



# The Albanac

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

October 2023



*The Holy Baptism of James Briggs May*

## The Baptism of James Briggs May

*“Briggs, you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever. Amen.”*

On September 3, Rev. Elisabeth Malphurs celebrated the Holy Baptism of James Briggs May. Friends and family were present for the baptism and took part in the ceremony.



(L/R) Rev. Elisabeth, celebrant, Lauren, David, Bayleigh, Briggs, Sadie & Chaney

After the baptism by water, the service concluded with prayer: *“Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon this your servant the forgiveness of sin, and have raised him to the new life of grace. Sustain him, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give him an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen.”*





(LR) James, Peggi, David & Briggs May, Bayleigh, Beth & Bryan Babin



Briggs with his parents, David & Bayleigh

*In Memory*



***Margie Ahner Scott***

November 9, 1929 — September 10, 2023

Give rest, O Christ, to your servant with your saints,  
where sorrow and pain are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting



## Obituary

Margie Ahner Scott died at age 93 on September 10, 2023. She was born on November 9, 1929, in Bovina, Mississippi to Willard and Katherine Barrett Ahner. Margie was the oldest of five children. She began attending Sunday school at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Bovina when she was five years old, as did her sister and brothers while they were children. Margie stayed at St. Alban's the rest of her life, where she taught Sunday School, served on the Altar Guild, and was always very active as a member of the Episcopal Church Women. In 1951 she married John Berryman Scott, Sr. at St. Alban's. Margie and John had four children, one of whom died in infancy. They were married for 60 years until his death.

Margie worked for Lester and Witcher Abstract Company for several years before her marriage. She was a medical transcriptionist for 30 years at Vicksburg Hospital and Vicksburg Clinic. She was an avid reader her entire life and borrowed books from the Vicksburg Library for over 85 years. Margie was still reading library books until a week before her death.

She was well known among family and friends as an excellent cook. She loved to cook and to bake bread; many of her recipes were those of her mother's. Cookbooks were among her favorite reading materials, and she had an extensive collection. She was quick to volunteer cooking for any occasion. For several many years, she baked tens of dozens of sweet potato dinner rolls for St. Alban's annual Dinner on the Grounds. They were always a favorite.

Margie was dearly loved by her family and friends and she will be missed greatly by all who knew her. Margie was preceded in death by her husband, their son Randolph Paul Scott, her parents, her brothers Bud Ahner and Butch Ahner, and her sister Anita Ahner Nelson.

She is survived by her children, John and Jane Scott of Collierville, TN, Beth and Terry Guynes of Vicksburg, MS and Greg and Frances Scott of Thompson Station, TN, eight grandchildren, Laura Scott Hays (Jonathan), Andrew Scott (Lauren), Kate Scott Ritchie (Jeramie), Matthew Guynes (Lauren), Michael Guynes, Danielle Scott Grimes (Steve), Alex Scott, and Sam Scott and ten great-grandsons, Jacob and Reid Hays, Campbell, Eli, and Grayson Ritchie, Hayden, Carter and Lucas Guynes, and George and Beau Grimes. She is also survived by her brother Jim Ahner, her niece Susan Price, who was like a daughter to her, and many other nieces and nephews.

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*The funeral was held at St Alban's Episcopal Church, 5930 Warrior's Trail, Vicksburg, MS on Saturday, September 16, with the Committal following in St. Alban's Cemetery*

## My Life at St. Alban's by Margie Scott

I was born in 1929 in Bovina. My parents had just moved to Mississippi from Illinois. In the early 1930s, my father, Willard Ahner, worked on the Delco generator that provided electricity to the church. He and Val Sessions, the priest in charge of St. Alban's mission, often met to discuss the generator. At one point, Mr. Sessions told him that his children should be in church. So, in 1934 when I was five years old, I began to attend Sunday School. My brothers and sister attended Sunday School at St. Alban's, too when they were old enough.

I remember having Sunday School classes outside during the summer under the big live oaks trees that were growing where Sessions Hall is now. We began with a short service then had lessons. Over the years, classes were held in every corner of the nave, parish hall, and kitchen. We had lots of children in Sunday School, especially when the church bus picked up those who lived too far away to walk to the church, or their parents couldn't bring them. There is a picture in the hall showing how many adults and children were at St. Alban's when I was about 13 years old.

Mrs. Cook played a pump organ at church when I was little, and she would let me, and my oldest brother pump the pedals while she practiced. She didn't let us pump the pedals for church service.

A member of the church, Miss Floss Fox lived nearby and would invite kids over every Thursday afternoon to read them stories. Miss Fox and her sister were members of the Parson Fox family. At the Old Court House Museum in Vicksburg, there are two displays of silverware and pieces of china, that belonged to Parson James Angel Fox. These were donated to the museum by Miss Floss Fox.

Up until age eleven, I only attended Sunday School. After that I began to stay for church. I was baptized at age thirteen and later confirmed at St. Alban's.

We didn't have air conditioning at church, so in the hot months, the windows and doors were open for the breeze. Mrs.[Sarah] King who walked to church, was followed by a lamb from their farm. It walked right into the service and had to be shooed out the door. There is a picture in the hallway of the lamb at church.

In those days, "dinner on the grounds" was a church potluck lunch held outdoors after 11:00 service. Wooden tables and chairs were passed out the parish hall windows to set up outside. Many people brought quilts to sit on. Everyone brought food and we spent the afternoon playing games, like croquet, and visiting with each other. We did these dinners about four times during the summer months. Sometimes, Bishop Gray, Sr. would call Mr. Leo Scott, my father-in-law, who was a leader in the church, on Saturday to say he was coming to St. Alban's the next day for "dinner on the grounds". We all had to scramble to get food ready.



"We didn't have air conditioning at church, so in the hot months, the windows and doors were open for the breeze. Mrs.[Sarah] King who walked to church, was followed by a lamb from their farm. It walked right into the service and had to be shooed out the door."

Sometimes the girls from All Saints College in Vicksburg would come and sing at a church service for us. It was always wonderful. Our church bus would go get them and take them back to school. We always had our own wonderful church choir that included many children. See the picture of our choir on front steps of the church in the 1950s.

We had a very active ECW, and we would hold a Country Market at Holy Trinity during one of their annual events. We sold pies and other baked goods. Bobbie Southall (Michael Southall's grandmother) and I made hundreds of sweet-potato rolls to sell. We packaged them in bags of 12 and always sold out. The recipe is in our church cookbook. Later, we continued this tradition when we held our country market at St. Alban's on Saturday. Country Market evolved into an important part of St. Alban's Annual Dinner on the Grounds event.

Christmas was always so special throughout my life at St. Alban's. Each year Santa would visit and bring us apples and oranges. This was quite a treat since stores didn't always have fresh fruit, but they did at Christmas. Through the years, the Christmas tradition continued with beautiful services and music.



*Editor's Note: St. Alban's "new church" was built in 1928 and consecrated on October 20, 1929. Margie was born 3 weeks later and became a lifetime member of her beloved childhood church.*



## Canada Stewart – Senior Honor Maid

Canada Stewart was Senior Honor Maid at St. Aloysius High School 2023 Homecoming. She was featured in the annual homecoming parade as well as the football halftime show. During the parade she waved at the cheering crowd from atop Jim Drake's 1957 Pink Thunderbird driven by Canada's father, Lance. Children were thrilled when they saw the Pink Car appear in the lineup and excitedly yelled, "here comes the Barbie car!" During the halftime show, Lance escorted Canada onto the field where she was presented Senior Honor Maid. She held a bouquet of yellow roses in one arm and her father with the other.





## Elisabeth's Epistle

Bibles & More has been taking an adventure around the world as we explore the major world religions. We are using a variety of materials, from Huston Smith's classic, *The World's Religions*, to videos, to a newer book by Barbara Brown Taylor called *Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others*. It is this last book that has got me thinking about the ways we are called to engage with people of other faiths.

Barbara Brown Taylor bases the title of her book on an idea from Bishop Krister Stendahl, a theologian and bishop in the Church of Sweden. Bishop Stendahl articulated three guidelines for interfaith dialogue. The first of these is practicing good listening and letting people of other faiths define their beliefs and practices themselves. The second is comparing equal to equal, in other words being careful not to compare the best of our tradition with the worst of someone else's. To honor this, we have been trying throughout our series to remember the diversity that exists within each faith tradition, including our own. Finally, Bishop Stendahl advises that we cultivate "holy envy," finding the good and beautiful that exist in other traditions.

This reminded me of the semester I spent studying and traveling in India when I was in college. India is a religion major's dream, the birthplace of many of the world's religions, and a place where religion permeates every nook and cranny, from statues in auto rickshaws to roadside shrines. I loved visiting Hindu temples and important Buddhist sites and had many enlightening conversations with the people I met. I came away from those experiences with some "holy envy," in particular when I experienced deep hospitality that sought to welcome me without trying to change my beliefs. This was radically different from being raised in Mississippi, where it felt like even other Christians were trying to convert me. I came away from my experiences in India stronger in my Christian faith for having learned more about other faiths. My hope is that our Bibles & More experience will help us to be better citizens of our pluralist society, while perhaps also teaching us more about our own faith.



St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bovina

# DINNER ON THE GROUNDS

& ECW Country Market

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15

**From 12:00-2:00 PM**

Tickets for plates available through the church  
office or online at [stalbansbovina.org](http://stalbansbovina.org)  
\*\*Tickets available until Oct. 11\*\*

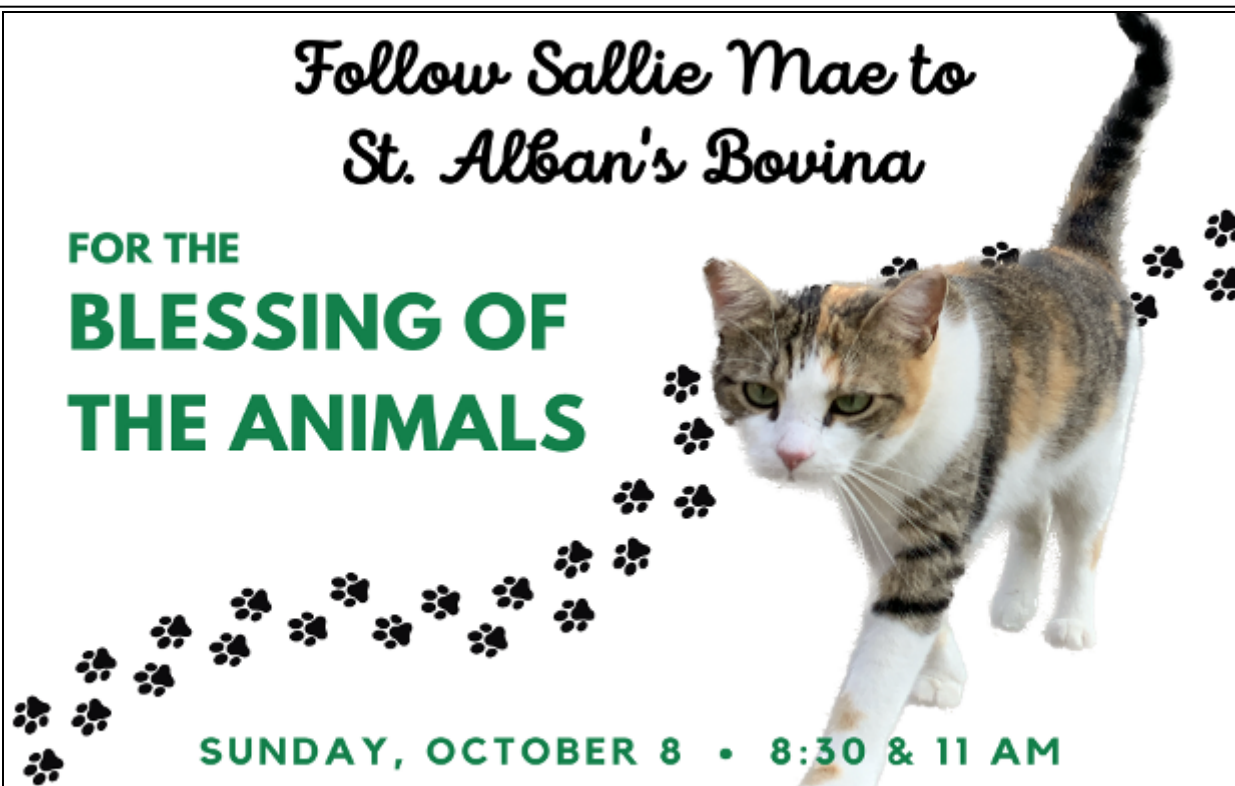
Menu: Red Beans & Rice (vegetarian option  
available), Salad, Bread, Dessert & Drink for \$15  
Hotdog Plates available for \$10

***Proceeds support community outreach***



## Follow Sallie Mae to St. Alban's Bovina

### FOR THE **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**



**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8 • 8:30 & 11 AM**

**AT THE OUTDOOR CHAPEL**

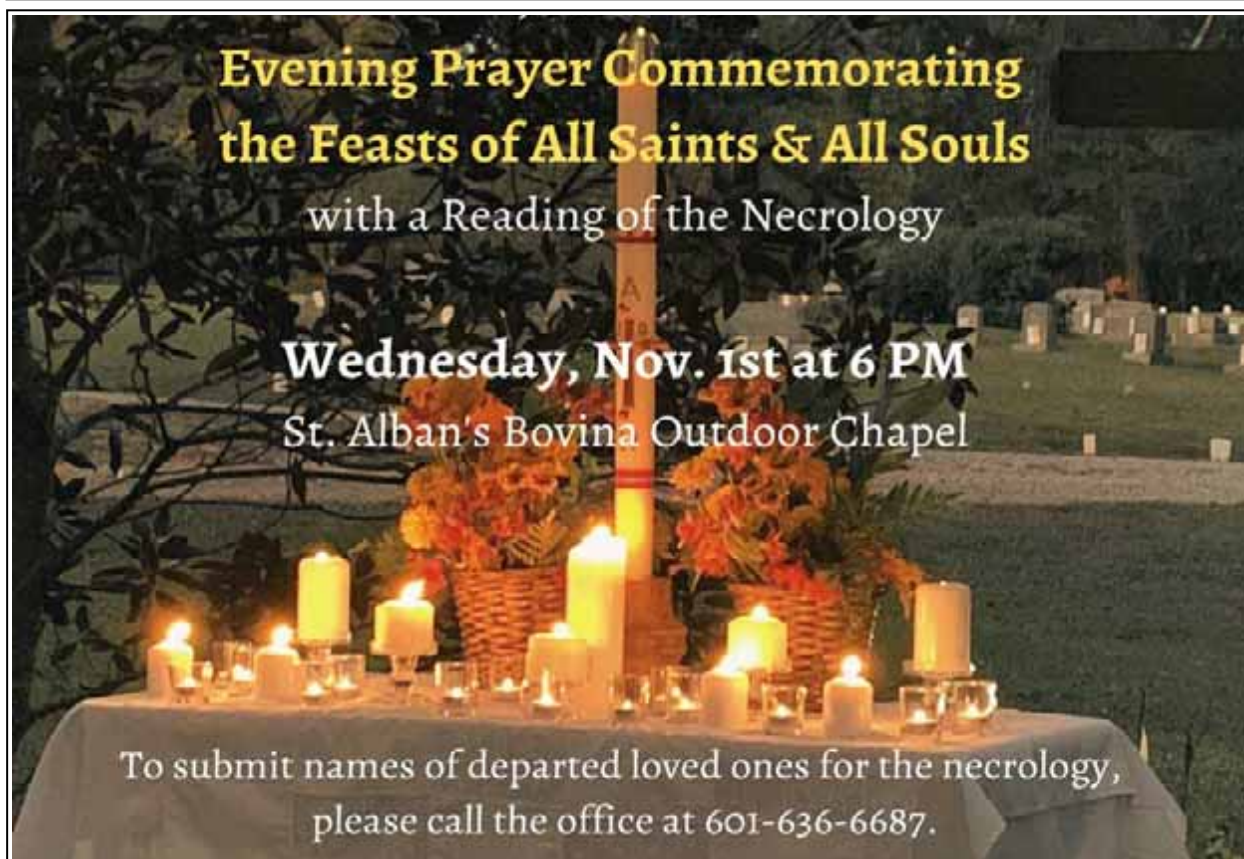
*WITH BISCUITS FOR PETS & PEOPLE BETWEEN SERVICES*

## 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 at 601-636-6687.

## Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

|                  |         |              |                 |
|------------------|---------|--------------|-----------------|
| Alicia           | Dalton  | Lee          | Rose            |
| Allan & Joan     | David   | Libby        | Steve J.        |
| Allen K.         | Ed      | Lucas        | Steve R.        |
| Ashley           | Frances | Margie       | Susan           |
| Auden & Anson    | Jackson | Mark         | Teresa H.       |
| Barbi            | James   | Mike & Nancy | Thersea K.      |
| Carolyn          | Jane    | Monica       | Tornado Victims |
| Celcil           | Jim     | Nita         | Vallye          |
| Charlene         | Kathy   | Norma        |                 |
| Charlie & Family | Kelley  | Preston      |                 |

## Server Schedule

### SUNDAY SERVICES

| Rite I, 8:30 AM       | October 1     | October 8                  | October 15                 | October 22                | October 29                 |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Lay Worship Leader    | Ann Tompkins  | Tommy Skinner              | Ann Tompkins               | Tommy Skinner             | Ann Tompkins               |
| Lector                | Tommy Skinner | Sharon Cummins             | Tommy Skinner              | Beth Sojourner            | Sharon Cummins             |
| Rite II, 11:00 AM     |               |                            |                            |                           |                            |
| Lay Worship Leader    | Harvey Smith  | Betsy Selby                | David Pruett               | Ann Tompkins              | Carolyn Gent               |
| Greeters/ Ushers      | Betty Rushing | Barnie Gavin<br>Judy Gavin | Barnie Gavin<br>Judy Gavin | Bobby Barlow<br>Jim Drake | Penny Freund<br>Judy Gavin |
| Lector                | Carolyn Gent  | Dawn Rickard               | Barnie Gavin               | Harvey Smith              | Sharon Hanks               |
| Prayers of the People | Dawn Rickard  | Sharon Hanks               | Harvey Smith               | Buck Cooper               | Lance Stewart              |
| Chalice Bearer        | Penny Freund  | Carolyn Gent               | Dawn Rickard               | Lance Stewart             | Harvey Smith               |
| A/V System            | James Drake   | James Drake                | Harvey Smith               | Buck Cooper               | Harvey Smith               |

### WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

| Service 6:00 PM    | October 4    | October 11    | October 18   | October 25    |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Lay Worship Leader | Harvey Smith | Tommy Skinner | Harvey Smith | Tommy Skinner |



Photography by: Rebecca B. Drake, Carolyn Gent