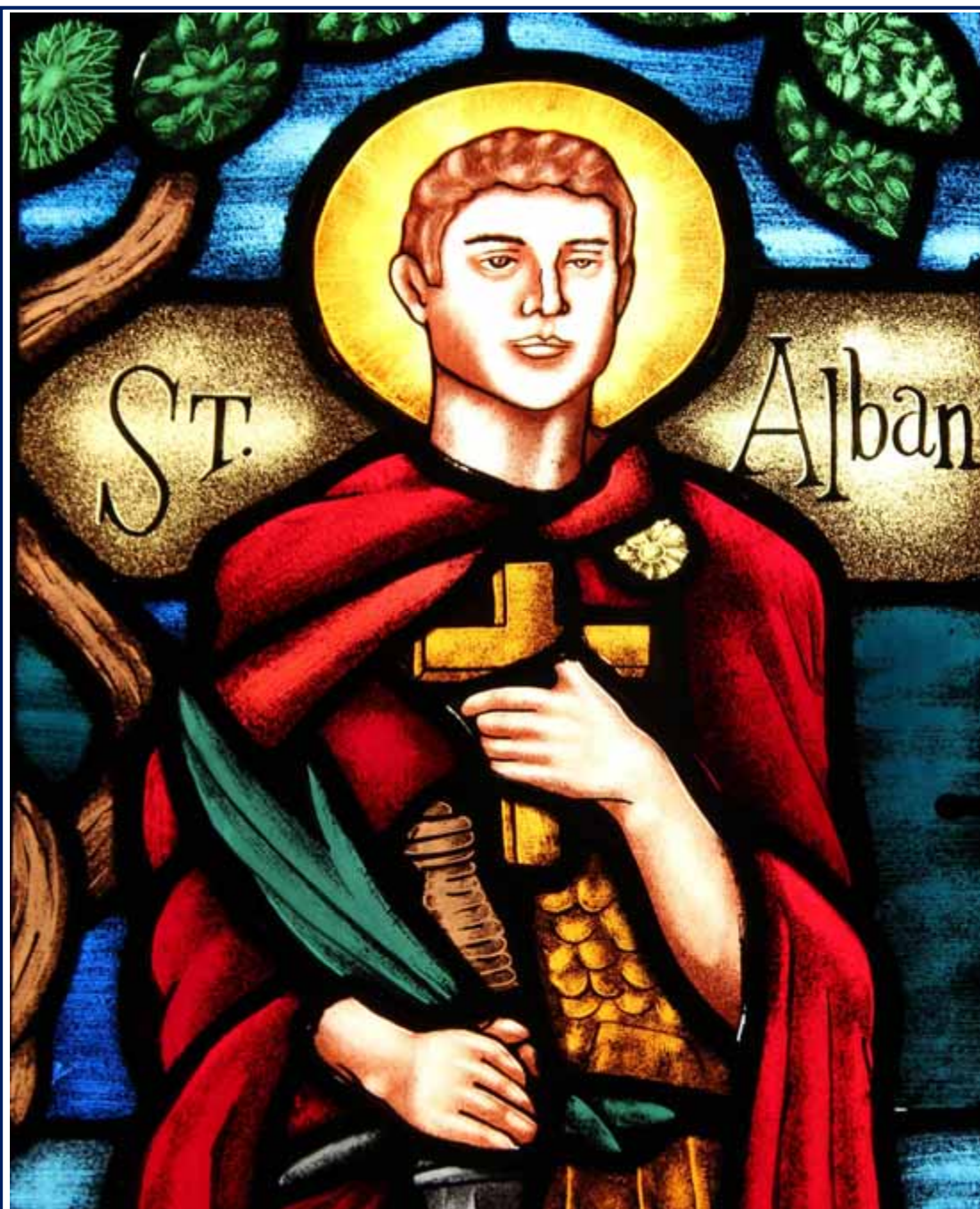




The Albanac

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

July 2023



St. Alban

Patron Saint of Converts & Persecution Victims

The Feast of St. Alban's

"I am called Alban and I worship and adore the true and living God"

The Feast of St. Alban's was celebrated on Sunday, June 25. Rev. Elisabeth's sermon centered around Alban, a Roman soldier who gave up his life to save the life of a fugitive priest, thus becoming Britain's first recorded Christian martyr.



St. Alban & Amphibalus depicted in St. Alban's stained-glass windows in memory of Dr. Charles Kolb and his wife Bertha

As the story goes, during the 3rd century, Alban, a Roman soldier, lived in the Roman-British city of Verulamium. He gave shelter in his home to Amphibalus, a Christian priest who was fleeing from religious persecution. Alban was so inspired by Amphibalus' faith and piety that he converted to Christianity.

When Roman authorities located Amphibalus' hiding place, Alban devised a plan so that he would be arrested instead of Amphibalus. They exchanged clothing, allowing the priest to escape. Alban was arrested and went before the Roman magistrate to receive his punishment. When he repeatedly refused to renounce his new-found

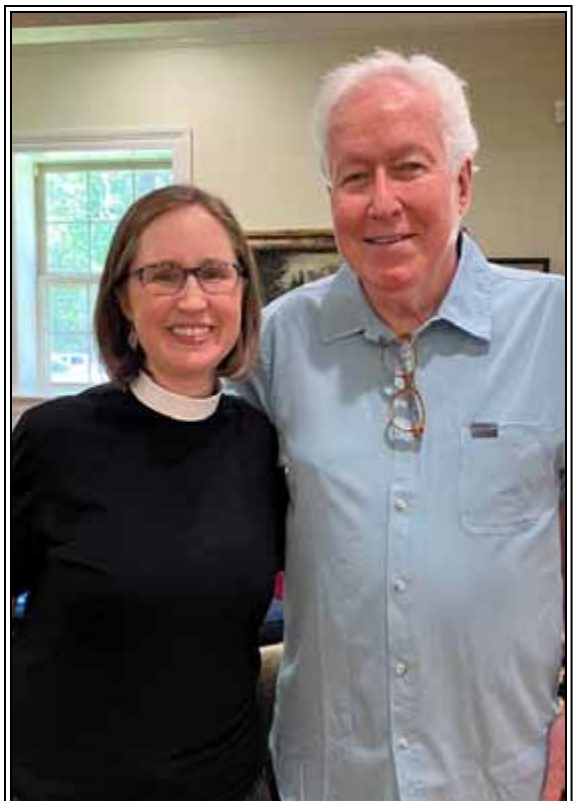
faith, the magistrate ordered him to be beheaded. Amphibalus suffered the same fate. Before being beheaded Alban, stood strong as he chose death rather than to deny God. Hence the quote, "I am called Alban and I worship and adore the true and living God."

Today, Alban's martyrdom reminds us that we are called to be a neighbor to all people, extending the love that Christ offers to each of us.

Potluck Gathering—Delicious Food!

Following the service, a potluck dinner was held in the Sessions Parish Hall where everyone enjoyed food and fellowship. Thanks to all who participated in celebrating our Patron Saint—the beautiful hymns and prayers—Rev. Elisabeth’s insightful sermon—the potluck dinner where church members brought a variety of casseroles and a beautiful three-layer cake topped with a fruit icing.







St. Mary's Episcopal Church Hosts "Juneteenth" Celebration



St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Romanesque Revival Architecture (1928)

On Sunday, June 18, 11:00 AM, the Episcopal churches in Vicksburg held a combined service at St. Mary's to celebrate *Juneteenth*, a festive day that took place on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas, when the enslaved population learned that they had been freed. Union General Gordon Granger delivered the long-awaited news: "General Order No. 3 - The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

The Day of Jubilation in Galveston quickly became known as *Juneteenth*, a day widely remembered and celebrated in Texas as well as other states. However it would be 158 years (2021) before *Juneteenth* would be designated as a Federal Holiday.

The combined *Juneteenth* service at St. Mary's was a huge success with the message being one of reconciliation: "We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord. And we pray that all unity may one day be restored."

After the service, everyone gathered for a group picture followed by a potluck lunch and lots of visiting. St. Mary's is a beautiful historic church in the midst of Vicksburg, located only blocks from Christ Episcopal Church and the famous Vicksburg Courthouse Museum.



Math Camp at Lifting Lives

Stacy Weaver and Buck Cooper recently ran a math puzzles and games camp for children at Lifting Lives Family Shelter. After each camp session, dinner was provided by St. Alban's members, including Judy Morrissey, Tommy Skinner, Ann Tompkins, Jennifer Normand, Beth Guynes and Sharon Hanks. The children had a wonderful time doing activities that honed their mathematical skills in a fun way. Thank you St. Alban's volunteers!



Outreach & Discretionary Funds Mid-Year Report

The Outreach Committee, chaired by Stacy Weaver, and composed of anyone in the congregation who is interested in outreach to our neighbors, is providing a mid-year report of outreach expenditures. Much of the focus of our outreach this year has centered on assistance for tornado victims in the Rolling Fork area. However, we continue to have a strong partnership with Lifting Lives Family Shelter, our local family shelter, whom we support with financial contributions, volunteer time, and in-kind donations like food, school uniforms, and Christmas gifts.

Outreach to Lifting Lives Family Shelter

Financial Support: \$1,500

Food Support: \$232

Outreach to Tornado Victims

Contribution to Tornado Fund through United Way: \$1,907

Contribution to Cajun Navy Ground Force: \$400

Contribution to Bishop's Discretionary Fund for Tornado Victims: \$250

Purchase of Cleaning Supplies for Rolling Fork: \$202

Donations from the Episcopal Churches of Vicksburg directly to Chapel of the Cross, Rolling Fork (collected at Tenebrae Service at Christ Church): \$854

Other Donations

Donations from the Episcopal Churches of Vicksburg to the Warren County

Children's Shelter (collected at our joint Epiphany Service): \$267

Sponsorship of Bovina Elementary Brainiacs Team Trip to Robotics

Competition: \$600

Good Friday Offering for Churches in the Holy Land: \$185

Other Outreach

Rev. Elisabeth also provides support to individuals and families through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. So far this year, \$3,724 has been given to assist people in the following categories:

Utilities Assistance (electric): \$3,093

Utilities Assistance (water): \$198

Health Needs: \$102

Educational Needs: \$300

Transportation Needs: \$41

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to Outreach or the Rector's Discretionary Funds! Please feel free to reach out to Rev. Elisabeth or Stacy Weaver if you have any questions about this report.

Elisabeth's Epistle

What is the Vitality Improvement Program (VIP)?

St. Alban's has always been a vital small church throughout our 166 years of existence. In many ways, as a small church, St. Alban's has had great flexibility to change and adapt as times have changed, and that has served us well. Coming out of the pandemic, we now face the acceleration of trends that started well before the pandemic, including a decrease in church attendance that has affected churches of all denominations. I believe St. Alban's can continue to be a vital small church through these changes, but we need to ask ourselves how we are living into God's mission and what our unique role is in spreading God's love.

To that end, the Vestry approved St. Alban's participation in a new initiative in the Diocese called the Vitality Improvement Program, or VIP. Mississippi is one of five dioceses nationwide chosen to be part of this 3-year program sponsored by FaithX and Trinity Wall Street. As part of this initiative, St. Alban's is joining with the other Episcopal churches in Vicksburg to take a look at how we can improve our visibility and engagement with the community around us. This collaboration of our four churches is an experiment in how we can build on each other's strengths and reach more people by working together. It is a commitment to strengthening the Episcopal church in Vicksburg so that we can continue to build God's kingdom.

How can you be involved? First, I hope you will continue to pray for our church and for our vestry as we try new things. We will be asking a representative sample of the congregation to fill out a survey to help us assess our strengths and growing edges—if you are asked, please take the time to give us some feedback. The Vestry will study the results of this congregational vitality assessment to discern how we might improve our vitality and sustainability. With the other Episcopal churches in Vicksburg, we will also be studying the needs of the greater Vicksburg community and asking questions about how we are responding to those needs. Based on what we find out, we will identify opportunities to extend our mission of service to our neighbors. We don't know exactly what this will look like yet, but the goal is to strengthen our Episcopal community so we can continue to be a force for good and an active witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus. If you're interested in learning more or getting involved in the Vitality Improvement Program, please let me know. We have a team meeting monthly and are glad to add new members who are excited about innovation and church vitality.

Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

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

For the departed: Ann Biedenharn Jones, Barbara Sizemore, Tom McKnight and Donald Gray

Server Schedule

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	July 5	July 12	July 19	July 26
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith



Photography by: Jim Drake, David Rorick, Rebecca Drake, Carolyn Gent