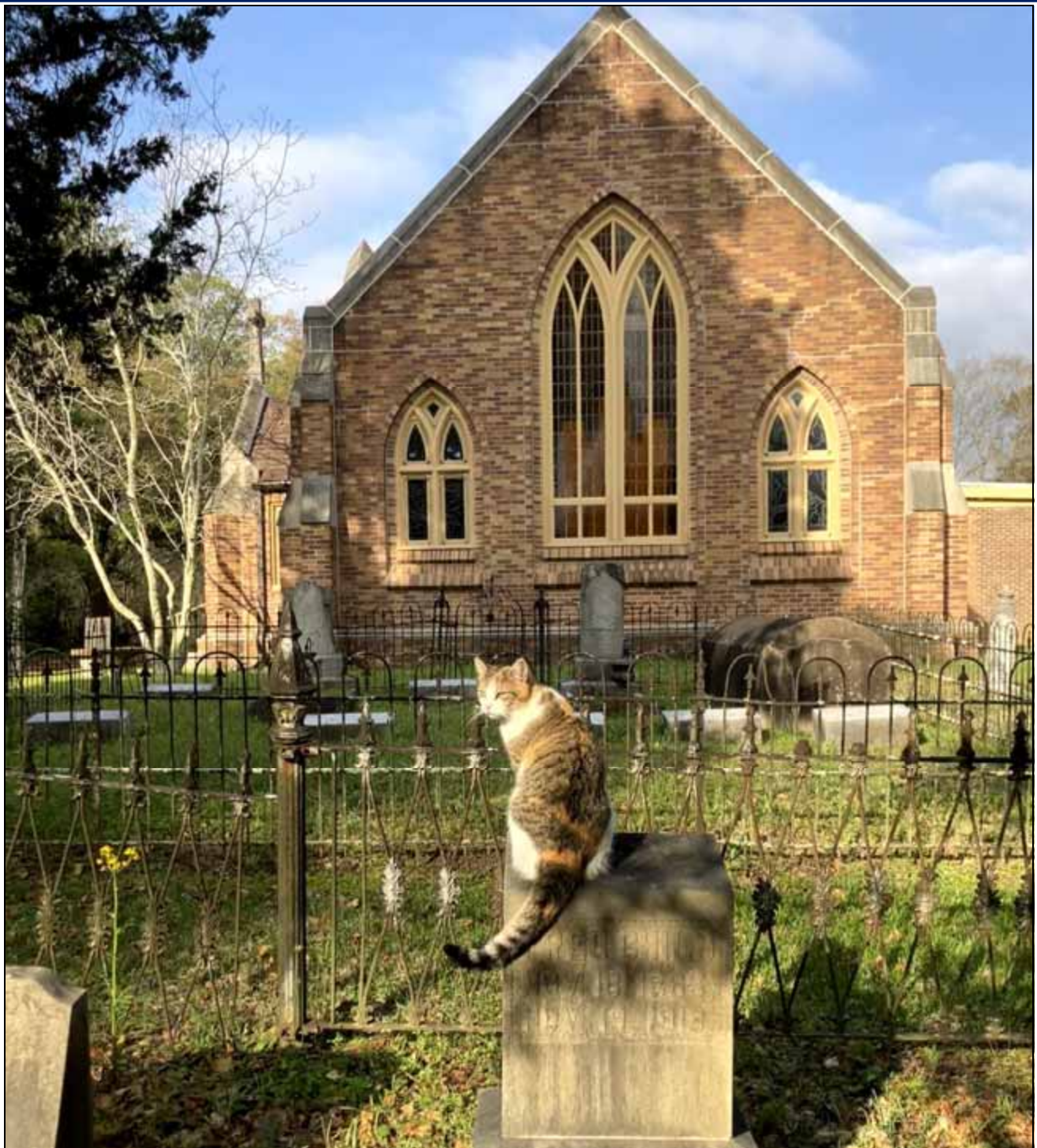




The Albanac

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

April 2023



Springtime at St. Alban's

St. Andrew's Youth Clean Headstones in Historic Cemetery

On Thursday, March 9, we hosted a group of volunteers from St. Andrew's Episcopal School. Ten seventh graders, accompanied by their teachers, came out to the church for their service-learning day to learn about our historic grounds and clean up in the cemetery.

Tommy Skinner and Harvey Smith taught the students how to clean the gravestones using a special cleaning solution designed for this purpose and supervised their work. The students cleaned gravestones in the section of the cemetery closest to the driveway, so slow down as you drive by and see if you notice a difference!

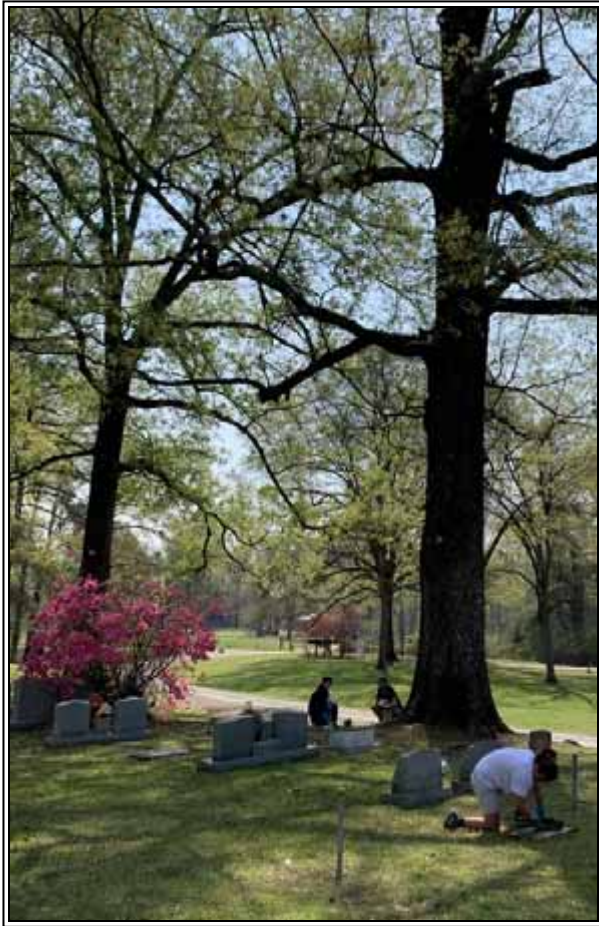
After learning about our history during the day, the group capped off their experience with a cemetery scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt, along with meeting Sallie Mae, were described by the students as the highlights of the day. We are grateful for their hard work and the example they give us of serving others.





Volunteers enjoyed the activities of the day—cleaning headstones, petting Sally Mae & scavenger hunt





Springtime Beauty — St. Alban's idyllic & parklike grounds



Lenten Supper Series – The Cross



During the Lenten season beginning March 1, Rev. Elisabeth and Lance Stewart held a five-week supper series with a focus on the Cross, the symbol of Christianity. Those attending the series gathered for a simple soup & bread supper in the Session's Parish house followed by discussions on the Cross as described in scripture, theology, and the fine arts, and concluding with worship.

The series emphasized that there is not a single interpretation of the cross, but rather a multiplicity of images used in Scripture and theology to describe how Jesus Christ's death has saved us. Although our Protestant tradition has focused on

substitutionary atonement as the dominant framework for understanding the cross, we looked at other traditional frameworks such as ransom theory and moral example. The series also included reflections on art such as Rembrandt's *Christ Crucified Between Two Thieves* and Marc Chagall's *The Exodus*. Each evening concluded with a simple worship service including hymns and additional artwork to help us meditate on the mystery of the cross.

Thank you to all of those who provided food for this series, including Judy Gavin, Betty Rushing, Judy Morrissey, Sharon Hanks, Carolyn Gent, Ann Tompkins, Harvey Smith, Susan Price, Tommy Skinner and Stacy Weaver.



Crowd gathers for soup in the Parish Hall followed by the Lenten series presentation—'Regarding the Cross'



St. Alban's – Safety & Emergency Preparedness

On Thursday evening, March 30, Bovina Fire Chief, Chris Kennedy and Warren County Sheriff, Martin Pace, spoke to church members regarding safety and emergency preparedness. The importance of planning was brought into focus by the EF-4 tornado that hit the Rolling Fork vicinity killing 26 people. The century-old Episcopal *Chapel of the Cross* in Rolling Fork was demolished in the wake of the tornado. The St. Alban's Safety Team will continue to work on our plans to prepare for fire, weather, medical, and other emergencies, drawing on the wisdom shared by Sheriff Pace and Chief Kennedy.



Chris Kennedy, Bovina Fire Chief; Penny Freund, Senior Warden; Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs, rector; Jeff Artman, Junior Warden; and Martin Pace, Warren County Sheriff

Loving Our Pets



There was never a time in my life that I can remember NOT having a pet. We always had at least one dog, as well as usually having a cat too. Sometimes we had more than one of either dog or cat. These dogs and cats became friends, confidants, part of the family. Each time one of them passed away, there were tears. Eventually, we would learn to love another pet, but in their memory. I have never forgotten the pets with whom I had a special bond. They may have technically belonged to my parents, but I called each one mine. If you would ever choose to test me on that, I will gladly tell you each one's name, breed, my age and where we lived at the time.

Thirteen years ago, in March 2010, a litter of puppies was born in Lafayette, Louisiana. The father was a miniature Schnauzer and the mother was a Lhasa Apso. When they were six weeks old, we drove to Monroe and adopted two of the puppies. Just like human siblings, they were so different in so many ways, yet also so similar. They have been wonderful companions and friends.

And so, it broke my heart, recently when I had to have one of them put to sleep. I had never had to make a decision like that and I struggled with guilt. Callie had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure about two years ago and being on three medications for that time, her lungs had filled with fluid and she could not breathe. It seemed cruel to let her continue to suffer. So we stroked her fur and spoke loving words to her until she was finally at peace. The vet was kind and very understanding.

Carolyn, my sweet friend, has told me she will be with me when I am ready to decorate a rock with Callie's name on it to put outside near the Saint Francis statue. Her ashes will be placed in a lovely urn and will be placed next to her photo on the windowsill next to the corner of the house where she used to love sitting outside "guarding" us.

Cat, dog, or whatever animal friend you choose, these pets not only depend on us, but we grow to depend on them. They offer us unconditional love, a happy greeting whenever they see us, and they provide friendship and compassion when we are troubled.

Dawn Rickard

HOLY WEEK AT ST. ALBAN'S BOVINA



4/2 PALM SUNDAY, Services at 8:30 & 11:00 AM

4/5 TENEBRAE SERVICE AT CHRIST CHURCH, 6:00 PM

A meditation on Jesus' Passion with our sister churches

4/6 MAUNDY THURSDAY, 6:00 PM

Family-friendly dinner & service remembering the great commandment

4/7 GOOD FRIDAY, Services at 12:00 & 6:00 PM

A quiet, reflective service with Passion reading

4/8 THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER, 7:30 PM

Light the new fire, hear the story of salvation, ring the Easter bells!

4/9 EASTER SUNDAY

8:30 AM Outdoor Service (weather permitting)

10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt & Flowering the Cross

11:00 AM Festive Service in the Church

TENEBRAE A SERVICE OF LIGHT AND SHADOWS

Offered by the Episcopal Churches of Warren County



Wednesday, April 5

6:00 PM

Christ Episcopal Church

1115 Main St. Vicksburg

*Please join us for this meditation
on Jesus' Passion based on the
Psalms and Lamentations*

Elisabeth's Epistle

As I looked at the photos of Chapel of the Cross in Rolling Fork, I couldn't help but think of St. Alban's. The small Episcopal church in Rolling Fork has a brick exterior with a bell tower. Like us, the current church building is almost 100 years old. They have a small but faithful congregation. And if you've seen the photos of the church, you know that it took a direct hit, along with the rest of the town, from the tornado that went through on Friday, March 24. The beautiful bell tower toppled. No parishioners were killed in the storm, but almost all suffered property damage.

I was still in bed that Saturday morning when our Warren County Episcopal churches first started discussing the situation unfolding just to our north. I am so grateful to the Senior Warden of Holy Trinity, Logan Peay, the Rev. Sam Godfey of Christ Church, and the Rev. Beth Palmer, who serves St. Mary's, because while I was busy with family activities on Saturday, they were gathering information and meeting with the Diocesan Emergency Response Team to find out how we could help. The word quickly came in that monetary donations were most helpful at this time, either to the United Way of West Central MS or to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund.

So that is what we did on Sunday morning. Despite it being a somewhat smaller than average crowd on Sunday the 26th, our loose plate offering was an amazing \$1,607, which we have already sent to the United Way of West Central MS. I think many of us could see ourselves in our neighbors just to the north. As we all know, this is just the beginning of recovery for the people of Rolling Fork and the other communities affected by this tornado. Too many people are grieving for family and friends. Too many people are having to rebuild from nothing. There will be more opportunities to help in the future. My hope is that our Warren County churches might put together a team to assist with recovery efforts this summer. In the meantime, we will be taking up another collection at our joint Tenebrae service on Wednesday, April 5 at 6:00 PM at Christ Church to benefit the tornado victims. Please keep everyone impacted in your prayers.

April Birthdays

7 Ruth Green	23 John Thomas Monti
8 Dawn Rickard	27 Ford Biedenharn
10 Hayden Guynes	Sarah Jane Selby
Chad Toups	29 Liz Curtis
14 Laurie Reece	30 Allison Nieto

April Anniversaries

16 Jim & Linda Dooley	18 Gene & Wanda Warren
Charles & Lisa Langford	

Prayers of the People

Allan & Joan	Donna & Family	Mark
Angela	Freda	Maurice & Family
Ann & Jimmy	Fritz	Mike & Nancy
Becky	Irv	Nick, Lacy & Family
Becky Jo	Jackie	Nita
Biedenharn & Selby Families	Jackson	Norma
Bill	James	Pete & Family
Charlene	Joe & Katherine	Ruth
Charlie & Family	Jonathan & Family	Steve J.
Dalton	Leesha	Tallmadge
David H.	Libby	Teresa
David	Lucas	Tom & Judy
		Wayne



Server Schedules

Sunday Services

	April 2	April 9	April 16	April 23	April 30
Rite I, 8:30 AM					
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Lector	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins	Beth Sojourner	Tommy Skinner
Rite II, 11:00 AM					
Lay Worship Leader	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith
Greeters/ Ushers	Dawn Rickard Betty Rushing	The Halls	Buck Cooper	Dawn Rickard	Jeff Artman
Lector	Carolyn Gent	Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Dawn Rickard	Carolyn Gent
Prayers of the People	Hanks, Sharon	Cooper, Buck	Gent, Carolyn	Harvey Smith	Jeff Artman
Chalice Bearer	Susan Price	Barnie Gavin	Harvey Smith	Penny Freund	Dawn Rickard
A/V System	Justin Burton	Justin Burton	Justin Burton	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake

Wednesday Healing Services

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Service 6:00 PM				
Lay Worship Leader	NO HEALING SERVICE	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith



*Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rev. Elisabeth, Rebecca Drake, Harvey Smith*