



The Albanac

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

November 2021



Blessing of the Animals
October 3, 2021

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals, October 3

On Sunday, October 3rd, St. Alban's we commemorated the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi* with our annual *Blessing of the Animals* service in the Outdoor Chapel. The *Blessing of the Animals* is a treasured moment in the liturgical year when we bring our pets to affirm the richness of our connection with creatures, large and small. It is a worship setting that reminds us of the responsibilities we have in caring for our beloved pets.







Family Fall Gathering, October 17





Generations of St. Alban's Gather Under Historic Tree for Service & Lunch



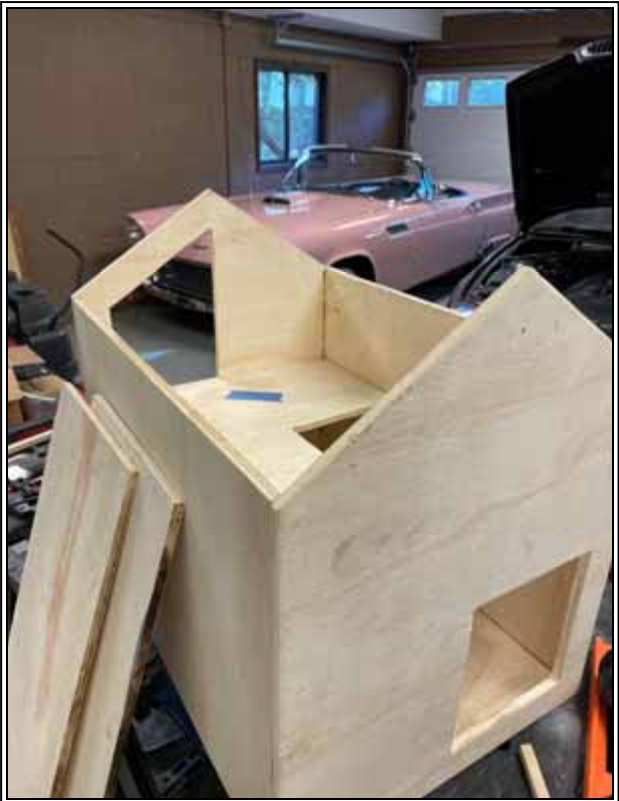


The Historic Oak Tree is Removed

Creator God, we bless you and praise you for the gift of this tree that has sheltered many generations here at St. Alban's. Thank you for the myriad ways this tree has provided for us: for its shade during the summer heat; for its beauty in autumn; for its shelter for animals and insects during winter; and for its reminder each spring of your resurrection promise. As we grieve the loss of this tree that is returning to dust, instill in our hearts an awareness of your spirit at work renewing the face of the earth. To you we give all honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen*



Salome Gets a New "Cat" House



Rev. Elisabeth's Epistle

The Habit of Church

When I was a teenager, I knew instinctively that I could go to my church, and to the priest, for anything--for advice, to share good news, or just for a place to be that wasn't home or school. I attribute my comfort with church, and my feelings of belonging, to the fact that week after week, when Sunday morning rolled around, you could find my family sitting in the first pew on the left. Church was a habit. And like any habit, there were times when we didn't really feel like going, especially as we became adolescents. But the habit itself helped structure our lives. Later, it was the habit of going that laid the foundation for my feelings about church—that church was a safe place, and more than that, that church was a place that was there *for me*.

Now, I am under no delusions about the role of culture in supporting our habit of going to church. When I was growing up, there was virtually nothing else going on on Sunday mornings. It could be difficult to find a restaurant to eat at after church. Certainly, there were no soccer games or other youth sports scheduled on Sunday. There is much that is different in our world in 2021 that has no doubt contributed to declining church attendance (a trend firmly in place across denominations well before the pandemic). Having children myself, I am aware of all the things that compete for our precious weekend time.

And yet, there is still something about the habit of church that I think is worth preserving. Part of it has to do with that feeling of belonging, of belonging to a place not because of anything you've done, but simply because you are a baptized child of God. Then there is the fact that, for many of us, church may be the only place and time during the week when we interact with people from multiple generations, from all different backgrounds, holding many different political beliefs... in other words, people who, in any other context, would have nothing in common. Finally, it is only when we make church a habit that we really sink into God's time and away from the restlessness and relentlessness of other ways of marking time. The liturgical calendar teaches us something about God's time, about the gift of Sabbath.

Like any habit, it is easy for our habit of going to church to be disrupted. Sometimes we need a chance to reset, to renew our commitment. If you are looking for a way back into the habit of coming to church, please consider the season of Advent as a chance to reset. Advent is a season of preparation, a season of anticipation, a season of making our hearts ready. It's also the beginning of a new liturgical year in the church--the perfect time to recommit to the habit of church!

From the Senior Warden

Vestry Nominations for Annual Parish Meeting in January

My time on the vestry is growing short, and it's time to think about nominations for Senior Warden and two vestry positions—Janice Herrington, Dalton Thames and I will rotate off in January. Canons of the Diocese of Mississippi (Canon 23, Section 1) as well as our own by-laws (Article V, Section 1.b) stipulate that nominations to serve on the vestry must be confirmed communicants, at least 21 years old, canonically resident in the parish, and entitled to suffrage (vote) at the annual meeting. Employees of the church are not eligible to serve on the vestry. St Alban's by laws also add that "It is the duty of individuals serving on the vestry to follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship, and to work, pray and give for the spread of the Kingdom of God. vestry members as leaders of the church should support the church through pledges of their time, talent, and treasure and attend corporate worship services more often than not." I would also add that this past year our vestry has been meeting virtually by Zoom and will probably do so in the future, so potential vestry members must be willing to learn how to use Zoom and check electronic messages regularly.

The role the vestry fulfills in the mission of St Alban's is primarily to "be agents and legal representatives of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the parish to its clergy". A typical monthly vestry meeting involves prayer, approval of minutes of meetings, review and approval of financial matters and discerning God's call to us in worship, outreach, stewardship, Christian education and developing resources to fulfill our mission. The vestry strives to be the leaders of change in these activities and take an active role to carry these out in the community and the church at large.

The pandemic has created some unusual circumstances limiting our ability to gather in person, so our communication through zoom, phone, email and text has been vital to keeping our church community together. It is promising that we are beginning to gather in person again, have music and participate in the Eucharist. I appreciate the opportunity of serving on the vestry and especially appreciate the community that is formed by meeting, worshiping and working with others in service to the St Alban's community.

If you are interested and feel called to serve or you want to nominate someone for a vestry position, please make sure they are agreeable with serving before submitting your nomination to me.

Richard Price

Believing in Magic

I believe in magic—not the magic performed by illusionists to entertain us, but rather the magic of a quiet starlit night when fairies (fireflies) light the darkness, the magic of nature when you visit the mountains and smell the fresh mountain air and sparkling streams cool your feet. I believe the magic is really God’s ability to show us His miracles. That’s what true magic is—God’s amazing gifts to us.

Our current Sunday Bible study class has really led us to delve into some thought-provoking questions. Some of the questions seem so simple, but as we explore them, we realize their depth. This study has naturally led to pondering my faith. I’ve never doubted my faith, but this has enabled me to explore it more fully.

My faith has always been a given. Since I was a little girl, I never questioned that the Bible is the Word of God as written by humans. A friend, who was (is) very pious, once told me that I had the faith of a child. At first, I thought she meant that because I didn’t know Scripture well, I was childlike. She explained that she meant my faith seemed so absolute; that every time I saw a butterfly or a rainbow or read a part of scripture that was new to me, I was awed by what God has done. I’m still awed by what He has done and continues to do. Anyone who has seen my Facebook posts knows that most are of beautiful scenery or of darling children or animals.

So yes, I have the faith of a child and I hope I always do. Sometimes at night when I go out to look at the stars, the clouds obscure them but I know they’re up there, twinkling as always. Just as I know, that even though I can’t see God, He’s there loving me.

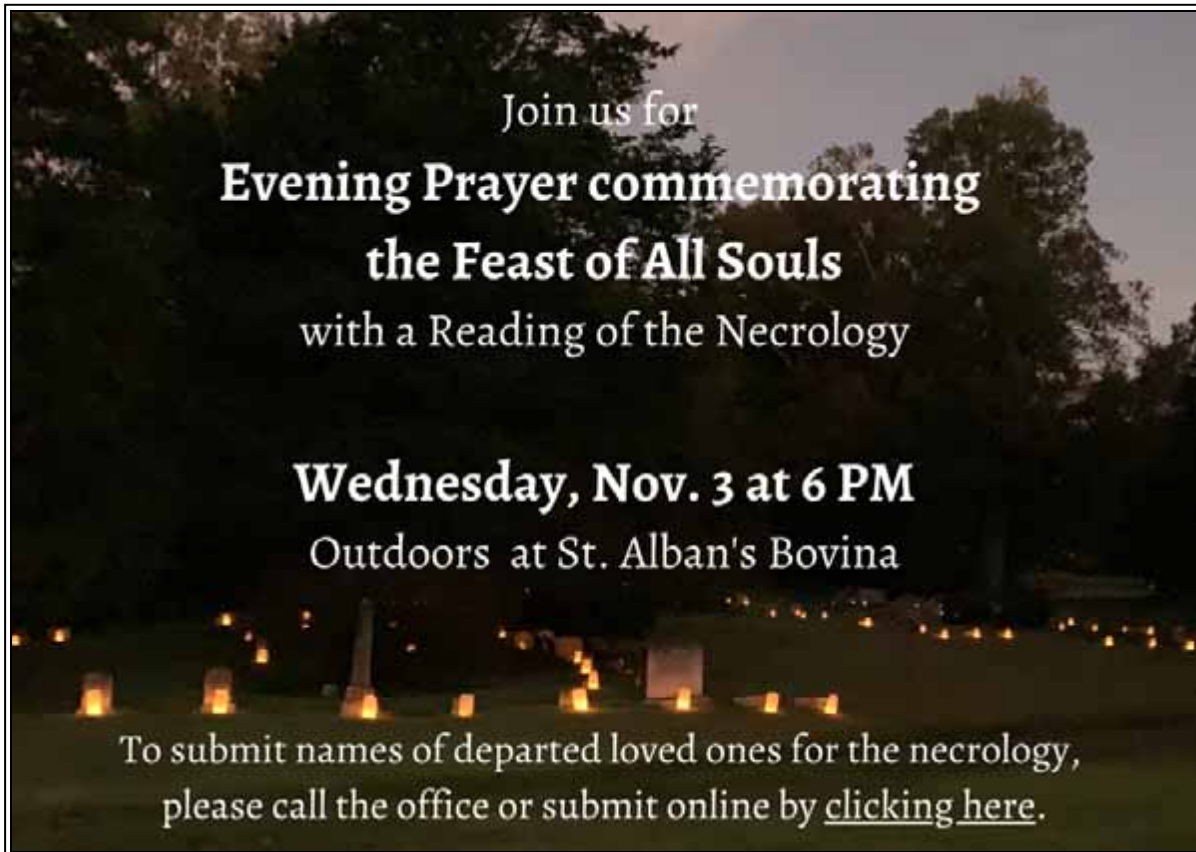
Therefore, I can say absolutely, that I believe in the magic of God’s miracles. Magic is, after all, something we do not usually fully understand, and which causes us to feel amazed. What can be more amazing than the sunrise, birds singing, butterflies fluttering among the flowers? Or the real-life fairies, the fireflies, dancing in the night sky, flickering there, then here. Perhaps I am childlike, but my outlook keeps me hopeful. I can hope and believe in God without the need to completely understand all He has done. There have been incidents in my life that had no logical human explanation, but I know God had a hand in them.

Through all the struggles and pain, I will always have the comfort of knowing I am God’s child. “Be still and know that I am God” has long been my comfort and my peace. So childish or not, I will always believe in magic. I just know that it’s God’s “magic” at work and I am so thankful for it.

Do you feel the magic?

Dawn Rickard

Mark Your Calendar



Join us for
**Evening Prayer commemorating
the Feast of All Souls**
with a Reading of the Necrology

Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 6 PM
Outdoors at St. Alban's Bovina

To submit names of departed loved ones for the necrology,
please call the office or submit online by [clicking here](#).






ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**THANKSGIVING
SERVICE & DINNER**


Thursday, Nov. 25, 2021 at 10:30 AM

Eat at the church or to go--let Deacon Josie
know by Nov. 19 if you would like a meal!



ADVENT AT ST. ALBAN'S

 **close to
Home**

Advent 1 Nov. 28		Make advent wreaths
Advent 2 Dec. 5		Visit from St. Nicholas
Advent 3 Dec. 12		Decorate gingerbread houses
Advent 4 Dec. 19		Greening the church

November Birthdays

8 Whitney Nieto	20 Kristin Selby
9 Margie Scott	22 Betty Rushing
10 Koury Collins	Amanda Harris
12 Jonah Artman	24 Barbara Ramsay
David Pruett	25 Shane Lauritzen
17 Letty Biedenbarn	27 Sam Hall
Kay McWilliams	29 Eva Panelo

November Anniversaries

7 John Segrest & Bitsy Sloan	12 David & Bonnie Pruett
11 David & Amanda Harris	

Prayers of the People

For those Sick or in Need:

Allan	David W.	Kenzie
Ann & Jimmy	Diane	Marcia
Mack	Earline & L.J.	Nanette
Ashley	Estella	Nita
Barbara	Glenda F.	Norma
Ben	Glenda N.	Pat
Betty	Isabel, M.K. & Ted	Patty
Bill & Karen	Irv	Phil & Sally
Bryan & Jessica	Jackson	Ria
Camden	Jeff & Darlene	Ricky
Charlene	Jeff H.	Ruth
Charlie & Family	John B.	Sharon
Cynthia	John & Lynn	Steve
Dan & Mary	Joyce	Theresa
David T.	Karen	Woody
	Kelley	

For the Departed: Steve Miles, Wilbur Clay & Mary Frances Baker

Weekly Events

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.

Monday—Wednesday—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.

Wednesday

Spiritual 12 Steps Group, 7:30-8:30 a.m.

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.

Save These Dates

Wednesday, November 3

Feast of All Souls, 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 13

ECW Fall Conference, St. Phillip's, Jackson, 11:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 14

Outreach Committee, after 11:00 a.m. church, Snacks provided

Saturday, November 20

Mental Health First Aid Training, 8:30-5:00, Training and materials provided at no charge; \$10 covers lunch and snacks (scholarships available)

Thursday, November 25

Thanksgiving Service & Dinner, 10:30 a.m. RSVP to Deacon Josie by Nov. 19

Sunday, November 28

Advent Wreath Making

Sunday, January 9

Bishop's Visitation, 10:00 a.m. (talk to Rev. Elisabeth if you're interested in baptism, confirmation, or reception into the church)

Server Schedule

Date		Lay Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Chalice	A/V System
Wednesday 11/3/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
Sunday 11/7/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins Buck Cooper	Jim Price Dawn Rickard Lance Stewart	Ann Tompkins	Jim Drake
Wednesday 11/10/2021	6:00 PM	David Pruett				Harvey Smith
Sunday 11/14/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Ann Tompkins Betsy Selby	Tommy Skinner Kerri Williams	Jim Price Kerri & Peter Williams	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper
Wednesday 11/17/2021	6:00 PM	Tommy Skinner				Harvey Smith
Sunday 11/21/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	Tommy Skinner Richard Price	Beth Sojourner Sharon Hanks	Jim Price Ann Tompkins Dawn Rickard	Susan Price	Harvey Smith
Wednesday 11/24/2021	6:00 PM	Theo Williams				Harvey Smith
Sunday 11/28/2021	8:30 AM 11:00 AM	David Pruett Theo Williams	Sharon Cummins Dawn Rickard	Jim Price The Southalls	David Pruett	Jim Drake



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