



# The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi  
[www.stalbansbovina.org](http://www.stalbansbovina.org)

**November 2023**



*St. Alban's Hosts Annual Dinner on the Grounds*



## Dinner on the Grounds Attracts Large Crowd

On Sunday, October 15, St. Alban's held their annual Dinner on the Grounds and the turnout for the event was amazing. Just like in olden days, children were playing games while the adults enjoyed visiting and preparing for the annual dinner. Except for the temperature being a bit chilly it was a picture-perfect day.

The menu for this year's event featured red beans & rice and grilled hot dogs. Ralph Miller, guitarist, entertained the crowd while attendees enjoyed lunch and purchasing items from local artisans: homemade candies, cakes, cookies, jams, & frozen casseroles provided by the ECW; wood-crafted artworks by Richard Price; hand-knitted scarves by James Anderson; miniature art works by Penny Freund; plants and trees displays by Taylor and Marbury Yowell from the Garden Farmacy in Bolton and an array of framed church photographs by Becky Drake. Will & Clarissa Horner provided games for the children.

Thanks to everyone who helped with this wonderful event: Rev. Elisabeth, Penny Freund, event coordinator—Susan Price, ECW president—Carolyn Gent, master chef—Buck Cooper, grill master—and Jeff Artman & sons for driving the golf cart. For sure it was an event to remember!



Susan, Sharon and Terry setting up the ECW table for sale items





John Castaldo, VNMP historian, enjoying Dinner on the Grounds and loving the history!



Penny Freund's artwork on display



Peyton, Susan and Dawn enjoy visiting





Handknitted scarves by James Anderson and wood crafted bowls by Richard Price



The Yowell's display of plants, trees and squash



Candy and St. Alban's mugs for sale





Meal servers for Dinner on the Grounds



Penny displaying crookneck squash



Julian & Fore helping with beverages





Crowd shopping for sweets and frozen casseroles at the ECW Country Market



Will sets up games for children



Mason- all grins with face paint



## The Blessing of the Animals

“God’s animals inhabit the skies, the land, and the sea; we share the earth with them, and like them rely on God’s blessing to sustain and preserve us. We gather today in communion and friendship with Francis of Assisi who preached to animals and moved throughout the known world sharing God’s unconditional love for all beings. Remembering Francis’ love for all God’s creatures, we ask God’s blessing on these animals entrusted to our care.”



Susan & “Louie” enjoying a fall day at the Blessing of the Animals





Buck with his dog "Ranger"



Peyton and Adam with their beloved "Dixie"



Wanda and Beth enjoying the day



Judy with beautiful "Bella"





Lisa enjoying the service with family and grandbaby!



Amanda with her dog, "Junior"



Blessing Bonnie's dog, "Richie"



Penny Freund & family enjoying the Blessing of the Animals





Lance Stewart provided music for the service



Singing the hymn, "A place in the choir"



Carolyn & Taylor — all smiles



Judy & Bernie Gavin, ushers for the service



## Salome ~ Our Church Cat



Salome was Blessed at the 8:30 service but when the dogs invaded her space before the 11:00 service she ran into hiding! For sure Salome is St. Alban's "Queen of Cats" and if you don't believe it, just ask her! She is one loved cat.





## *Stewardship*

This year's annual stewardship campaign is well underway. The generosity of the St. Alban's community has always been exceptional and is very much appreciated in both financial support and time and talent. By now you should have received your letter from the Stewardship Committee with your pledge card and time and talent form. As you pray about your commitment to our church, please tap into that nourishing structure of faith and generosity shown to us by an extravagant God, a patient Shepherd, and a gathering Spirit who call us to extend our networks and share our gifts.

When you are rooted in abundance, you realize that your giving can be as boundless as the Creation that gave birth to us all. Thank you for your generosity and your prayerful consideration of your pledge to St. Alban's. The last Sunday of our campaign is November 5, 2023, but we will accept pledges after that date. Every gift matters and each gift will be accepted, brought to the altar, and blessed before God and our community.

If needed, there are extra pledge cards at the church. You may conveniently pledge securely online on the St. Alban's website, [stalbansbovina.org](http://stalbansbovina.org). we welcome one-time and recurring gifts to further our ministry. You may mail donations to 5930 Warriors Trail, Vicksburg, MS 39180. For secure online giving, please click on the donation button.



## Annual Parish Meeting Slated for January 28

There is a 'spirit hymn' we like to sing at St. Alban's, usually with Lance Stewart accompanying on the guitar. The chorus says it all—

Here I am, Lord, is it I Lord?  
I have heard You calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold Your people in my heart.

The lyrics of this hymn are so appropriate for the fast-approaching new year when decisions will be made as to who among us will hear God's calling to serve as new vestry members or hold other church offices? In January there will be three open positions to fill – two new vestry seats and a senior warden.



The Vestry has set the date for the Annual Parish Meeting for Sunday, January 28, 2024, following one service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 AM. To be eligible to vote in the Annual Meeting, you must be at least 16 years old and a confirmed member of St. Alban's, which means that your membership is recorded in our parish register and you faithfully participate in the life of the church.

Kristi Hall and Clarissa Walker Horner, outgoing vestry members, have served 3-year terms and Penny Freund, senior warden, has served 2-years term. We need other church members who are willing to take the mantle in 2024.

The vestry meets monthly either by Zoom or in person. Candidates are required to be members of St. Alban's church. The priest and senior warden attend the monthly meetings. The vestry is working to formulate a church mission statement, discuss the use and future of the rectory and report on the stewardship campaign and budget for the coming year. Year round, the vestry also works hand-in-hand with the ECW and Altar Guild, especially when it comes to maintaining church traditions and preparing for large and small events.

We thank everyone, past, present and future, who answers God's call to serve St. Alban's Church. Would you please prayerfully consider joining us on the vestry as we move forward in 2024, asking God for the energy and spirit to grow, to reach out and become one family engaged in God's work.

*Penny Freund, Senior Warden*



## Elisabeth's Epistle

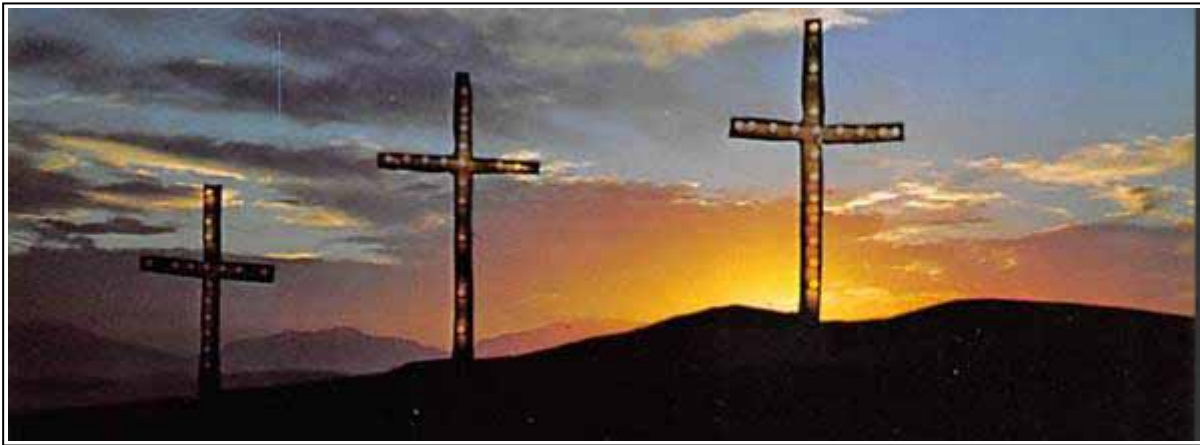
This is the time of year when my thoughts turn toward gratitude. Starting when the boys were little, we began a tradition of putting a jar in the middle of the dining room table in the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving. Next to the jar are little slips of paper on which we write down things for which we were grateful. We read them around Thanksgiving, and then I put them in a journal organized by year. We enjoy going back and looking over these, noting how the boys' handwriting has changed and how what we were grateful for has changed with our living situation. Some of the earliest slips of paper reflect our gratitude for things like Legos, teachers, and new cousins. Family, friends, dogs, and books perennially make the list.

This exercise teaches us to be more aware of all the good things in our lives and encourages us to communicate our gratitude. This is also the aim of stewardship in the life of the church. Although it's tempting to relegate stewardship to "just something that needs to get done to make a budget," it's more than that. Stewardship asks us to stop, take inventory of our lives, and express our gratitude to God for what we have been blessed with. We can express this gratitude in lots of ways, but one way is to set aside some of our time, talent, & treasure for the service of the church. St. Alban's budget is almost completely dependent on the gifts of members and friends. St. Alban's programming—the events, groups, and classes we offer—are also almost completely dependent on the time and talent of our church members. This is one of the gifts and challenges of a small church: we need everyone to contribute what they can in order to serve this community.

My family pledges to St. Alban's because it's good for us, it's good for the church, and it's good for our community. I often ask myself what kind of hole would be left in the fabric of our community if St. Alban's weren't here. Where would people go for beautiful liturgy combined with warm hospitality? Where else would they find Christian education that takes the Bible seriously and leaves lots of room for questions? Where would they go for an array of healing ministries, from Walking the Mourner's Path, to pastoral counseling, to services honoring grief and loss? Where would the over 40 families we have helped with utility bills so far this year turn? There is so much to be grateful for in our church community. I hope this can be a season for you of reflecting on what you are grateful for, and I hope St. Alban's is on your list.



## *Ghost Towns and Memories of Times Gone By*



When I was growing up in New Mexico, my mother enjoyed collecting old bottles, especially the red, green or blue glass bottles. She and my father would go on weekend excursions to walk around old ghost towns in New Mexico and Arizona. Back then, I didn't really enjoy traipsing through the dust and cobwebs of abandoned old buildings nor did my siblings.

In recent days, however, I've found myself reminiscing about my days out west. I long to go back and watch a roadrunner darting across the road and see tumble weeds rolling along. It would be delightful to enjoy a conversation with my mother's parents. I would ask them how things really were in the early 1900s. I would ask my grandmother what it was like to participate in a cattle drive. And I would ask my great-grandmother what she remembers about the early times— before the advent of cars, telephones, radios and televisions. Also, how long did it take for the piano she ordered from the East Coast to travel by Conestoga wagon all the way to the New Mexico territory?

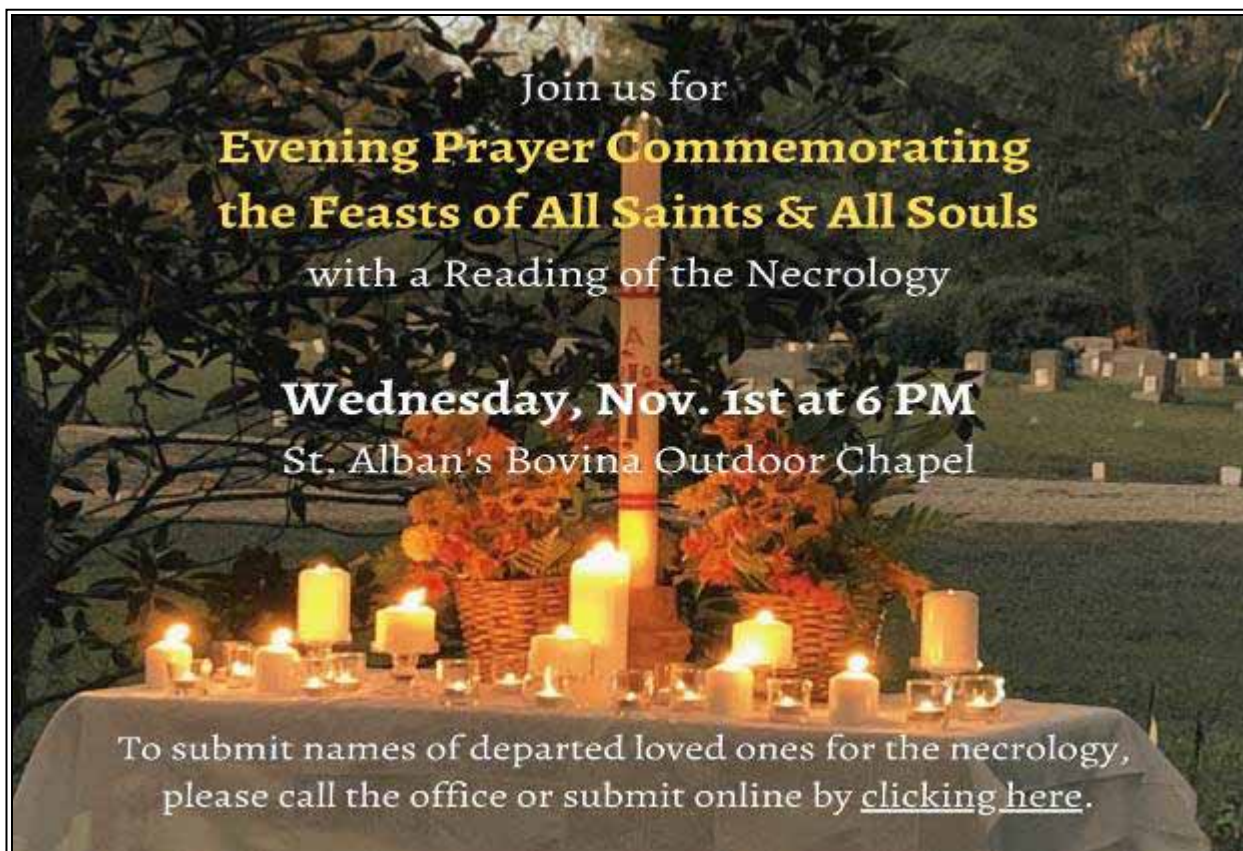
My grandparents saw the world change in so many ways. They were among the first to drive automobiles, the first to listen to radio programs and the first to watch silent movies and later television. Just like television brought us the vision of the Walton family seated around the radio listening to a program, I'm sure my grandparents did the same. My great-grandmother saw life change from travel on horseback to cars, then airplanes, and lived long enough to see man's journey to the moon. I know we will continue to see major changes in technology - but we will never forget the turn of the century changes that influenced our grandparent's lives.

Regardless of the innovations that were made during their lifetimes, one thing never changed— Jesus Christ's gift of salvation. This was the greatest gift ever in the history of humankind. In past years, when my family and I returned to visit the city of Las Cruces, New Mexico, we were greeted by my favorite sight—three crosses on a small hill just outside the city. The crosses were lit with modern-day electric light bulbs welcoming travelers to the city. They were placed on the hill long before I was born and are still standing today.

No ghosts were seen during those outings spent searching for glass bottles, but we saw plenty of roadrunners and tumbleweeds. The only spirit present was the Spirit of the Lord.

*Dawn Rickard*






Join us for  
**Evening Prayer Commemorating  
the Feasts of All Saints & All Souls**  
with a Reading of the Necrology

**Wednesday, Nov. 1st at 6 PM**  
St. Alban's Bovina Outdoor Chapel

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




**Thanksgiving at  
St. Alban's**

**Thursday, Nov. 23rd, 2023  
at 11:00 AM**

*Service of Morning Prayer  
followed by Thanksgiving dinner*

**Turkey, ham & dressing provided.  
If you are able, please bring a dish to share.**





## Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

Alicia	Dalton	Kelley	Preston
Allan & Joan	David	Kelsey	Roger
Allen K.	Ed	Kenya	Rose
Ashley	Frances	Lee	Steve
Auden & Anson	Fritz	Libby	Teresa H.
Barbi	Jackson	Lucas	Thersea K.
Caroline	Jacob	Mark	Tornado Victims
Carolyn	James	Mike & Nancy	Vallye
Celcil	Jane	Monica	
Charlene	Jim	Nita	
Charlie & Family	Kathy	Norma	

## Server Schedule

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Rite I, 8:30 AM	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 26
Lay Worship Leader	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins
Lector	Ann Tompkins	Sharon Cummins	Beth Sojourner	Tommy Skinner
Rite II, 11:00 AM				
Lay Worship Leader	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby	Dawn Rickard
Greeters/ Ushers	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	Bobby Barlow	Barnie Gavin
	Betty Rushing	Judy Gavin	James Drake	Judy Gavin
Lector	Dawn Rickard	Barnie Gavin	Sharon Hanks	Penny Freund
Prayers of the People	Harvey Smith	Dawn Rickard	Buck Cooper	Barnie Gavin
Chalice Bearer	Barnie Gavin	Lance Stewart	Dawn Rickard	Harvey Smith
A/V System	Harvey Smith	Buck Cooper	Buck Cooper	Harvey Smith

### WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

Service 6:00 PM	November 1	November 8	November 15	November 22	November 29
Lay Worship Leader	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith



*Photography by: Rebecca Drake, Carolyn Gent, Rev. Elisabeth and other church members*