



# The Albanac

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

**December 2024**

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Remembering the Faithful Departed on All Souls

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## Celebrating the Saints

On Saturday, Nov. 2, we gathered at the church to grill, eat together, and celebrate the Feast of All Souls. As we traditionally do, we lit luminaries on every grave in the cemetery and read the names of everyone buried there, as well as others whom we love but see no longer. Our service was held at the Outdoor Chapel as the sun set, looking out over the graveyard.



Clockwise from left: Photos of our departed saints; Lucas & Judy place luminaries in the cemetery; cemetery full of light; Rev. Elisabeth leads evening prayer

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## Dinner on the Grounds a Huge Success

Excitement filled the air on Sunday, November 10, as St. Alban's hosted their 165th traditional Dinner on the Grounds. The day started with a brief morning rain, but by noon everything turned to blue skies and sunshine. Children enjoyed playing while the crowd dined on fried catfish, hushpuppies, slaw, and freshly boiled corn on the cob. Everyone enjoyed shopping at the ECW Country Market that featured a wide variety of beautiful handmade articles and frozen foods for takeout. Many of the shoppers were thrilled to find a choice of Christmas gifts in advance. The day also featured a raffle for a beautiful quilt handmade by Rev. Elisabeth. The winner was an adorable little girl named Dorothy.

A special thanks to all who volunteered to contribute to the success of the day: those who drove to Yazoo City to pick up the fresh catfish; the men who set up the tents in spite of the rain; the women of the church for their organizational skills; Peyton Bryan for publicity; Penny Freund, event organizer; Judy Gavin, ECW president; the men and women working the grills and boilers; those working the serving line; the women who worked the ticket sales; Ralph Miller, musician; and Jim Drake who provided the golf cart for transportation.

All proceeds from the Dinner on the Grounds were donated to Lifting Lives Family Shelter in Vicksburg. Rounded up with outreach funds, we were able to write a \$3,000 check to Lifting Lives! Thanks to everyone who volunteered and helped to make the event a day to remember!



The fish frying team



Lots of hungry guests



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Judy & Cassandra at the ECW Country Market



Dorothy won the quilt raffle to benefit ECW



Ralph Miller entertains diners



The formidable slaw team!



Guests enjoying the food & fellowship



# The Albanac

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Harvey, Buck & Penny preparing plates



Betsy & Lisa on the serving line



Enjoying the beautiful weather



Jim teaches Fore to drive

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## Elisabeth's Epistle



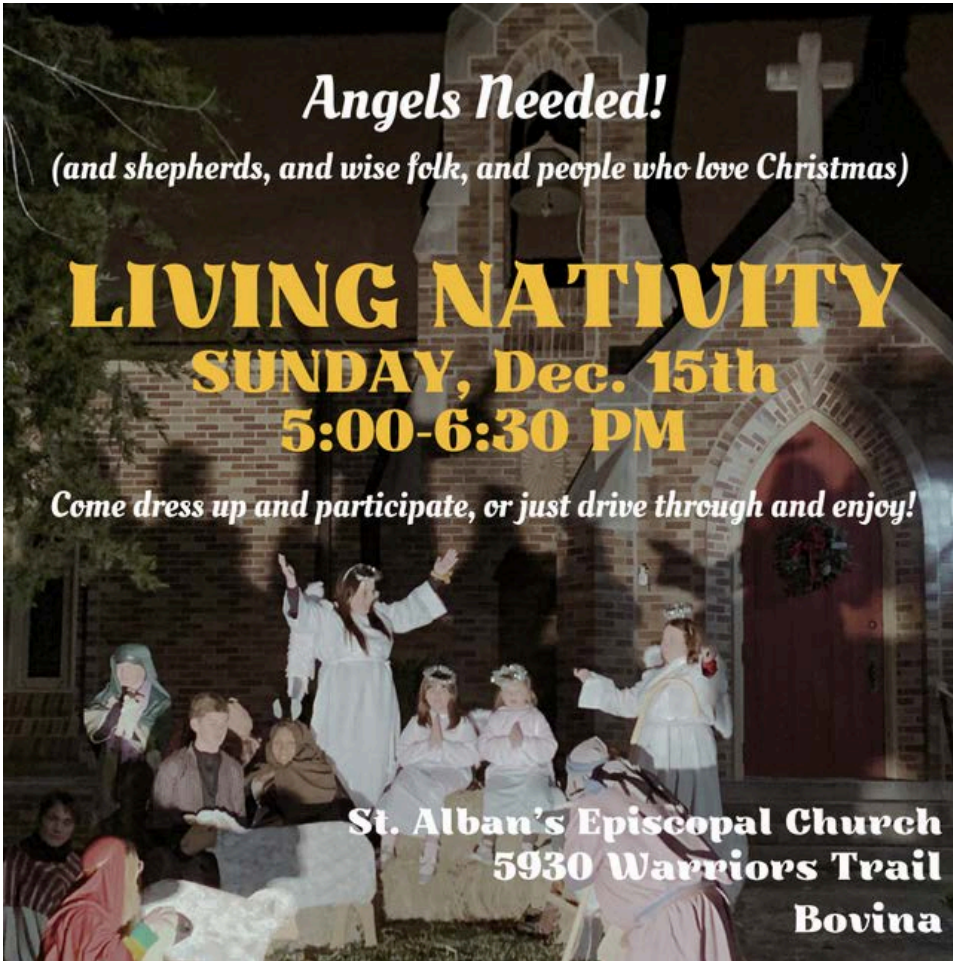
I know I shouldn't be surprised, but I'll admit that each year it still catches me off guard when some of our neighbors put up their Christmas decorations the day after Halloween. As I write this, the week of Thanksgiving, our neighborhood is a hodgepodge of some houses with pumpkins & mums out front and others with lights and giant inflatable Santas. This bothers me. If you've been around the Episcopal church for any length of time, you know we have a *thing* about celebrating Christmas too early. Specifically, our *thing* is a season called Advent, a season that begins four Sundays before Christmas and serves as a time of preparation.

As I walk around my neighborhood, I've been wondering if we Episcopalians aren't a little Grinchy in our grumbling about celebrating Christmas at the appropriate time. Maybe we're the ones who need to get on board with an extended season of Christmas cheer? Maybe. But then I think about what we would miss out on. Advent is ultimately about waiting and preparation, but not in the ways you might think. This isn't about getting our gift lists in order and our holiday parties planned. It's not even really about preparation for Jesus' birth. No, there is something much more profound for which we are waiting and preparing. Advent is the time we prepare our hearts and souls for Christ's return. It is about anticipating that day in the fullness of time when God will finish what has been started, when the power of sin and death will be obliterated once and for all. As such, it is a season in which we reflect on the ways in which the kingdom of God is both already here among us and also not yet fully realized. It is a season of longing, longing for God's kingdom to come here on earth as it is in heaven.

When we think about it this way, we may wish we had an even longer Advent season. Or, we might realize that our entire life here in the time in-between Christ's coming and his coming again is one long Advent, one long season of waiting and anticipation. Yes, Christ is with us, and yet we long for that day when we will see God face to face. So hold on to Advent. Even if your neighbors have been celebrating Christmas since the day after Halloween, hold on to Advent. Advent is where we hold space for all our deepest longings and where we learn to wait together for God to make all things right.

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*Angels Needed!*  
*(and shepherds, and wise folk, and people who love Christmas)*

**LIVING NATIVITY**  
**SUNDAY, Dec. 15th**  
**5:00-6:30 PM**

*Come dress up and participate, or just drive through and enjoy!*

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church**  
**5930 Warriors Trail**  
**Bovina**

A quiet, meditative service for anyone for whom the holidays are difficult. If you are grieving or experiencing a difficult season, this service is for you.

## Longest Night

*A service of light in the midst of darkness*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

6:00 PM

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA



# ADVENT AT ST. ALBAN'S

*Services each Sunday at 8:30 & 11:00*

*Sunday school for adults & children at 10:00 AM*

## **ADVENT 1: DEC. 1**

Advent Wreath-Making  
between services

## **ADVENT 3: DEC. 15**

Prep for Living Nativity  
between services  
5:00-6:30 PM  
Living Nativity



## **ADVENT 2: DEC. 8**

St. Nicholas visits after  
the 11:00 service

## **ADVENT 4: DEC. 22**

Greening the Church  
after the 11:00 Service

*Christmas Services on Tuesday, Dec. 24*

*5:00 PM & 8:00 PM*

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Tuesday, Dec. 24th*

**5:00 PM**

**Family-Friendly  
Christmas Eucharist**

*Lessons & carols followed  
by a simple Eucharist--  
come as you are!*

**8:00 PM**

**Christmas Eucharist**

*A traditional service with  
beautiful music, incense, &  
candlelight. Champagne  
toast immediately  
following!*

*All are welcome! 5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina*



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## Prayers of the People

*For those sick or in need:*

Allan & Joan	David & Melissa	Kathy	Mike & Nancy
Allen K.	Ed	Kelley	Norma
Anita	Eva	Kristin	Richard
Bill	Harold	Lawson N.	Ricky
Billie	Jackson	Leigh Ann	Ron
Cecil	James A.	Mary Lou	Ruth
Clarence & Betty	James W.	Melissa R.	Sarah
Dan G.	Jane	Mike D.	Steve
Dan H.	Jimmy		

*For the departed:* Arthur Frierson, Russell Quarles

## Liturgical Schedule

	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 29
<b>Rite I - 8:30 AM</b>					
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	<b>NO 8:30 SERVICE</b>
Lector	Nancy Montague	Sharon Cummins	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	
Healing Minister	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	
					<b>Lessons &amp; Carols - One Service at 10:00</b>
<b>Rite II - 11:00 AM</b>					
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Richard Price	Betsy Selby	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith
Greeters/ Ushers	Betty Rushing	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	
Lector	Betsy Selby	Susan Price	Kristi Hall	Sharon Hanks	
Prayers of the People	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	
Chalice Bearer	Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Barnie Gavin	Carolyn Burton	
A/V System	Jim Drake	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith
Acolyte					
Healing Minister	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton	Penny Freund	N/A
Vestry Person of the Day	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton	Judy Gavin	Sharon Hanks	Carolyn Burton
Altar Guild	Samantha Mahloch Ann Tompkins	Beth Sojourner Buck Cooper	Cassandra Price Betty Rushing	Beth Guynes Nancy Hester	Barbara Frey Sharon Hanks Nancy Montague

## Wednesday Healing Service

The Healing Eucharist will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, December 4,  
followed by a simple supper

*Photography by Carolyn Gent Burton, Beth Guynes, and Rebecca Drake.*