



The Albanac

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

November 2022



"For the Fruit of all Creation, Thanks be to God"

St. Francis Day Celebrates the Blessing of Pets
And the Dedication of the Frank Skinner Memorial Garden



Rev. Elisabeth, Tommy Skinner and Amy Skinner Niolet, dedicate the Memorial Pet Garden in memory of Frank Skinner Jr., longtime member of St. Alban's Church

“Almighty God, we thank you that you have put it into the hearts of your people to make offerings for your service, and have been pleased to accept their gifts. Be with us now and bless us as we set apart this Statue of St. Francis and Pet Memorial Rock Garden to your praise and glory in memory of Frank Skinner Jr.; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



The Pet Memorial Garden features a rock garden with names of beloved pets that have passed over the Rainbow Bridge but never to be forgotten.





Kelle Barfield, owner of Lorelei Book Store in Vicksburg, delighted the crowd with a portable Book Fair on the grounds. Book sales totaling \$500.00 were donated to St. Alban's Church. Penny Freund, Book Fair organizer, described Kelle as being, "A beautiful woman with a big heart."



Blessing of the Animals

“The animals of God’s creation inhabit the skies, the earth and the sea, and have a part in human life. We, therefore, invoke God’s blessing on these animals. over all the creatures of the earth.”

St. Francis of Assisi



All creatures great and small—The Lord God made them all.

James Herriot



Such short little lives our pets have to spend with us, and they spend most of it waiting for us to come home each day. It is amazing how much love and laughter they bring into our lives and even how much closer we become with each other because of them.

John Grogan





It's just the most amazing thing to love a dog, isn't it? It makes our relationships with people seem as boring as a bowl of oatmeal.

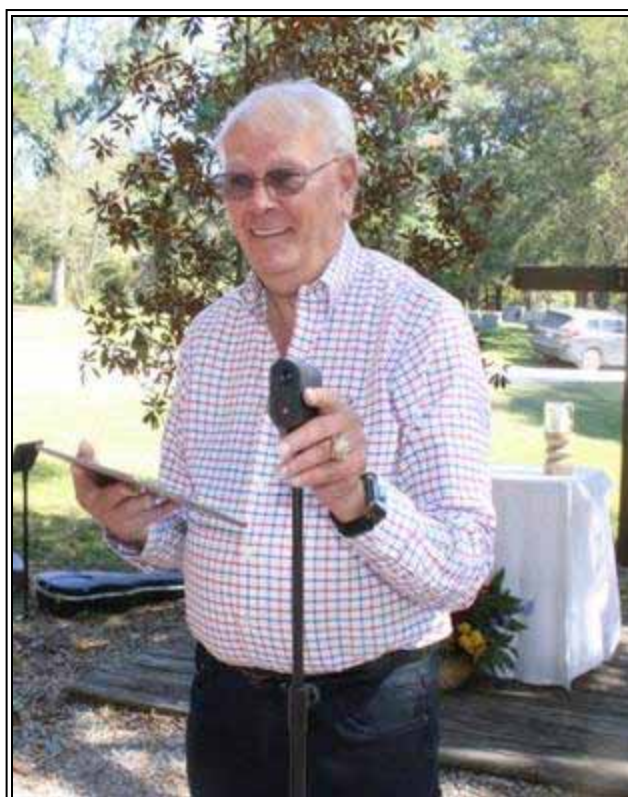
John Grogan





I hope to make people realize how totally helpless animals are, how dependent on us, trusting as a child must that we will be kind and take care of their needs.

James Herriot





And as [Marley] grew old and achy, he taught me about optimism in the face of adversity. Mostly, he taught me about friendship and selflessness and, above all else, unwavering loyalty.

John Grogan





A dog is the only thing on earth that loves you more than he loves himself.
J. Billings

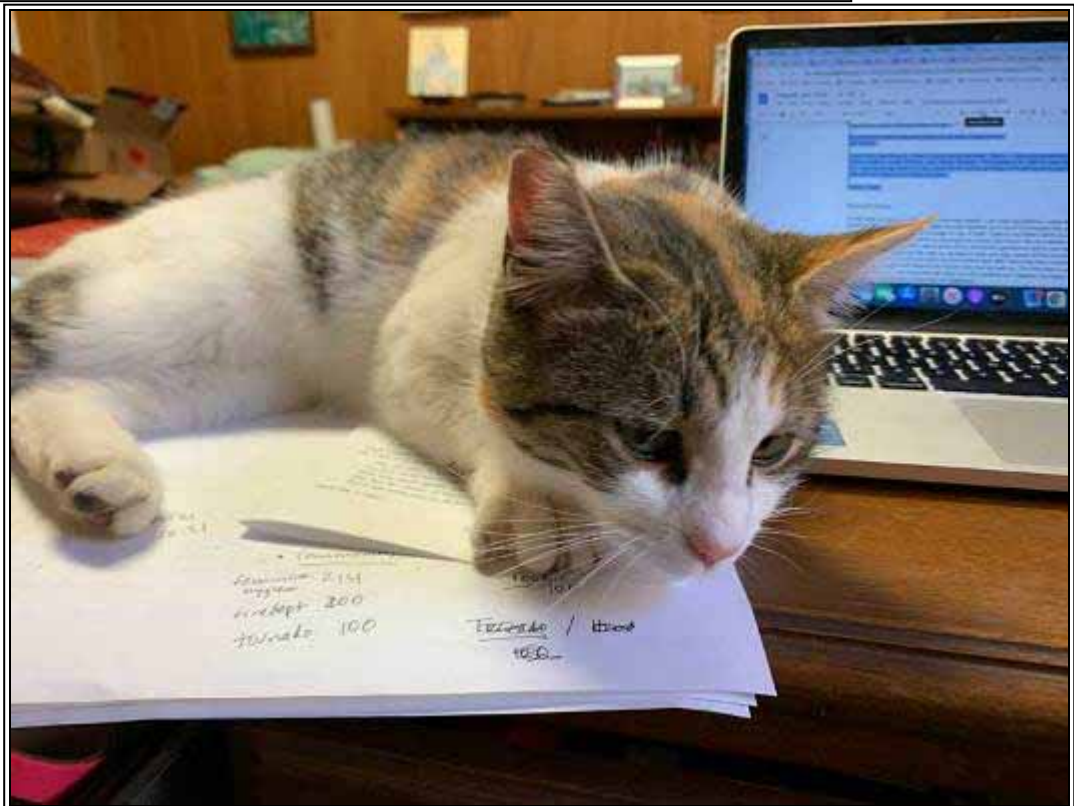




*Dogs are not
our whole life,
but they make
our lives whole.*

R.A. Caras

*Salome, the
church cat,
attended
the blessing
but could
only been
seen from
a'far since
she was
hiding from
all the dogs.*



Dinner on the Grounds

A One Hundred Sixty-Three-Year Tradition Continues



On May 5, 1859, William Mercer Green, Mississippi's first Episcopal bishop, visited Bovina to consecrate St. Alban's Church. He later wrote of the consecration in his journal: "At the close of the protracted services, a plentiful collation [light meal] was enjoyed under the beautiful and wide-spreading beech-trees adjoining the Church." Through the years, St. Alban's has continued the wonderful tradition of *Dinner on the Grounds* where church members and friends gather to share food and fellowship."









Vestry Nominations

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, scheduled for January 22, we have two members rotating off the vestry: our Junior Warden, David May and Herb Jones. We will be electing a new Junior Warden to serve a 2-year term and a new member to serve a 3-year term.

St. Alban's has a small vestry with a big mission: spiritual and temporal leadership of the church. Our vestry is very much a working vestry. Vestry members help pitch in to do the work that larger churches have paid staff to do. Vestry members also look out for the wellbeing of the congregation and listen for how the Holy Spirit might be calling the church into the future.

Requirements to serve as a member of the vestry are contained in our church by-laws. Lay members of the parish in good standing who are confirmed communicants, at least 21 years old, canonically resident in the parish and entitled to suffrage at the annual meeting are eligible to serve on the vestry. "In good standing" means that the member attends services regularly at St. Alban's and gives of their time, talent, and treasure to the church. Employees of the church are not eligible to serve on vestry. In addition, here are some of the expectations of those serving on the vestry:

- Spiritual maturity with a desire to deepen your service to the church
- Consistent preparation for and attendance at meetings (currently held the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 PM)
- Faithful attendance at worship and participation in other activities at the church, especially major church events
- Healthy patterns of communication, including willingness to listen to parishioners' concerns, and problem-solving spirit
- Willingness to check email and learn how to use Zoom, which we use to conduct some vestry business
- Availability for an orientation to the vestry and for regular service as "vestry person of the day" at church services

The Nominations Committee will be meeting in November. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else (with their permission), please contact Senior Warden Penny Freund or Rev. Elisabeth. Nominations are also allowed from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

2022 Vestry

The Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, Rector

Penny Freund, Senior Warden (2024)

David May, Junior Warden (2023)

Jeff Artman (2025)

Carolyn Gent (2025)

Kristi Hall (2024)

Clarissa Horner (2024)

Herb Jones (2023)

Jane Hanks, Treasurer

Nancy Hester, Assistant Treasurer

Sharon Hanks, Clerk

ECW Field Trip

November 5

Mark your calendars! The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) is planning a field trip on Saturday, November 5, to visit 4 local museums located on Washington Street (Biedenharn Candy and Coca Cola Museum, Catfish Row Museum, Civil War Museum, and The Corps of Engineers Museum). We will visit three museums in the morning and one in the afternoon, with lunch at The Biscuit Company prior to the fourth museum. All women (as well as men) are invited. We will meet at 9:00 AM at a location to be determined. More details will follow. Please notify Sharon Hanks at 601.529.6315 by November 3rd of your plans to attend. The Biscuit Company and Museums need to know how many to expect.



Advent Outreach

While it might seem early to be talking about Christmas, it's not too early to talk about Advent! Advent starts the last Sunday of November, and in addition to fun activities, like making Advent wreaths, we're also going to focus on outreach to our community. At Christmas the past few years, St. Alban's has supported the families at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter*, by providing Christmas gifts for the children and household necessities for the adults. Just like last year, you will be invited to donate toys and other gifts for the children. A sign-up sheet will go out as soon as we know what's on the children's wish lists, hopefully by early December.

In the meantime, each year we also put together gift baskets for each family that contain household necessities. This year, we thought we would ask the congregation to think about donating some of these items. To make it easier, each week of Advent, we're going to collect a couple of the needed items for the household baskets. Please consider adding a few of these items to your shopping list and bringing them to church on the Sunday listed.

First Sunday of Advent, November 27—Laundry Detergent

ECW Luncheon, December 3—Baby & Clorox Wipes

Second Sunday of Advent, December 4—Hand & Dish Soap

Third Sunday of Advent, December 11—Toilet & Paper Towels

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18—Lysol & Hand Sanitizer

Walking the Mourner's Path

Walking the Mourner's Path is a program designed to help those who are experiencing the stages of grief. Through a series of meetings, participants learn to recognize where they are in the grieving process and how to regain their sense of purpose and joy in God's creation and in the people around them. Facilitators Stacy Weaver and Betsy Selby work with the Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs to guide participants through each session.

St. Alban's will begin a new set of workshops in January, the exact dates will be announced soon. If you are grieving for someone you loved who has passed away, these workshops may be helpful. Grief does not go away, but it's possible to work through it.

Walking the Mourner's Path is Christian-based and incorporates prayer, the sacraments, and scripture. Meetings are held in the same place and at the same time for eight consecutive weeks and each person is expected to be present for all the meetings for the hour and a half session time. Those who sign up will be asked to share their stories and experiences, and everyone is expected to respect the confidentiality of each person in the group.



Weeds: Plants that grows where they are not wanted



First, allow me to make this disclaimer: I am NOT a gardener but I do enjoy attractive flowers, bushes, and all of the things God planted on the earth. Thankfully, we live in an area where these are plentiful and easy to grow.

When I lived in Texas, our yard would not grow grass since there was a large amount of clay in the soil. Out of frustration, I discussed the problem with a church friend who was a botany professor at Texas Woman's University. She said there might be a type of grass that would grow there, but better than that, perhaps I could plant native ground covers and other native plants. She referred me to a man who owned The Wild Bird Store and was also a landscape architect.

The man came to our yard, took samples of the soil and wrote a couple of plans I could work with. Each one described the location in my yard where I should plant certain kinds of plants. He also said he was pleased to help me figure this out because if I planted native plants, it would attract native bird, butterflies and insects.

The following weekend I went to a nursery and bought a few plants to get started. As I said, I am not a gardener and I didn't want to be overzealous about planting, only to find out I did it wrong and have to watch the plants die. I discovered that wherever you live you will be much better off planting native plants. They grow better in the right climate and would attract a bounty of wildlife that are beautiful to observe.

Another thing I learned from the botany professor was a positive philosophy about weeds. We were discussing that I had seen beautiful plants growing alongside the highways, but I was told they were weeds. She responded, "a weed is a plant that grows where it is not wanted." This doesn't mean the plants are not beautiful. Visualize the lilies of the field – and the wild violets and wood-sorrel that blanket the earth.

In *The Garden of Life*, everyone and everything has a place in God's world. He did not make any of us 'likened unto weeds'—He made us in His own image...and saw everything He had made, and indeed it was very Good.

Dawn Rickard

Elisabeth's Epistle

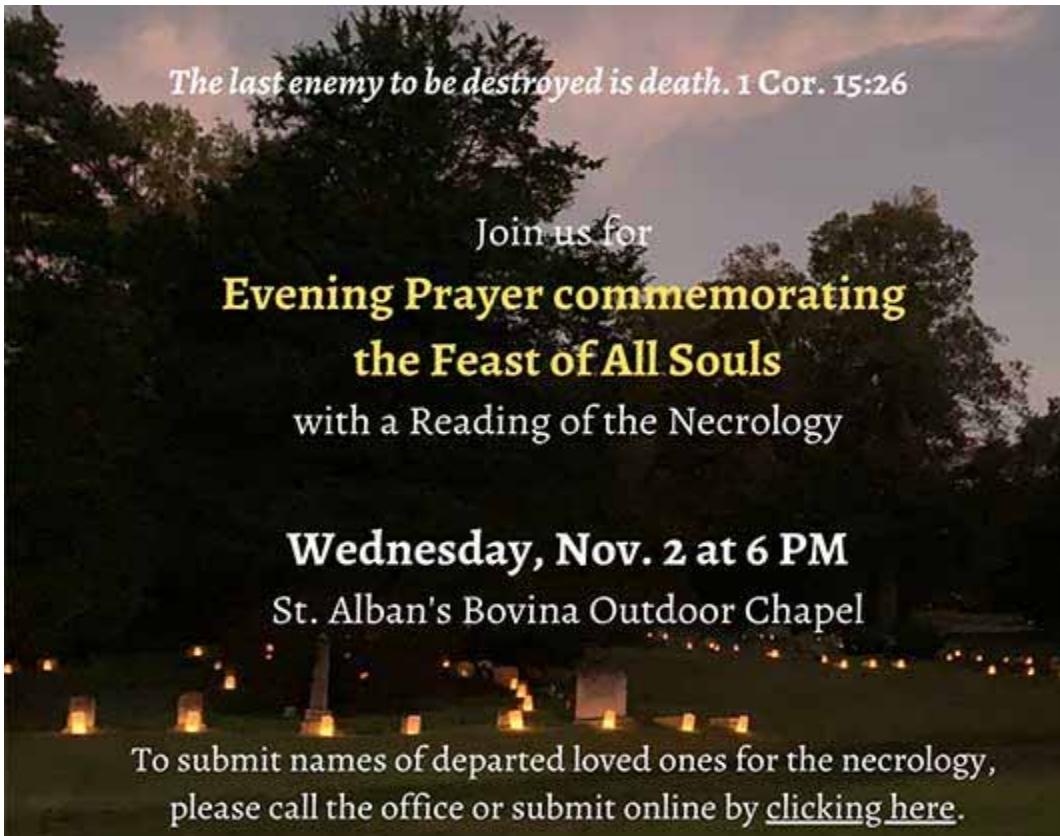
People Look East

One of my favorite newer Advent hymns is "People Look East" by Eleanor Farjeon. Here's the first verse:

*People, look east. The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*

Advent is one of my favorite church seasons, and this hymn captures the expectancy of Advent, as we wait not only to celebrate the joy of the Incarnation, but also for God to continue the renewal of the world begun in Jesus Christ. Why look east? East has long been the direction for prayer in the Judeo-Christian tradition. For Jewish people scattered abroad, turning toward Jerusalem most often meant facing east. For Christians looking for Christ's coming again, the associations with both Jerusalem and the rising sun also pointed toward an eastward direction for prayer. You will see graves, in Jerusalem, but also in our own cemetery, oriented toward the east, as if waiting expectantly. I love celebrating our first service on Easter morning at the outdoor chapel, which faces east, looking out over the cemetery toward the rising sun.

St. Alban's has another way in which we "look east" together with a sense of expectancy. We worship at what is referred to as an "east-facing altar." Technically, the altar in the church is not oriented toward the east, but symbolically, the fact that we all face the same direction during the Eucharistic prayer, makes it an "east-facing altar." It is not as common these days to see the priest turn his or her back to the people during the Eucharistic prayer, and so it is worth noting the beauty and symbolism in this position. After I finish the *Sursum Corda*, or opening greeting of the Eucharistic prayer, I turn toward the altar and we all look "east" together. This is the moment when I feel the communion of saints gathered around us at the altar, joining us in our expectant waiting. We join our prayers together with the prayers of all the saints and the heavenly hosts as we wait for God to continue the work of redeeming creation.



The last enemy to be destroyed is death. 1 Cor. 15:26

Join us for
**Evening Prayer commemorating
the Feast of All Souls**
with a Reading of the Necrology

Wednesday, Nov. 2 at 6 PM
St. Alban's Bovina Outdoor Chapel

To submit names of departed loved ones for the necrology,
please call the office or submit online by [clicking here](#).



**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE & DINNER**
Thursday, Nov. 24, 2022
at 11:00 AM

Turkey, ham & dressing provided.
If you can, bring a dish to share.
To-go plates available.

ADVENT AT ST. ALBAN'S

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us...

<p>Advent 1: Nov. 27</p>  <p>Make Advent wreaths (after each service)</p>	<p>Advent 3: Dec. 11</p>  <p>Decorate gingerbread houses (after each service)</p>
<p>Advent 2: Dec. 4</p>  <p>Visit from St. Nicholas (after the 11:00 service)</p>	<p>Advent 4: Dec. 18</p>  <p>Greening the church (after the 11:00 service)</p>

Services each Sunday at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Walking the Mourner's Path

"Transforming grief into joyful living."

- 8-Week small group for people experiencing grief following the death of a loved one
- Facilitated by trained leaders and clergy
- Starting in January 2023 at St. Alban's Episcopal Church Bovina
- See mournerspath.com for info

For more information and to reserve your place, please call the church office at 601-636-6687.

November Birthdays

8 Whitney Nieto	17 Kay McWilliams
9 Margie Scott	22 Betty Rushing
10 Koury Collins	Amanda Harris
12 Jonah Artman	27 Sam Hall
David Pruett	29 Eva Panelo
17 Letty Biedenharn	

November Anniversaries

7 John Segrest & Bitsy Sloan	12 David & Bonnie Pruett
11 David & Amanda Harris	

Prayers of the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Allan & Joan	Jackson	Nita
Ann & Jimmy	James	Norma
Becky Jo	Joe & Katharine	Pete & Family
Bill & Karen	Joel & Colby	Rose Mary
The Carleton Family	Jonathan & Family	Ruth
Charlene	The Kabbes Family	Sarah
Charlie & Family	Kathleen	Steve
Clarence	Kay	Suzanne
Dalton	Libby	Tallmadge
David	Lucas	The Turner Family
Freda	Maurice & Family	Wayne
Fritz	Mike	Wilma
Jackie	Nick, Lacey & Family	

For the Departed: John David Simpson, Dick Read, John Kabbes, James Pilgrim, Sue Kessler and Marcia Hammett

Server Schedule

Date	Time	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	POP	A/V System
Wednesday 11/2/2022	6:00 PM	Betsy Selby	All Souls' Day				
Sunday 11/6/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner Buck Cooper	Jim Price The Gavins	Dawn Rickard	Sharon Hanks	Jim Drake
Wednesday 11/9/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner					
Sunday 11/13/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Dawn Rickard	Sharon Cummings Barnie Gavin	Jim Price The Halls	Penny Freund	Harvey Smith	Harvey Smith
Wednesday 11/16/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith					
Sunday 11/20/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Betsy Selby	Bitsy Sloan Blair Harris	Jim Price The Artmans	Susan Price	Dawn Rickard	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 11/23/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner					
Thursday 11/24/2022	11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins	Thanksgiving				
Sunday 11/27/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Richard Price	Ann Tompkins Ed Shelnut	Jim Price The Rushings	Ed Shelnut	Sharon Hanks	Jim Drake
Wednesday 11/30/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith					



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Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake