



The Albanac

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

October 2020



*Children Enjoy Special Activities
During the Pandemic*

St. Alban's Children and Youth Group

During the pandemic, the children and youth group have enjoyed special gatherings on the spacious grounds of St. Alban's Church. On Sunday, September 13, Children's Chapel met in the beautiful garden area to hear the story of God's covenant with Abraham as told in the book of Genesis: "I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth—as numerous as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore." Mason, Andrew, Remi and Roux were excited as they filled bottles with sand, oil, water, glitter and stars. The following Sunday, Henry and Sam enjoyed a challenging outdoor scavenger hunt around the grounds.

Mads, Remi and Julian enjoyed some indoor activities while following Sunday school lessons on Zoom. Assisting the children activities were Betsy, Elisabeth, Shawn, Stacy and Ashley.

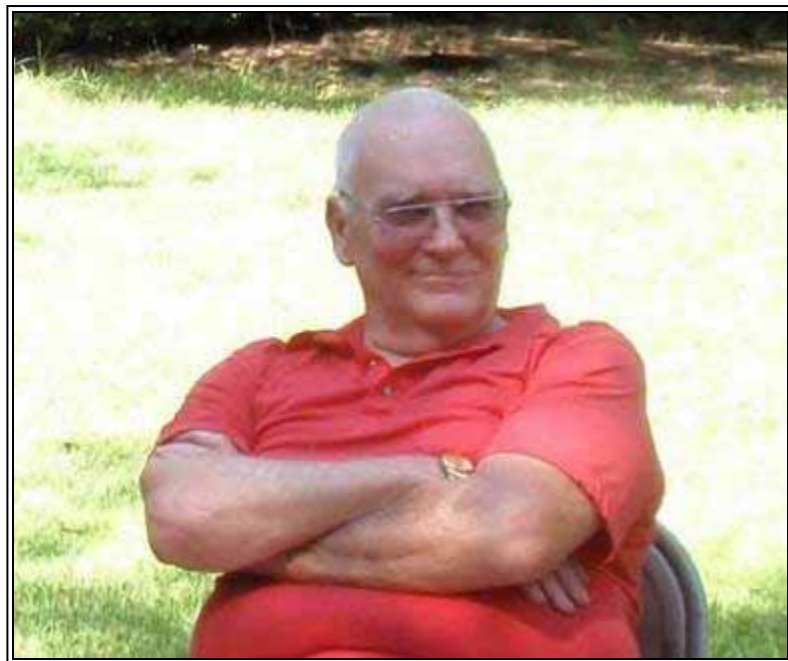






In Memory
Dalton Henry Glatt, Jr.

May 24, 1941—September 9, 2020



Dalton was a long-time member of St. Alban's Church. He was faithful in attendance and generous in giving of his time, talent, and treasure. Nothing he loved more than working with the men's group and accomplishing projects for the church.

His obituary expressed his love and devotion to St. Alban's: "When Dalton was able, he was always doing something for someone, sharing stories of his life

experiences, or knowledge of how "to do" on everything he knew how to build. He loved his church and making jelly for the Dinner on the Grounds. Dalton spent many an hour working to restore some of the wood throughout the church."

Dalton was not one to sit on the sidelines while others participated in special events. In January of 2011, Rev. Billie Abraham encouraged church members to attend an ordination service at St. Andrews Cathedral where Josie Williams was being ordained deacon. When the service was over Dalton sat on the front steps of the cathedral and waited while others attended the reception. He was rather conspicuous since he was left holding Billie's purse!

Dalton's health began to fail and the time came to when he was not able to attend services at St. Alban's. Members of the church visited him at home and took food. Most importantly, he received home communion as often as possible.

The wooden cross at the Outdoor Chapel was one of Dalton's last projects with the Men's Group. He assumed his rightful position in a chair – and in his laid-back way offered suggestions while the men worked.

Dalton Glatt was a joy to know and certainly a person never to be forgotten by all who loved him.

Rebecca B. Drake

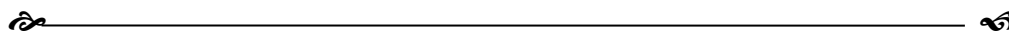
I Call Him Friend

I met Dalton at St Andrews Cathedral in Jackson when Rev. Josie Williams was ordained. Little did I know at the time how much our lives would be entwined. Some four years later, Rev. Billie Abraham asked Theo Williams and me to be Eucharistic Visitors and to go to Dalton at Belmont Gardens to share Holy Communion with him on behalf of St. Alban's. From that first visit, Theo and I shared with Dalton in several locations as his health deteriorated. We saw him in the hospital, at rehab therapy, in nursing homes and, finally, at Water Valley nursing home where he spent his last days.

My main memory of Dalton is the way he welcomed us into whatever rooms he occupied and the eagerness with which he shared the Eucharist with us. Although at times he was in pain, and at times he had difficulty with movement, he always had a smile, and was always warmly welcoming to us. Each visit we had an opportunity to share conversation, and he always asked after members of St. Alban's. There were times when I considered leaving without waking him, but he would not have that. He and Theo had been acquainted for some years, and they shared a love of football, I know he was happiest when Theo came, I was just a "helper".

Dalton was well liked by the staff of whatever institution he was in, they always smiled when we asked for him and were very helpful to us. On our last visit at Water Valley, we planned to make a return but sadly, the COVID-19 epidemics kept us from future visiting. We did try to keep in touch through Laura Cook and Dalton's sister, Jane, but were disappointed in losing our Eucharistic experience with our Brother in Christ. Frankly, while I rejoice in his reunion in Paradise, I have a deep sense of loss over a gentleman I count as a friend.

David Pruett



The Caregiver

The first word that comes to my mind when I think about Dalton Glatt is caregiver. Dalton was a dedicated caregiver. My initial introduction to Dalton was at Fisher Funeral Home on the occasion of his mother's visitation. I didn't know Dalton when I arrived at the visitation, but I knew Dalton when I left. He talked and talked about his family as he shared his story of taking care of his mother in her final years. I learned that he not only took care of his mother, but he also took care of his wife whose death was prior to his mother's.

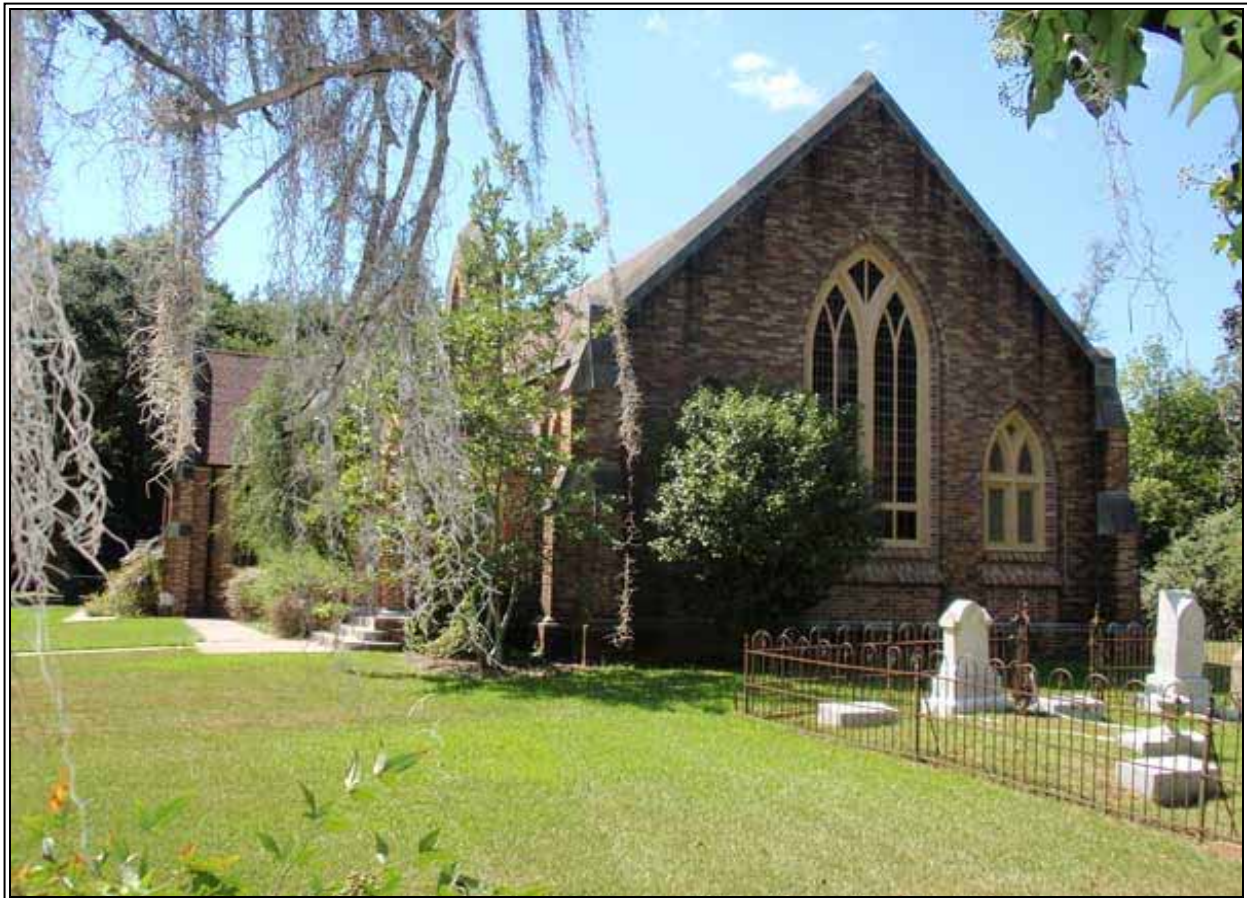
Dalton brought all his caregiving skills to St. Alban's after the deaths of his wife and mother. He delighted in cooking for our community events. He always arrived early on Sunday morning for the 8:30am Eucharist ready to help out on last minute needs. He

could be counted on to volunteer his assistance on whatever church projects were in the makings. Dalton was frequently at the church during the week when he told me stories about his childhood, his days at Mississippi State and his career with the Corps of Engineers. But no matter what story Dalton was sharing, all his stores ended up with telling me about the apple of his eye, his niece, Katelyn Brook.

Health issues eventually slowed Dalton down and he wasn't able to come to St. Alban's on his own. Some of my most tender memories were the communion visits Dalton and I shared at his home. Dalton preferred to meet me on his front porch stoop - no matter what the temperature might have been. Sometimes we sat in the heat of sun and sometimes we sat on cold concrete steps. His stoop became his home chapel and together we shared in Holy Communion.

Dalton eventually moved out of his home and into Belmont Gardens. From there he moved to the Water Valley Nursing Home. It was there that Dalton and I had our last telephone visit. And despite the difficulty he had holding the phone; he gave me an update on his niece, Katelyn. Some things never change.

Rev. Billie Abraham



Kindness Matters



Perceptions are curious things. We each perceive beauty differently and we find different paths to follow in our lives due to our perceptions of how we want to affect the world in which we live. God has made each of us unique, even within our own families. We may have certain talents, or gifts, that tend to run in our families. But each of us uses our gifts in a way that fits us as individuals.

Likewise, our personalities and temperaments vary. We are each affected differently by similar situations. The past few months have been trying for everyone – the isolation, the uncertainty of what the next day will hold in regard to the virus, the violence, the politics. Each person copes (or fails to cope) with this new “normal” differently. I have friends who aren’t bothered much at all by the isolation, because they’d prefer to stay home. They’re not overly outgoing anyway. They’d be happy to stay around the house. Some are justifiably impacted by the fear of illness. Then there are those of us who would like to return to the closeness—hugging our friends when we see them at the grocery store or at church. So, in addition to our various feelings about the situation, we also have varied reactions. We all know that the Pandemic has led to severe depression in some people. Not simply feeling a bit sad, but life-threatening depression.

We shouldn’t be misled simply by a person’s outward demeanor. There are some who smile easily and seem to be always cheerful, but the pain they feel inside can be suffocating. This is not to say we should be suspicious of those with easy smiles, but kindness to others is one trait that can make a world of difference to a person who’s hurting, even when we don’t know they’re hurting. We seldom know what others have experienced in their lives. Not everyone opens up about their pain.

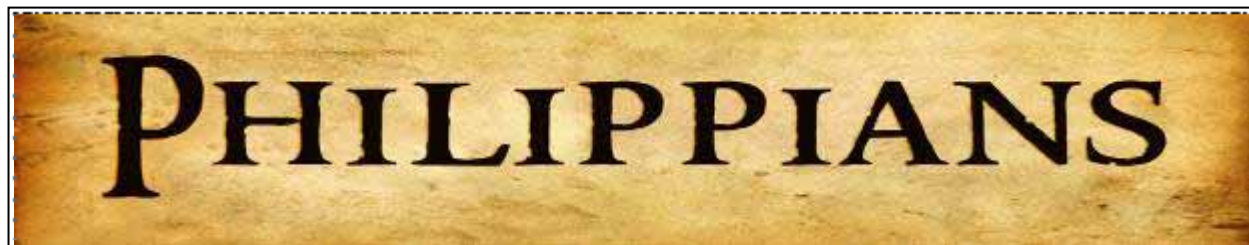
There are also many people who seem unfriendly, when they’re actually rather shy. On the other hand, they may simply be less outgoing than more gregarious individuals. It’s possible they, too, could be hiding some inner pain. Ultimately, we should follow the guidelines Jesus taught: to love one another as we love ourselves. That also should mean love for ourselves, which is sometimes easier said than done.

Our perceptions are not always accurate. We should be slow to judge and hasty to be kind. Love one another. In the words of Fred Rogers, “Be kind, be kind, be kind.”

Dawn Rickard

St. Alban's Blaze

By David Pruett



As church members, we have been asked to share our favorite Bible Story—stories that have helped us find our way or make meaning of things. I frankly do not have one as they are lovely and instructive renditions of God's interaction with His creation—man, woman, critters and nature—but I do have a favorite Book of the Bible that I will share with you.

Philippians! (Wonder how many of us take the time to really read this short and rich little book?). The *Pauline Letters* are considered to be of a different tone to the message of Jesus, but Philippians is to my mind the essential manual for living in Christ Jesus. In it we are told to:

- Work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (2:12)
- Rejoice in the Lord (3:1)
- Pray with Joy (1:3)
- Live in a manner worthy of Christ ((1:27)
- Be in accord with one another with love and live not for ourselves But for each other (2:1-11)—perhaps the most important part of the book!
- Our citizenship is in Heaven (3:20)
- Think about these things: truth, honorable behavior, justice, purity, things that are pleasing and commendable (3:8)
- Proclaim Christ out of Love

While I have missed the mark on much of this, I strive daily to fulfill these simple yet profound instructions that I believe echo the words of the Jesus, whom I have finally learned to proclaim out of love instead of fear or obligation.

From the Senior Warden

This past week, I attended a webinar on church governance, sponsored by CEEP (a consortium of Episcopal parishes) which involved panelists of clergy and lay leaders from three large churches in the US describing how they have adjusted to COVID-19. All have shifted their decision making, such as Vestry meetings, to online meetings (Zoom) and filling in with conference calls for other types of meetings. They stressed the importance of communication and the need to webcast services. One tidbit I picked up was we Episcopalians are an incarnational body which requires presence and participation in services. Meeting and worshipping through a computer screen is not quite the same, but it does keep us connected and involved. Online services are now and will be a part of our worship when we eventually get to full open services and activities. If you have not connected online and would like to, please call the church and maybe we can help.

We at St Alban's have been blessed to have Elisabeth as our priest during this time. She has quickly adapted us to the changes COVID-19 has brought by streaming services and moving our meetings into the "Zoom" world. We have also been blessed to have several parishioners, Jim Drake, Harvey Smith, Bruce Carlton, Marty Garton, David May, Chris Price, and Shane Lauritzen, who have stepped up to work out all the details of upgrading the audio/visual system in the church. They have all worked tirelessly these past few months to provide us with the professional looking views we now see online. Thank you for all your hard work to get St Alban's services seen and heard on the internet!

On several occasions, some have asked how St Alban's is doing. From my perspective, I think we're doing exceptionally well. We have partially opened back up and parishioners are attending services in person and online. We have made small changes in the budget to adjust for COVID-19 and our income has been sufficient to cover budgeted expenses. Since virtual meetings and services are the only way to stay connected, we have been fortunate to have the volunteers and resources needed to make these happen. Our buildings and grounds have some needs, as they always will, and we have volunteers working to address these. So, I think we're doing exceptionally well and I thank all those who have contributed their time, talent and resources to keep St Alban's as a vibrant and viable part of the Diocese.

Richard Price

Faith-filled Generosity

October marks the beginning of St. Alban's annual stewardship campaign, and this year's theme is "Faith-filled Generosity." Generosity certainly describes our community.

In a year when many churches are struggling financially, we have been blessed by your continued contributions during our time of separation. We have an incredibly generous and caring congregation whose desire to give seems second nature. Robust donations have allowed St. Alban's to pivot into providing new ministries during these challenging times, such as online worship and formation groups, which have reached our church community and beyond. Additionally, your offerings have allowed for critical infrastructure work and repair, as well as paying down some of the debt from the Capital Campaign expansion project.



This year we really want to emphasize the power of pledging during our stewardship campaign. Much of our contributions are from members who give very generously, but do not actually pledge. Pledging is not only extremely helpful for church leadership to plan and make critical decisions about how to allocate limited resources, it also strengthens your connection and commitment to our parish. While circumstances may cause your actual contributions to be curtailed, please consider pledging even if it's a smaller amount than you actually think you'll end up contributing. A pledge is not a contract, you can change it at any time if you realize that you may have set your tithing goals too high.

Later this month everyone will be receiving a letter with a pledge card and a time and talent questionnaire. Additionally, we will be sharing a video that will feature our congregation expressing their sentiments on giving. We hope you will dedicate thought and prayer into what you can pledge or how you can volunteer for this coming year.

In the spirit of generosity and love,

Shane Lauritzen
Junior Warden

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

Time has seemed pretty distorted to me lately. Some weeks have just flown by, and yet it feels like we've been responding to this virus for much, much longer than six months. Six months into this journey, we've figured some things out, but it still feels like there is much that we don't know. We know that gathering in person carries some level of risk, and we also know that isolation and loneliness are dangerous. Bishop Seage and the Vestry have tried to weigh these two realities while charting a course that allows for us to gather in ways that are safer, while also providing online offerings for those who are particularly vulnerable. I want to take this opportunity to summarize where we stand at this point in time, being mindful that things are constantly evolving.

Bishop Seage has given churches permission to meet for worship services in person as long as they follow certain guidelines, including wearing masks, maintaining 6 feet of distance between households, and not exceeding certain capacity limits. The Bishop has emphasized the need to keep the total time people spend at church short, which is why we are not offering in-person Sunday school, children's programming, or fellowship at this time. We are providing Sunday school for children and adults virtually via Zoom.

The St. Alban's Vestry has decided that our worship capacity is 20 people (not including the altar party) for indoor worship in both the parish hall and the nave. You may have noticed that we are holding our Sunday morning services in two different spaces. This serves two purposes: it allows for more time to clean the spaces before they are used again, and it also gives our HVAC system time to replace the air, which may be an important factor in the spread of the virus. The Bishop has given us permission to hold one of our weekday Bible study groups and our Sunday afternoon youth group in person, but other than these groups, all other group meetings, including Vestry, are meeting online. The Vestry has decided to cancel Dinner on the Grounds this year, due to the risk for both volunteers and guests. But we will continue with smaller events that can be adapted for these circumstances, such as the St. Francis Day blessing of the pets on Oct. 4 at 5:00 pm at the outdoor chapel.

Please know that all of these decisions are being made with much prayer and deliberation. If you have questions about anything at the church, you can always reach out to me, to Richard Price, our Senior Warden, or to any member of the Vestry.

Rev. Deacon Josie's Journal

The Season to 'Fall Back'



Fall has arrived and on Sunday, November 1st, we will set our clocks back an hour and welcome Daylight-Saving Time—a time to pull out sweaters to wear on cooler mornings.

The blessings that we have received, are receiving, and will receive are multiplying exponentially and will not “fall back.” The gratitude that we have received through God’s unmerited grace toward us will not “fall back”. God continues to bestow safety and love to us and it will not cease.

We as “Twelve Steppers” say, Don’t ‘should’ on yourself. God wants our genuine love and dedication because we are his children. He knows when we are fake much like a parent knows when a child is faking or lying. The heart must be involved in true worship and praise. The care of our Father will not “fall back” even if we fail to appreciate or acknowledge it.

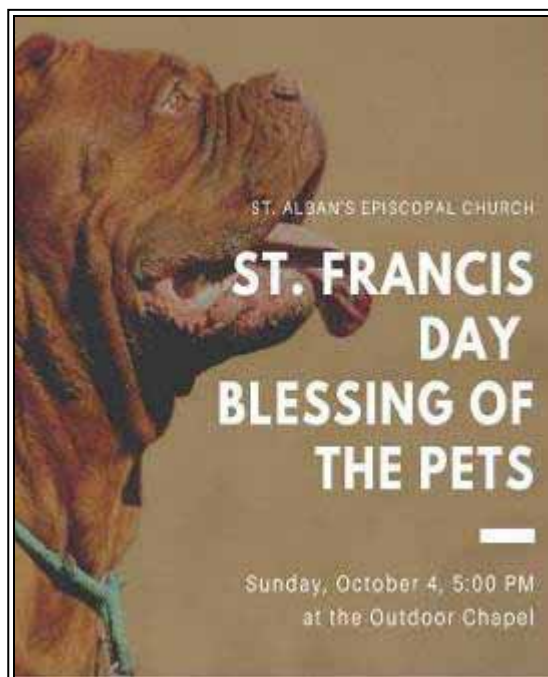
So, in this season of falling back, let us leap forward fully into the loving embrace of a Father who loves us with a never-ending love and will never “fall back” away from us.

Blessings,
Josie

St. Francis Day, Blessing of the Animals

On Sunday October 4th St. Alban's, everyone is invited to attend with their wonderful pets, great and small, our annual service of the *Blessing of the Animals*. The *Blessing of the Animals* is a treasured moment in the liturgical year, when we bring our pets to be blessed and affirm the richness of our connection with creatures outside our own species. Our blessing of the pets will take place at a short service at the outdoor chapel on Sunday, October 4 at 5:00 pm. This service will not include communion.

You are encouraged to bring lawn chairs so that we can spread out as much as possible. Masks will be required and provided for all two-legged animals.



The Path Sermons Featured on St. Alban's Website



Rev. Elisabeth's weekly sermons—*The Path: Church-Wide Bible Study*—are available on the St. Alban's website for easy access and listening. The Path is a year-long church-wide focus on knowing and living our story by reading the Bible. All of us, kids to adults, will focus on the same Bible story each week, taking breaks for Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter.

http://stalbansbovina.org/the_path.htm

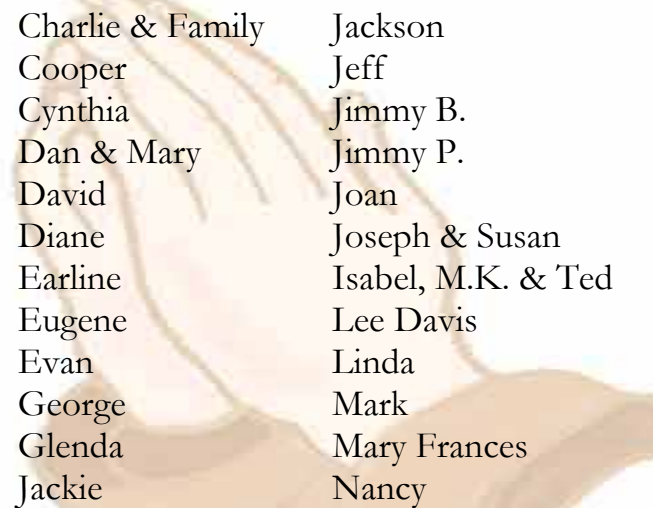
October Birthdays

3	Margaret Stewart	20	Annie Kitchens
7	Kellie Johnson		Michael Southall
8	Allan Leese	21	Elizabeth Rose Selby
9	Wanda Warren	23	Mary Ann Wright
11	Barbara Frey	24	Linda Dooley
	Canada Stewart		Ann Tompkins
15	Micky Barlow	25	Peter Williams
	Alison Rushing	28	James Drake
16	Anita Bonar	31	Wilma Mitchell
19	Annadele Touns		

October Anniversaries

2	John & Barbara Frey	10	Joel & Colby Langford
6	David & Jennifer Normand	26	Will & Clarissa Horner

Prayers for the People



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

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

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

Server Schedule

	Sunday October 4	Sunday October 11	Sunday October 18	Sunday October 25
8:30 am LWL	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith	Richard Price
11:00 am LWL	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Ann Tompkins	Theo Williams
	Wednesday October 7	Wednesday October 14	Wednesday October 21	Wednesday October 28
6:00 pm LWL	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams



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Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs & Betsy Selby