



# THE ALBANAC

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA, MISSISSIPPI  
[stalbansbovina.org](http://stalbansbovina.org)

**August 2025**

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Summer Worship at St. Alban's

## UNITED THANK OFFERING

*Pick up your UTO Box in the Parish Hall!*



When I was growing up, I thought that being a part of missions meant being somewhere far from home preaching the Gospel and telling people about Jesus. But now I realized that I can be a part of missions right here at St. Alban's through the United Thank Offering (UTO).

UTO gives me an opportunity to contribute to missions in a meaningful way through daily prayer and offering. In giving thanks with a coin, not only do I offer a gift to someone else, but I honor the blessings I have received. UTO could be described as a pay-it-forward ministry – I help others, who in turn help others, most often in life-changing ways.

Please consider joining me in this ministry. There are Blue Boxes and detailed information about UTO in the Parish Hall. As you fill your coin boxes, you may turn them in to the office. The official in-gathering of all boxes will be the first Sunday of November.

Ann Tompkins  
UTO Chair

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## PENTECOST COOKOUT



All of our Vicksburg Episcopal churches gathered at St. Alban's to celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, in style with a fantastic cookout. The weather was perfect! People were decked out in red and brought delicious side dishes and desserts to go along with hamburgers and hotdogs cooked by our fabulous grillers. We enjoyed music by our own Lance Stewart and watched an amazing bonfire. A big "thank you" to all who helped set up, cook, tend the bonfire, and clear up, making this Pentecost event so successful and meaningful!

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Pentecost cookout



We also gathered with our sister Episcopal churches at St. Mary's Vicksburg on June 19 for a special service commemorating Juneteenth.

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## ARTS CAMP AT LIFTING LIVES

Thank you to the many volunteers who made arts camp at Lifting Lives a huge success! From the team who prepared dinners each night to the volunteers willing to get messy with crafts, thank you to everyone who pitched in! Each evening, we had anywhere from 10-15 kids of all ages gather for dinner, a story, and activities focused on creativity.



Our “dream team” of food shoppers and dinner coordinators



Fearless leader Stacy Weaver







Lots of art...and a waterslide!





## **ELISABETH'S EPISTLE**

### **1,700 Years of the Nicene Creed**

Growing up in the Episcopal church, I hadn't given much thought to the Nicene Creed. We say it every Sunday after all, right after the sermon and right before the prayers of the people.

Sure, there have been times in my life when I've wondered about certain parts of the creed. What do we really mean by "begotten, not made?" But I'd never thought about why it is we say a creed together in the first place. And it hadn't occurred to me that other churches don't say a creed and, in fact, that some churches actively reject the idea of creeds.

On this, the 1,700th birthday of the Nicene Creed, our Sunday school class has been exploring what the creed is and why it matters so much that it is part of our weekly worship. First and foremost, the Nicene Creed outlines the orthodox beliefs of the church throughout history. Want to know the non-negotiables of the Christian faith? Look at the Nicene Creed. The creed helps us to realize that there are essentials in the Christian faith (e.g. the resurrection, the incarnation of Jesus Christ) and non essentials (e.g. style of worship, church governance). The essentials as expressed in the Nicene Creed are what bind us together with Christians throughout the world and throughout history. The creed also gives us some guardrails in our interpretation of Scripture, allowing us to be guided by tradition as we wrestle with seeming contradictions. As a preacher, the placement of the creed right after the sermon makes sense to me as a corrective for any potential heresy committed by the preacher!

Which brings us to the purpose of the creed as an instrument of Christian unity. When we proclaim that we believe in "one holy catholic and apostolic Church," we are using "catholic" to mean universal. We are united with believers in the Orthodox Church, the Roman Catholic Church, as well as other Protestant churches when we recite the creed. We are also united through time with believers from the earliest centuries of Christian faith. The "we" of the creed helps us remember the breadth and depth of the church, which is much larger than we can imagine. The "we" also gives us some wiggle room, so that if we personally are struggling with faith, the faith and witness of the believers around us can uphold us. Far from being a rote recitation of beliefs, the creed is at its heart a prayer and a reminder of the wisdom of our tradition.

For additional resources on the Nicene Creed, the Church of England has a great introduction here: <https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/what-we-believe/nicene-creed>

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# BACK to SCHOOL



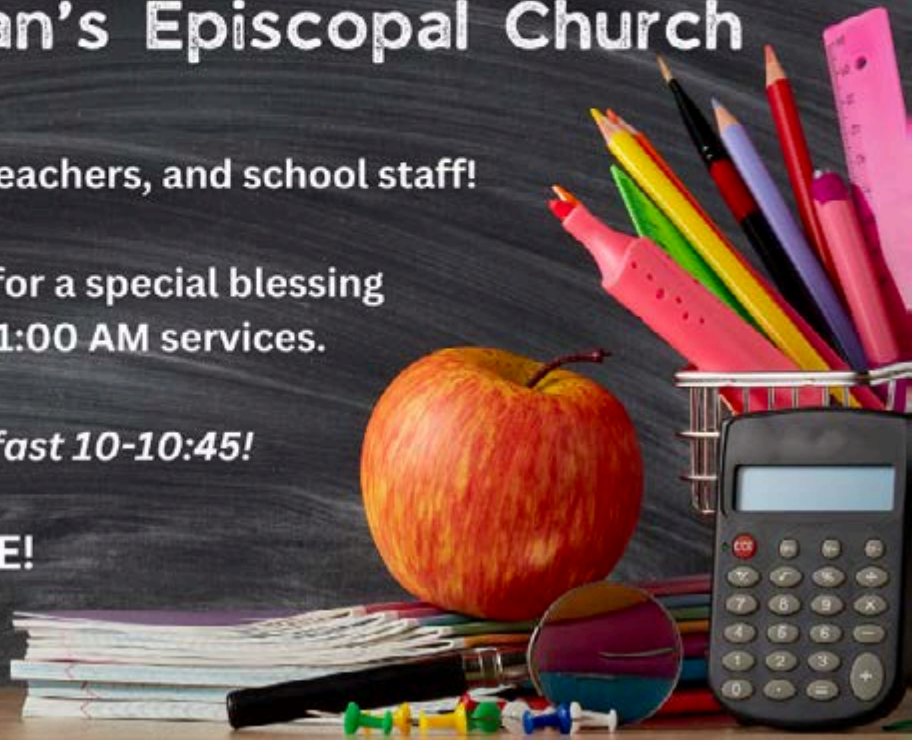
**Sunday, August 3  
St. Alban's Episcopal Church**

**Calling all students, teachers, and school staff!**

**Bring your backpack for a special blessing  
during the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services.**

***Plus, pancake breakfast 10-10:45!***

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



On Sunday, Aug. 3, the church will also host a “ministry fair” highlighting various ways to get involved with the ministries of the church. We will have representatives available from our various worship ministries, like the Altar Guild, ushers, lectors, and livestream operators, as well as from groups like Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and our Outreach Committee. If you’ve ever wanted more information about volunteers do here at the church and how to get more involved, please come a little early or stay a little late to chat. We’ll also have information and sign ups available for several weeks after the ministry fair if you aren’t able to come to church on Aug. 3.

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## Prayers of the People

### ***For those sick or in need:***

Butch	Jackson	Mike & Nancy	Scarlett
Charlie & Sue	James	Norma	Selina
Clarence	Kathy	Pat	Sophia
Dan G.	Kay	Richard S.	Taneshia
Dave	Lisa	Ricky	Taylor
David & Melissa	Lola	Sam	The Turner
Ed	Mary Jan & John	Sara	Family
			& Camp Mystic

***For the departed:*** Bobbye Faye Marble, James Ahner, Marian Robinson, Mary Cline, Susan Disharoon, Julie Fuller-Haynes, Linda Dooley, and George Nasif, Jr.

## Liturgical Schedule

	Aug. 3	Aug. 10	Aug. 17	Aug. 24	Aug. 31
<b>Rite I - 8:30 AM</b>					
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Lector	Nancy Montague	Sharon Cummins	Ann Tompkins	Beth Sojourner	Tommy Skinner
Healing Minister	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
<b>Rite II - 11:00 AM</b>					
Lay Worship Leader	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	David Prichard	Richard Price
Greeters/ Ushers	Betty Rushing	The Gavins	Bobby Barlow	Penny Freund	Jeff Artman
Lector	Buck Cooper	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Penny Freund	Susan Price
Prayers of the People	Dawn Rickard	Sharon Hanks	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks
Chalice Bearer	Penny Freund	Tami Roessler	Carolyn Burton	Dawn Rickard	Susan Price
A/V System	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake	Buck Cooper
Healing Minister	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton	Betsy Selby
Vestry Person of the Day					
Altar Guild	Beth Sojourner Nancy Hester Beth Guynes	Nancy Montague Samantha Mahloch Sharon Hanks Barbara Frey	Tommy Skinner Susan Price	Mary Ann Wright Harvey Smith Judy Morrissey	Ann Tompkins Buck Cooper

## Wednesday Healing Service

Our first Wednesday Healing Eucharist will be August 6, which is also the Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord. All are welcome at the service and the simple supper that follows.

*Photography by Rebecca Drake, Stacy Weaver, Sharon Hanks, and Elisabeth Malphurs.*