



The Albanac

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

June 2022



Baby AJ ~ Sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism

Baby AJ ~ Marked as Christ's Own Forever!

At a beautiful outdoor service on May 15, among chirping birds and blooming magnolias, baby AJ was welcomed into the household of God through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. The son of Ashley Frey and grandson of Barbara and John Frey, AJ was watchful and alert throughout the service, falling asleep only during his reception as the rest of us enjoyed cake on his behalf. His baptism was a truly joyful occasion for so many reasons. It was a gift for the 8:30 a.m. congregation, which rarely has the pleasure of hosting baptisms. His presence with us was also a reminder of the Easter promise of new life. Welcome into the church, AJ!



Farm to Feast—Rogation Day: Celebrating the Earth

Almighty God, we thank you for making the earth fruitful, so that it may produce what is needed to sustain our life: Bless those who work in the fields; give us seasonable weather; and grant that we may all share the fruits of the earth, rejoicing in your goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

On Sunday, May 22, St. Alban's church members, family and friends, enjoyed an event celebrating Rogation Sunday on St. Alban's church grounds—giving thanks for the beauty of the earth and the beauty of the sky.

In spite of the threat of rain, a nice crowd showed up to enjoy the activities: vegetables for sale from *The Garden Farmacy* in Bolton; a honeycomb displayed by the church beekeeper, fruit trees and plants for sale and tours of St. Alban's historic cemetery. Pizza was served and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to “sit and visit for a spell.”

Thanks to Taylor Yowell, and his wife, Marbury Jacobs, from the *Garden Farmacy*, a chemical-free farm in Bolton, for the beautiful display of vegetables and plants.



Harvey, Easy, Judy, Richard and Kristy display plants for sale or swap

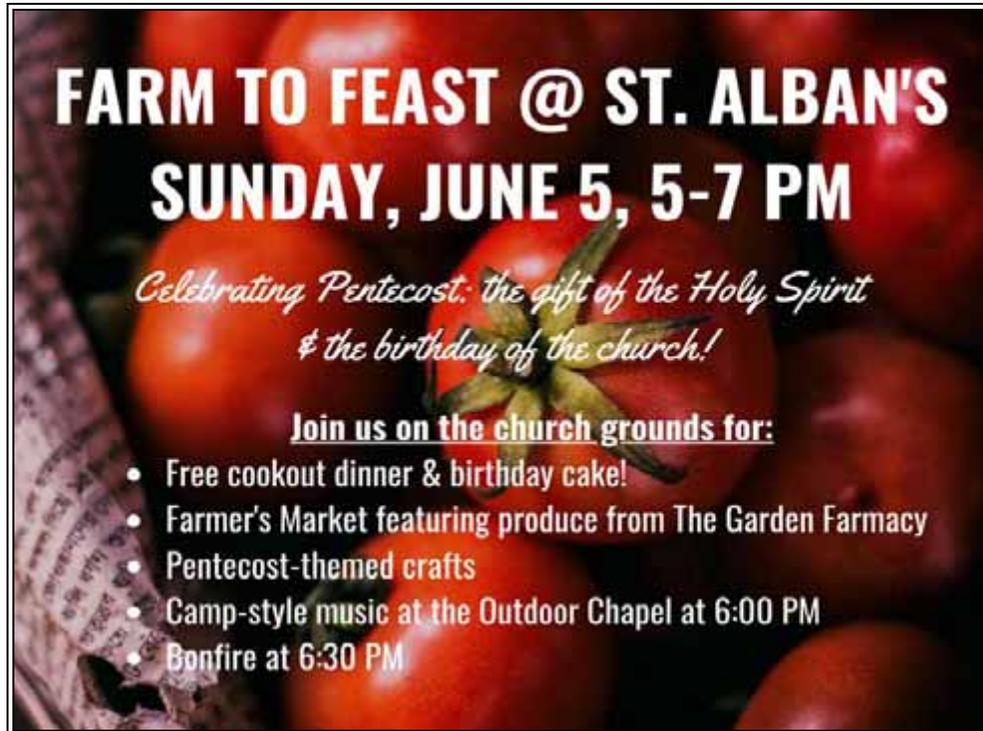
Candid Photography







Farm to Feast—Pentecost
Celebrating the Holy Spirit & Birthday of the Church



The “Farm to Feast event, *Pentecost: Celebrating the Holy Spirit*, will take place at St. Alban’s Church on June 5th from 5:00—7:00 PM. Hopefully, the weather will be beautiful and no threat of rain. Taylor Yowell and his wife, Marbury Jacobs, farmers from The Garden Farmacy, a chemical-free farm in Bolton, will return with an array of fresh vegetables for sale as well as a variety of herbs and fruit trees. All Episcopal Churches in Warren County are invited to join us for the Pentecost celebrations that will include: a birthday cake to celebrate the birthday of the church with the gift of the Holy Spirit, a cookout, children’s activities, camp-style music at the Outdoor Chapel at 6:00 PM, and a bon-fire at 6:30 PM.

Volunteers are need for the following jobs (please let Carolyn Gent know if you can help):

- Grill masters (grill burgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers)
- Bonfire experts (get the fire started!)
- Craft supervisors (help folks make Pentecost streamers & kites)
- Set up (setting up tables & chairs & decorating)
- Kitchen help & decorating (getting our side dishes & drinks ready)
- Cleaning up

Farm to Feast— St. Alban's Day
Celebrating our History

Art thou an artist? (And perhaps you don't know it?)

We are now right around the corner until June 19th, *Farm to Feast* — St. Alban's Day: Celebrating our History. We'll be having fun with activities—a Farmer's Market with the Garden Farmacy, food from the WW Smokin' BBQ at \$10/plate, Community Art & Quilt show and Live Music. The Munson Brothers aka the Cooper Brothers to play great music and sing in our outdoor chapel.

There will be a quilt show in the nave and an art display in the parish house. I hope that all of you artists, makers and influencers and art appreciators will participate. Beginning Sunday, June 12th, I will be collecting art and art objects including quilts to be kept safely in one of our rooms until time to display the following weekend. Here are some ideas as to what you might consider bringing:

- Art objects you have made yourself, or that someone in your family has made such as pottery, wooden objects, paintings, watercolors and children's art.

All these things together will make a fine arts display in our parish house so that everyone can see who we are and where we are from. That is the purpose in communities around the world—preserving cultural heritage in libraries and museums.

In addition, we're going to call them quilts, but broadly defined to include the following:

- Quilts (cool, huh?); new, old, very old, tattered etc. They can be made by you or your mother, grandmother, or a friend, but they are loved. You can trust us with these treasures.
- Crocheted coverlets or spreads

If you have questions, items to be displayed, or concerns about displaying your items please call me at (205) 792-7730. I will pick the items up at your house, receive at any time at the church or meet you at the church any time that week.

In addition, you must include your name and telephone number for making sure everyone gets their precious items back. And please, please tell us any interesting facts about your things by texting me at the number above or writing it down on a card or paper and leaving it with the item to be displayed. If something is for sale and a buyer comes along, we'll notify you. If so, put your information on a card along with the price and we will contact you. This is gonna be fun!

Penny Freund

St. Andrew's Episcopal School Students Service Projects

St. Alban's had the pleasure of hosting seventh graders and their teachers from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Ridgeland who were doing service projects. Part of the group went to the *Lifting Lives* family shelter to help clean the community room and sort books. The other part of the group worked on cleaning gravestones in the St. Alban's cemetery under the guidance of Tommy Skinner. They ended the day with lunch at the church and a cemetery scavenger hunt so the kids could learn more about the history of St. Alban's.



Graduation Blessing for Gray Weaver

**Benedictine Blessing**

May God bless you with discomfort with easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships...so that you will live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people...so that you will work for justice, equity and peace.

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation and war...so that you will reach out your hand to comfort them and change their pain to joy.

And may God bless you with the foolishness to think that you can make a difference in the world...so that you will do the things which others tell you cannot be done.”

Amen

“On My Honor...”

During the Eucharist on May 8 (Mother’s Day), Rev. Elisabeth gave this beautiful Benedictine blessing for Gray who recently graduated from high school and will soon leave to serve a gap-year with AmeriCorps (Pacific Region) located in Sacramento, California. Following a year of service with AmeriCorps, he will attend Wofford College, a nationally ranked liberal arts college in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Gray’s motivation for serving people’s needs took root at age six when he joined the Cub Scouts while living in Chicago. At that time, he pledged, *“On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law, to help other people at all times...”* He has remained true to that pledge.

In 2017, after moving with his family to Vicksburg and joining Boy Scout Troop #638, he achieved the pinnacle in scouting—the Eagle Scout Award. The ceremony was held at St. Alban’s outdoor chapel with family and friends attending. Gray’s next step toward achieving his life-time goal of ‘service to God and country’ will be the gap-year of service with AmeriCorps.

As he joins AmeriCorps, he will make yet another pledge of service to the American people: *“I will get things done for America—to make our people safer, smarter, and healthier—I will bring Americans together to strengthen our communities—I will carry this commitment with me this year and beyond. I am an AmeriCorps member, and I will get things done.”*

The St. Alban’s community will continually keep Gray in our prayers and take pride in all of his future accomplishments.



Gray pictured with his parents, Mark & Stacy Weaver and sister, Macy

Outreach Committee Mid-Year Report

St. Alban's is a generous community, and we have several funds that support our outreach efforts, including an Outreach Fund, the Rector and Deacon's Discretionary Funds. After Deacon Josie Williams was called to another congregation earlier this year, the Vestry, decided to maintain the Deacon's Discretionary Fund for the purposes for which it was established: "for charitable and pious purposes," in particular for the poor and needy.

In February, \$2,000 from the Deacon's Discretionary Fund went out in "mini-grants" of \$50 as part of "The Blessing Project" honoring Deacon Josie Williams' ministry. These mini-grants were used to support a variety of projects, from food assistance to buying uniforms for school children to other creative ideas generated and implemented by parishioners.

Support from the Outreach Fund and Rector and Deacon's Discretionary Funds have been used in a variety of ways through mid-May of this year, as summarized below. If you ever have any questions, or suggestions for how we might direct our Outreach efforts, contact Stacy Weaver, Outreach Committee chair or Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs.



Financial Assistance to Families & Individuals

- Helped pay part of a child's preschool tuition
- Assistance with water bills for 2 people
- Assistance with energy bills for 5 people
- Assistance with emergency housing for 2 people
- Transportation assistance for 2 people

In-Kind Donations

- Basketball for youth basketball team
- Dog and cat food for the Vicksburg Animal Shelter
- Snack bags for residents of Lifting Lives Family Shelter
- Food for Storehouse Food Pantry

Organizations Supported Financially

- River City Rescue Mission
- Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society
- MS Diabetes Foundation
- Haven House

What A Wonderful World

My parents had quite a collection of record albums (the good old vinyl kind) when I was growing up – country-western, easy-listening and a few other genres. One album I especially enjoyed hearing was Louis Armstrong as he sang *What a Wonderful World*. That lovely melody still plays in my mind when I look up at the sky- day and night.

I love the lyrics of that sweet song as well as hearing Louis Armstrong's gravelly voice as he crooned into the microphone. He was such a talented musician and deserves his honored place in history as a leading trumpeter, vocalist, and one of the most influential artists in jazz history.

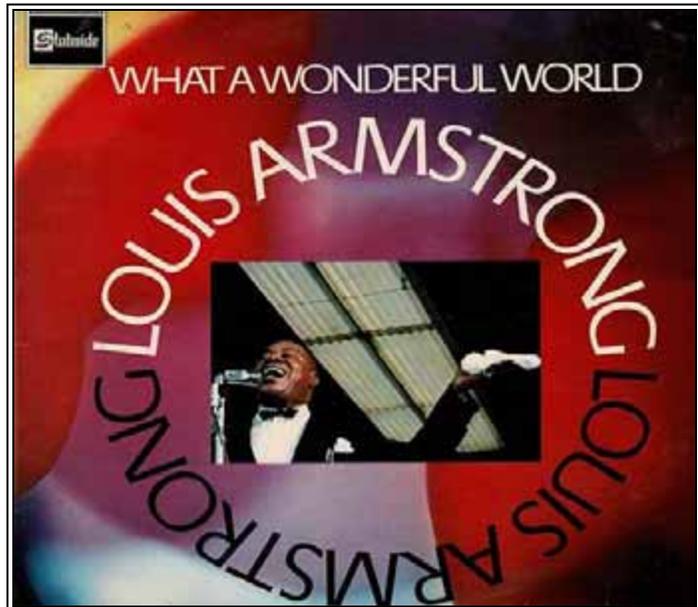
The lyrics to *What a Wonderful World* reflect the love and joy that friends feel when they see each other and shake hands or hug. Each of us wants to love and to be loved. The song reminds me that people have not changed all that much

through the years. I believe that most of us would like the world to be a more loving and peaceful place as God intended. We want our children to grow up in a world where people care about one another and where there is no fear of war or violence. We want our children to be happy— to be kind—and to know kindness in return.

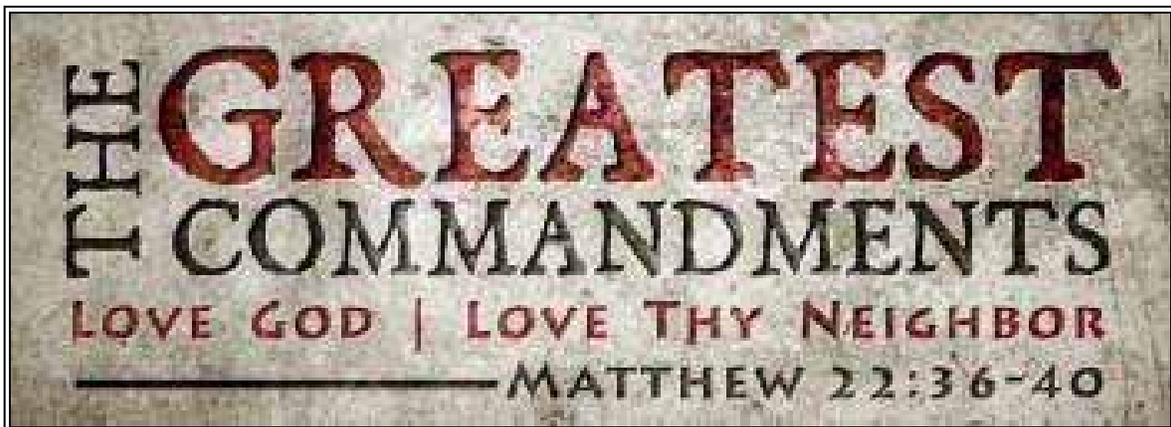
Jesus gave us the commandment to “To love God with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves.” In some cases, we find it easier to love ‘others’ rather than ourselves. Jesus reminds us that God loves each of us regardless of our station in life and the magnitude of our sins. We should never forget how much God loves us and that he died on the cross so we might have life everlasting.

When I hear the lyrics of *What a Wonderful World* it reminds me of the beautiful world that God created for us—the sun, the moon, the stars—trees of green and red roses too. What a Wonderful gift. What a wonderful world!

Dawn Rickard



“What a Wonderful World” was composed by Bob Thiele and George David Weiss, lyricist and producers. The song was first recorded by Louis Armstrong and released in 1967 as a single. It became Louis Armstrong’s signature’ song.



Matthew 22:37: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind...the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Recently I learned something about this commandment which I have always admitted was the hardest one for me. I have heard many sermons, exhortations, and explanations of the one known as the Great Commandment. And, it is great because it was what Jesus lived and what we strive to live daily. But somehow or another, I felt as though I always fell short.

As we all have experienced in the everyday world—as Butch Mitchell would say, “the drivers in Vicksburg try to run over you.” I’ve conquered that one though, by telling myself over and over again not to take traffic personally, it’s just traffic. Or when someone steps in front of you in the grocery line at Walmart after you have waited for 10 minutes to move one basket forward. That’s a bit more problematic and seems more personal. I admit I find myself annoyed. However, sometimes and even once is too much, a really bad thing happens and it all comes unglued.

Two weeks ago, our precious pure white silly one-year-old cat named George, was running around between our house and the neighbor’s house. The neighbors own a big, fast and unpredictable pit bull named Baby that is about three years old. George, being a baby himself, was curious and sadly came into the sightline of Baby. The **thing** happened that should never have happened.

George’s ashes were sprinkled in my garden where he loved to play. Our hearts were broken. It was brutal. The owner of the dog tried to get Baby to release George and had to use a shovel to pry his jaws open and hold him down while I ran out from between the trees and up the hill to the car with him in my arms. My sister was waiting and we rushed him to the vet for assistance, but it was devastatingly too late.

All around me neighbors were upset, family was upset, and much advice was given. The dog should be put down immediately, said some. The police must be called, said others. They should pay fines and on and on they shouted, wept and cried. But somehow, somehow, even though I still cry at the mention of his name and remember

his suffering at the end, I feel no ill will to my neighbor. You may be surprised at this, but in my heart I couldn't find a way to blame the lady for keeping a dog in her yard that had not come into my yard before. She loved Baby. She held him down with the shovel and helped me get George in my arms so that I could run away with him.

Baby was bred long, long ago by someone who thought it was a good idea to teach him to fight and kill. He didn't know what he was doing, he just reacted to the stimulus. George was in the fringes of the trees that stand in both our yards and he was fearless and curious. I can't blame my neighbor because she tried to help immediately. It was just colossal bad luck.

There is a final part to all this trauma. As I lay in bed that night not sleeping but reliving the horror, I realized that by forgiving and not blaming I was probably loving my neighbor. That was a big surprise. I finally realized that loving your neighbor is NOT loving in the sense of feelings but loving in the sense of forgiving, helping and understanding.

Did you or someone you know go to South Louisiana in the aftermath of Katrina and live in a tent without air conditioning—sleeping on a cot for days—shoveling rubble—sorting and cleaning belongings—cooking and distributing water to workers? That is loving your neighbor. Have you helped to purchase or distribute school backpacks to children who can't afford school supplies—brought canned goods to the food bank—taken a casserole to a friend or neighbor who has recently been widowed or lost a loved one? All that is loving your neighbor. When Tommy Skinner tutors math and reads to the children at Bovina Elementary school—when Betsy Selby sponsors Sunday School, they are loving their neighbors. The list goes on and on. We are all loving our neighbors every day, but we often don't realize it.

While recovering from the loss of George, I discovered that I had fallen short by becoming angry over little things—all the while neglecting the good that came from my efforts to accept and forgive the tragedy that happened.

The Holy Spirit teaches us, leads us and guides us—it is the presence of God residing in us that changes us. Godly fruit develops when we are in the presence of God.

Galatians 5: 22-23. But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

*Penny Freund
Senior Warden*

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

In Sunday school, we are ending our year on “transforming questions” with what is perhaps the most seemingly simple and yet ultimately complex question: What is the church? And a related question: Why bother belonging to a church? Increasingly, more people don't bother joining a church or faith community, viewing their spirituality as a private matter, something they can practice on their own.

As Christians, as members of a faith community, we need to be able to answer these questions in a compelling way: What is the church? And why bother belonging to one?

This question of *what the church is* was brought into focus during the pandemic, when we realized that the church was so much more than a building; the church is a community of people that, even though dispersed, could still continue to worship, to support each other, and to live out our ministries in the world. This was an important correction to an overidentification of the church with the physical location of worship. The church is *people* empowered to do ministry.

But something else happened during the pandemic. We realized that the church is also more than just individuals empowered to do ministry. The church is a *community*, part of the body of Christ. And while some of our ways of connecting our community online and over the miles have been incredibly powerful, we also realized that gathering together in person is critical to who we are. Our Anglican tradition is sacramental, meaning that we experience God's grace conveyed through tangible, physical signs, things like the water of baptism and the bread and wine of Holy Communion. At St. Alban's, these physical signs include potlucks and the beauty of nature we see all around our grounds. There is something important that happens when we meet in person together in community. The Holy Spirit can certainly move wherever and however it will, over airways and livestreams, but there is something like a multiplier effect when we meet in person. It is as if the Holy Spirit has more avenues to do God's work. I have the blessing of witnessing it every Sunday, witnessing the connections that are made, the way God uses one person to bless another.

This is the power of the church. I have been asked if we will turn off our cameras and go back to in-person only worship and gathering. No. For so many reasons, there are times in all of our lives when we cannot physically gather in the church building and having the online options for worship and meetings are important. But the fullness of our community life as the church is to be found when we gather together. None of us is meant to follow Jesus alone. We need each other—St. Alban's needs you—in order to be the community of faith God is calling us to be.



FARM TO FEAST @ ST. ALBAN'S SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 5-7 PM

*Celebrating Pentecost: the gift of the Holy Spirit
& the birthday of the church!*

Join us on the church grounds for:

- Free cookout dinner & birthday cake!
- Farmer's Market featuring produce from The Garden Farmacy
- Pentecost-themed crafts
- Camp-style music at the Outdoor Chapel at 6:00 PM
- Bonfire at 6:30 PM



FARM TO FEAST @ ST. ALBAN'S SUNDAY, JUNE 19, 5-7 PM

Celebrating the history of St. Alban's Church

Join us on the church grounds for:

- BBQ Plates from WW Smokin' BBQ (purchase tickets at church)
- Farmers Market by The Garden Farmacy
- Community art & quilt show
- Live music & handmade goods by Munson and Brothers
- Church tours & craft demonstrations

June Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Theo Williams | 21 Ashleigh Ford Holliday |
| 12 Cassandra Price | Lawson Selby |
| 13 Kerri Williams | 22 Jimmy Jones |
| 16 Henry Cooper | Mary Ruth Jones |
| 19 Sabastian Panelo | 24 Amanda Monti |
| | 26 Laura Cook |

June Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Elisabeth Malphurs & Buck Cooper | 14 Terry & Beth Guynes |
| 5 Chad & Robin Price Toups | 15 Sergio & Eva Panelo |
| 7 David & Anna Selby | 17 Matthew & Lauren Guynes |
| 9 James & Cassandra Price | 21 Dan & Mary Carleton |
| 13 Carroll & Beth Sojourner | |

Prayers for the People

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Allan & Joan | Freda | Keegan | Pete & Family |
| Ann & Jimmy | Fritz | Kelley | Preston |
| Betty | Gary | Larry | Ria |
| Bill & Karen | Irv | Leigh Ann | Richard |
| Bob | Jackie | Lucas | Ruth |
| Carroll | Jackson | Mark | Sid |
| Charlene | Jeff | Marcia | Steve |
| Charlie & Family | Jimmy | Maurice & Family | Turner Family |
| Cora Lee | Joe & Katharine | Mike | Wayne |
| Cynthia | John & Lynn | Nick, Lacey & Family | |
| Dan & Mary | Jonathan & Family | Nita | |
| David | Kay | Norma | |

For the Departed: Ed Jackson, Thomas Lindsey Lee, Jr., Suzanne Harpole,
Cain McKay, Don West, and Linda Windham

Server Schedule

Date	Time	Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Wednesday 6/1/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith				
Sunday 6/5/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Dawn Rickard	Sharon Cummins Carolyn Gent	Jim Price The Artmans	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
Wednesday 6/8/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				
Sunday 6/12/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner Sharon Hanks	Jim Price Ann Tompkins Dawn Rickard	Lance Stewart	Jim Drake
Wednesday 6/15/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith				
Sunday 6/19/2022	10:00 AM	The Feast of St. Alban: One Service at 10:00 AM				
		Richard Price	Susan Price	The Halls	Susan Price	Harvey Smith
Wednesday 6/22/2022	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				
Sunday 6/26/2022	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Clarissa Horner	Ann Tompkins Ed Shelnut	Jim Price Lance Stewart Dawn Rickard	Ed Shelnut	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 6/29/2022	6:00 PM	Harvey Smith				



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