



The Albanac

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

September 2021



Painting by Penny Freund

Holy Eucharist
The Gifts of God for the People of God

Rev. Elisabeth Leads Instructed Eucharist



Rev. Elisabeth, Theo, Deacon Josie and Fore participate in the Instructed Eucharist

During the month of August, our Gospel readings came from Jesus' "Bread of Life" discourse in the Gospel of John. To help us delve deeper into the Gospel, we have been exploring the Eucharist, through a Sunday school series and an Instructed Eucharist on August 15. Holy Eucharist literally means "sacred thanksgiving," reflecting our belief that our service is an act of praise and thanksgiving to God for the gifts given to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Episcopalians believe in the "real presence" of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, meaning that Jesus is present with us as we celebrate, but there are a variety of views, and no strict dogma, on how this takes place.

The pandemic has challenged us in our celebration of the Eucharist, as more people join worship online and our practice has needed to respond to safety concerns. Despite these challenges, the Eucharist remains a vital source of nourishment for us as disciples and a powerful symbol of our unity in Christ, even despite temporary separation.

Annual Blessing of the Backpacks



Pictured on front row L-R: Mason, Mary Michael and Fore;
Second row Harris, Andrew, Henry, Rev. Elisabeth, Blair and Canada

On Sunday, August 1, students of all ages gathered for the annual *Blessing of the Backpacks* given by Rev. Elisabeth:

God our teacher, we ask you to bless these your children with curiosity, understanding, and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in church. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us.

Amen

Outreach Update



Thanks to the efforts of Sally Southall, the children living at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter* received new bookbags and school clothes

School Supplies

Our outreach efforts at the church this past month have focused on kids and teachers heading back to school. Thanks to the efforts of Sally Southall, the children living at *Lifting Lives* family shelter received new bookbags and school clothes so they

could head back to the classroom looking and feeling their best! We also collected supplies for our local elementary school, Bovina Elementary. Penny Freund dropped off a trunk load of sanitizing wipes, tissues, and dry erase markers the week that school started. Thank you to everyone who contributed on behalf of our teachers and students!

Cookies & Prayers for First Responders



The church also came together in support of our local first responders and healthcare workers on the front lines of battling the coronavirus surge. Parishioners baked dozens upon dozens of cookies and other treats, which were delivered to the ER staff at UMMC and River Region and first responders here in Vicksburg on two Sundays. Thank you to everyone who participated in this effort.

The nurse manager and an ER doctor at UMMC have both expressed how touched they were to be remembered and supported with prayers and food during this stressful time.

Outreach Volunteers Needed

On Sunday, September 19, from 4:00-6:00 pm, St. Alban's will be hosting a cookout and fellowship event at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter* on the corner of Highway 80 and Highway 27. This event will be FUN for St. Alban's and *Lifting Lives*—we're going to have a water slide, hamburgers & hotdogs and hopefully some other outdoor games. But we need help to make it happen. If you've heard about *Lifting Lives*, but never visited, this is a great way to get involved. This is also a great opportunity for youth who need service hours! You can sign up to volunteer at the church, by calling Rev. Elisabeth or Stacy Weaver, or online: Sign Up to Volunteer!

Damaged Historic Marker Replaced

Rickard and Del Price, with the help of Fore, replaced the damaged historic marker that was dedicated on church grounds in 2011. As time went by the marker suffered mower damage and had to be replaced—not once, but three times. The recent replacement marker is the third and hopefully the last to be remade.

St. Alban's is one of the oldest Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of Mississippi. The original church was erected in 1858 but destroyed during the Siege of Vicksburg. The second church, built on the same site, was erected in 1870 and served the church until 1928 when the new Gothic style sanctuary was built. The 1870's church remains and serves as the Parish Hall. Because of its rural setting and vast park-like grounds, St. Alban's is often referred to as the *Church in the Country*.

All four markers were made by Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio.



Safety Improvements at Church

Look around the church and you might notice some small changes designed to enhance our emergency preparedness. These include more fire extinguishers, a new first aid kit, and an AED (automated external defibrillator). A Safety Planning Team, composed of Junior Warden David May, Sharon Cummins, John Frey, Jim Price, Lance Stewart, Dalton Thames and Theo Williams, has been working to improve how the church prepares for and responds to emergencies. The team has more plans in the works, including offering CPR training at the church and increasing lighting in the parking lot, as well as improving training for ushers and anyone who might be called to respond to an emergency at the church. Please feel free to get in touch with any team member if you are interested in this work or have ideas about improving safety at the church!

Church Enjoying New Rodent Deterrent System



On the Feast Day of Joanna, Mary, and Salome, God sent St. Alban's a new warrior in the ongoing battle against mice. Named "Salome," or "Sal" or "Sally" for short, you can find her patrolling the grounds around the church when she isn't looking

for belly rubs. A visit to the vet for vaccinations confirmed she is about 4 months old, and an appointment has already been made for her to be spayed. She is very friendly, although still a little shy around new people. If any of our church carpenters want to build her an elevated house before winter, please let Elisabeth know. In the meantime, please greet her and thank her for her work keeping down our rodent population!

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

This month my mind and my prayers have been dominated by two trains of thought: one about the Eucharist, the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the other about the resurgence of the coronavirus in our state. These might seem to be two contradictory trains of thought, but the more space they've occupied together in my mind and in my prayers, the more connections I've seen. One image in particular unites the two trains of thought: the image of the body.

In one of the oldest understandings of the Eucharist, sharing Christ's body and blood knits us into one body with him and with other believers. Here is Paul, writing to the Corinthians: "The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread" (1 Cor 10:16-17). Paul uses this image of the body often to describe the Christian community, emphasizing how each part is needed, and if one part suffers, all suffer. This is the attitude I believe is missing in so much of what passes for conversation about our current coronavirus crisis. Many people still don't seem to understand that there is no way out of this pandemic until we realize that we are all part of one body. Keeping ourselves safe as individuals is not good enough. We must be willing to look out for the health and well-being of the entire body. We must consider the interests of our neighbors. The coronavirus has revealed what Paul knew to be true: the body is only as healthy as its least healthy member. We are all connected, and what affects one, affects all.

This is why the Eucharist is so important for us to practice. Jesus is teaching us week in and week out through the Eucharist what it means to be part of a body. And not just any body, but his body! Jesus is teaching us how to see ourselves as connected to something bigger, and through his example of self-sacrifice, he also teaches us how to place the needs of our neighbor equal to our own. These are lessons I believe we need now more than ever.

Questions! Questions! Questions!

By David Pruett

It seems as though these times bring us more questions than answers. Who are we? Why are we here? What's our relationship to our neighbor, to our church, to God? This past year we have taken a thorough look at our sacred scriptures through *The Path* in Sunday School and through our study of *How We Got The Bible* on Tuesday nights. Many questions arose from those studies—some may have been answered but there are more generated by the answers we get!

Beginning September 19, we are going to explore some hard questions that may not have had answers by our journey of discovery in Scripture.

- What's our duty to church?
- Why did Jesus have to die?
- Why do we have to suffer?
- Where do we go from here?
- And more.....

Hopefully we will find some answers and find some comfort. Rest assured, we each must work out our own salvation, *with fear and trembling*, but opening dialogue with each other could and should be helpful.

So, if you have questions, this is our chance to explore some of the hard ones together. Please join us starting September 19 at 9:30-10:30 am.

got questions?

**Can we question our faith?
Why did Jesus have to die?
Does God answer prayer?
Why do bad things happen?
Where do we go when we die?**

We're going to be wrestling with these questions and more in Adult Sunday school this fall. Starting September 19, 9:30-10:30 in person or by Zoom



St. Alban's
BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

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



St. Alban's will celebrate the *Feast of St. Francis* on Sunday, October 3 with services at the Outdoor Chapel at 8:30 and 11:00 am. You are invited to bring pets of all kinds for a blessing as part of our services. We will also be introducing a new practice for remembering pets who have died by writing their names on rocks for our new pet memorial rock garden. If your family has lost a pet, please come a little early so you can pick out and decorate a rock. We will also be collecting dog and cat food to donate to PAWS Rescue, so bring a bag or two!

Put Date on Your Calendar
Dinner on the Grounds
October 17th

September Birthdays

2 Dale Gibson	16 Judy Morrissey
Richard Stone	19 A. W. (Del) Price
4 Thomas L. Skinner	21 Lance Stewart
5 Riley Kitchens	24 Jerry McWilliams
7 Josie Williams	27 Mads Lauritzen
8 Richard Price	28 Genevieve Rushing
14 Linda K. Walker	

September Anniversaries

4 Bobby & Mickey Barlow	24 Andy & Kristi Hall
25 John Thomas & Amanda Monti	

Prayers of the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Ada & Family	David T.	Kristin
Allan	David W.	Marcia & David
Ann & Jimmy	Earline & L.J.	Martha
Ashlee & Mack	Estella	Mary Jo
Ashley	Glenda F.	Mary Ruth
Barbara	Glenda N.	Nita
Betty	Glenn	Norma
Bill & Karen	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Patty
Bobbie	Jackson	Ria
Charlene	James	Ruth
Charisse	Jeff & Darlene	Sharon
Charlie & Family	John & Lynn	Shelby Lynn
Cynthia	Joyce	Theresa
Dan & Mary	Karen	The Warriner Family
	Kelley	

For the Departed: Margaret Massey, Elizabeth Warriner, Jodie Nelson,
Sam Tomlinson & David Sessums

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, September 19

Lifting Lives afternoon cookout

Sunday, October 3

Blessing of the Animals, 8:30 & 11:00

Sunday, October 17

Dinner on the Grounds

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:
Beth Guynes, Susan Price, Sally Southall & Rebecca Drake

Server Schedule

Date		Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Wednesday 9/1/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
Sunday 9/5/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins Betsy Selby	Jim Price Dawn Rickard Lance Stewart	Richard Price	Jim Drake
Wednesday 9/8/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruett				Harvey Smith
Sunday 9/12/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	David Pruett Harvey Smith	Penny Freund Sharon Hanks	Jim Price The Southalls	Betsy Selby	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 9/15/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
Sunday 9/19/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Harvey Smith Richard Price	Beth Sojourner Dawn Rickard	Jim Price Ann Tompkins Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Jim Drake
Wednesday 9/22/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
Sunday 9/26/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner Kerri Williams	Jim Price Kerri & Peter Williams	David Pruett	Jim Drake
Wednesday 9/29/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruett				Harvey Smith