



THE ALBANAC

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

September 2025

The Blessing of the Backpacks

August 4, 2025



SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH



National Recovery Month, which started in 1989, is observed every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation's strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery possible.

At St. Alban's, we strive to be a community of support and spiritual healing for all those whose lives have been affected by addiction. A longstanding Spiritual 12 Steps support group is offered every Thursday morning at 8:00 AM over Zoom. This group is open to people struggling with addiction, those in recovery, and family members. We are also planning a "Recovery Awareness Sunday" on Sept. 28 along with other churches in the Diocese.

RESOURCES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

<https://www.samhsa.gov/>

Recovery Ministries of the Episcopal Church

<https://www.episcopalrecovery.org/>

Episcopal Recovery Program of MS

<https://erpms.org/>

Area 37 Mississippi Assembly of Alcoholics Anonymous

<https://aa-mississippi.org/>

Our Proud History of Recovery

by David Pruett

A little over 90 years ago, an Episcopal Priest in the Akron, Ohio area met with two men who were trying to formulate a way out of their alcohol addiction. One was a businessman and one was a psychiatrist. They had both tried many times to overcome their alcoholism and could not find a lasting recovery.

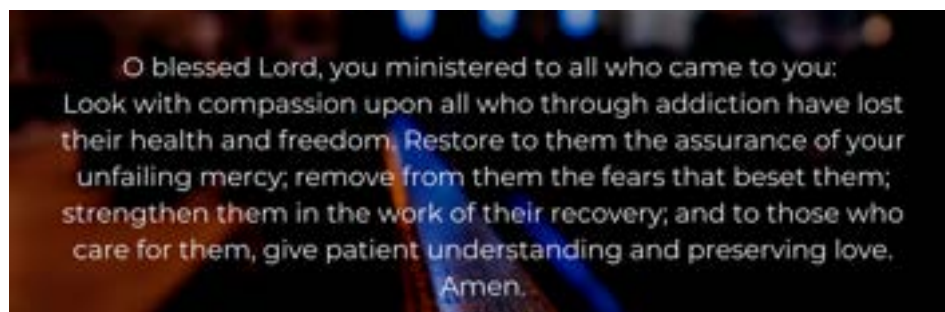
That was the beginning of a worldwide explosion of a method of overcoming addictions that had at its basis a reliance on God and the support of others to develop a lifestyle of wholesomeness and recovery from what would otherwise result in institutionalization, prison, hospitals and early death. This was the beginning of what would be known as AA, Alcoholics Anonymous. And I'm proud to say the program was based on Anglican spirituality.

For decades when a person was suffering from alcoholism and was desperate for help, it could be found in the Episcopal Church! AA meetings continue to be held in parish halls all over the country, and Episcopal priests are a terrific resource for referral.

Our Diocese has a recovery website, The Episcopal Recovery Program of Mississippi which has links to an encyclopedic listing of resources. Also, at our Bishop's request, every Parish in our state has a listing of meetings and meeting times on it. You can check it out at www.erpms.org.

The program has been so successful that it has spawned many other 12 Step groups for overeaters, sexual addiction, gambling addiction, and spirituality workshops. We have a group at St. Alban's led by Theo Williams that has all kinds of folks attending, not just alcoholics but people searching for a better way of living.

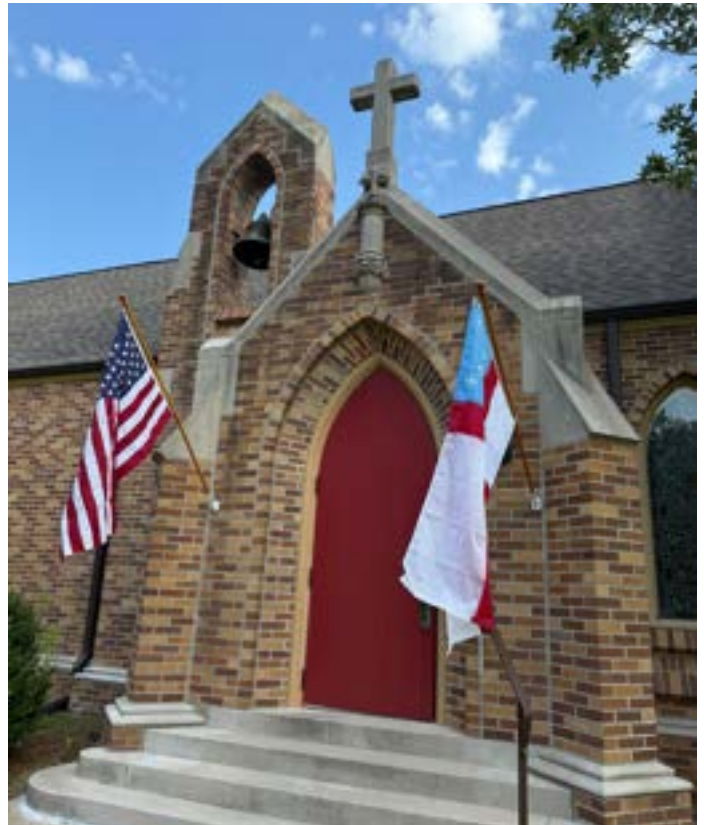
As September is Recovery Month for us, we will celebrate and hopefully inform through a Recovery Sunday Celebration that might be of help to our own loved ones. Check It out!



AROUND THE GROUNDS...



New signs thanks to Terry & Bobby!



New flags



SAYING FAREWELL TO THE WEAVERS



We offered blessings to the Weavers as they moved to South Carolina

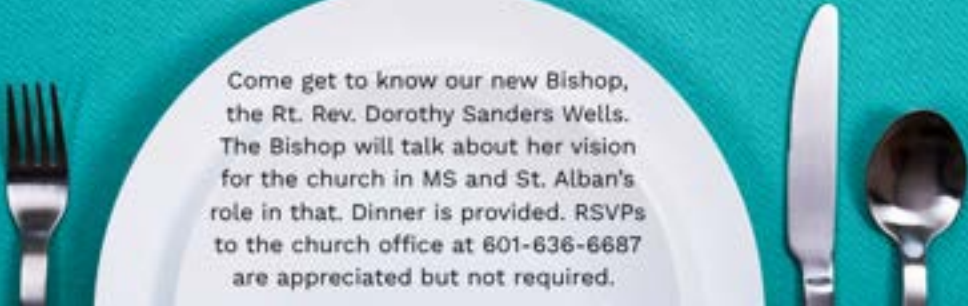


Stacy, Mark, Macy & Gray have all left their mark on Vicksburg & St. Alban's!



DINNER WITH THE BISHOP

Wednesday, Sept. 17, 5:30 PM
St. Alban's Episcopal Church



Come get to know our new Bishop,
the Rt. Rev. Dorothy Sanders Wells.
The Bishop will talk about her vision
for the church in MS and St. Alban's
role in that. Dinner is provided. RSVPs
to the church office at 601-636-6687
are appreciated but not required.

*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

ELISABETH'S EPISTLE



Not churches, but rather “event centers”

First, the context: my family started playing a little game as we drove around Maine, where Henry has just started college. The game was this: when we saw the spire of a church in the center of a town, we would guess: church or event center? More often than not, as we drove close enough to see the signs, we'd realize that what we recognized as a church was actually now an event space or center for the arts. It never stopped amazing me just how many of these former churches, visible anchors of their small towns, were no longer functioning as sacred spaces. Now mind you, I love the arts and fully support the creative repurposing of buildings (the church is the *people*, after all!). I would much rather see thriving performing arts spaces than dilapidated buildings. But there are also some drawbacks when religious spaces become secular, commercial spaces. You have to book an event center, for example, instead of just dropping by. Concert venues charge admission fees; churches are open to all. Event centers cater to audiences and consumers; church is all about participation and creating community together. I kept thinking that this is the end result of the rising numbers of “spiritual but not religious” people: towns with beautiful event centers that are primarily used and enjoyed by people with financial means. I believe something has been lost along the way.

It also made me think about our beautiful church in Bovina. St. Alban's would make a great event center with our pastoral setting and lovely interior. And we do host events—just think about our upcoming Dinner on the Grounds. But the heart of our church lies elsewhere, in our commitment to Jesus Christ and our common goal of trying to live like him. This is what animates everything else; this is what bonds our group of diverse pilgrims together. It takes a lot of work to maintain a church, and as our country has grown less religious, many churches are disappearing under the pressure. I don't think this threatens the Gospel one bit because the Good News has managed to spread in much more dire circumstances. But I do believe the loss of religious institutions is bad for our common life. I can honestly say that I could not be a Christian without the support of a Christian community. I'm grateful for all the generations that have built and maintained St. Alban's and pray that we might continue to be a vital *spiritual* center.



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:

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

For the departed: Lisa Luckett

Liturgical Schedule

	Sept. 7	Sept. 14	Sept. 21	Sept. 28
Rite I - 8:30 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
Lector	Ann Tompkins	Nancy Montague	Beth Sojourner	Sharon Cummins
Healing Minister	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Rite II - 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Betsy Selby	Carolyn Burton	Harvey Smith	Richard Price
Greeters/ Ushers	Judy Gavin Penny Freund	Bobby Barlow	Judy Gavin Penny Freund	Betty Rushing Dawn Rickard
Lector	Dawn Rickard	Penny Freund	Carolyn Burton	Susan Price
Prayers of the People	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin
Chalice Bearer	Barnie Gavin	Tami Roessler	Betsy Selby	Susan Price
A/V System	Harvey Smith	Justin Burton	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith
Healing Minister	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Carolyn Burton	Barnie Gavin
Vestry Person of the Day				
Altar Guild	Betty Rushing Cassandra Price	Beth Sojourner Nancy Hester Beth Guynes	Nancy Montague Sharon Hanks Barbara Frey	Tommy Skinner Susan Price

Wednesday Healing Service

Our first Wednesday Healing Eucharist will be September 3 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.