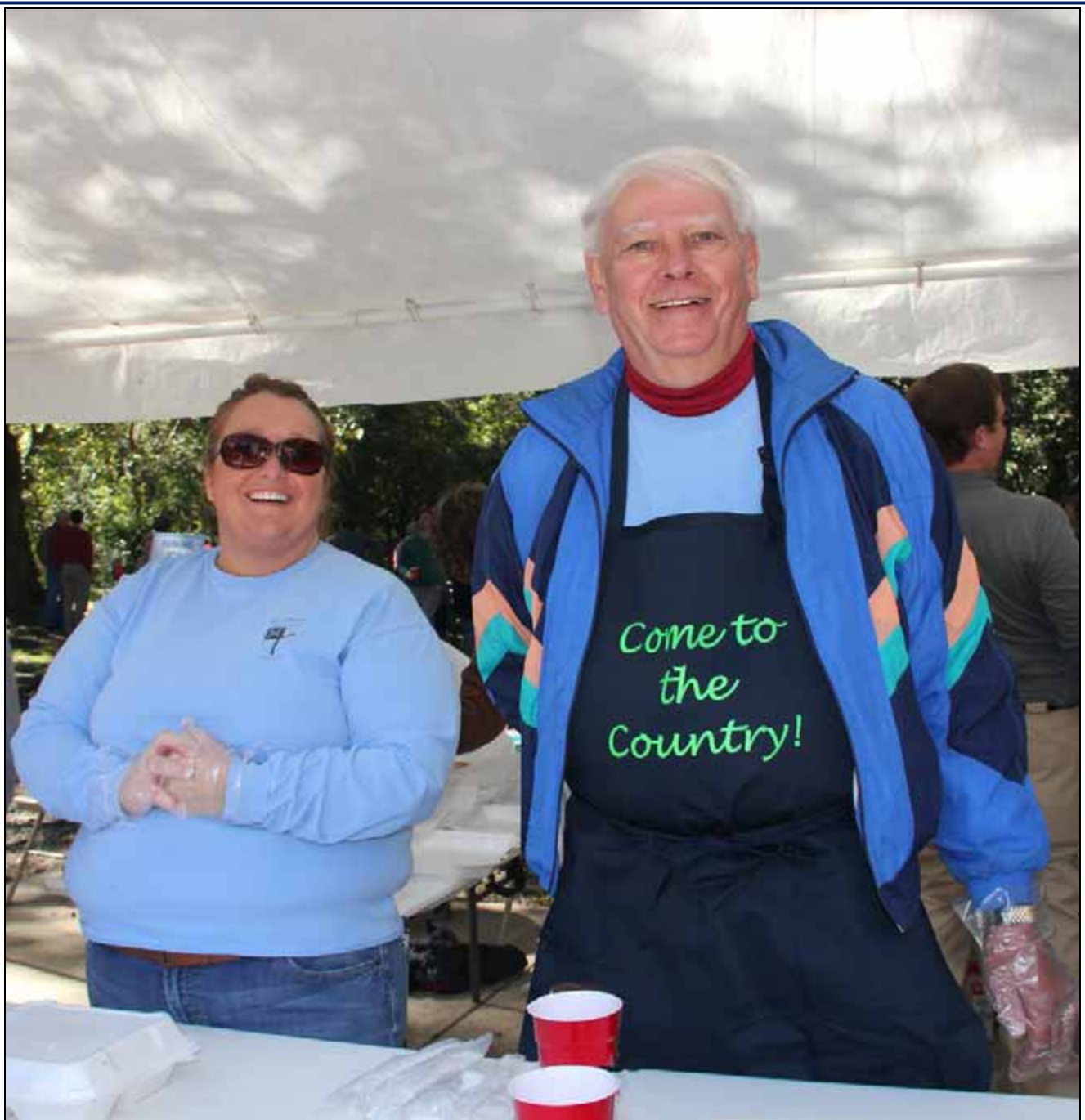




The Albanac

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Dinner-on-the-Grounds — A St. Alban's Tradition

Dinner-on-the-Grounds – A St. Alban's Tradition

By Rebecca Drake

Consecration Service & Dinner-on-the-Grounds

St. Alban's first documented Dinner-on-the-Grounds occurred on Thursday, May 5, 1859, when The Rt. Rev. William Mercer Green, first bishop of the Diocese of Mississippi, visited Bovina to consecrate St. Alban's Church, erected in 1858. Bishop Green was assisted by Rev. Henry Sansom, church rector, and Rev. James Fox, a local priest who helped to establish the Episcopal Church in the Mississippi Diocese.

After the service, the congregation gathered in the grove to enjoy a meal prepared by the women of the church. Bishop Green recorded the event in his Journal, "At the close of the protracted services, a plentiful collation was enjoyed under the beautiful and wide-spreading beech trees adjoining the Church. After which every man returned to his own home, thanking God for his grace and goodness to the children of men."

Through the years, Dinner-on-the-Grounds has become a beloved tradition—a



Dinner-on-the-Grounds, circa 1940

1958 Centennial Dinner-on-the-Grounds

One of the most celebrated Dinner-on-the-Grounds occurred Sunday, November 16, 1958, a week prior to Thanksgiving, when church members gathered to celebrate St. Alban's one-hundredth anniversary. *The Vicksburg Post* highlighted an article publicizing the upcoming event: "*St. Alban 's Episcopal Church, Begun in 1858, to Celebrate Centennial.*" The advanced publicity enticed the public from Vicksburg to motor out to the 'Church in the Country' to be a part of the celebrations.

Everyone was excited! The church organized and planned for a big occasion—the sermon was to be delivered by The Rt. Rev. Bishop Duncan M. Gray, Sr., 5th bishop of Mississippi; Rev. Howard Kishpaugh, St. Alban's new rector, would celebrate the Holy Eucharist; and the Women of the Church would prepare and serve the Dinner on the Grounds.

After the Centennial service, everyone gathered in the grove to enjoy barbecued beef and chicken along with a variety of salads, casseroles and desserts, all provided by church members and guests. The children played games and enjoyed the day along with the adults. As the day of celebrations ended, Bishop Gray gave a special blessing for the future of St. Alban's while church members recalled the past one-hundred years of happy and sad times.

Following in the tradition of past years, St. Alban's is planning to host the annual Dinner-on-the-Grounds this coming October. The event will be open to the public and tickets will be sold in advance. So, 'Come to the Country' and enjoy a day of food,



Come to the Country! Come and Dine!

By Penny Freund

Once again, this fall when the leaves are falling and eventually the temperature will too, St. Alban's will be hosting the annual Dinner-on-the-Grounds feast, fellowship and fund-raising. Thus, it is time to begin thinking about the wonderful meal, the selling of homemade and handmade goods, and a wonderful renewal of the tradition of many decades of friendly St. Alban's parishioners.

This year we will sell tickets for the meal beginning about one month ahead. We will offer a great meal, two sides, a roll, dessert, and beverages. You may eat here under the trees if the weather permits or take your meal in a to-go box. Everyone will be asked to sell tickets.

If you are one of our jams and preserve makers, cookie bakers, casserole cooks, or other crafty acquaintances, we will sell your donations. There may also be some St. Alban's 'merch'!

What are the details you ask? Well, the committee hasn't been formed yet! SO, if you want to:

1. Work to create, print, and help distribute tickets to the parishioners
2. Work on preparing advertising such as flyers, newspaper ads, postcards, et al
3. Work on selecting the menu, buying the groceries, helping in food prep and/or cooking if needed
4. Decorating tables
5. Setting up and arranging tables and chairs for serving, eating, and selling
6. Work on getting a cash box, change for the day, cashier during the meal until food or tickets are sold out
7. Arranging and planning the set up for selling merchandise and making sure prices are clearly marked helping with the selling of items on display
8. Helping with parking, guide newcomers and visitors to the dinner site
9. Cleanup and replacing tables and chairs in their proper storage places
10. Anything else?

If you have ideas, traditions, or questions about any of this see Penny or any vestry member and sign up on the flip board in Sessions Hall near the coffee pot. It one, two, or more sign up for each of the above items, we'll have no trouble putting together a wonderful party for all.

Rectory Open House

Sunday, August 20, 11:00 AM

By Rebecca B. Drake

“Lift High the Cross, The History of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church”



Following a combined congregational service at 10:00 a.m., St Alban’s will host a Rectory Open House at 11:00 a.m. The Rectory, now 47 years old, celebrated its completion on October 31, 1976, when the two-story house, situated on a newly acquired lot, was opened to the congregation.

St. Alban’s welcomed their first full-time priest, the Rev. Victor Bircher, a graduate of the University of the South, on July 1, 1970. After arriving at St. Alban’s, he began to consider new ideas for church expansion. His plan was to raise enough money to build a new rectory on newly acquired land and to purchase a beautiful pipe organ for the church, one that would match the splendor of St. Alban’s nave.

Rev. Bircher’s vision came to fruition when the new rectory was completed in 1976. The home featured: three bedrooms, a spacious living room with a fireplace, an office, three baths and a kitchen. Three years later, his dream was completed when the church purchased a magnificent Steiner Organ. John Paul, organist at St. Andrews Cathedral, played the dedicatory recital on July 16, 1979.

Distractions: Sights and Sounds of God's Creation

By Dawn Rickard



Now, this might end up sounding as though I'm changing subjects in the middle of a story, but I do have a point. I am not a golfer, but I've learned that golf is a fairly technical sport and involves a good amount of physics. A knowledge of physics is not required to play but, it helps in trying to understand why things happen the way they do in a round of golf.

Watching golf on television is most certainly not my favorite thing to do. Since I'm often in a room where the game is being watched, I usually read, work on some studies, or write articles like this one. And, here's the change of subject I mentioned previously. I love observing God's creatures, such as hummingbirds dancing around their feeders, watching deer frolic, and other similar sights. I'm not trying to imply that I'm extremely knowledgeable about birds and other creatures. I definitely can't identify all the different birds I see and hear. But, I am familiar with the birds in my immediate area and I enjoy listening to them in the mornings.

Thus, I have found something about golf games on TV that I do enjoy. No matter where the golf is being played, there are always birds there. So, as I'm writing, reading, or something else, I enjoy listening to the chirping of the birds. Most of the birds sound completely unlike those I hear around here. Of course, that's not surprising—the climate here is not the same as in Florida, California, Michigan or other states. Sometimes I'd like to be able to tune out the noise of all the people cheering, but usually the birdsongs come through beautifully.

I suppose a good point to draw from all of this is that even when we feel ‘stuck’ doing something we don’t enjoy, there are other things we can draw from the moment. It’s always enjoyable for me to look for nature’s distractions.

This is not something I’ve just learned recently. When I was growing up, we would take long car rides to visit relatives in different parts of the country. If I tired of reading or working on puzzle books, I would find shapes in the clouds that looked like animals. Another activity I came up with was watching the countryside and imagining riding a horse across Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. When riding through states in the Deep South with forests thick and dark, I imagined the Civil War and how frightening it must have been to hike through those forests, watching for the enemy while pushing vines and branches out of the way, and keeping an eye out for snakes and other poisonous creatures.

These things might seem silly, but they are ways to keep the mind occupied when in a state of waiting. They worked when I was a child and they now work when I am doing something I don’t really enjoy. Anyone can perform means of distractions. And, in this part of the country, all you need to do is step outside and find peace and solace in the music of the birds in the daytime and the rhythmic chirping of insects in the night. Try it sometime. Prayer also comes easily when observing the sounds and sights of God’s creation.



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 6th

Come join us at St. Alban's for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 6th! At each service, a special blessing will be offered for our students, teachers, and school staff, who are welcome to bring their backpacks or other bags. We will have backpack tags as well as stickers for those electronic devices that help us learn.

Please plan to spend some time between the services feasting on pancakes and bacon as we all fuel up for the year ahead. All are welcome--please invite someone to come get the school year off to a good start.

ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**BLESSING
OF THE
BACKPACKS**

SUNDAY, AUG. 6

Calling all students, teachers, and school staff for a special back-to-school blessing during the 8:30 and 11:00 AM services, with pancake breakfast in between--ALL ARE WELCOME!

Elisabeth's Epistle

One of my favorite phrases from Scripture is “the full stature of Christ.” That is the phrase Paul uses when describing the goal of the church: “to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13). Notice that growing in maturity should mean growing into the full stature of Christ. This is the measure of Christian maturity: that we keep growing in a Christ-ward direction, patterning our lives on his.

This phrase has been on my mind as I have dreamed and planned about the next year in the life of St. Alban's. Spiritual growth and deepening is my goal for our church community this year. I realize this will look different for each of us, since we are all at different places on our spiritual journey. But each of us is called to go deeper in our faith, not to settle for what is comfortable, but rather for what is authentic and life-giving. My hope is that we can provide a variety of ways for all of our members, and those in the community who are seeking to grow their faith, to find practices that help them grow into the full stature of Christ.

I am grateful to Carolyn Gent, who is going to be organizing children's Sunday school this fall. This will be an opportunity for the youngest among us to learn the stories that form the cornerstone of our faith and to explore why we do what we do at church. Please get in touch with Carolyn if you have children who want to participate or if you are interested in helping organize children's Sunday school.

Another opportunity for spiritual growth will be Walking the Mourner's Path, which we will be offering in October, thanks to several members who will have completed facilitator training by then. Walking the Mourner's Path is for anyone who has experienced the death of someone close to them and is looking for spiritual support in the grieving process.

I have also been talking with the St. Mary's Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, a group of lay women committed to following a rule of life centered on prayer, service, and evangelism. This is an opportunity for women in our church who want to go deeper in their faith in a supportive community—let me know if this interests you.

Please be thinking about what would help you grow in faith this year. Maybe it is one of the opportunities mentioned above and maybe it's something completely different. Either way, let's talk! I want this to be a year in which all of us continue to grow and mature into the full stature of Christ.

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Allan & Joan	David	Lucas
Amanda & Ken	Donna & Family	Mark
Ashley	Fritz	Mike & Nancy
Becky Jo	Jackson	Nita
Carolyn	James	Norma
Charlene	Jimmy	Steve
Charlie & Family	Kelley	Teresa
Dalton	Lee	Tornado Victims
David H.	Libby	Vallye

For the departed: Ronnie McGowan, Nancy Katzenmeyer, Chad McMullin, Carolyn Heiden, and Dot Kitchings

Server Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

Rite I, 8:30 AM	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
Lay Worship Leader	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Rectory	Tommy Skinner
Lay Worship Leader	Sharon Cummins	Ann Tompkins	Open House	Beth Sojourner
Rite II, 11:00 AM			ONE SERVICE 10:00 AM	
Lay Worship Leader	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Richard Price	Carolyn Gent
Greeters/ Ushers	The Halls	Betty Rushing	The Gavins	Penny Freund
Lector	Carolyn Gent	Buck Cooper	Susan Price	Penny Freund
Prayers of the People	Buck Cooper	Carolyn Gent	Harvey Smith	Sharon Hanks
Chalice Bearer	Carolyn Gent	Barnie Gavin	Susan Price	Harvey Smith
A/V System	Harvey Smith	Jim Drake	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	August 2	August 9	August 16	August 23	August 30
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner



Photography by: Rebecca B. Drake