



THE ALBANAC

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

June 2025

ROGATION SUNDAY



James, Samantha, Laura, Susan, & Nancy gathered for our Rogation plant swap.

WHAT IS ROGATION SUNDAY?

The Rogation days are an old tradition in the church, dating back to the 5th century. The word “rogation” comes from a Latin verb, *rogare*, meaning “to ask,” which gives us a clue about their origin. In the days leading up to the feast of the Ascension, which is always on a Thursday, forty days after Easter, it became customary to fast and to petition God on behalf of farmers and all those working to produce food. People asked God to bless the fields and to protect them from harm during the growing season. It also became customary for the church to “beat the bounds” of the parish, that is, to process, with cross and vested clergy and acolytes, around the borders of the parish.



While we didn't have a procession around Bovina, we did stop to pray for all those who produce our food, as well as those who care for creation and provide for the common good. In between and after services, we held a plant swap, which featured plants brought by our master and amateur gardeners.

We also toured the grounds, stopping in the beautiful bird sanctuary beyond the St. Francis statue, and looking at possible locations for a columbarium.

We are blessed to have such beautiful grounds that help our community to pause, relax, and enjoy God's creation. We are also blessed to have volunteers who help tend the grounds. In particular, our Junior Warden, Bobby Barlow, deserves our thanks this month for his work to beautify the small courtyard outside the Sunday school rooms. Thank you, Bobby!

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!



Our two graduating seniors this year are Sam Hall, pictured above with parents Kristi & Andy Hall and sister Gloria, and Henry Cooper, pictured below with parents Elisabeth Malphurs & Buck Cooper and brother Andrew Cooper. Sam will be attending MSU this fall and Henry will head off to Bowdoin College. Congratulations, Henry & Sam!



CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

From Henry's Senior Sermon on
John 10:22-30

What's powerful in this story is that Jesus isn't withholding truth; He's pointing out that truth has already been revealed, not in his words, but in his works: the miracles, the compassion, the healing, the care for the marginalized. And yet, they still don't believe because he doesn't fit the mold they've set in their minds. His response of, "The sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me," shows us what it means to be a follower of God.

He's not calling people to follow an idea or a prophecy. He's calling them--and us--into a relationship based in trust. Trust enough to recognize his voice even when everything else is loud. Trust enough to follow when the path doesn't look like what we wanted. And that's where faith becomes real--when we're not just asking for signs, but looking for the quiet voice of God.



Rev. Elisabeth blesses Henry & Sam

CAMP BRATTON GREEN SUNDAY



On Sunday, May 18, we celebrated the ministry of Camp Bratton Green, the Diocesan summer camp located north of Canton. Penny Freund, Betsy Selby & Henry led us in singing camp songs, we ate milk & cookies, and we collected \$570 to support this ministry that is so vital in introducing children to God's love.



Prayer for Our Camps from Episcopal Camps and Conference Centers

Gracious God, we give you thanks and praise for the beauty of creation. We give you specific thanks for the camps & conference centers we cherish - where we grow in our love for you and one another.

We give thanks for your stalwart servants - courageous & creative camp directors, staff & board members, counselors, nurses, and cooks - who through this last year have built up our centers in so many ways.

Now we ask you to bless these your servants in this season of reopening. Support them in their faith and increase their joy as they proclaim by word, example, and loving care your Good News in Christ.

Finally dear God, pour out your Grace on all campers, that they may know your love meditated through prayer, holy places, inspired programs, and loving people.

All this we ask through your son Jesus Christ who living, dying, and raised to new life in the midst of community and creation, showed us your extravagant and abiding love so that we might have life and have it in abundance. Amen.

THOUGHTS ON FUNERAL PLANNING FOR THE YOUNG & NOT-AS-YOUNG

By Buck Cooper

A couple of months back, Elisabeth asked me to talk a bit about funeral planning during Lent. I was a little inarticulate, but I wanted to really speak to the folks who don't expect to die soon, and for whom a funeral plan is just a plain weird ask. As y'all all know, Elisabeth's great at parties, always working the conversation around to whether or not you have a funeral plan. Invite us over sometime for dinner and I'll Venmo you the equivalent of a crisp, \$20 bill if she doesn't get there at some point.

She's not wrong to press on this issue. And it's not just a concern for those of us who are at a greater probability of dying soon to worry about. I've had to do funeral plans at both St. Alban's and another church I was a part of years ago, The Episcopal Church of the Advocate, the church which really raised Elisabeth and me up as young adults into a mature life in the faith. It was a valuable experience on both counts.

And it's not just an issue for those of us above the Venmo line. The work of creating a funeral plan at both points in my adulthood got me familiar with the questions that I would need to answer not only for myself but also when my mother passed away last fall. Getting familiar with the funeral liturgy, with the hymns that I might want for myself and the readings that I hoped would be shared when I meet my end positioned me well to have a productive conversation with the rector and parish administrator at All Saints Tupelo, where my mom was a communicant.

One of the most wonderful things about the liturgy and the church writ large is that in a difficult time there are answers to both the big and in the moment trivial questions. The big answers about what we believe has happened to our loved ones are, in part, what we work out every Sunday morning. The answers to the smaller, but still significant questions lie in trusting the thoughtfulness of the authors of the prayer book and the generations of work on the funeral liturgy.

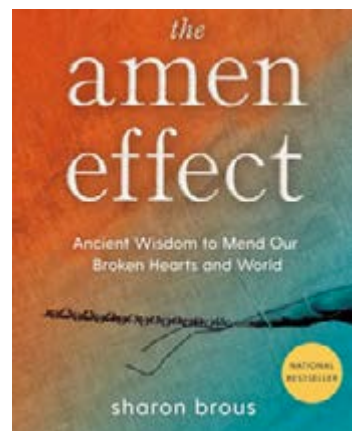
All that said. It's really worth everyone's time, young and not-as-young, to create a funeral plan. In the hard time that is your own passing, your loved ones will be grateful for the guidance and extra bandwidth. And if you've got to plan for the funeral of a loved one, a parent or spouse, you're primed to do the work because it's not a start from nothing. You've already done the work for yourself.

Funeral planning templates are available from Elisabeth

ELISABETH'S EPISTLE

“We now know that walking together, singing together, seeing and being seen by each other—all of these things enhance our emotional health and deepen our sense of connectedness. They alter the physical and psychological landscape of a group and the people in it.”

—Sharon Brous, *The Amen Effect*



In Bibles & More, which meets on Wednesday at 4:30 PM, we have been discussing the book *The Amen Effect: Ancient Wisdom to Mend Our Broken Hearts and World* by Rabbi Sharon Brous. We have been having some great conversations, in particular about what it means to “show up” for others in both grief and joy. “Show Up” is the title of the first chapter, in which Brous talks about showing up for others even when it’s difficult, even when we don’t know what to say or do. This is what we do when we show up for the funeral, or show up with a casserole, or simply sit with someone who is suffering. But as we’ve talked, I’ve also been thinking about the other side of showing up; that is, how difficult it can be to show up when you’re the one in pain. Rabbi Brous talks about an ancient pilgrimage tradition in Judaism in which those who are brokenhearted literally walk in the opposite direction so that others can stop to witness their pain and comfort them. This is how deep community and connection are built—through showing up for each other. Showing up when we’re feeling good, and healthy, and whole. But also being vulnerable enough to show up when we’re in pain or sorrow.

Rabbi Brous also talks about showing up during times of joy and celebration. I have felt that in spades this past month as so many people have showed up to celebrate Henry’s graduation with us. Just as showing up during difficult times can help lighten the burden, showing up during times of joy increases our joy. I have felt that joy in our church community many times during this Easter season—when we celebrated baptisms on Easter day, when we got silly with camp songs, when we cried happy tears together over our high school graduates. My joy is always amplified when we celebrate as a community. My biggest takeaway from *The Amen Effect* is that presence matters more than we realize. When in doubt, show up.



INTRO TO CENTERING PRAYER

**Wed. June 4, 6:00 PM
at St. Alban's Bovina**

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All forms of silent prayer/ meditation welcome, though Centering Prayer instruction--the Christian prayer practice of opening one's "mind and heart, our whole being to God, the Ultimate Mystery, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions"--will be offered with discussion prior to practice.

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David Prichard is a long-time meditation practitioner and instructor in the Buddhist tradition, now training in offering Christian contemplative prayer practices with the Shalem Institute.

WARREN COUNTY FELLOWSHIP OF EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

PENTECOST COOKOUT

Come celebrate the birthday of the church!



**Sunday, June 8th
5:00-7:00 PM
at St. Alban's Bovina
5930 Warriors Trail**



Hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs & drinks provided--
please bring sides & dessert to share!

Bonfire at 6:00 PM!



Prayers of the People

For those sick or in need:

Anita	Ed	Kay	Ricky
Butch	Erin	Mary Jan & John	Sam
Charlie & Sue	Jackson	Mike & Nancy	Sara
Clarence	James	Norma	Selinda
Dan G.	Jane B.	Pat	Sophia
Dan H.	Jay	Richard P.	Taylor
David & Melissa	Kathy	Richard S.	

For the departed: Christine “Kristy” Biedenharn, Jessie Bryant, David Baldwin, Payton Fulgham.

Liturgical Schedule

	June 1	June 8	June 15	June 22	June 29
Rite I - 8:30 AM		PENTECOST			
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
Lector	Nancy Montague	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Beth Sojourner	Nancy Montague
Healing Minister	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Rite II - 11:00 AM					
Lay Worship Leader	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	David Prichard	Carolyn Burton
Greeters/ Ushers	Betty Rushing	The Gavins	Betty Rushing	The Gavins	Bobby Barlow
Lector	Susan Price	Kristi Hall	Barnie Gavin	James Anderson	Dawn Rickard
Prayers of the People	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	Sharon Hanks	Harvey Smith	Barnie Gavin
Chalice Bearer	Susan Price	Tami Roessler	Barnie Gavin	Barnie Gavin	Harvey Smith
A/V System	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith	Harvey Smith
Healing Minister	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby
Vestry Person of the Day	Judy Gavin	Sharon Hanks			
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Harvey Smith Judy Morrissey	Ann Tompkins Samantha Mahloch Buck Cooper	Betty Rushing Cassandra Price	Beth Sojourner Nancy Hester Beth Guynes	Sharon Hanks Barbara Frey Nancy Montague

Wednesday Healing Service

Our first Wednesday service in June will be an introduction to centering prayer (see page 7) on June 4 at 6:00 PM. Our next Healing Eucharist will be Wednesday, July 2 at 6:00 PM followed by a simple supper.

Photography by Rebecca Drake and Elisabeth Malphurs.

We will not publish a July Albanac--please check the church website for the liturgical schedule.