



# The Albanac

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

**October 2021**

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St. Alban's Episcopal Church  
Consecrated October 20, 1929

## “There Shall be Showers of Blessings”



*A Shower of Blessings* came unexpectedly to St. Alban's Church when, in 1927, Rev. Val Sessions received a letter from Matilda Palmer's children, Natalia Fabrizio and Townsend Palmer, who lived in Middletown, Connecticut. The letter dated 1927, informed Rev. Sessions that their mother, a childhood member of St. Alban's Church, had passed away and they wanted to fulfill one of her last wishes—to donate a large sum of money to St. Alban's to build a beautiful new Gothic chapel.

Matilda's parents, Samuel & Caroline Townsend, owners of *Owl Roost Plantation*, were charter members of St. Alban's. Sadly, during the Siege of Vicksburg, Caroline and her year-old baby died of chronic dysentery. Samuel was financially ruined. He sent Matilda and her sister Louisa to Connecticut to live with their wealthy grandparents. Eventually, both married

into the Palmer Family, one of the wealthiest families in the East. Their lives were forever changed but they never forgot their love for St. Alban's.

During the fall of 1927 after Matilda's death, Townsend traveled to Bovina to meet with the vestry and church members to decide on the specifics of building a new chapel. The chapel was completed in 1928 and consecrated on October 20, 1929. Bishop Leonard Bratton, the 3<sup>rd</sup> bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, officiated with Rev. Sessions assisting.

Those attending the service recall the sheer beauty of the day—the processional when the choir entered the nave singing, *God My King*—the sun streaming through the *St. Paul the Apostle* stained glass window, casting prisms of color on the altar—an exquisite brass cross donated by Matilda & Louisa Townsend Palmer placed on the altar—and a marble baptismal font donated by the Fox family in memory of Mrs. Adeline Hebron.

One can only image the emotions of the day as the new bell tower called church members and friends to worship. The splendor of the day signified that St. Alban's had come full circle, rising from the ashes of war to once again become a beautiful place of worship—a *Holy Place* that would last for centuries and centuries to come.

*Rebecca B. Drake*

St. Alban's

# BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

OCTOBER 3 • 8:30 & 11 AM  
AT THE OUTDOOR CHAPEL



On Sunday, October 3rd, St. Alban's will commemorate the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* with our annual *Blessing of the Animals* service in the Outdoor Chapel. The *Blessing of the Animals* is a treasured moment in the liturgical year when we bring our pets to affirm the richness of our connection with creatures, large and small. It is a worship setting that reminds us of the responsibilities we have in caring for our beloved pets.

Members of the congregation and friends are invited to attend with their wonderful creatures, great and small. Although we have many dogs, ranging from small toys to Great Danes, we are also blessed with cats. This year Salome, our new church kitten, will make her first appearance. If you can't bring a pet, Rev. Elisabeth will offer a blessing to your pet's picture.

This year we will be introducing a new practice for remembering pets who have died. If your family has lost a pet, please come a little early so you can decorate a special rock with your pet's name to be placed in our new pet memorial rock garden.

We will be collecting dog and cat food to donate to PAWS Rescue, so bring a bag or two!

# St. Alban's Family Fall Gathering

Sunday, October 17, 2021  
following the 10:00am service

Reconnect with your fellow parishioners while  
enjoying pork tenderloin, hash brown casserole,  
dessert, and much more!!



Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$6 for children,  
Purchase from the church or via [PayPal](#)

All tickets must be purchased by October 7<sup>th</sup>!

- \*Must have a pre-purchased ticket for a plate
- \*All food will be professionally catered and served

## Responding to Emergencies of All Kinds



Hopefully you've noticed the AED and First Aid kit prominently attached to the wall in Sessions Hall. St. Alban's has made a commitment to being better prepared to both prevent and respond to emergencies of all kinds—weather, medical, etc. The AED and First Aid

kit are one step in this process. Along with the new equipment, a team of six people was trained in CPR on Saturday, September 18. Kris Tower, a certified CPR trainer with years of experience as a first responder, instructed Rev. Elisabeth, Sharon Cummins, Penny Freund, Beth Sojourner, Ann Tompkins, and Linda Wall in the basics of CPR and how to operate our new AED. While we hope never to have occasion to use the AED, those of us who attended the training feel much more confident in our ability to respond during a medical emergency.

Later this fall, we are planning to offer a complimentary training to the church community: Mental Health First Aid. Just like regular first aid training teaches you how to respond to a medical emergency, Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to respond to a mental health crisis. From how to talk to someone expressing suicidal thoughts to what to do when someone has overdosed, this training will leave you much better equipped to help friends, family, and neighbors in need.



## Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

If you're like me, you tend to doze off when we enter stewardship season at the church. If you've been around the church for a while, it's easy to think we've heard all this before. For most of us, we know what it is to balance a family budget or a program budget or even an agency budget. Isn't that what church stewardship is all about? It's about matching income to expenses, making sure the church has enough money, right?

This is what I used to think stewardship was all about. And my giving reflected that. Buck and I gave to the church like we give to any number of organizations we support. We saw it as an act of good citizenship, part of how we pay our dues and support the people and places doing good work in our community. You're probably thinking there's nothing wrong with that...and there isn't. Not exactly. But that kind of giving doesn't go very deep. That kind of giving didn't change *me*. It didn't ask me to think about all that I had been given. It didn't ask Buck and I to consider how we honored God with our financial resources. It didn't ask us how much we might stretch to give in a way that would feel big—and joyful.

I am still learning what stewardship means, and Buck and I are still actively discerning how to steward our household resources, but I want to share with you some things that have helped us on our stewardship journey. The very first was the realization that stewardship doesn't start with the church's needs; it starts with us. Stewardship starts with *our need* to respond to God's generosity to us. For us, this is embodied in the act of pledging. Pledging represents the deliberate action of looking at all we have been given and asking ourselves the question of how God intends for us to use it. God certainly intends for us to be able to feed and house our family and save for the future. But how else does God intend for us to share our gifts with the world? Clearly, this goes way beyond church, and even way beyond our financial resources. But making a pledge, a promise, to support the church financially has been critical to how we express our gratitude to God for everything we have been given.

The other step that has been critical in our stewardship journey has been setting the tithe as our goal for giving. The tithe, or 10% of income, is the Biblical standard for giving. Now, Buck and I did not start out tithing, and we certainly have not been able to tithe every year as our income and circumstances have fluctuated greatly, but we know that the tithe is our goal. We include not just giving to the church, but all of our charitable giving, and we look to increase how much we are giving each year. I mention this not out of a sense of pride, because we often fall short of our goal, but because this model for giving has brought us joy. I believe that this joy is the end result of good stewardship. As we cultivate gratitude for what we have been given, we deepen our joy when we are able to give back to God and others.

## Bishop to Visit January 9

Bishop Seage will be visiting St. Alban's on Sunday, January 9, 2022 for the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. We'll have one service that Sunday at 10:00 am so that the Bishop has time to meet with the Vestry and parishioners.

The Bishop's visit, and this feast day in particular, is the perfect time for baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation. This fall, we are conducting a youth confirmation exploration class to help our 7th-12th grade youth make a decision about confirmation. For others who might be interested in any of these rites, please speak with Rev. Elisabeth about preparation. A brief description of baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation follows.

Baptism is full initiation by water and the Holy Spirit into Christ's Body the Church (BCP p. 298). Notice, this isn't membership into the Episcopal church--it's initiation into the Church with a capital "C"! Once you have been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you are marked as Christ's own forever...there is no need to be baptized again. If you or a member of your family has not been baptized, please speak with Rev. Elisabeth. Our traditional days for baptism are the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, the Easter Vigil, the Day of Pentecost, and All Saint's Day.

Confirmation is a rite in which those who were baptized as infants or young children make a mature declaration of faith. In confirmation, the Bishop asks candidates to affirm the promises that were made on their behalf at their baptism and then prays over them. Our youth are currently exploring whether they are ready for confirmation, but any adult who has not been confirmed is also encouraged to speak with Rev. Elisabeth about confirmation.

Reaffirmation is a recommitment to the Christian faith, appropriate for people who have already been confirmed and who have had a spiritual renewal or reengagement with their faith after a time away. Reception is designed for those people coming into the Episcopal Church from other denominations in which they have been confirmed. If you have any questions or would be interested in any of these rites at the Bishop's visit, please don't hesitate to talk to Rev. Elisabeth.

## This Earthly Home

When I see forests wild and undamaged by human presence,  
When I travel to mountain majesties towering over the plains,  
Oceans with dolphins dancing amid the waves and whales spouting hello,  
When I walk through the desert with cacti blooming all around,  
I see your hand, Lord, and I praise this beauty you created.

As I read Your *Holy Word*, Lord, I will yield to Your wisdom and directive,  
As Adam and Eve were banished from Eden,  
You instructed them to tend the gardens and fields of Earth,  
As Your children, Father, we have been tasked with the same:  
to take care of this lovely garden, Earth,  
We have neglected our responsibility to You and to our home.

Now I see wind tossing plastic bags along the highways,  
I see piles of trash thrown from car windows,  
I see rivers and lakes with remnants of beach picnics floating along,  
I see filth billowing from factory smokestacks.  
I see our hands at fault. Tears fall as I go to my knees in humble prayer.

What can I do, Father?  
Alone, I am unable to rectify the wrongs committed  
by tens of thousands of generations of humans,  
Again, I pray. Help me to reach my fellow beings,  
to inspire them to care of the gifts you gave.  
You blessed us with these gifts and charged us with the responsibility  
to nourish them, love them and help them flourish.  
We have failed to do what was right.  
We have allowed your wondrous world to go to waste.

Together, we have the ability to mend the damage we've done to our home,  
Together, we are strong enough.  
If we would heed your command, O Lord, to love one another,  
Perhaps then we could also learn to love and respect our earthly home,  
to work together to heal the damage we've caused.  
I pray You will help us, Father.

*Dawn Rickard*



## Lord, Teach us to Pray...

This plea of Christ's Disciples echoes in our thoughts and probably in generations of His followers throughout the millennia.

In our Tuesday evening *Bibles and More* study group, we are reading and discussing Andrew Murray's little book, *With Christ in the School of Prayer*. It is interesting that the chapters that have caused so much discussion were on the *Lord's Prayer!*

It seems that although we have prayed throughout our lives, most of us are not truly satisfied with our prayer lives. Sometimes we wonder if we miss the mark on Paul's—"pray without ceasing" exhortation. Do we pray enough? Do we pray with faith? Do we pray as we ought? Do we ask for the "right" things? How do we pray?

Jesus gave His followers (that includes us!) a template of prayer and the Episcopal Church provides us with multiple ways to pray, but still the questions remain.

It is interesting that so many of us in the group have such similar questions about prayer and it is thrilling that so many of us are willing to share our doubts and triumphs in prayer. The group, through bringing out our thoughts, is coming ever closer to each other in realizing our common needs and similarities.

Maybe there is no one answer for all of us as we share our diverse ways of prayer.

The text written in the 19th century by a Dutch Reformed Church missionary to South Africa provides insights that at first seem old fashioned (we don't always agree with the author!), but it has caused us to think more about prayer and to comfort each other in the mysteries of communication with God.

We invite anyone who is willing to look at our audacious study to join us at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings, either in person at the church or on Zoom. There you will find fellowship and ... Questions, Questions, Questions ...

Funny enough, our seeking in prayers coincides with our Sunday School topics for this fall, "Faithful Questions." Our quest to grow in our Spiritual lives involves many questions. Why do we suffer? Where is God in our pleas that pray? The big question that we all ask at one time or another—is He listening?

Perhaps, through study and sharing we will gain some insight and comfort while dealing with all the perplexities of life!

*David Pruett*

## 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	18	Bill & Lynda Hubbard
		26	Will & Clarissa Horner

## Prayers of the People

### *For those Sick or in Need:*

Allan	David T.	Marcia
Ann & Jimmy	David W.	Nanette
Mack	Earline & L.J.	Nita
Ashley	Estella	Norma
Barbara	Glenda F.	Pat
Betty	Glenda N.	Patty
Bill & Karen	Glenn	Phil & Sally
Bryan & Jessica	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Ria
Camden	Jackson	Ricky
Charlene	Jeff & Darlene	Ruth
Charisse	John & Lynn	Sharon
Charlie & Family	Joyce	Steve
Cynthia	Karen	Theresa
Dan & Mary	Kelley	Woody

***For the Departed:*** Nicole Combs, Charles Lee, Wesley Brown, George Garner, Bobbie Carlisle, Asalee Cook, Ida Holden, David Jordon, Allison Riester Hart.

## Weekly Events

### 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/>

**Sunday School**, 9:30 a.m.

### Monday—Wednesday—Friday

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

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

### Tuesday

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

### Wednesday

**Spiritual 12 Steps Group**, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

**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.

## Save These Dates

### Sunday, October 3

**Blessing of the Animals**, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

### Saturday, October 9

**Workday at St. Alban's**, Bring tools, 8:30 a.m.

### Sunday, October 17

**Dinner on the Grounds**

### Sunday, November 7

**Outreach Committee**, after 11:00 a.m. church, Snacks provided

### Sunday, January 9

**Bishop's Visitation**, 10:00 a.m. (talk to Rev. Elisabeth if you're interested in baptism, confirmation, or reception into the church)



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:  
Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake

Server Schedule

Date		Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
<b>Sunday</b> 10/3/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith	Sharon Cummins Beth Guynes	Jim Price The Southalls	Ann Tompkins	Jim Drake
<b>Wednesday</b> 10/6/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 10/10/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Richard Price Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Dawn Rickard	Jim Price Dawn Rickard Lance Stewart	Theo Williams	Buck Cooper
<b>Wednesday</b> 10/13/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 10/17/2021	One Serv. 10:00 AM	Betsy Selby	Buck Cooper	The Halls	Richard Price	Harvey Smith
<b>Wednesday</b> 10/20/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruett				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 10/24/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Theo Williams David Pruett	Beth Sojourner Sharon Hanks	Jim Price Lance Stewart Dawn Rickard		Buck Cooper
<b>Wednesday</b> 10/27/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
<b>Sunday</b> 10/31/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith	Sharon Cummins Kerri Williams	Jim Price Kerri & Peter Williams	Theo Williams	Jim Drake