



The Albanac

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

September 2023



St. Alban's Rectory— Built in 1976

Rectory Open House

Sunday, August 20, 11:00 AM



Picnic lunch delights Open House guests

St. Alban's Rectory Open House on Sunday, August 20th, was a success! One purpose of the open house was to allow the congregation the opportunity to visit the Rectory and see what an asset the Rectory is to St. Alban's. Another purpose was to make the congregation aware of the maintenance and repair items needing attention at the Rectory.

The repair and maintenance items include—support of the deck, drainage at the front of the Rectory, window trim replacement, caulking and painting of the siding, fascia board and soffit repair/replacement, and various electrical work. Some items will require a licensed contractor, and some can be done by volunteers. There were some contractors recommended at the open house and some church members expressed their interest in helping.

If you are interested in volunteering, please call or text the Junior Warden, Jeff Artman, at 601-415-9571.







Pancake Breakfast & Back to School Blessings

On August 6, we offered warm St. Alban's blessing for all those heading back to school at both the 8:30 and 11:00 services. We blessed babies and toddlers heading back to daycare, older students heading to elementary, middle and high school, college students, teachers, administrators, and volunteers. Everyone was invited to pick out a tag for their backpack with an encouraging message and prayer, or a sticker for their electronic devices. It was inspiring to see how many St. Alban's members are involved in education in some way or another! Through the efforts of Buck Cooper and Harvey Smith, we also ate well with a fabulous pancake breakfast in between services.



Blessing for the New School Year

"God of all wisdom, we praise you for gifting us with curiosity and learning. Give to all students, teachers, and caregivers a clear sense of your love. May they feel your presence throughout this school year. Guide their choices, their quest for knowledge, and their relationships. Use their successes and failures as opportunities to grow in understanding of who you would have them to be. Continue to shape them that they may walk in the way of Christ, grow strong in Spirit's love for all people, and know the complete joy of life in you. In the name of Christ our great Teacher, we pray."

Amen

Blessing for Students

“Eternal God, your wisdom is greater than our minds can attain, and your truth enlightens our learning. To those who study, give curiosity, imagination, and patience to wait and work for insight. Fill their learning with joy. Help them to doubt with courage. And hold all their days in the love of Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Amen



[L-R][front row] Andrew, Wyatt, Mason. [second row] Clarissa, Hope, Gloria, Rev. Elisabeth, Josh, Jonah, Suzanne. [back row] Buck, Sam, Henry

Blessing for Teachers and Educators

“God of all learning grant our teachers an abundance of your wisdom - prepare their hearts to welcome and love. Give them grace in their encounters, courage to face challenges, and strength when they feel weak. When they feel unseen, remind them we are overwhelmed with gratitude for the gifts they share with our children. May they see how their dedication forever impacts generations.”

Amen

Snapshots—Moments in Time



Jeff Artman, Junior Warden, with sons, Jonah & Josh, were recognized at the Open House for their dedication to church & Rectory maintenance



Children & adult Sunday School Classes join to learn about Holy Baptism



Briggs, Fore & Taylor looking forward to Sunday School classes



Members meet to plan upcoming Dinner-on-the-Grounds, October 15. Susan is president of the ECW & Penny is chairwoman of Dinner-on-the-Grounds



Rev. Elisabeth & Susan discuss ECW plans for Dinner-on-the-Grounds



Betsy, Beth & Fore attend ECW salad luncheon

The Lord is with me; I will not be Afraid.

Psalm 118:6

St. Alban's own Jonah Artman has taken his faith and soccer skills to the football field. The young Warren Central soccer star caught the attention of the football coaching staff while members of the soccer team were kicking field goals just for fun. Jonah joined the WC football team as a freshman making a near perfect 40-41 extra points and 10-10 field goals in his first year.



The WC standout received national acclaim by being named to the MaxPreps (MaxPreps.com a CBS Sports website) Preseason Sophomore All-American First Team.

In July, Jonah attended Kohl's National Scholarship Invitational Camp in Gatlinburg, Tennessee where his kicking skills were rated along with scores of his peers across the nation. He posted on his Twitter page, "after a great @KohlsKicking and my first ranking event i am beyond blessed to say i have received/earned a 4.5 ★ rating and be ranked #6 in the nation, #1 in mississippi, for the 2026 class! all glory to GOD."

Jonah prominently displays the Psalm 118:6 on the cover of his Twitter page.

Kohl commented on Jonah's performance, "Artman had an excellent showing at the 2023 Kohl's National Scholarship Camp. He impressed with his leg strength and his command of his 'A' ball on his field goal attempts. He scored 24 points in the combined charting and hit some excellent footballs throughout the camp. His overall score of 106.75 on kickoffs was impressive and his biggest ball charted was 69 yards with 3.95 seconds of hang time. He has tremendous upside and will be fun to watch develop the next 2+ years."

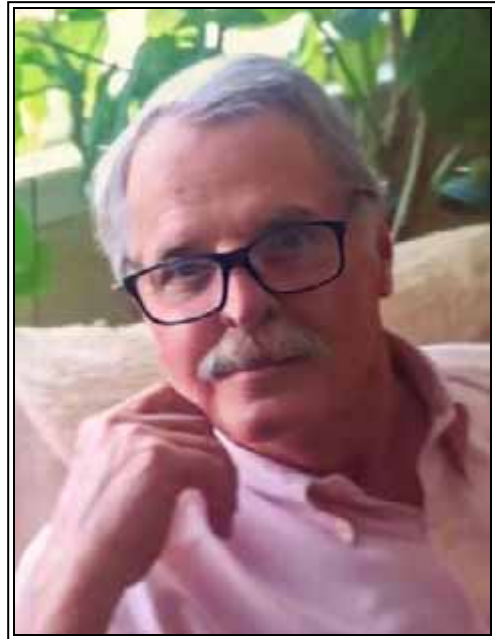
Kohl rankings are considered the Gold Standard in college football recruiting. ESPN uses Kohl's rankings exclusively.

In Memory
James Richard (Jimmy) Jones, Sr.

June 22, 1943—August 18, 2023

James Richard (Jimmy) Jones, Sr., 80, passed away on Friday, August 18, 2023. He and his twin sister, Judy, were the youngest of four children born to Lafayette Monroe (LM), Jr., and Gladys Hopkins Jones. They were born on June 22, 1943, in Vicksburg, MS, and sadly Judy passed away as a toddler. Jimmy grew up in Port Gibson and Vicksburg and graduated from Cooper High School in 1962. In 1967, he married Ann Biedenharn and they had two children, Elizabeth (Liz) and Jim.

In his younger years, Jimmy worked in construction and clean-up projects, but his biggest loves were restaurants and cooking. He owned The Red Duck Restaurant in Bovina and J. Richard's Deli in Downtown Vicksburg and could often be found feeding and employing those in need. Later, he ran the cafeteria at Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant for many years.



From 2000-2012, Jimmy and his family owned the tour boat company, Mississippi River Tours. Through the years, they took thousands of tourists and MS school children Grades K-12 on historic tours and field trips down the Mississippi River on the "Sweet Olive."

His family enjoyed gathering over his New Orleans BBQ Shrimp, muffulettas, reubens and po-boys. At any meal, the family pets could be found at Jimmy's feet getting their treats. He had a soft heart, quick wit, and could keep people laughing in any situation. He always carried a magic trick in his pocket and was the favorite of the children at a party. Jimmy will always be remembered for his big heart and his ability to liven up a room.

He is preceded in death by his devoted wife of 55 years, Ann Biedenharn Jones; his parents, Lafayette Monroe (LM), Jr., and Gladys Hopkins Jones; two sisters, Judy Jones and Brenda Jones Wright; and a brother, Lafayette Monroe "Jerry" Jones, III. He is survived by his children, Liz Curtis and Jim Jones; a sister, Charlene Goodwin; three grandchildren, Ben Porter, Olivia Curtis and Tripp Curtis; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and other family members that loved him dearly.

*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

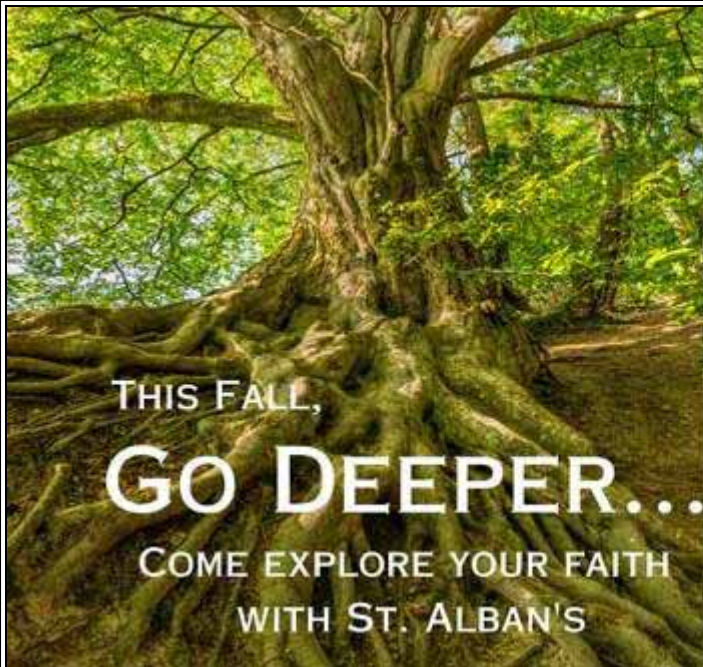
This Fall, Go Deeper

This fall, come explore your faith and go deeper with the following groups:

Raising Hopeful Families: This group is designed for parents, grandparents, and anyone interested in nurturing the faith of our children. The group will be offered over Zoom (not in person) on Sunday evenings from 7:00-8:00 PM, starting Sept. 10 and continuing through Oct. 29. We will be using the book, “The Hopeful Family: Raising Resilient Children in Uncertain Times.” Our discussion will focus on how parents and caregivers can incorporate time-honored Christian spiritual practices into their family life as we seek to raise children with a sense of hope and purpose.

World Religions with Bibles & More: Our Bibles & More group is meeting at a new time, Wednesdays from 4:30-5:45 PM. Starting Sept. 6, in person or over Zoom, we will be exploring world religions. If you’re interested in better understanding the faith of others, come join us.


Inquirers’ Class: For newcomers and oldtimers alike, the Inquirers’ Class is for anyone who wants a deeper understanding of the Episcopal Church. What is the Book of Common Prayer all about and how can you use it in your personal prayer life? What do we believe about the Eucharist? How is the church structured and governed and how is that different from other churches? We’ll be exploring all this and more during our Sunday school time, 10:00-10:45 AM starting on Nov. 5 and continuing through Dec. 17. This class is particularly appropriate if you are considering being confirmed or received at the Bishop’s visit in January.




THIS FALL,
GO DEEPER...
COME EXPLORE YOUR FAITH
WITH ST. ALBAN'S

THREE GROUPS TO HELP
YOU GO DEEPER

Raising Hopeful Families
For parents, grandparents, and all those
who nurture the faith of our children


World Religions
For those interested in a deeper
understanding of other faiths


Inquirers' Class
For those who want to deepen their
understanding of the Episcopal Church

Elisabeth's Epistle

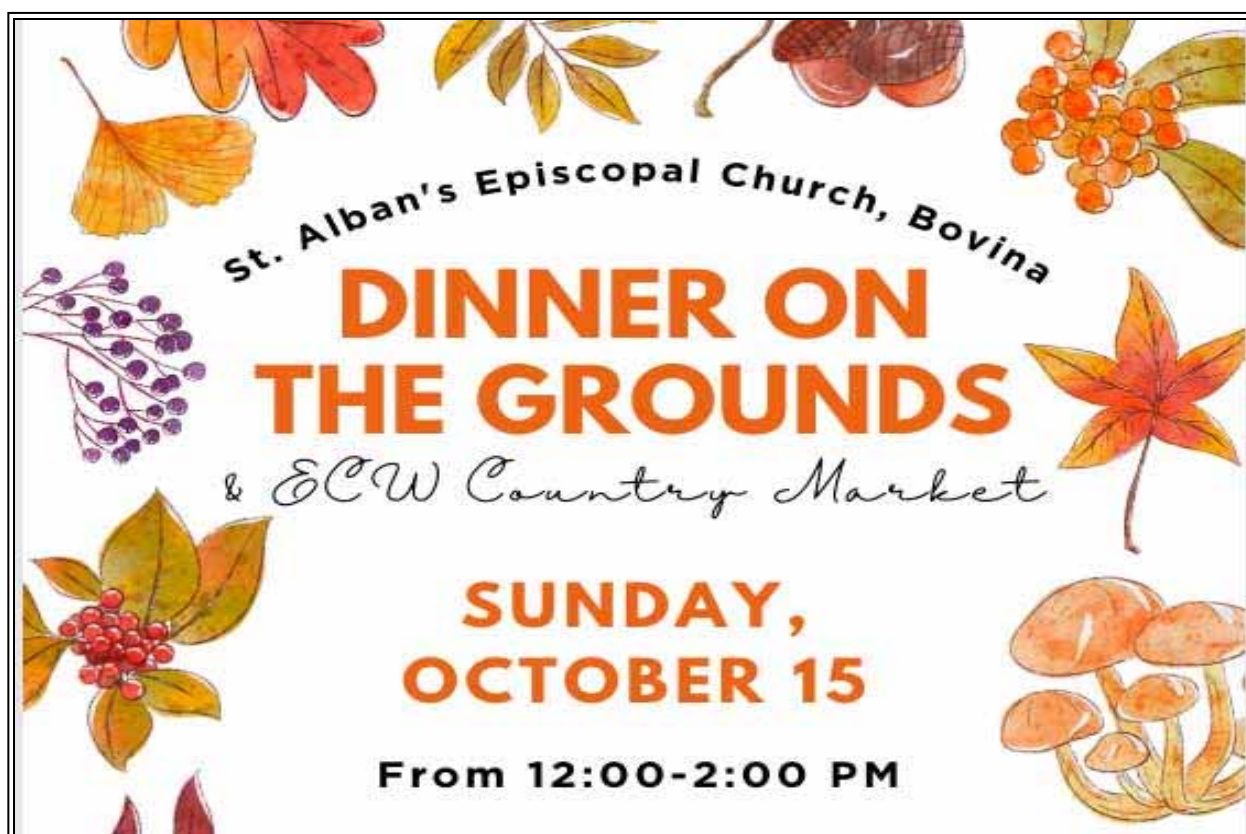
I've been thinking a lot about small churches recently. There is a tendency at small churches to focus on what we don't have...programs, staff, money, etc. We get caught up at times in our limitations, or in comparing ourselves with bigger churches. When we do this, we often blind ourselves to the beauty and strengths of small churches.

I have been a member of churches small, medium and large, and each has its strengths and weaknesses. I loved growing up at a large church with lots of programming for children and youth and a variety of opportunities for service. But I have realized over the years that when it comes to my own spiritual growth, it has been in the context of small churches that I have experienced the most spiritual deepening. This is probably due to something you know all too well—it is hard to hide at a small church! Small churches are all-hands-on-deck operations, which I think most accurately reflects what the church is supposed to be—a community of Christ-followers all empowered for ministry. The small church needs the gifts of all its members, and the reward is great when we all work together.

However, small churches also face unique challenges and deserve support. We are in a time of rapidly changing habits when it comes to church affiliation and attendance, and although these trends are felt in every size church, they feel particularly acute in small churches. With the Bishop's support, I have started a group to bring together small churches in our Diocese called the Small Churches Collaborative. We are meeting over Zoom on the first Tuesday of each month from 10-11:00 AM in order to network and share resources. You are welcome to join any of these meetings—just let me know if you would like the Zoom link. In the meantime, please pray for our small churches.

God of the mustard seed and the yeast,
You exalt the small and lift up the lowly,
Send your Spirit to guide us as we plan for your small churches,
That they may be places where faith is nurtured and your Kingdom is revealed.

Give us grace to recognize both our strengths and our limitations, and to use it all for your glory. All this we ask in the name of the holy Trinity, one God, Father, Son & Holy Spirit.



St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bovina

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

& ECW Country Market

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 15**

From 12:00-2:00 PM

SMALL CHURCHES COLLABORATIVE

FOR ALL LAY & ORDAINED LEADERS OF SMALL CHURCHES IN MS

First Tuesday of each month from 10-11 AM over Zoom

Sept. 5
"Right Sizing" Organizational Structure
with the Rev. Canon Rebekah Hatch

Oct. 3
Models for Lay & Ordained Leadership
with the Rev. Canon Brian Ponder & the Rev. Andy Andrews

To get the Zoom link or be added to the email list,
please email emailphurs@stalbandsbovina.org

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Alicia	David	Libby	Ramona
Allan & Joan	Ed	Lucas	Susan
Ashley	Frances	Margie	Steve
Barbi	Hawkins Family	Mark	Teresa H.
Carolyn	Jackson	Mike & Nancy	Thersea K.
Celcil	James	Monica	Tornado Victims
Charlene	Jones Family	Nita	Vallye
Charlie & Family	Kelley	Norma	
Dalton	Lee	Preston	

Server Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

Rite I, 8:30 AM	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
Lector	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Beth Sojourner	Sharon Cummins
Rite II, 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Richard Price	Betsy Selby	Dawn Rickard	Ann Tompkins
Greeters/ Ushers	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	James Drake	Betty Rushing
		Judy Gavin	Bobby Barlow	Judy Gavin
Lector	Susan Price	Dawn Rickard	Kristi Hall	Harvey Smith
Prayers of the People	Peggi May	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith	Barnie Gavin
Chalice Bearer	Susan Price	Harvey Smith	Barnie Gavin	Dawn Rickard
A/V System	James Drake	Harvey Smith	Sam Hall	Harvey Smith

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner



Photography by: Rebecca B. Drake, Carolyn Gent