



The Albanac

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

October 2015



Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and it shall be opened to you

Matthew 7:7

Remembering Terry Brantley

Terry Brantley was special. Those who knew her would say that she had a heart of gold. What Terry possessed was a heart filled with God's love—a love that spilled out to everyone she met. And, she never met a stranger.

During the summer of 2010, Terry felt God's call to reopen St. Mary's Church, a once thriving mission church in Bolton that had been compelled to close due to a declining congregation. The church remained closed for around two decades.

Terry sought guidance from the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and St. Alban's Church. After receiving a nod from Bishop Gray and a commitment from Reverend Billie Abraham to serve as vicar, friends and former church members cleaned the church and prepared to restore it as a vital part of the Bolton community. The doors of St. Mary's were finally reopened on Sunday, September 12, 2010, and the church was filled with... *Those who came rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.*

For five years, Terry and Charlie continued to be a force behind a series of monthly church services known as *Second Sundays at St. Mary's*. Terry was looking forward to continuing her *calling* but God had other plans. She fought her illness bravely and, even as her days were numbered, she made sure that everyone who came to visit knew that they were loved.



On Sunday, September 13, 2015, as St. Mary's celebrated its Fifth Anniversary, Reverend Billie Abraham and friends of St. Mary's paid tribute to Terry by dedicating St. Mary's parish house as the *Terry Brantley Parish House* in her honor. Following the service, Reverend Abraham took the dedication plaque to the Brantley home and read the words aloud as Terry drifted into eternal rest. The dedication read:

Dear Terry,

Because you asked and kept asking, persistently and persuasively...

Because you sought and kept seeking ways to revive a dormant church...

Because you knocked, gently urging with prayer and fervent hope...

The doors of St. Mary's were once again opened...

Because of all these things as well as the continued commitment to the vibrancy and well being of our revived parish shown by you and your dear husband, Charlie, St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Bolton, Mississippi lovingly dedicates our parish house to the glory of God and to you –

The Terry Brantley Parish House, 13 September 2015.



Before daybreak, on Monday, September 14, Terry quietly slipped away—
Beyond the Sunset to that Home on God's Celestial Shore.

As her dear friend James Anderson noted... *"She opened the doors to St. Mary's and now heaven opens its gates for you."*

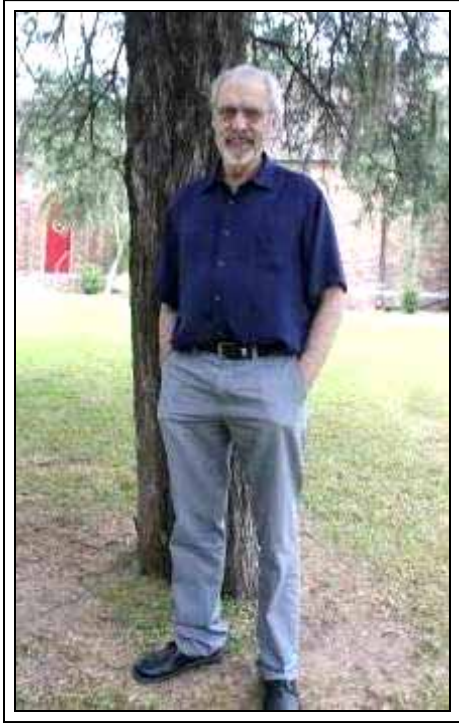
Some bright morning when this life is over, I'll fly away; to that home on God's celestial shore, I'll fly away. I'll fly away oh glory, I'll fly away [in the morning] when I die hallelujah by and by, I'll fly away.

St. Mary's Church: Fifth Anniversary Homecoming Jubilee Singers & Daughters of Dr. Bobby Cooper in Concert

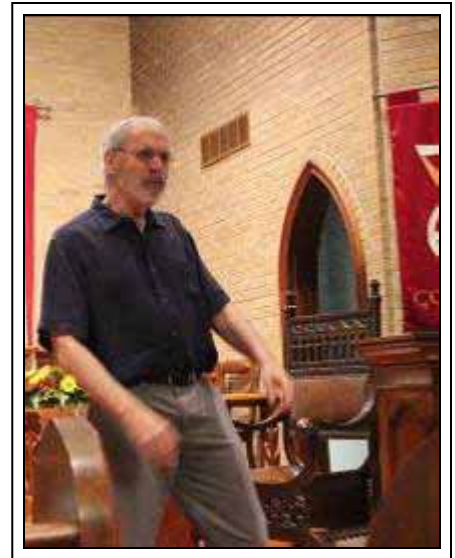




John Maxwell Performs “The Story of Barnabas”



On September 20th, John Maxwell, southern playwright and actor, performed his monologue, *Giving & The Son of Joy! The Story of Barnabas*. John is an award-winning playwright and touring actor who is best known for *Oh, Mr. Faulkner, Do You Write?* He is also widely recognized for his religious monologues where he creates dramatic interpretations of Biblical characters such as *Judas, John the Baptist, St. Paul, Joseph and Barnabas* through one man shows. The religious presentations are often performed for church congregations



and independent theatres. St. Alban's and St. Mary's have had the pleasure of hearing many of John's monologues.

ECW Hosts Bridal Shower

The ECW hosted a bridal brunch shower for Colby Hopkins, fiancé of Joel Langford, on Saturday, September 19th. Joel is the son of Lisa and Charley Langford and the grandson of Ruth Green. Colby is the daughter of Kim Hopkins. Members of the ECW and friends attended the event. We wish Colby and Joel happiness as they join their lives in Holy Matrimony.



September 20th Rectory Open House





† Billie's Corner

Pet Blessing

*God bless this precious pet.
May your love of this animal be a constant reminder
Of God's love for you and all creation.
Amen.*

A favorite service of St. Alban's community is the *Animal Blessing* in honor of St. Francis of Assisi. This year the feast day of Saint Francis falls on a Sunday—October 4. Once more we will celebrate the Eucharist and bless the animals in St. Alban's outdoor *chapel without walls*—where the sky is the ceiling and the earth is the floor.

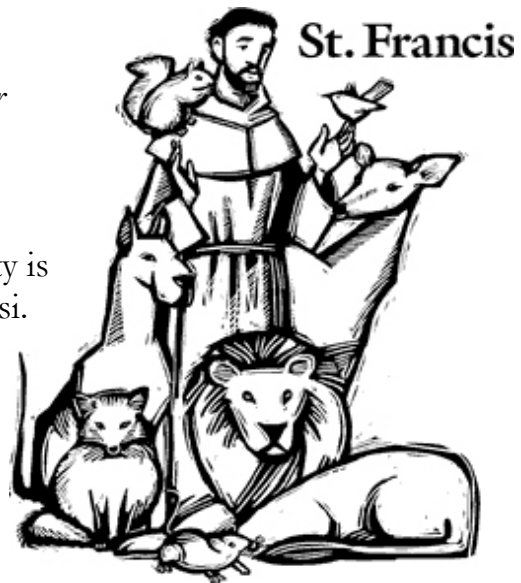
In the past, I have blessed everything from horses to a pet rat dressed in a sweater and a hat. Cats and dogs are by far the most popular animals—big, little, young and old.

In October of 2005, a few months after Hurricane Katrina, I attended a *pet blessing* that I will never forget. The blessing was held on the steps of the National Cathedral in Washington where I stood in line holding a photograph of a Wirehaired Terrier—my *grand-dog*.

As I waited for the priest to bless my photograph, I observed the menagerie of animals whose owners had assembled for the blessing: birds in cages; dogs on leashes; turtles in boxes; fish in bowls and numerous dogs with special capes on their backs inscribed RESCUE DOG. The dogs had been rescued from the flood waters of Katrina and relocated thanks to the help of the *Animal Rescue League* and the *Humane Society*. Some of the dogs were friendly and some were standoffish. All had been through a horrific ordeal.

My oldest daughter, Jeanne, and her husband, Ross, lived in New Orleans at the time of Katrina. They evacuated the city to stay in Vicksburg while the storm raged. As soon as the storm passed, Ross borrowed a Jon Boat and headed for New Orleans where he joined the animal rescue volunteers.

Ross was instructed to pick up any stranded animals and get them to dry land where they would at least have a chance for survival. Ross set out in the flood



waters over and over, gathering animals in his boat and letting them out on dry land—except for one dog—a little Wirehaired Terrier that refused to stay on land. Ross would put her out on dry land and start to pull away; she would swim to the boat. Ross said he attempted to leave several times, but this dog was having nothing to do with that. She was not taking any more chances. Ross had rescued her and now she belonged to him.

Jeanne and Ross named her *Lucky*, but they knew they were the lucky ones. They fell in love with this precious dog that was pregnant. She gave birth to five female puppies soon after moving in with them. From no dogs to six dogs! When the puppies were old enough to be separated from their mother, Jeannie and Ross selected good homes for them.



Lucky is no longer living. Now, Jeanne and Ross have two Rat Terriers, *Peeps* & *Lucy*, and my youngest daughter, Amy, and her husband, Scott, have a Saint Bernard named *Ernie*. This Sunday, I am going to offer a “long distant” blessing for the three of them by way of photographs.

See you at the Animal Blessing—bring your animal or bring a photograph. Blessings have a way of getting to where they belong no matter the distance.

In Peace
Billie+

Dinner on the Grounds

*Come to the Country . . .
Come for Dinner on the Grounds . . .*

Sunday, October 25



Time is flying and *Dinner on the Grounds* is fast approaching. For some of our new church members, the event requires a brief description. It has been a long-time tradition of our community to offer an annual dinner on the grounds. The menu has changed throughout the years but the hospitality has not. *Dinner on the Grounds* is our yearly fundraiser where the profits go to an outreach or in-reach ministry.

The day begins with the Celebration of the Eucharist, followed by a dinner of fried catfish, hushpuppies, slaw, butter beans, and dessert. Meal tickets are \$10.00 a plate. Tables are set up under the Live Oak Trees where people are invited dine and visit. Live entertainment is provided.

Help will be needed to set up the ECW tent that houses *The Country Market*. This is where the homemade items will be sold: Frozen Casseroles, Soup, Baked Goods, Jellies and Relishes. Please contribute items to the sale. A smaller tent will need to be set up for the sale of the latest edition of the ECW cookbook, *Dinner-On-The-Grounds at St. Alban's II*, as well as St. Alban's history books—*Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Episcopal Church* (Drake & Ruska) and *Owl Roost Plantation, Bovina: The Civil War Letters of Samuel and Caroline Townsend* by Rebecca Drake. Both books were formatted and produced by Jim Drake.

Volunteer Sign-Up Sheets are available throughout the church. There are jobs for everyone! Volunteers are needed to set up tables, chairs, tents, decorations, fry fish, prepare slaw & desserts, collect tickets/money and work the serving lines. **We need ALL of you to sell Dinner Tickets—Sell Tickets—Sell Tickets—Sell Tickets!!!**

WE NEED YOU TO MAKE IT HAPPEN.

Invite friends and family to gather together for *Dinner on the Grounds*. Everyone will be greeted with Holy Hospitality.

Chairpersons: Sharon Hanks, Betsy Selby, & Beth Guynes

Schedule of Events

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM

Choir Practice, Nave, 10:00 AM

Tuesday

Create & Carry, Parish House, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM

Centering Prayer Support Group, 8:30 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Choir Practice following the Healing Service

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Noon

Bible & More Discussion Group, Parish House, 6:00–8:00 PM

Sunday, October 4—Eucharist & Animal Blessing, Outside Chapel, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Wednesday, October 7—*First Wednesday Quiet Day*, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Come In, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Be Still, Leave in Peace

Morning Prayer, 9:00 AM—Noon Prayer, 12:00 AM—Evening Prayer, 4:00 PM

Saturday, October 10—Wedding of Colby Hopkins & Joel Langford, St. Alban's Church 4:30 PM

Sunday, October 11—*Second Sundays at St. Mary's*, 4:00 PM,
Evening Prayer followed by *Capital Brass* concert

Monday, October 12–Thursday, October 15—Clergy Conference, Gray Episcopal Conference Center, Rev. Billie & Deacon Josie will be attending.

Saturday, October 19—Workday in Preparation for *Dinner on the Grounds*

Sunday, October 25—*Dinner on the Grounds*

October Birthdays

3 Rachel Sullivan Margaret Stewart	22 Stanley Lee
4 Key Davis	23 Mary Ann Wright
8 Allan Leese Michael Morrissey	24 Linda Dooley Ann Tompkins
9 Wanda Warren	25 Jack Abraham Marci Turner
15 Mickey Barlow	Peter Williams
11 Canada Stewart	28 James Drake
16 Anita Bonar	30 Bill Davis
19 Annadele Toups	31 Wilma Mitchell

October Anniversaries

6 David & Jennifer Normand	21 Scott & Amy Burr
18 Bill & Lynda Horan Hubbard	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:



Betty Biedenharn	Dalton Glatt	Rachelle Ferris
Kathy Gergo	Lawrence Fields	Oscar Jones
Bertha Kolb	Lucas Guynes	Jim & Sherry Horan
Allen Kitchens	Parker Ramsay	Jimmy Bright
Linda & Jim Dooley	Barbara Ramsay	Jackson Monti
Glenda Ferguson	Mary Ruth Jones	Jim Dantin
Charlie Brantley & F	Pres. Jimmy Carter	Ann Hanks
Joel and Colby	Tori Meyers	Millie Gassaway
Walker Biedenharn	Richard & Margo Massey	Howard Benson
Larry Lambiotte	Don Whittenburg	Damion Hansford
Cecile Jordan	John Tompkins	Caroline Nations
Dan & Mary Carleton	Karen Bates	Bare Ahner
Matt Mitchell	Suzanne Harpole	Harris Anthony
Fred Blackburn	Father & Mrs. Bill Dickson	Clyde Smith
Bert Case		

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in October

	October 4 <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	October 11 <i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i>	October 18 <i>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</i>	October 25 <i>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i>
First Reading	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Job 38:1-7, (34-41)	Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm	Psalm 26	Psalm 22:1-15	Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b	Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22)
Second Reading	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Hebrews 4:12-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 7:23-28
Gospel	Mark 10:2-16	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:35-45	Mark 10:46-52
	Animal Blessing		Children's Eucharist	Dinner on the Grounds
Lay Worship Leader				
8:30 a.m.	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Theo Williams
11:00 a.m.	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Betsy Selby	David Pruett
Eucharistic Minister		Herb Jones		Ed Shelnut
Lector	Beth Guynes	Herb Jones	Peter Williams	Ed Shelnut
Master of Ceremonies	Betsy Selby	Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes	Deacon Josie
Crucifer & Acolyte	Beth Guynes	Jennifer Normand Canada Stewart	Peter Williams Lawson Selby Sunny Faith	Koury Collins
Gospel Bearer	Peter Williams	Deacon Josie	Gabby Rushing	Deacon Josie
Torch Bearers			Gloria and Sam Hall	
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Mary Carleton	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie
Banner Bearer			Lawson Selby	
Lord's Prayer	Peter Williams	Canada Stewart	Heaven Leigh	
Oblation Bearers	David & Jennifer Normand	Lanore Fulham & Girls	Gloria & Sam Hall	Jeff Artman & Family
Ushers & Greeters	Lance Stewart Richard Massey	Allen Leese Dan Carleton	Josh Artman Jonah Artman	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Beth Guynes
Coffee Host	Refreshments Provided No Coffee Host	Betty Rushing Butch Mitchell Bonnie Pruett	Ann Tompkins Rymn & Joan Parsons	Fried Catfish Dinner
Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel	Jennifer Normand Ann Tompkins	Jennifer Normand Ann Tompkins	No Children's Chapel
Offertory Counters	Ann Tompkins Rymn Parsons Janice Herrington	Ann Tompkins Rymn Parsons Herb Jones	Ann Tompkins Rymn Parsons Kristi Hall	Ann Tompkins Rymn Parsons Theo Williams
	October 7	October 14	October 21	October 28
Healing Service	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins	Theo Williams