



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5430 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
www.stalbansbovina.org

October 2011

Blessing of the Animals, October 9th

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi



On Sunday, October 9th St. Alban's will commemorate Saint Francis of Assisi with our annual service of the Blessing of the Animals. The Blessing of the Animals is a treasured moment in the liturgical year. When people bring their pets to be blessed, the church has an opportunity to affirm the richness of our connection with creatures outside our own species. It is a worship setting which reminds us of the responsibilities that we have in caring for these critters.

Both members of the congregation and our neighbors are invited to bring their wonderful creatures great and small for the special service. Although we expect dogs—ranging from small toys to Great Danes—we also welcome a good number of cats and horses. We hope you will join us at this year's Blessing on Sunday, October 9, 2011.



Fall Founders' Festival Weekend, October 28-29th

On October 28-29, St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Bovina, will host its annual Fall Founders' Festival, an event featuring a weekend of fun and fellowship. This year's festival will mark the 156th Anniversary of the founding of St. Alban's.

The weekend of activities, beginning Saturday morning, will feature Civil War re-enactors and Boy Scouts who will be camping on the spacious grounds of the church. The re-enactors will be dressed in period

costumes and remain in camp throughout the weekend. Living History demonstrations can be seen at the Civil War encampment. Plan to visit the camps and see the various demonstrations of a soldier's life during Civil War times. For those who love antique cars, there will be a display of vintage and classic cars. The owners love to show their cars and often give rides to the onlookers.

Saturday's Lunch on the Grounds will feature Calzone, an Italian turnover filled with various cheeses and Italian meats. Plan to take a minute to rest in the shade and enjoy some of St. Alban's "fine dining."

Saturday afternoon will be filled with excitement as Union and Confederate re-enactors skirmish in the woods between the church and the rectory. Following the skirmish, the crowd will gather in the historic cemetery to dedicate a Confederate headstone.

During the Saturday afternoon activities, The Very Reverend Billie Abraham will unveil a new St. Alban's historic marker to be placed on the grounds. The custom-made marker was made by Sewah Studios in Ohio. Performing at the unveiling will be Sid Champion, Roger Alford and James Anderson, a men's trio from St. Mary's Church. The marker will be unveiled in the cemetery grounds and later placed in its permanent location along the winding lane entering the church grounds.

The traditional *All Saints' Memorial Service* will be held Saturday evening. This lovely event will feature the lighting of the luminaries followed by a *Lamp Lit Cemetery*



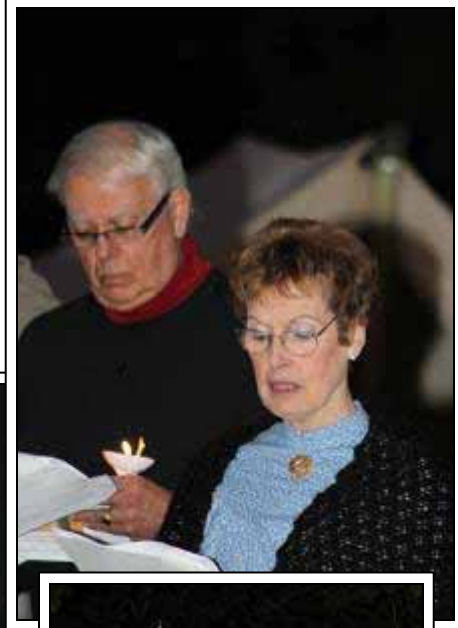
"Bridging the Gap" from the 2010 Fall Founders' Festival

Stroll where re-enactors will play the part of individuals who are buried in the cemetery. Admission is free. Following the Cemetery Stroll the Boy Scouts will light a bonfire and toast marshmallows. The dim fires of the re-enactors' campsites will be burning only a short distance away.

On Sunday morning, the public is invited to attend the 11 a.m. service. The Very Reverend Billie Abraham, Rector of St. Alban's, will celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Sunday afternoon activities will include: Dinner on the Grounds, wagon rides, live music, and the Country Market selling homemade pies, jellies and jams along with other items of interest. The Fall Founder's

Festival is one of St. Alban's favorite celebrations of the year, and church members look forward to greeting everyone for a weekend of fun, relaxation and fellowship. In many ways, it's like homecoming.

Photography from 2010 event



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Photography from 2010 event







ECW Country Market at Fall Founders' Festival

The St. Alban's Episcopal Church Women (ECW) will once again sell homemade items at the Country Market on Sunday Oct 30, for our parish Fall Festival. We will set up the big white tent and sell baked goods, frozen casseroles, jellies, crafts, etc.

People who come to the dinner on the grounds and re-enactment festivities love to stock-up on food items they can freeze and use around the holidays. Frozen casseroles (4-6 and 8-10 serving sizes are popular), breads and rolls, as well as cakes and pies are good sellers. Also, smaller portions of cookies, fudge, and candy sell well. Jellies, pear honey, honey with comb, pickles etc are also popular items.

Please label homemade food items with ingredients for those with food allergies or other diet restrictions. Label frozen casseroles with ingredients and cooking instructions.

Perishable items, especially frozen casseroles, should be brought to the church on Sunday morning by 9:00 to be priced and place in our booth. Other items may be brought on Saturday or on Sunday morning by 9:00.

We can also sell plants so if you have bulbs, plants, trees, etc. to donate, please put them in pots and label with type of plant material.

If anyone would like to donate an item for the ECW to raffle, please let us know in time to prepare raffle tickets for sale.

Questions about Country Market? Please contact Cassandra Price, Ann Jones, or Beth Guynes.



✠ Billie's Corner

The older I get the less complicated my prayer life gets. Perhaps I should say the more integrated my prayer life gets into my daily life. I think when Saint Paul told us to “pray always” he was telling us to make life a prayer. Sure, there are times of intentional prayer, but those times seem to seep into our daily activities and transform the mundane into something far beyond ourselves.

I suspect that most of us grew up believing that prayer was something we did for God. God expected us to pray. God demanded we pray. How surprised I was when I was first told that God initiated prayer.

Could it be true? God’s longing for a relationship with me is the starting point of prayer. I thought prayer was a conversation with God, a conversation that I was expected to begin (my conversations were more like monologues, I talked and talked at God).

One of my favorite authors is Rev. Martin Smith. He writes in his book entitled *The Word is Near You*, “*The whole of life is a conversation which God begins. In prayer, as in life, we are the ones who answer. God touches us, God speaks to us, God moves us, God reveals truth to us. Our life and our prayer are our response... In prayer we are never getting a conversation going with God. We are continuing a conversation which God has begun... This redefining of prayer compels us to reckon with God as giver and lover, rather than taskmaster.*”

The truth behind those few sentences written by Rev. Smith turns any childlike notion of prayer upside down. It is God who is beckoning us into conversation, inviting us into a deeper and deeper relationship.

There was a time when I thought I didn’t have time to pray. I had too many things to accomplish. I couldn’t stop my overcommitted life for prayer, I couldn’t even slow down. Eventually overcommitted didn’t fulfill me, it depleted me. The only resource that gave me any sense of peace was silent prayer. I was so depleted that words evaded me. I came to rest in God, rely on God, respond to God. Little by little, I learned to allow God to lead me.

God begins conversations with us through the Holy Eucharist, praying Scripture, the Daily Office, spontaneous prayer, formal prayer, quiet prayer, walking prayer, singing prayer, cooking prayer, gardening prayer, working prayer, playing prayer, prayer in solitude, prayer in community, and on and on and on. God is inviting us to pray always. Life is a prayer!

One outcome I have experienced from attending the Saint Alban’s weekly meeting of Twelve Steps to Spiritual Wholeness is the influence of the eleventh step on my prayer life. The eleventh step is: “*Sought through prayer and mediation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for knowledge of God’s will for us and the power to carry that out.*”

My daily prayer practice is to picture my family, my church community, my friends, and myself while saying, *"I pray for the knowledge of God's will in our lives and the courage to carry it out."* One simple sentence prays it all. One simple sentence is total surrender.

I invite each one of you to plan to attend our Quiet Day, Saturday, October 8, 8:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Brother Vincent of Saint Joseph Episcopal Monastery is going to offer several reflections throughout the day. You will be given the gift of silence between the reflections. Just imagine, quiet time with God. God will begin the conversation; all you have to do is to listen and respond. You may want to respond with words or silence or writing or reading or walking. The day belongs to you and God. Breakfast snacks will be served at the beginning of the day. Lunch will be served at the middle of the day.

In the meantime, I pray for God's will in our lives and the courage to carry it out. *Amen.*

In peace

Billie+

ECWEvents Planned

ECW Field Trip

The ECW does enjoy a field trip! We have a suggestion for a Saturday trip to shops in Canton, then on to a flower nursery in Gluckstadt and then to Gray Center for lunch. Let us know if you would be interested and we will check for available dates in October or November.

If you have questions or comments about these activities or other ECW functions, please contact Cassandra Price, Betsy Selby, or Beth Guynes.

ECW Christmas Brunch

The ECW will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 17 at Main Street Market for Christmas brunch and ornament exchange. The Main Street Market is at the corner of Main and Cherry streets in Vicksburg. This is a fun event and the food is always excellent. Lunch is Dutch-treat and everyone should bring a wrapped Christmas tree ornament. We will post a sign-up sheet in early December.

✝ Josie's Corner

I will, with God's help.

BCP p. 304

Tutoring at the Warren County Juvenile Detention Center is a part of my diaconal ministry. Recalling the words from Billie's sermon on August 14, 2011, gives me a chance for reflection. If you are trying to recall the sermon, let me refresh your memory. Father Tim, a character in Jan Karon's novel, *In the Company of Others*, is asking God not to change Dooley (another character in the novel), but to change him (Father Tim).

Just for the record, I take notes on sermons—a habit I acquired in my childhood. I pray that God will give me the tools I need to minister to the children at the Detention Center. I am challenged as I deal with children thirteen through seventeen who are rude and disrespectful; ninety percent of which are there because of disobedience to their mothers.

I am challenged to be positive and keep my thoughts "*you wouldn't be here if you had not cursed or hit your mama,*" to myself.

I come back to my baptismal covenant, "*Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself? Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?*" My reply is, "*I will, with God's help.*" I know that all my help and hope is in God and I strive to proclaim by word and example in my actions as a tutor so that a seed may be planted in one child.

I ask your continued prayers for me as I minister to the incarcerated children of Warren County. I pray that with God's help our village can save a child(ren) and put them on the path of the Prodigal Son, who once he came to himself returned home to his father. I pray that these children will come to themselves before it is too late.

I will continue to pray daily for these children, and each time I worship at St. Alban's, I include them in my prayers. My mission is "*I will, with God's help.*"

Peace

Josie+

Fall Schedule

Second Sundays Schedule, “Bring a Friend”

Pot Luck Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. in the parish hall
Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., one service only.

Wednesdays

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, 7:00–8:00 a.m.
Men's Work Force, 10:00 a.m.
Healing Service & Holy Eucharist, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday

Bible Study every Tuesday, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

October Events

Saturday, October 8

“**Quiet Day**” —Brother Vincent is going to offer reflections throughout the day. Quiet time will follow each reflection. Breakfast snacks will be served at 8:30 a.m. The first reflection will begin at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Brother Vincent will close the Quiet Day at 1:30 p.m. with organ music.

Sunday, October 9

Second Sunday at St. Alban’s, “Blessing of the Animals”

NO Pot luck breakfast, snacks for people and pets, 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist, 10:00 a.m., one service only, outside chapel

Sunday, October 9, 4:00 p.m.

Second Sunday at St. Mary’s, Bolton

The famed Jubilee Singers, Hinds Community College, Utica, will present a concert. The concert kicks off the Jubilee Singers’ 40th year under the direction of Dr. Bobby Cooper who has led the singers to international fame. The worship service will include Evening Prayer followed by a reception.

Saturday-Sunday, October 29-30

Annual Fall Founders’ Festival

St. Alban’s, will host its annual Fall Founders’ Festival, an event featuring Dinner on the Grounds and a weekend of fun and fellowship. This year’s festival will mark the 156th Anniversary of the founding of St. Alban’s.

October Birthdays

3 Rachel Sullivan	22 Stanley Lee
4 Key Davis	23 Mary Ann Wright
8 Alan Leese	24 Ann Tompkins
8 Michael Morrissey	25 Jack Abraham
9 Wanda Warren	Peter Williams
13 Jana Guynes	27 William Newell Brabston
15 Mickey Barlow	28 James Drake
16 Anita Bonar	30 Bill Davis
19 Annedele Toups	Alice Pronger

October Anniversaries

6 Jennifer & David Nomand	18 Lynda & Bill Hubbard
14 Margie & John Scott	21 Amy & Scott Burr

Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

John Wheeless	Bobbie Jean Abraham	Jewel Miller
Bill Mobley	Ruthie Gray	Bryan Brabston
Christian Hampton	Pat Hobson	Newell Brabston
Mary Lipe Mintz	Carol Bowden	John Meritt
Mike Ray	Jay	Mary Kavanaugh
John Williams	Lauren Stamm	Betty Logue
Frances Marble	Kay & Jerry McWilliams	Johnny Bottom
Jean Roberts	Louis Field	Lt.. Jonathan Fanelli
Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford	Lorrayne Cox
Pat Pierce	Jan Robinson	Sherry Scott
Walker Biedenarn	Lessie Baker	Frances & George Hammack
	Lessye Williams	
Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz	Charles & Lou Housholder	

Pray for men and women of the Armed Forces, especially:

Christoph Martin	Cynthia Horan	Billie Hubbard
Dawn Wandembergh	Carlos Wandembergh	

Liturgical Schedule

Sundays in October

	October 2 16th Sunday after Pentecost	October 9 17th Sunday after Pentecost No Pot Luck Breakfast! Animal Blessing & Eucharist 10:00 AM	October 16 18th Sunday after Pentecost	October 23 19th Sunday after Pentecost	October 30 20th Sunday after Pentecost Fall Festival
First Reading	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Exodus 32:1-14	Exodus 33:12-23	Deuteronomy 34:1-12	Joshua 3:7-17
Psalms	Psalms 19	Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23	Psalms 99	Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17	Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37
Second Reading	Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 4:1-9	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Gospel	Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	Matthew 22:34-46	Matthew 23:1-12
Worship Leader 8:30 a.m.	Richard Price		Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith
11:00 a.m.	Betsy Selby	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Shelnut				Ed Shelnut
Lector	Ed Shelnut	Clarissa Walker	Sharon Hanks	Theo Williams	Ed Shelnut
Master of Ceremonies	Beth Guynes	Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes	Susan Price	Beth Guynes
Acolytes					
Crucifer	Koury Collins	Shay Sullivan	Mignon McDaniel	Beth Guynes	Michael Rangel
Banner Bearer					Max Rangel
Flag Bearers					Josh & Shay Sullivan
Gospel Bearer	Megan Norris	Josh Sullivan	Joshua McDaniel	Susan Price	Koury Collins
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Linda Walker (abv. Pof P)	Deacon Josie	Harvey Smith	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Kerri & Peter Williams	Becki & Max Rangel	Theo, Kerri & Peter Williams	Jim & Becky Drake	Artman Family
Ushers & Greeters	Charlie Brantley & Jeff Artman	Jim Drake & David Normand	Kevin McDaniel & Charlie Brantley	John Scott & Ann Jones	Bobby Sullivan & Bobby Barlow
Altar Guild	Susan Price Kerri Williams	Cassandra Price Margie Scott	Sherry Horan Sharon Hanks	Mary Ann Wright Lisa Langford	Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins
Coffee Host	Margie Scott & Sherry Horan	Breakfast snacks for people and pets Sandra Melshimer & Becki Rangel	Terry Brantley & Billie Abraham	Lisa Langford & Ruth Green	Dinner on the Grounds
Wednesday Healing	October 5 Harvey Smith	October 12 Tommy Skinner	October 19 Ann Tompkins	October 26 Harvey Smith	November 2 Tommy Skinner