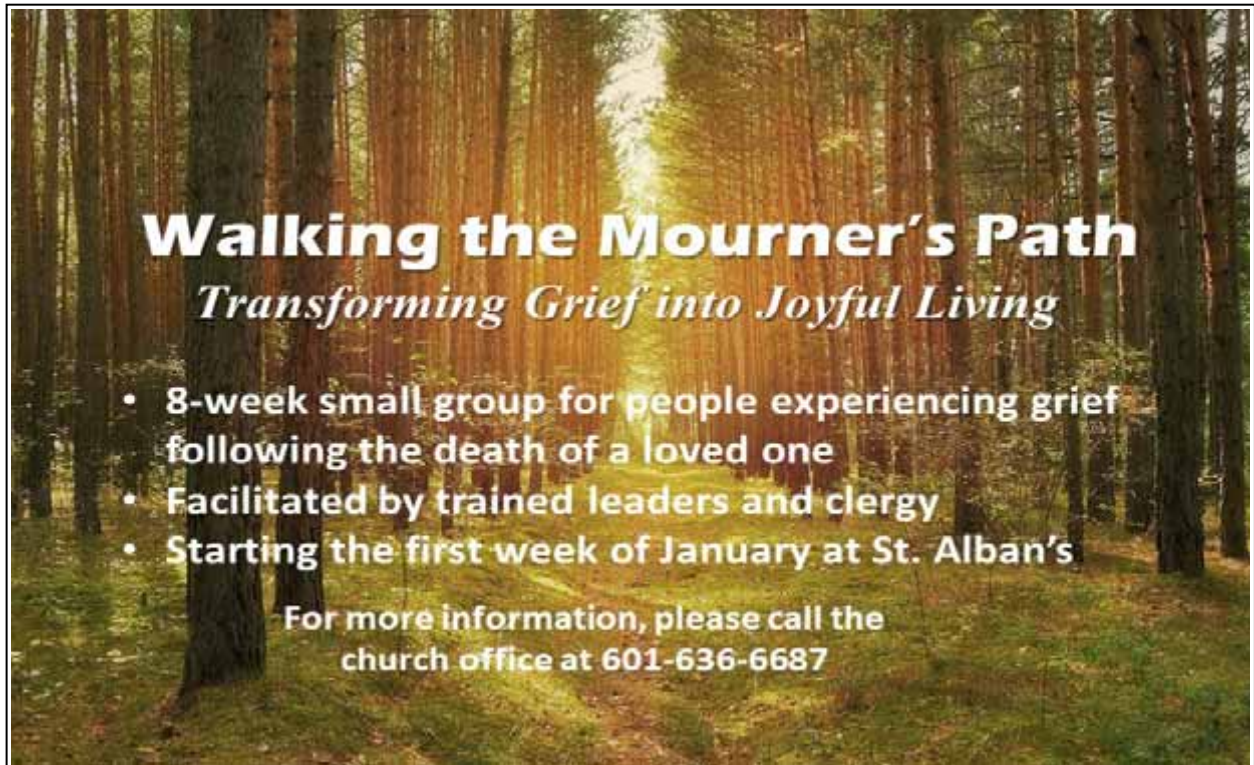


United in Holy Matrimony



*Eric & Ellen Calvery Biedenharn*

October 3, 2020



## **Walking the Mourner's Path** *Transforming Grief into Joyful Living*

- 8-week small group for people experiencing grief following the death of a loved one
- Facilitated by trained leaders and clergy
- Starting the first week of January at St. Alban's

For more information, please call the church office at 601-636-6687

FOR THOSE GRIEVING...

## *St. Alban's Episcopal Church invites you*

Sunday, Nov. 1, 5 PM, All Souls' Eve Service

Monday, Dec 21, 6 PM, Longest Night Service

Starting January 2021:  
Walking the Mourners' Path

Small group for those who have lost a loved one  
(please contact the church for details)

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5930 Warriors Trail  
stalbansbovina.org  
601-636-6687





## Looking Ahead to Advent



Yes! It is time to start thinking about Advent, which begins Sunday, November 29. While some things will be different this year, a team has already begun planning how we can safely observe some of our most important Advent and Christmas traditions. Here's what we're working on:

- **Advent Wreath Creation:** We will be offering two Sundays for parishioners to gather outdoors to make Advent wreaths, November 22 and 29. In order to set up enough stations and have enough supplies, sign ups will be required this year--be watching your email!
- **Advent-at-Home Bags:** We will offer Advent prayers and activities for home use--again, watch your email for more information.
- **St. Nicholas:** There's a rumor that St. Nicholas will be visiting St. Alban's on his feast day, December 6, to tell us more about his generous gift giving and care for children and the poor.
- **Living Nativity:** St. Alban's has a wonderful tradition of doing an outdoor living Nativity, and we're going to try to revive that tradition this year with a drive-through living Nativity. We'll need lots of help to pull this off, so if you're interested in setting up a scene—maybe your family wants to be a choir of angels, or you know some wise men, please let us know!

## November Birthdays

8 Whitney Nieto	20 Kristin Selby
9 Margie Scott	22 Betty Rushing
10 Koury Collins	23 Amanda Harris
12 Jonah Artman	24 Barbara Ramsay
David Pruett	25 Shane Lauritzen
17 Letty Biedenharn	27 Sam Hall
Kay McWilliams	29 Eva Panelo

## November Anniversaries

7 John Segrest & Bitsy Sloan	12 David & Bonnie Pruett
11 David & Amanda Harris	

## Prayers for the People



Ann & Jimmy	Charlie & Family	Jackson	Norma
Anna	Cooper	Jeff	Patty
Ashley	Cynthia	Jimmy B.	Peggy
Barb	Dan & Mary	Jimmy P.	Peter
Barbara	David	John	Rachael
Beau	Diane	Joseph & Susan	Rachelle
Ben	Earline	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Sara
Betty	Estella	Lee Davis	Scott
Bill & Karen	Eugene	Linda	Shelia
Bobbie	Evan	Mark	Sherry
Brandi	George	Mary Frances	Theresa
Cathy	Glenda	Nancy	Tom
	Jackie	Nita	



## COVID-19 Schedule

Please call the office if you need help with Zoom

### Monday — Friday

**Morning Prayer**, 8:00 a.m.

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

### 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/>

\*Please RSVP for services here: <https://reopen.church/r/hpRZD960>

**Sunday School**, 9:30 a.m. (on Zoom)

### Tuesday

**Bibles & More**, Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. Group from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (on Zoom)

### Wednesday

**Spiritual 12 Steps Group**, 7:30-8:30 a.m. (on Zoom)

**Holy Eucharist Rite II with Prayers for Healing**, 6:00 pm. Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

### Thursday

**Utreya**, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (on Zoom)

## Server Schedule

	Sunday November 1	Sunday November 8	Sunday November 15	Sunday November 22	Sunday November 29
8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner
11:00 AM	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby
	Wednesday November 4	Wednesday November 11	Wednesday November 18	Wednesday November 25	
6:00 AM	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	



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Jim Drake