



The Albanac

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

September 2024



Celebrating the Season of Creation

What is the Season of Creation?

From <https://seasonofcreation.org/>



The Season of Creation is a time to renew our relationship with our Creator and all creation through celebration, conversion, and commitment together. During the Season of Creation, we join our sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in prayer and action for our common home.

Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I proclaimed 1 September as a day of prayer for creation for the Orthodox in 1989. In fact, the Orthodox church year starts on that day with a commemoration of how

God created the world. The World Council of Churches was instrumental in making the special time a season, extending the celebration from 1 September until 4 October.

Following the leadership of Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios I and the WCC, Christians worldwide have embraced the season as part of their annual calendar. Pope Francis made the Roman Catholic Church's warm welcoming of the season official in 2015.

In recent years, statements from religious leaders around the world have also encouraged the faithful to take time to care for creation during the month-long celebration.

The season starts 1 September, the Day of Prayer for Creation, and ends 4 October, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of ecology beloved by many Christian denominations. Throughout the month-long celebration, the world's 2.2 billion Christians come together to care for our common home.

How will we honor the Season of Creation at St. Alban's?

- Look for more news on initiatives from the Diocesan Creation Care Task Force, the group organizing efforts like pill bottle recycling that we have adopted.
- Look for prayers and musical selections that help us focus on the gift of creation and our responsibility to steward this gift well.
- Look for suggestions on how we can reduce our impact on the earth through simple steps like using coffee mugs instead of single-use cups during our coffee fellowship.

August Marks the 11th Anniversary of Bibles and More

By David Pruett

Over the past years we have read and studied different books of the Bible, varied themes in the Bible and even read selected readings covering the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We have looked at how we came to have the Bible, watched videos on Scripture and books about the Bible.

We have watched video presentations, used discussion guides, as well as other studies on Spirituality, Religions of the World, and even some fiction that folks felt would be instructive on our journey as Christians. Presently, we are studying the Parables of Jesus with a guide by a Jewish New Testament Scholar and Professor at a Christian Seminary.



Aside from increasing our knowledge of our Holy Scriptures and heritage, we get as much out of fellowship and sharing of different viewpoints on worship, prayer, study and our daily walk with Christ and each other.

We currently meet on Wednesdays at 4:30 pm at the church, but have met at other times according to the needs of individuals who attend. Our themes and studies are decided by suggestions from our members and the consensus of all who attend. We have had as many as 13 regular members and during various times have met with just three due to travel and illness. We meet in person and on Zoom. Everyone who attends is a member and all are welcome. We share different backgrounds and philosophies, occasionally have very lively discussions. Everyone is welcome and

all opinions are respected. We hope to see anyone who wishes to further their study of our walk with Jesus on Wednesdays.

Old River Convocation Altar Guild

By Lee Aylward, President

We had our first convocation meeting today, Old River, in Bovina, and it was wonderful! We had a presentation on bread baking by Beth Callahan. Beth showed us how to make communion bread with the molds that we had made a couple of years ago. We got to taste the bread when it was finished baking. She had to molds to sell so should you want one for your church contact Bethcallahan@gmail.com.

We also had a presentation by Jan Smith on weddings. She led us through the prayer book on weddings and gave insight into weddings that she had done and writing a manual for your church on weddings.

We had a delicious lunch and the best tomato sandwiches I have had in a long time!



Jan Smith gives presentation on the "Sacrament of Marriage"

Update on Sallie Mae



Sallie Mae would like to thank everyone for the prayers as she has recovered from her snake bite! If you've seen her recently, you know that she looks like she's back to her old self. Her fur has grown back, and she is just as agile and playful as ever. She is staying inside the church right now due to the risk posed if she were to get bitten again. But the donations that people made to her vet care were so generous that we were able to cover the vet bill and buy her a "kitty condo" and some toys to help make her time inside more stimulating. Thank you to everyone who contributed financially and through your prayers!

Elisabeth's Epistle

I have been thinking and praying a lot about the role of St. Alban's in our community and our mission as ambassadors of the kingdom of God. This past month has been one of those months when we didn't do a lot of big, flashy stuff, but that doesn't mean God wasn't at work. This was a month in which it seemed like God was working through our church in smaller ways to spread love and grace in the community. I began to realize that many of these small moments of grace are not visible to most people because they happen behind the scenes. And yet this is how Jesus has told us the kingdom of God will grow: from small things, like mustard seeds and yeast, and slowly, over time. But even though these moments are small, it is important to recognize and celebrate them. Here's where I saw the kingdom of God growing right in our very midst this past month:

- We have had many calls for help with electric bills since it has been such a hot summer. One week, we had calls from multiple members of the same extended family. Ann learned that this family had to bury a child this summer, and the funeral expenses cut into their household budgets. We were able to help several members of this family keep their electricity on, thanks to the donors who contribute to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.
- The storms this summer have also brought down a lot of trees and branches, particularly over at the rectory. We have had an incredible group of church volunteers cutting and chopping this wood, which will go to one of our Bovina neighbors who uses a wood-burning stove to help heat her house in the winter.
- One of our members heard about a teenage girl who was hoping to go to her school's homecoming dance, but did not have the money for a dress. Lo and behold, an envelope of cash appeared at the church, earmarked to help this teenager feel fully part of her school community and have something to celebrate in the midst of a difficult season for her family.
- Another evening, again quietly and without fanfare, a home cooked meal appeared at the church, lovingly provided for a family in need who is rarely able to eat home cooking.

As I was making this list, I realized that there are surely so many more moments of grace, glimpses into the kingdom of God, that I haven't heard about. This is our purpose as the gathered Christian community: to witness to the growth of the kingdom of God in all those small ways that are occurring all around us. I am eager to hear where you are witnessing the growth of the kingdom!

Sallie Mae invites pets & their people to
St. Alban's Bovina



FOR THE
**BLESSING
OF THE
ANIMALS**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 8:30 & 11 AM
AT THE OUTDOOR CHAPEL

WITH BISCUITS FOR PETS & PEOPLE BETWEEN SERVICES

SAVE THE DATE!
St. Alban's Episcopal Church Bovina

**DINNER ON THE
GROUNDS**

& ECW Country Market

SUNDAY, NOV. 10
12-2:00 PM



Prayers of the People

For all those sick or in need:

| | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------|------------------|
| Allan & Joan | Fran | Lawson N. | Ricky |
| Allen K. | Jackson | Leesha | Sarah |
| Anita | James | Leigh Ann | Shay & Mike |
| Bill | Jane | Mary Lou | The Sikes Family |
| Cecil | Jimmy | Melissa | Steve |
| Clarence & Betty | John | Mike F. | |
| Dan | Kathy | Mike & Nancy | |
| David | Kelley | Norma | |
| Ed | Kristin | Richard | |

For the departed: Schuyler "Butch" Sikes, Virginia Browning, Steve Koxilen, and Estella Durr Lewis.

Liturgical Schedule

| | September 1 | September 8 | September 15 | September 22 | September 29 |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Rite I - 8:30 AM | | | | | |
| Lay Worship Leader | Tommy Skinner | Ann Tompkins | Tommy Skinner | Ann Tompkins | Harvey Smith |
| Lector | Nancy Montague | Tommy Skinner | Ann Tompkins | Tommy Skinner | Sharon Cummins |
| Healing Minister | Ann Tompkins | Tommy Skinner | Ann Tompkins | Tommy Skinner | Ann Tompkins |
| Rite II - 11:00 AM | | | | | |
| Lay Worship Leader | Dawn Rickard | Harvey Smith | Richard Price | Betsy Selby | Carolyn Burton |
| Greeters/ Ushers | Buck Cooper Wilma Mitchell | Penny Freund Betty Rushing | Bobby Barlow | Barnie Gavin | Barnie Gavin |
| Lector | Harvey Smith | Wilma Mitchell | Susan Price | Dawn Rickard | Penny Freund |
| Prayers of the People | Buck Cooper | Carolyn Burton | Harvey Smith | Sharon Hanks | Dawn Rickard |
| Chalice Bearer | Penny Freund | Dawn Rickard | Barnie Gavin | Dawn Rickard | Barnie Gavin |
| A/V System | Harvey Smith | Jim Drake | Harvey Smith | Buck Cooper | Jim Drake |
| Acolyte | | | | | |
| Healing Minister | Harvey Smith | Penny Freund | Carolyn Burton | Harvey Smith | David Pruett |
| Vestry Person of the Day | Carolyn Burton | Betty Rushing | Sharon Hanks | Harvey Smith | Jeff Artman |
| Altar Guild | Buck Cooper Beth Sojourner | Cassandra Price Betty Rushing | Beth Guynes Nancy Hester | Sharon Hanks Barbara Frey Nancy Montague | Tommy Skinner Susan Price |

WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Healing Service will be at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, September 4, followed by supper.