



THE ALBANAC

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

October 2025

Bishop Dorothy Sanders Wells Visits St. Alban's



Dinner with the Bishop



Sallie Mae had an audience



The Vestry provided a fabulous spread



Time for conversation



Harvey giving the Bishop a tour



**“Tell Out my Soul” for Stewardship
by Sharon Hanks**

I have been a member of St. Alban's for over 60 years. When I first joined, I was a very young communicant, who was not really interested in hearing anything about stewardship. I “tuned out” whenever the annual subject was presented to the church. We contributed to the church, but it took many years of “soul searching” and the love of God and St. Alban's to understand the importance of providing funds for the general operation of the church, staff, building and maintenance, outreach, worship, and other various ministries.

As we enter stewardship season again, I urge you to take some time to ponder how you have been blessed by all the gifts that God has showered upon you and to prayerfully “Tell Out Your Soul” and consider giving back to God and others through your pledge.

You have already or will receive a stewardship packet, including a pledge card. If you are currently contributing to the church, thank you! If you are able, please consider increasing your pledge this year to help the church with rising costs. For those who are newer to the church, we hope you are finding a spiritual home here. Making a pledge or an estimate of giving to the church helps us to budget for the year to come. Pledge cards can be returned by mail or can be placed in the offering plate on Sunday morning. Our goal is to collect all pledge cards by Nov. 2, All Saints Sunday. Thank you for your investment in and support of St. Alban's!

*Stewardship packets are available at the church.
Please return your pledge card by All Saints, Nov. 2!*

ELISABETH'S EPISTLE

Ah, stewardship season. Jesus may have been preaching to us about money for weeks now, but it still takes courage to examine our financial habits and values. As I teach in premarital counseling, money is about so much more than money. Money means different things to different people. For some of us, it is about status. For others, security and control. And for others, it's all about pleasure and enjoyment. None of these meanings is wrong per se. Where we get into trouble is when we forget where our blessings, money included, come from, or when our attachment to pleasure or security or status blinds us to needs of the world around us and our part in the greater whole.

I love our stewardship theme this year, "Tell Out My Soul," in part because it reflects the joy that I feel in stewardship. Buck and I take great joy in being able to financially support the church. St. Alban's has come to mean a lot to us, and we take pride in joining the generations who have invested in this place. I like to imagine future generations gathering here, following Jesus in this place, inspired by the great cloud of witnesses that has worshiped here over the years. Our giving, and our stewardship of this place, lasts far beyond what we can see in our own lifetimes.

As far as guidance about your own giving, I encourage you to think about your needs, your wants, your values, and your legacy. Giving to the church or other community groups should not impact your ability to meet your family's needs. On the other hand, since our desires are endless, good stewardship and following your values may mean that you tighten the reins on your wants. The research shows that this kind of self-sacrificial giving is good for us. Generosity is linked with all kinds of positive health outcomes. Want to learn more? The Templeton Foundation offers an overview of the research on generosity here: <https://www.templeton.org/discoveries/science-of-generosity>.

The bottom line, though, from a Christian perspective, is that we give because we have received. God is the giver of all good gifts, and we give back in thanksgiving for all those gifts God has given us.

A Stewardship Prayer by Thomas Merton

Almighty God, we thank you for all the gifts You have given us: our lives, our loved ones, all that we have and all that we are. Most of all, we thank You for Jesus, your Son and our Redeemer, who came among us to show us the way to eternal life. Jesus was the perfect steward of your gifts, showing that complete trust in You is necessary, and that giving of self is a most important part of following Him. May the offerings of our time, our talents, and our material resources be made in the same spirit of sacrifice that Jesus taught us by His life and death for us. Amen.



THE DEACON'S CORNER

Elisabeth has generously offered me space in the monthly Albanac. My plan for this platform is to share information about what the various local Episcopal churches are doing in ministry. This information allows us the opportunity to support the other local churches in their events and provides potential occasions to partner together as the Vicksburg Area Episcopal Churches to serve the

community together. My hope is that the “Deacon’s Corner” will also be a place to share useful information on events of interest in the area.

I want to begin this month’s edition to say what an incredible honor and privilege it was to be with all of you Wednesday evening for the dinner with Bishop Dorothy! The food was incredible, the fellowship delightful, and the buildings and grounds are pristine!! I know it took an incredible amount of work to make such a special night possible, and I thank each one of you for making this such a special event.

I also want to share with you a couple of activities that I participate in at the present time that you may not be aware of. I serve on the Diocesan Disaster Team, whose purpose is to bring emergency materials to communities which have been affected by hurricanes, tornadoes, and other natural disasters. The team has been meeting monthly for the past three months to update our community contacts, to invite new people to the group, and lastly to determine guidelines for under what circumstances we would deploy our emergency trailer for use. If you would like to have more information on this ministry, please let me know.

I have also been working on another project since June when Elisabeth had a volunteer visit St. Alban’s from the Alzheimer’s Association. Over the summer, I have been reaching out to local contacts to reinvigorate the Alzheimer’s Support Group that Crawford Street United Methodist Church had until the COVID restrictions forced the group to shut down. Lee Ann Whitley from Crawford Street has been a Godsend and big supporter in assisting me with the reorganization of this group. The revitalized group will be meeting on Monday, Nov. 3, from 6:00-7:00 PM at Crawford Street United Methodist Church. Our next meeting as the committee of helpers for the support group is Monday, Oct 27th, at Christ Episcopal Church, at 5:00 PM. We need all who can to attend this meeting, so we are well prepared on Nov. 3 for this ministry to those in our Vicksburg community.

Continued

THE DEACON'S CORNER

On Thursday, October 30th from 5:30-7:00 PM, Vicksburg Family Development Center will be hosting their annual Trunk or Treat event at the Vicksburg Mall. I have been a part of this fun event for the past two years. I am hoping that each of the churches will participate in this event with me. You can volunteer in two ways. First, you are all invited to come pass out candy the night of the event. You can also donate candy by bringing it to church when you come, so that we will have plenty for the night of the event. I would ask that you not bring chocolate candy as it melts in the heat, and the candy is peanut free due to allergies. Thank you for your support in this opportunity to serve our community. My affiliation with Vicksburg Family Development Center is because I have served on their drug prevention task force for the past two years.

Other local information and activities of interest are as follows:

- October 4th- Christ Episcopal Church Meat Pie Sale, at the semi-annual flea market in downtown Vicksburg
- October 7th-13th- Fall Break for Warren County Schools
- October 8th- Prayer Vigil at City Hall in Vicksburg to remember and honor those who have been affected by domestic violence. This event is sponsored by Haven House and begins at noon.
- October 9th-10:00 AM free health screenings for high blood pressure and diabetes at the Vicksburg Court House. This event will offer free fruit until it is gone and is sponsored by the Vicksburg Police Department.
- October 21st- Free community screenings at the Warren County Courthouse from 11-1:00 PM. This event is sponsored by Judge Toni Walker Terrett and Haven House Family Shelter.
- October 23rd- River Region Trunk or Treat Event at the hospital. Do not know time of event.
- October 30th- Trunk or Treat Event at the Vicksburg Mall sponsored by Vicksburg Family Development, 5:30-7:00 PM.
- October 31st- All Hallow's Eve. This is the official date of Halloween that will be recognized in the Vicksburg community.

My schedule for serving the local Episcopal churches in the next month:

- October 5th- St. Mary's Episcopal
- October 12th- St. Alban's Episcopal
- October 19th- St. Mary's Episcopal
- October 26th- Christ Episcopal.

Lastly, thank you all for all for your kindness and support that you so freely give. It is a blessing to be part of your lives as we strive to serve Christ and our neighbors together.

In Christ, Tami

AROUND THE GROUNDS...

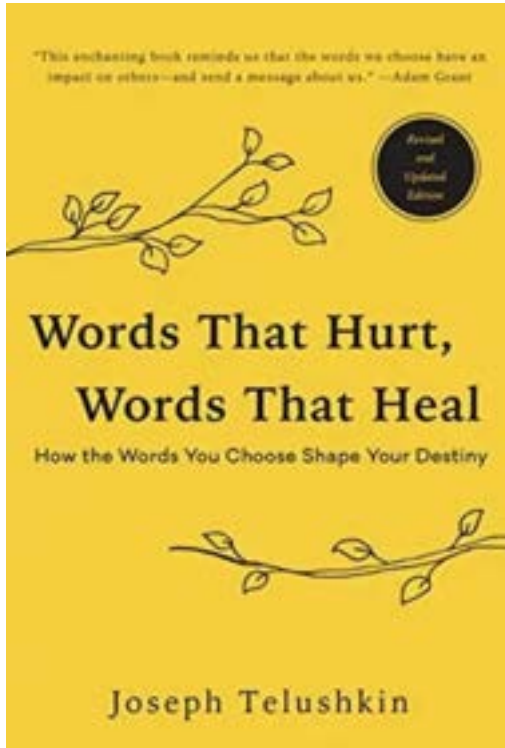


Thanks to the many volunteers who worked to get the church ready for all our fall events!



A Book For The Times We Are Living Now

By David Pruett



Joseph Telushkin is a Jewish Rabbi and a prolific writer on topics of ethics and their application to modern times. This relatively short book (260 pp) which I bought on Amazon for \$13 is, I believe, desperately needed in our country where we are bombarded with confusing and hurtful messages on all levels of media.

He gives examples of people, both famous and ordinary, whose lives have been uplifted by kind and positive words from those who are important in their lives, as well as words that defeat.

The book is divided into the obvious sections of the power of words to hurt: by, to, and about others, including the important concept both in Judaism and Christianity of evil speech and the damage it can do. The section on words that heal includes helpful methods to use words to build up those around us.

First published in 1996, updated in 2019, and absolutely applicable to 2025 in my view, I think we would all benefit from an awareness of the way we speak to our neighbors and our families. I hope you might find this book useful and pass it on!



The Albanac

Sallie Mae invites pets & their people to
St. Alban's Bovina



FOR THE
**BLESSING
OF THE
ANIMALS**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 8:30 & 11 AM

AT THE OUTDOOR CHAPEL

WITH BISCUITS FOR PETS & PEOPLE BETWEEN SERVICES

Join us for

**Evening Prayer Commemorating
the Feasts of All Saints & All Souls**

with a Reading of the Necrology

Saturday, Nov. 1st at 6 PM

St. Alban's Bovina Outdoor Chapel

Help needed starting at 4:00 PM to set up luminaries!

To submit names of departed loved ones for the necrology,
please call the office at 601-636-6687.



ST. ALBAN'S ANNUAL DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

Fish Fry

+ ECW COUNTRY MARKET

12

October
2025

12-2 pm
Booth Buys

\$15 PLATE LUNCH
ST. ALBANS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
TICKETS AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
STALBANSBOVINA.ORG
OR BY SCANNING THE CODE



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LIFTING LIVES MINISTRY



Prayers of the People

For those sick or in need:

Angie	Ed	Kay	Robert
Butch	Hunter	Mary Jan & John	Sam
Charlie & Sue	Irene	Mike & Nancy	Sara
Clarence	Jackson	Nick	Scarlett
Dan G.	Jake	Norma	Sophia
Danny	James	Pat	Taylor
Dave	John	Richard S.	
David & Melissa	Kathy	Ricky	

For the departed: Joyce Butler, Linda Piazza, Patsy Norcross, and Herb Jones.

Liturgical Schedule

	Oct. 5	Oct. 12	Oct. 19	Oct. 26
Rite I - 8:30 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Nancy Montague	Harvey Smith
Lector	Nancy Montague	Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins	Beth Sojourner
Healing Minister	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
Rite II - 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Carolyn Burton	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins
Greeters/ Ushers	Judy Gavin Barnie Gavin	Bobby Barlow	Betty Rushing Buck Cooper	Judy Gavin Barnie Gavin
Lector	Carolyn Burton	Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Buck Cooper
Prayers of the People	Barnie Gavin	Samantha Mahloch	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin
Chalice Bearer	Dawn Rickard	Tami Roessler	Susan Price	Barnie Gavin
A/V System	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith
Healing Minister	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard
 Altar Guild	 Mary Ann Wright Harvey Smith Judy Morrissey	 Ann Tompkins Samantha Mahloch Judy Gavin Buck Cooper	 Betty Rushing Cassandra Price Carolyn Burton	 Beth Sojourner Samantha Mahloch Nancy Hester Beth Guynes

Wednesday Healing Service

Our first Wednesday Healing Eucharist will be October 1 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome at the service and the simple supper that follows.

Photography by Rebecca Drake, Bobby Barlow, Carolyn Burton, and Elisabeth Malphurs.