



The Albanac

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

October 2022



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi
The Patron Saint of Animals

The Feast of St. Francis Celebration



The *Feast of St. Francis* has long been a beautiful occasion at St. Alban's, with the blessing of pets offered during our morning services. We will dedicate the new *St. Francis Pet Memorial Garden* in memory of Frank Skinner, Jr. Frank, a lifelong member of St. Alban's who died in 2021, loved the grounds of the church and found joy in caring for them. St. Francis is the patron saint of animals, merchants and ecology, a reminder to us that stewardship of God's creation is essential to our faith.

On Sunday, October 9, we'll celebrate the *Feast of St. Francis* in several ways. Weather permitting, both of our services will be held at the Outdoor Chapel. Between services, from 9:30—11:00 am, we'll have several activities going on:

- Dedication of the *Frank Skinner, Jr., St. Francis Pet Memorial Garden*
- Blessing of the Animals
- Decorating rocks for pets who have died to place in the garden
- Biscuits for people and pets
- Donations of pet food accepted for PAWS Rescue
- A book fair courtesy of Lorelei Books, with proceeds aiding the Capital Campaign
- Capital Campaign Raffle Drawing

Please plan to join us, and even better, invite a friend! All are welcome, including those with paws!

The Blessing of the Animals

“The animals of God’s creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea, and have a part in human life. We, therefore, invoke God’s blessing on these animals. over all the creatures of the earth.”

St. Francis of Assisi

On Sunday, October 9, we will commemorate the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* with our annual *Blessing of the Animals* service in the Outdoor Chapel at 8:30 and 11:00 am. 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. Salome, our church cat, made her first appearance last year. If you can’t bring a pet, Rev. Elisabeth will offer a blessing to your pet’s picture.

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 place in our new *Frank Skinner, Jr. Pet Memorial Garden*.

We will be collecting pet food to donate to PAWS Rescue, a non-profit, no-kill animal rescue center. Purina Cat and Kitten Chow especially needed.

Dress casually and enjoy the beauty of the Outdoor Chapel.



St. Alban's is Debt Free!



Ann Tompkins presents Lester Tzotzolas, VP Guaranty Bank, with the final loan payment for construction of the new Sunday school classrooms and church improvements.

God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

Genesis 1:3

This quotation from the *Book of Genesis* made me think of what has recently happened at St. Alban's. In this verse, the writer tells readers the story of creation, it was very good. We have jointly completed a journey which is also very good.

The Finance Committee and I would like to thank everyone who participated in any way in the very successful recent Capital Campaign to pay off the church's loan for the construction of the new Sunday school classrooms and church improvements.

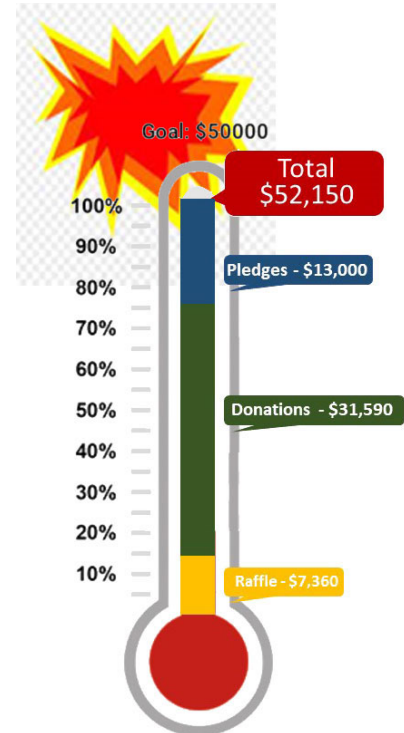
The renovation was very successful with a new spacious kitchen, a welcoming lobby and meeting space. The expanded project provides for three new children's school and adult meeting rooms and a much need storage addition behind the sacristy. These updates, additions and repairs support our mission of hospitality and ensures that future generations can call St. Alban's their church home.

Due to the overwhelming generosity of our members and friends, the Capital Campaign raised \$52,150 exceeding our \$50,000 goal. This is a commendable achievement and we thank everyone who has contributed. The Vestry voted to retire the balance of our line-of-credit loan by the October due date with the funds raised combined with \$10,000 in unrestricted reserves.

In these times of recession and stifling inflation when more dollars are required to purchase necessities, it was a much more difficult goal to meet. But our parish will realize that by meeting our goal this year, that we are one of few churches that can make the claim — **ST. ALBAN'S IS DEBT FREE.**

God has blessed us with devoted, dedicated and generous parishioners who have dug deeply and gone beyond the extra donations to make this a most gratifying experience for all.

Now we can say we have pulled together to get it done. Now we will look forward to being able to make repairs, continue with outreach programs, and think about how we can best serve God in our community. Thank you all for a wonderful job. Well done!



*Penny Freund
Senior Warden*

In Memory



H.D. "Dan" Carleton

May 19, 1934 — September 15, 2022

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints

Love One Another

Today's hectic world seems to create more reasons than ever before for people of all ages to experience some form of mental illness. The most common are anxiety disorders, mood disorders, psychotic disorders, eating disorders and dementia. In fact, nearly one in five U.S. adults live with a mental illness. As of 2020, one in six adolescents had experienced a major depressive episode and three million had thought seriously about suicide.

Depression is thought to be a chemical imbalance but, in fact, it is much more complicated. There are numerous emotional and physical traumas that can contribute to depression. There are also a number of illnesses and syndromes that can lead to depression. Unfortunately, a majority of people diagnosed with depression are hesitant to admit that they have a problem. They often feel that they should be able to "fix" it themselves by watching a funny movie or talking with a dear friend. To make matters worse, sometimes well-meaning friends offer bits of wisdom such as, "you just have to snap out of it," or other suggestions that are not helpful.

An accidental fall can cause damage to the brain as well as other parts of the body. When the brain is seriously injured or ill, it can cause trouble with speaking and perhaps slow down the process of verbalizing thoughts. This can cause those around them to feel uncomfortable. However, that person you know is still in there—perhaps just changed a bit. My father had Alzheimer's and had trouble getting out what he was trying to say. He would stumble through his words and finally say "Never mind." He was embarrassed that he could not explain what he was trying to say.

Although most people don't call attention to physical illnesses, there are still some who will 'whisper' about those who have depression. Thankfully, modern medications and therapy have changed their quality of life for the better.

We can't change things that have occurred in the lives of our family and friends, but we can ease the fear and discomfort they feel. Just love them and talk with them as if everything is the same as always. This can make them feel much more relaxed. As with everything else, we just need to listen to Christ's commandment: "Love your God with all your heart and all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself." Loving and welcoming others as they are—physically & mentally—is an important part of our walk with God. It not only makes others feel loved, but also makes our world seem better.

Dawn Rickard

Colors of the Day

By Penny Freund



*Early in the morning when the sun begins to gold
Glowing pink and yellow even purple, I behold.
Soon the birds begin to waken, and the breeze begins to stir
And morning comes a creeping to this old spinning earth.
That's when I can picture God as master of the sky
And everyone's still sleeping except He and I.
Then before the hateful ones arise and bullets start to fly
I imagine earth as pure as when He made it.*

The apple of His eye.

*Can't we save that early morning feeling, make it last you and I?
Or does hate, and greed and envy always come between us by and by?
Grab yourself a comfy quilt, and go out upon your porch
I believe that you can see God in the colors of His torch,
That beautiful sweep of color that will light your day;
When God is in His heaven and the right thing is to pray.*

Elisabeth's Epistle

I have had two things on my mind as we head into fall: stewardship, and a book I just finished reading called *Reorganized Religion: The Reshaping of the American Church and Why It Matters* by Bob Smietana. Stewardship is on my mind because it's that season. But also because our recent final push on the Capital Campaign has reminded me of what an incredibly generous community St. Alban's is. When there is a need, our church rises to the challenge. This is truly a gift.

In *Reorganized Religion*, Bob Smietana does two things: he outlines the broad downward trends in church participation and he illustrates what we stand to lose as a country as these trends continue. His book is well worth reading, especially if you have thought that St. Alban's, or the Episcopal Church, is the only one struggling with what are really national trends. Smietana doesn't just report trends, however; he also emphasizes the importance of small churches like St. Alban's in the fabric of our communities. This was where his reporting intersected with stewardship for me.

I have emphasized in the past that stewardship matters to our own spiritual health. We give generously of our time, talent, and treasure out of response to God, who has given so generously to us. But the truth is, stewardship also has very real consequences for the church and the world. The Vestry has been considering the core values of St. Alban's, and one that keeps rising to the top is that we are a place of sanctuary and healing. This isn't an accident—our church is able to provide things like the grief group and the healing service because of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure of many people over the years. Like so much of what we do, we offer this ministry of healing for the community, for anyone in need. Generations of faithful people have given to St. Alban's so that we might continue to be an agent of God's love in a hurting world. This is needed now more than ever.

Stewardship is about extending our mission and ministry further, so that more people might know the reconciling love of God. If you are currently contributing to the church through a pledge of your treasure, time, and talent, thank you. Your gifts allow this church to be a resource for the community. If you are a less-than-regular giver, would you consider making a pledge of your time, talent and treasure this year? Your involvement is critical to St. Alban's future, to our ability to continue to be a place of sanctuary and healing for years to come.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR

Dinner on the Grounds

OCTOBER 23RD,
FOLLOWING ONE SERVICE AT 10AM

THIS YEAR, WE ARE CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY BY HAVING
A POTLUCK FREE OF CHARGE.

ST. ALBAN'S WILL PROVIDE MEAT FROM SMOKIN' BBQ AND
PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO BRING SIDES, SALADS,
DESSERTS, AND MORE!

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND ENCOURAGED TO INVITE FRIENDS
AND FAMILY TO THIS EVENT.

IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND, PLEASE RSVP WITH THE NUMBER OF
PEOPLE AND WHAT DISHES YOU PLAN TO BRING.

LET'S RELAX AND ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY!

RSVP AT THE CHURCH OR AT
STALBANSBOVINA.ORG

ANN
BIEDEN
JONES

October Birthdays

3	Margaret Stewart	20	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 Toups		

October Anniversaries

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

Prayers of the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Allan & Joan	Jackie	Maurice & Family
Ann & Jimmy	Jackson	Mike
Becky Jo	James	Nick, Lacey & Family
Bill & Karen	Joe & Katharine	Nita
The Carleton Family	Joel & Colby	Norma
Charlene	John K.	Pete & Family
Charlie & Family	John T.	Ria
Clarence	Jonathan & Family	Ruth
Cole	Kay	Sarah
Cynthia	Kelley M.	Steve
Dalton	Kelley S.	Suzanne
Danny	Larry	Tallmadge
David S.	Leah	The Turner Family
David W.	Leigh Ann	Wayne
Freda	Libby Lucas	Woody
Fritz	Madelyn & Greyson	

For the Departed: Mary Love, Elaine Cole Sanders, Dan Carleton, Willie Belle Shipley.

Server Schedule

Date	Time	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	Vestry	A/V System
Sunday 10/2/2022	8:30 AM	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins	Carolyn Gent	The Gavins	Dawn Rickard	Carolyn Gent	Jim Drake
Wednesday 10/5/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith					
Sunday 10/9/2022			Blessing of the Animals				
	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Sharon Cummins	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Betsy Selby	Barnie Gavin	The Rushings Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	Penny Freund	Harvey Smith
Wednesday 10/12/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner					
Sunday 10/16/2022	8:30 AM	Ann Tompkins	Beth Sojourner	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Harvey Smith	Jeff Artman	The Artmans	Betsy Selby	Jeff Artman	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 10/19/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith					
Sunday 10/23/2022			Dinner on the Grounds				
	10:00 AM	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins	The Halls	Ann Tompkins	Kristi Hall	Jim Drake
Wednesday 10/26/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner					
Sunday 10/30/2022	8:30 AM	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Jim Price			
	11:00 AM	Clarissa Horner	Buck Cooper	The Coopers	Barnie Gavin	Clarissa Horner	Harvey Smith



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