



# THE ALBANAC

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 WARRIORS TRAIL, BOVINA, MISSISSIPPI  
stalbansbovina.org

**February 2025**

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**Thank You to Our New Vestry Members!**



Welcome to our newly elected Vestry members, Mary Ann Wright, Bobby Barlow, and Nancy Montague, pictured with Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs

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## The Annual Parish Meeting

On Sunday, January 26, we held our Annual Parish Meeting, at which we thanked our outgoing vestry members and elected new ones. Rotating off the vestry were Betty Rushing and Carolyn Gent Burton who also served as clerk of the vestry. We thanked Jeff Artman for his dedicated service as Junior Warden, presenting him with a print of Wyatt Waters' watercolor of the church. Bobby Barlow was elected to a 2-year term as Junior Warden. Nancy Montague and Mary Ann Wright were elected to 3-year terms as vestry members. Thank you to all for your commitment!

Special recognition and thanks were given to Jim and Becky Drake for over 12 years of editing and producing the Albanac, truly an accomplishment for a small church! We applauded their commitment to telling and preserving the history of St. Alban's, as well as fostering connections among our community. A set of monthly Albanacs going back to 2012 are now on display in the Parish Hall to preserve and honor their commitment to this church.



Rev. Elisabeth, Becky & Jim Drake



Jeff Artman

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## A Bright Epiphany Celebration



Despite a weather delay, Episcopalians from our Warren County Episcopal churches came together on the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 8, to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany. We worshiped together, remembering the arrival of the Magi bearing gifts for baby Jesus, before enjoying a chili potluck with king cakes. The highlight of the evening was a truly impressive bonfire fueled by dried out Christmas trees that warmed us all despite the chilly weather.



## Snapshots from the Past Month



Mason & Sallie Mae relax



Fore flies the dove



Sallie Mae staying warm



## Elisabeth's Epistle: The "E-Word"

What does the word "evangelism" mean to you? For some people, perhaps especially those raised in a more buttoned-up tradition, the word might be scary. For others, perhaps it is a word that carries pressure, in the sense that we can always be doing more to share and spread our faith. Some of us may have been wounded by evangelism gone wrong or poorly implemented. For others, the word evangelism may be inspiring or empowering, in light of the "great commission" to go out into the world and make disciples (Matt 28:19). Regardless, just the word "evangelism" can provoke lots of different responses. So why should we be thinking and talking about it?

I love exploring trends in the church and the religious life of our country, and there are several trends right now that have led me to believe this is a moment ripe for evangelism. One of these trends is that, despite the mass migration of people away from organized religion, there is still great openness to faith, particularly in younger generations. The Barna Group reports that over two thirds of Gen Z (those folks born right around the turn of the century) are "spiritually open," meaning they believe in God and describe themselves as "exploring" or "curious." As I like to say, this means there are people who would find themselves at home at St. Alban's, in a place that helps them explore life's most meaningful questions. If they only knew about us!

Evangelism is that process of connecting people who are seeking with the resources that help them go deeper in their walk of faith. Mary Foster Parmer, founder of Invite Welcome Connect, says that evangelism is "first and foremost a relationship we have with Jesus, with God. It's about not only inviting people into a relationship with you and your congregation, but into a relationship with God" (as quoted in *The Living Church*, Oct. 2017). I would add that in many ways evangelism is not about us at all, but rather about listening to where people are in their faith journey and noticing where God is already present and working. My hope this year is that we can embrace our commission as evangelists, as proclaimers of the Good News that we have found in Jesus Christ. Whether that excites or terrifies you, hang in there! And if you're curious to explore more, go to [invitewelcomeconnect.com](http://invitewelcomeconnect.com) to learn more about an Episcopal way of evangelism.

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# SMALL CHURCH COLLABORATIVE

FOR ALL LAY AND ORDAINED LEADERS OF SMALL CHURCHES

## Get Out the Map!

### 2025 Small Church Conference

*Where have we been and where are we going?*

**March 21-22**

**Grace Episcopal Church, Canton**



**For Wardens, Clergy, Ministry  
Leaders & Members of Small  
Churches:**

- Network with other small church leaders! Leave with ideas for more
- effective ministry in your community! Celebrate the beauty
- of small churches!



Register Here!

For more information, join the Small Church Collaborative email list by sending your contact information to [emalphurs@stalbandsbovina.org](mailto:emalphurs@stalbandsbovina.org)



## Prayers of the People

**For those sick or in need:**

Allan & Joan	Ed	Kathy	Norma
Anita	Eva	Kristin	Richard
Billie	Harold	Lawson N.	Ricky
Butch	Jackson	Lillie	Ron
Charlie & Sue	James A.	Linda	Sarah
Clarence	James W.	Mary Lou	Selinda
Dan G.	Jane	Melissa R.	Steve
Dan H.	Jay	Mike D.	
David & Melissa	Jimmy	Mike & Nancy	

**For the departed:** John Switzer, Shannen Lane, Gladys Pressley, Marjorie Zagorski, Everett Marble, Lester Senter Wilson, Jimmy Kendrix, Sr., and Joe Johnson.

## Liturgical Schedule

**February Schedule**

**Feb. 2**

**Feb. 9**

**Feb. 16**

**Feb. 23**

One Service  
10:00AM  
Morning Prayer

**Rite I – 8:30 AM**

Lay Worship Leader		Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
Lector		Nancy Montague	Sharon Cummins	Ann Tompkins
Healing Minister		Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins

**Rite II - 11:00 AM**

Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton
Greeters/ Ushers	The Gavins	Betty Rushing	Bobby Barlow	The Gavins
Lector	Kristi Hall	Buck Cooper	Dawn Rickard	Penny Freund
Prayers of the People		Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	Dawn Rickard
Chalice Bearer		Betsy Selby	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard
A/V System		Jim Drake	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith
Acolyte				
Healing Minister		Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Betsy Selby
Vestry Person of the Day		Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	Judy Morrissey
Altar Guild	Betty Rushing Cassandra Price	Nancy Hester Beth Guynes	Nancy Montague Sharon Hanks Barbara Frey	Tommy Skinner Susan Price

## Wednesday Healing Service

The Healing Eucharist will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, February 5th,  
followed by a simple supper