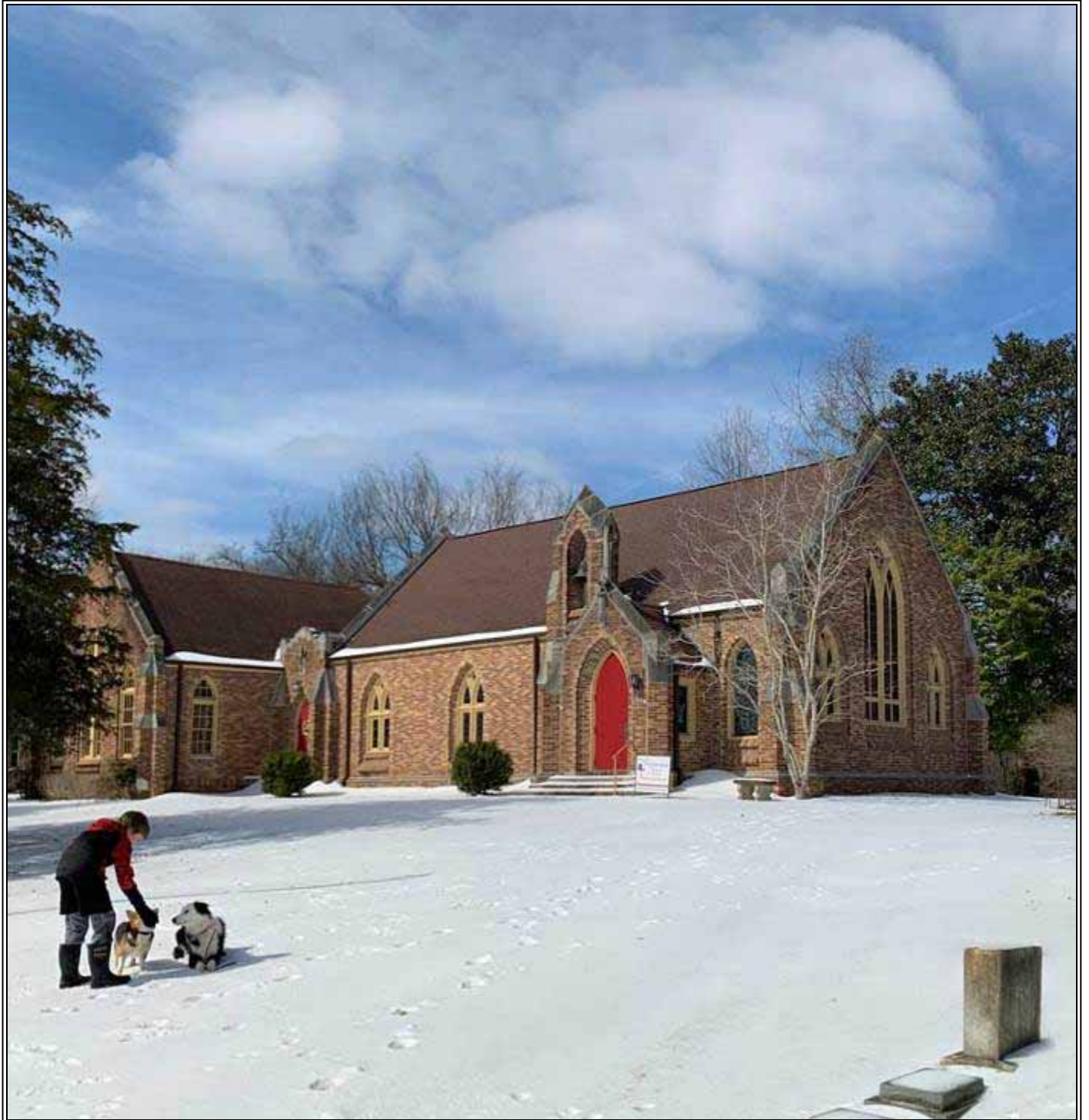




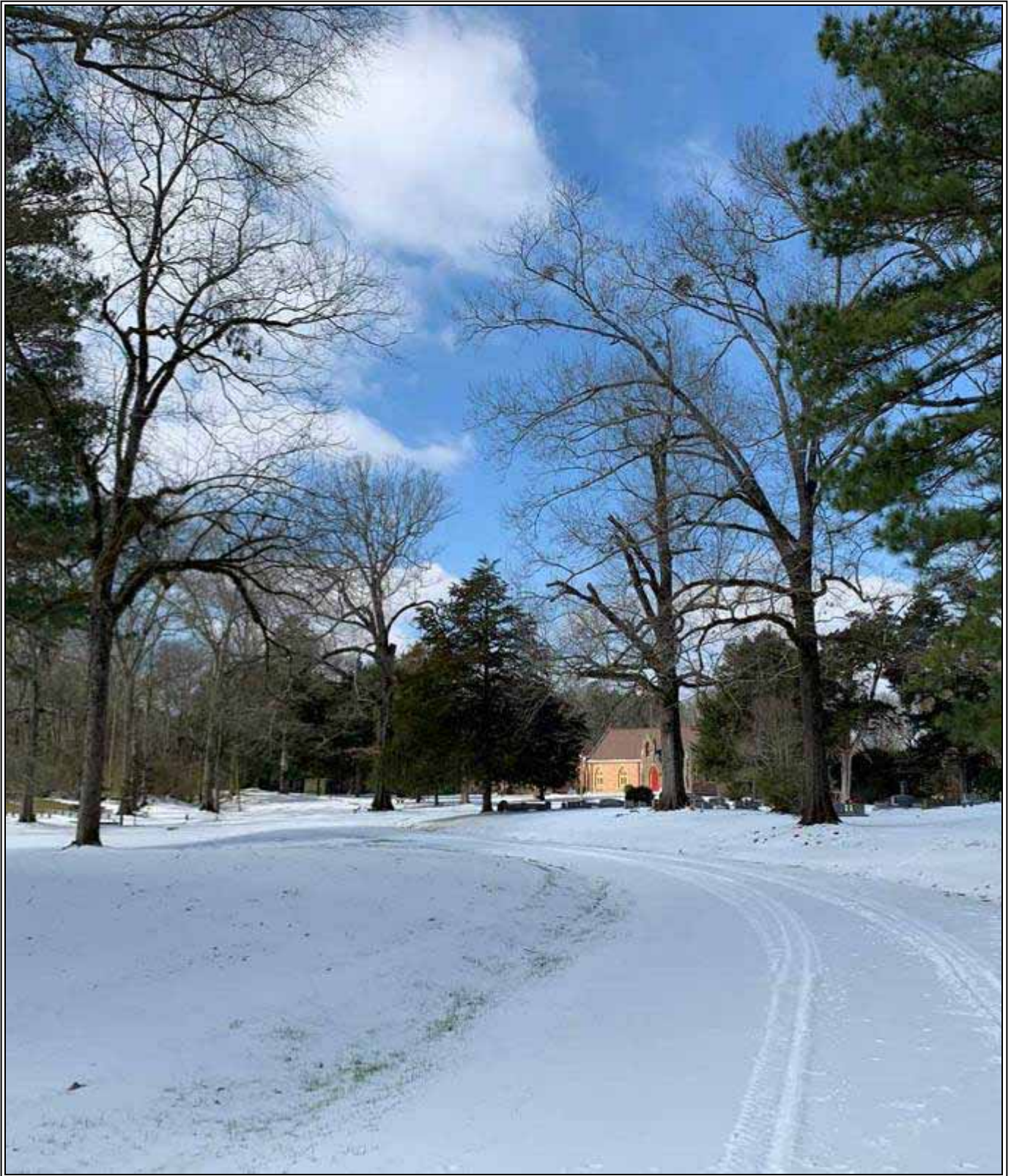
The Albanac

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

March 2021



Ice Storm Creates Magical Beauty



Volunteers Clean Up From the Ice Storm



It's not every year that Mississippi gets not one but two major snow events. Unfortunately for us, our second snow this winter brought with it freezing rain and ice, forcing the cancellation of some services. We were able to proceed with virtual services on Sunday, February 14, but by the evening of Ash Wednesday, the church had lost power and did not get it back for five days.

Following the ice-storm, a group gathered to help clear the limbs and debris from the parking area, as well as the garden area and portions of the historic cemetery. Rev. Elisabeth reported that none of headstones were broken and, other than fallen limbs and debris, little if any damage was done. Assisting in the clean-up were Rev. Elisabeth & her sons, Henry and Andrew, David May, Jr. Warden, Tommy Skinner, and Sam and Andy Hall. After spending several hours clearing limbs, they gathered at the outdoor chapel for a simple Eucharist.

Thank you to all for your help. As there is still more work to do, we will likely schedule another workday before Easter—stay tuned.



Annual Parish Meeting



On Sunday, February 7, St. Alban's held its first ever "hybrid" Annual Parish Meeting. With around 18 people gathered in the church, 27 more people joined the meeting via Zoom.

Treasurer John Bonar presented the financial reports and commended the parish for their stewardship during this most unusual year. He noted that giving has been strong, both in terms of pledging and to the Capital Campaign, which continues as we work on paying down our loan.

Two amendments to the by-laws were passed, one allowing the Vestry to conduct meetings by electronic means that allow for real-time discussion, and another allowing the Vestry to set rules for the Annual Meeting that will allow us to adapt to circumstances like the ones we found ourselves in this year.

Kristi Hall and Clarissa Horner were each elected to serve a 3-year term on the vestry. David May was elected to serve as junior warden for a term of 2 years. Thank you to everyone for your flexibility this year as we found new ways to conduct church business!



David May, Junior Warden



Kristi Hall, Vestry



Clarissa Horner, Vestry

Eagle Scout Awarded



An Eagle Scout Award Ceremony was held at St. Alban's outdoor chapel on Sunday, February 28 for Peter Lavigne. Peter selected the chapel as his Eagle Scout project to make the chapel more accessible and comfortable with crushed limestone walkways and backs on the benches. The Eagle is the highest rank in scouting, achieved by only eight percent of scouts.

Peter has had some tough breaks in his life, but he has not let it affect his attitude. He truly lives by the Scout Oath: "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; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight"

He truly appreciated the support he received from St. Alban's, not only through Scouting, but also while his family stayed at the *Lifting Lives Family Shelter*. All three of his younger siblings are active in Scouting and hope to receive their Eagle rank as well!

Stacy Weaver

Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

With so much changing all around us, this seems like a good time to check in about where things stand at the church as far as our response to the pandemic. In many ways, the month of February was a positive one, as we have seen virus rates going down in our community and many members of the church started receiving vaccinations. This has allowed us to offer in-person church again, while being mindful that many people are still more comfortable worshipping from home.

As some people have the wonderful experience of things “getting back to normal,” there are a few things we need to remember as a community. First, not everyone in our community has been vaccinated against the virus. Not everyone is eligible to receive the vaccine yet, not everyone has chosen to be vaccinated, and children and teenagers do not yet have a vaccine approved. Therefore, we will still need to exercise some caution when we gather together.

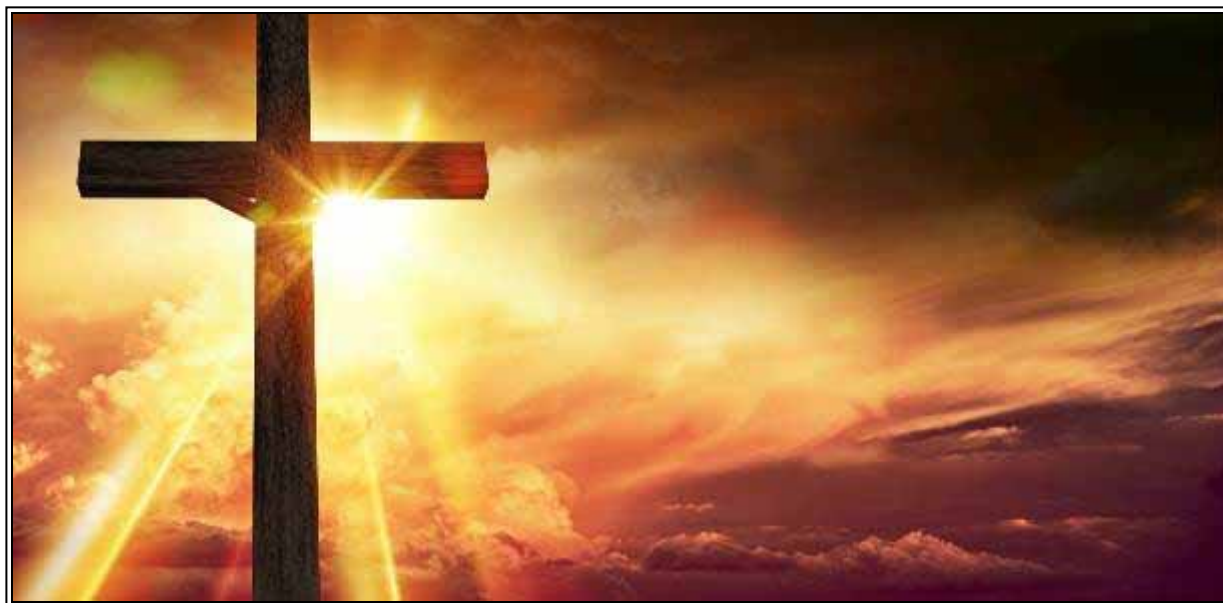
When you come to church, you will notice that we still have the following procedures in place:

- Masks are required
- 6 feet of space should be maintained between households
- Attendance at services is recorded to make it easier to contact those who may have been exposed to someone with the virus
- When we can, we're increasing ventilation by opening doors.
- We still can't sing together, as singing is known to increase the spread of the virus.
- We are still receiving communion “in one kind,” in other words, just the bread. This is a decision that is not mine to make; the Bishop gives us direction on Eucharistic practice.

My hope is that by continuing to exercise caution, we will continue to see further decreases in the virus. This is our best hope for being able to relax some of these precautions in the future. I know we're eager to get back to fellowship and sharing food. I am optimistic that as we make progress against the virus, we'll be able to get back to more and more of our regular church activities. We are currently making preparations to be able to reopen the nursery for children on Sunday mornings. As always, please be in touch if you have any questions.

Josie's Journal

Our Constant Companion



During these unpredictable times, we can be comforted knowing that we have God as our constant companion. His love is unwavering. He keeps His promise of never leaving us and, even when we falter, He searches for us and embraces us with His enduring love and grace. Nothing, except ourselves, can separate us from His love for His love is unconditional.

Numerous obstacles have occurred during the past year and the beginning of the new year but NOTHING that God can't handle. We can rest assured that He is our *Omnipresent Anchor* during the storms of life that roll over us day after day; facing COVID-19, quarantining when necessary, waiting for the vaccinations, worshipping virtually, dealing with the perils of ice and snow, as well as other unexpected things. But, when we realize that we have a Savior who will not allow us to be separated from Him, we must fully trust Him to lift our burdens.

We must continue to pray and "*Let Go and Let God*" guide our lives. We are flailing in the water, but He is always ready to rescue us. God loves us so much that we can't possibly imagine its depth.

Peace,+

Josie

March Birthdays

1 Michael Guynes	11 Sherry Horan
Lisa Langford	18 Burke Torrey
7 Anita Collins	21 James William Touns
Herb Jones	24 Jeff Artman
8 Eleanor Claire Monti	Olivia Curtis
Harlie Reece	25 Penny Freund
10 Mary Ellen Dunaway	

Prayers for the People

Ann & Jimmy	Estella	Mary Frances
Anna	Eugene	Mary Jo
Ashlee & Mack	Glen	Nita
Barbara	Glenda	Norma
Betty	Hunter	Parker
Betsy	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Patty
Bill & Karen	Jackson	Peter
Bobbie	Jeff	Ruth
Charlie & Family	Jerry	Selby
Cooper	Kristin	Suzanne
Cynthia	Laurie	Theresa
Dan & Mary	Lee Davis	Tim
David	Lisa & Charlie	Wanda
Earline	Mark	



COVID-19 Weekly Events

Please call the office if you need help with Zoom

Sunday

Holy Eucharist Rite I, Parish Hall, 8:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist Rite II, Nave, 11:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m. (on Zoom)

Monday — Friday

Morning Prayer, 8:00 a.m.

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>

Tuesday

Bibles & More, Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. Group from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (on Zoom)

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m. (on Zoom)

Holy Eucharist Rite II with Prayers for Healing, 6:00 pm

Livestreamed on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAlbansBovina/>.

Thursday

Ultreya, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (on Zoom)

Server Schedule

	Lay Worship Leader	A/V Operator
Wednesday, March 3 6:00 pm	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith
Sunday, March 7 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL – Tommy Skinner Lector – Penny Freund LWL – Theo Williams Lector – Kerri Williams	Buck Cooper
Wednesday, March 10 6:00 pm	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith
Sunday, March 14 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL – Harvey Smith Lector – Penny Freund LWL – Ann Tompkins Lector – Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith
Wednesday, March 17 6:00 pm	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith
Sunday, March 21 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL - Ann Tompkins Lector–Tommy Skinner LWL – Harvey Smith Lector – Beth Guynes	Jim Drake
Wednesday, March 24 6:00 pm	Tommy Williams	Harvey Smith
Sunday, March 28 8:30 am 11:00 am	LWL – Theo Williams Lector – Harvey Smith LWL – Richard Price Lector – Susan Price	Jim Drake
Wednesday, March 31 6:00 pm	Tommy Williams	Harvey Smith



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Rev. Elisabeth, Stacy Weaver, Rebecca Drake &
David May