



# The Albanac

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

**November 2014**

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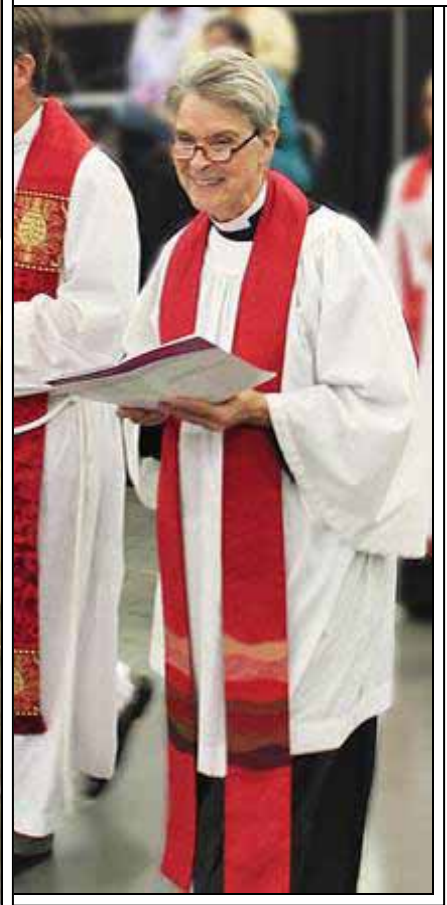
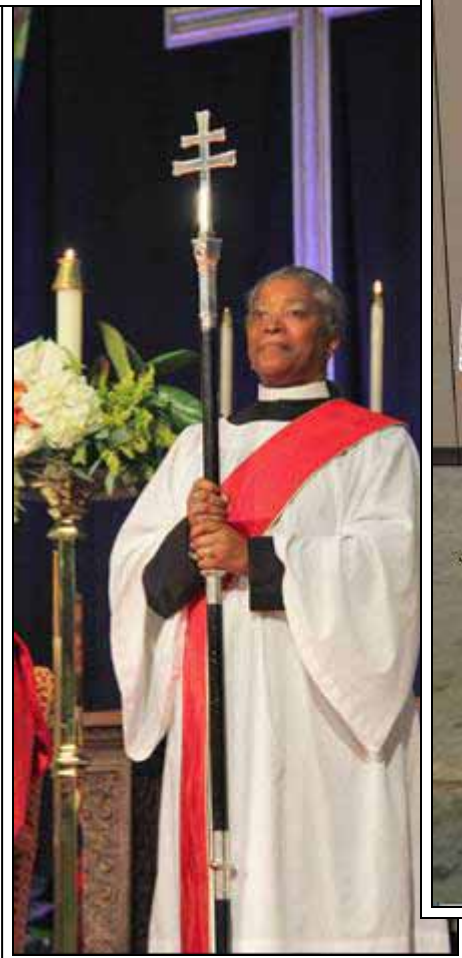


## **Bishops of the Mississippi Diocese**

**Alfred (Chip) Marble, 8th Bishop of Mississippi, Duncan Gray III, 9th Bishop of Mississippi  
and Brian Seage, Bishop Coadjutor**

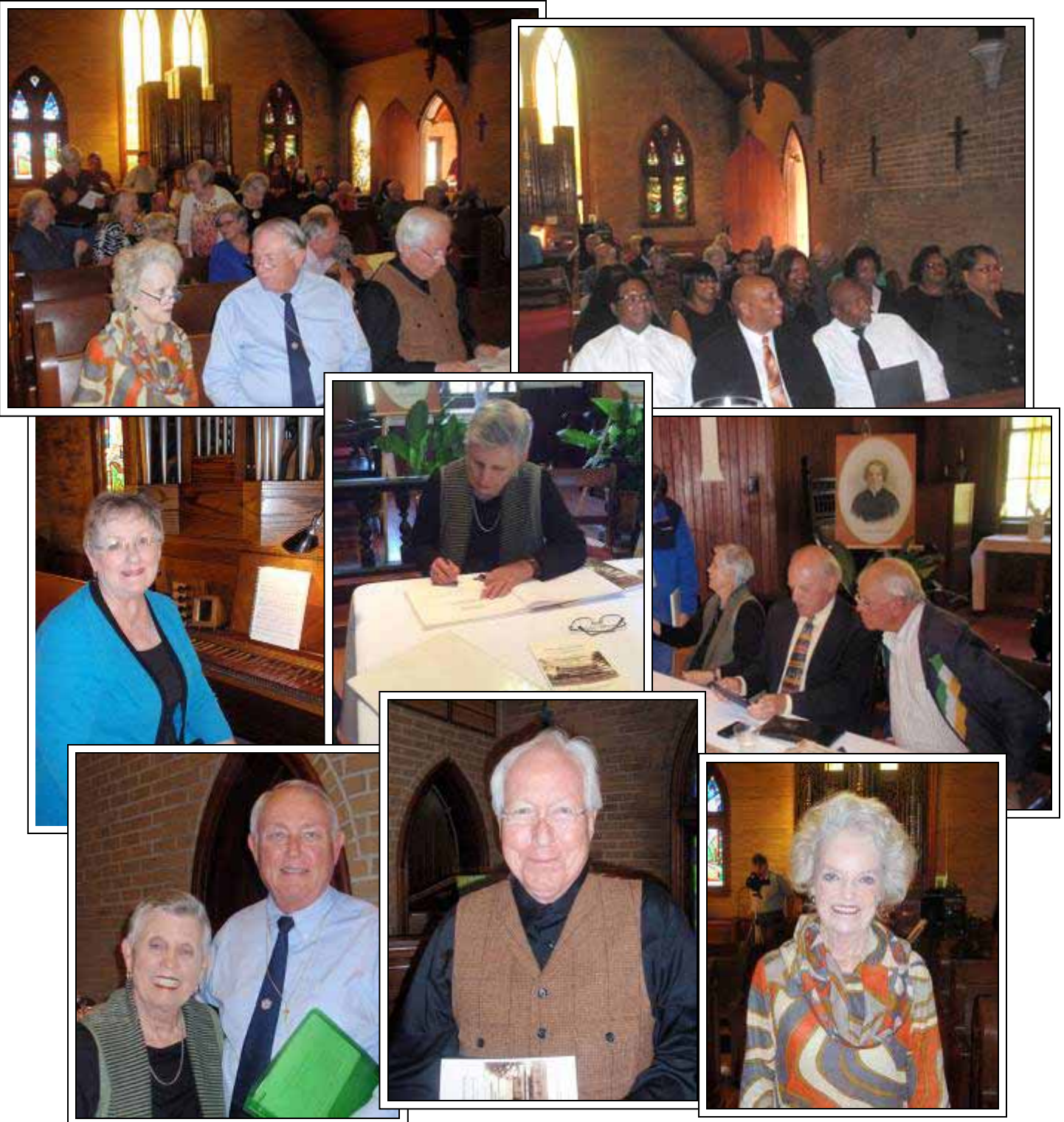
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# The Very Rev. Brian Seage Consecrated Bishop Coadjutor



# Fall Festival, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words"

## Book Dedication & Signing



# Reception—Art & Family Bible Display



# Dinner on the Grounds





# Blessing of the Animals



## † Billie's Corner

***“There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens . . .”***

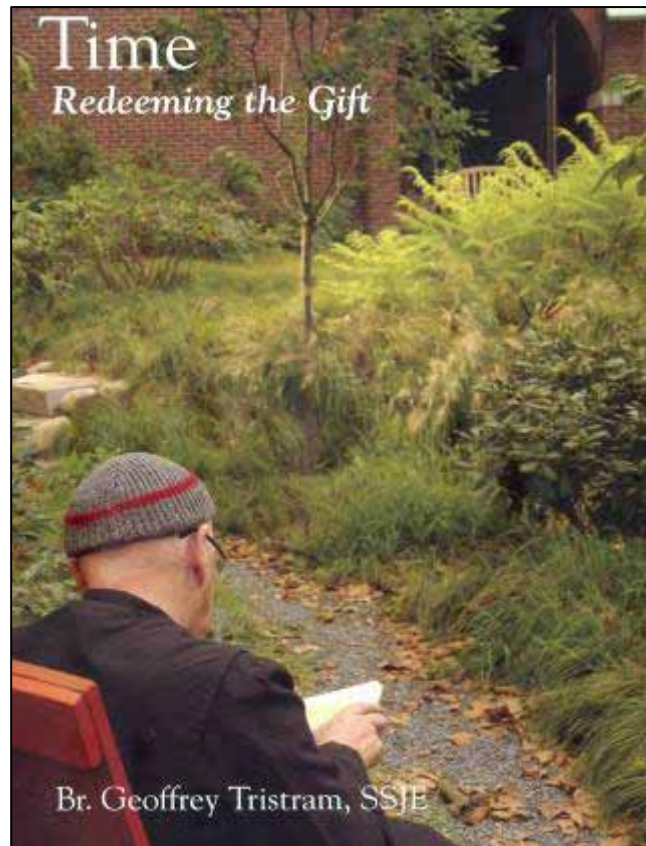
Ecclesiastes 3:1

A few weeks ago, I received the quarterly publication of the *Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist*. The opening letter from the superior described the brothers' yearly retreat. The theme for the retreat and for the coming year will be *Time to Stop, Pray, Work, Play and Love*.

I must admit that I hurriedly thumbed through the magazine when I pulled it from my mailbox. I didn't have the time to stop and read it. I had things to do and places to go. It was several days later before I picked up the little magazine and began to read the words that Brother Geoffrey had written in the opening article. The message gave me pause to think about my relationship with *Time*. How do I manage time? Or does time manage me?

It was a relief to read that the brothers have difficulty managing their time. This is something that we share despite the fact that they live in the quiet atmosphere of the monastery while I live in the busy atmosphere of the world. Brother Geoffrey wrote: *In our struggles to keep up with demanding and relentless schedules, time, this holy gift from God, begins to feel like something of a demon, whipping our backs. I just don't have enough time! We cry, again and again.*

My knee jerk reaction was that there is never enough time! I am a victim of my time schedule. Let me be clear—I am fully aware that life can sometimes be overloaded with demands. There are times when deadlines seem to occur at the same time—when family, church and commitments to the diocese crash into each other. That may be the exact time for me to pay attention to how I respond to overload. How do I handle an overcommitted schedule?





A wise person in our parish keeps reminding me that I am called to be a non-anxious presence. And, I must admit that nothing is more appealing. But how? I think it is with *intention*. The Brothers of SSJE plan to spend a year studying how to avoid *disordered time*. I will also study the *time factor* in my own life. Time is not an endless succession of things to do— bitter sighs, tired nights and disappointments. *Time is a gift from God.*

Like anything else that I recognize in myself that calls for a change, I know that the place to begin is surrendering to God— asking God to give me grace, thanking God for caring for me and giving myself quiet stillness. I can't slow down if I am always on the move or if my mind is rehashing the past and planning the future. Silence is God's first language. I long to hear God speak—not only in the quiet before the day begins, but throughout the day when I need to be reminded of the non-anxious presence that gets buried beneath all my words and actions.

How will my relationship with time change from disorderly to orderly? Not through any resolutions I might be tempted to make, nor through sheer willpower on my part. Those are "I" centered solutions. Only by and through God's grace can I live in and through God's gift of time in the way God intended. The formula for success comes from a 12 Step slogan: *I can't. God can. I am going to let God.*

God give me the grace to let you be my non-anxious presence.

### Some Thoughts about Time and Traveling

What does the Natchez Trace and the Amtrak have in common? They both slow the pace of life. The speed limit on the Natchez Trace is 50 miles per hour while a train moves along at a speed slow enough to enjoy the scenery outside. I associate the Natchez Trace and the train because they are my favorite means of transportation.

I traveled on the Natchez Trace when I drove from Sewanee Seminary to visit my son and his family in Oxford. Seminary was stressful—always more assigned textbook pages to read than time to read them— always the pressure of exams and papers and always the demands of the church practice site. When vacation days rolled around, my neck and back were a mass of tension knots. As I drove the Natchez Trace toward Oxford, the tension would begin to subside. The unhurried pace of driving along the scenic road seemed to have a *gentling effect* on my mind and body. I began to experience a sense of leisure. There must be something to those



scientific studies that show the healing power of an unhurried stride. I am here to prove it!



I still travel on the Natchez Trace at every opportunity, including my frequent trips between Clinton and Ridgeland. Wherever I am going, it is worth the slow down time on the Trace to get there.

So what about the train? Train travel is simple. For me, a train station offers a far more inviting atmosphere than an airport. I like the sound of the

train. I even like the creosote scent of the train ties. I love to settle into the privacy of my tiny Pullman compartment and simply stop. The engineer gets me where I am going. The conductor attends to my needs and answers any questions I have. All I have to do is look out the window, find my way to the diner car and take naps.

The trip is soothing. My mind fills with childhood memories of traveling the L&N between Memphis & Paris, Tennessee, with my conductor grandfather—en route to visit my paternal grandparents and my sister.

This month, a week before Thanksgiving, I plan to make a retreat to the SSJE Monastery. I am traveling by train from Meridian, Mississippi, to Boston, Massachusetts. It is an overnight trip so I will have the opportunity to fall asleep to the monotonous rhythm of the train wheels.

When morning arrives and I hear the screeching sound of the brakes— I will know that I have arrived at my destination.

In Peace

Billie+

## † Josie's Journal

*....interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes...*

*The Examination in the Ordination of a Deacon*

At the present time, I am continuing my ministry as a *guardian ad litem* for the Warren County Youth Court. I have four assigned cases and nine that I am monitoring. Each case requires conducted home and school visits as well as interviews with the parents and children. Led by the *Holy Spirit*, I will act in the best interest of the children involved.

Also I started the year at Dana Elementary as a substitute Special Education teacher for second and third grade students who have learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder. My plan was to substitute for only ninety-five days. However, two weeks into the job I found there were no prospects of a teacher for second semester. The principal asked if I would consider teaching until the end of the year. After careful consideration, my answer was, *Yes*.

Well, you heard it from me. I have come out of retirement to teach in an area where substitutes are difficult to find. When asked, *Have you lost your mind?* I reply, *Yes*. However, knowing that I have the ability to teach special need students, I thought it would be selfish to do otherwise. Will I teach again next year? Probably not. But, I have learned to *Never Say Never*. Remember Jonah? I am going to wait, pray and listen to God.

Recently, I attended the Centering Prayer workshop at St. Alban's and I am trying to incorporate Centering Prayer into my day. As I learn more about Centering Prayer, I must be intentional about creating time and space for this new discipline.

The Clergy Conference at Gray Center was a wonderful and spiritual experience. It seemed as though the conference topics were designed with me in mind:

- Go with open mind and heart
- We are all interims
- We are always in transition
- Diving into one thing while in the midst of other things
- Don't worry about making mistakes just look for the next right answer.
- Transform ordinary into extraordinary.

Go in Peace to Love and Serve the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Josie+

## ECW's New Cookbook – *Dinner-on-the-Grounds at St. Alban's II* – Available for Christmas

The ECW's new cookbook, *Dinner-on-the-Grounds at St. Alban's II*, will be arriving in November. It will be a wonderful Christmas gift for family and friends. The book is a collection of over 450 recipes from St. Alban's members, family and friends.

It includes many of the old church recipes used to prepare food for the Dinners-on-the-Grounds and Country Market over the years. Numerous photographs and original art work are included. The cost of the cookbook is \$15. Keep the cookbook in mind as you plan your holiday gift list.

If you have any questions, please call Cassandra Price at 601-529-8752. Much hard work by the ECW has gone in to the preparation of the book, and we are so excited to have it near completion.

## Note of Appreciation from Townsend/Johnson Family

To Rev. Abraham and all members of St. Alban's:

I want to express to all of you my deep appreciation and gratitude for keeping and maintaining the history of Samuel and Caroline Johnson Townsend. I am so pleased that you now have the *Rest of the Story* that I could dance with joy!

It has been 30 years since I first received and read the Johnson/Townsend letters and at that moment knew that I was holding something special in my hands. I had a strong urge to get their story out but, with no computer access, I had no idea how that was going to happen. All the feelings and emotions I had about Samuel and Caroline surfaced two years ago when God put me in contact with Becky Drake. It is surreal as I hold this beautiful book in my hands. God bless all of you for your hard work and time put into such an exciting event. I have a deep affinity for St. Alban's Church and, God willing, some day I'll be able to visit and see that absolutely gorgeous church. God bless St. Alban's!

Most sincerely,

Sherry L. Johnson  
Casper, Wyoming

## Schedule of Events

### Weekly Activities & Services

#### Sunday

Eucharist: 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
 Choir practice: 10:00 AM  
 Adult Sunday School: 10:00 AM  
 Children's Chapel: during the 11:00 AM Eucharist  
 Nursery: 10:00 AM - Noon

#### Tuesday

Create & Carry, Handcrafting Group: 6:00 – 8:00 PM  
 Home of Penny Freund & Linda Wall, 3300 Tiffintown Rd. 205-792-7730

#### Wednesday

12 Steps to Meeting: 7:00 AM Spiritual Wholeness  
 Centering Prayer Support Group: 9:00 AM & 4:30 PM  
 Healing Service & Eucharist: 6:00 PM  
 Choir Practice following the Healing Service & Eucharist

#### Thursday

Cursillo Grouping: Noon  
 Centering Prayer Support Group: 4:30 PM  
 Bible & More Discussion Group: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

### November

**Saturday, November 1**—*All Saints' Day Memorial Service, Luminaries*, 6:00 PM

**Sunday, November 2**—Baptism of Bonnie Pruett, 11:00 AM Eucharist

**Sunday, November 2**—*United Thank Offering* Ingathering, 8:30 & 11:00 AM Eucharist

**Wednesday, November 4**—*Quiet Day*, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM  
*Come In, Be Still, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Leave in Peace*

**Sunday, November 9**—Bishop Brian Seage's First Annual Visitation

- Meet & Greet, Parish House, 9:00 AM
- Eucharist, Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and Reaffirmation, 10:00 AM
- Potluck Feast following the Eucharist (bring your special salad, side dish or dessert, the church will supply the meat entrée)
- Vestry will meet with Bishop Seage, at the Rectory

**Sunday, November 9**—Bishop Brian Seage’s First Annual Visitation at St. Mary’s Church, Bolton, 4:00 PM, featuring *Mississippi Girlchoir*

**Monday, November 10**—Vestry Meeting, light dinner, 5:30 PM, meeting, 6:00 PM, Parish House

**Friday, November 14 & Saturday, November 15**—ECW presents Bishop Michael Curry, Bishop of North Carolina, Programs at Grays Center, see insert for detail

**Monday November 17—Friday, November 28**—The Rev. Billie Abraham will be on retreat at the Monastery of St. John the Evangelist in Cambridge, Massachusetts, followed by a Thanksgiving visit with her daughter, son-in-law, and St. Bernard dog, Amy, Scott, and Ernie in Manhattan

**Sunday, November 23**—The Reverend Charlie Deaton, Supply Priest at St. Alban’s Church, Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

**Thursday, November 27**—Thanksgiving Day, Morning Prayer 10:30 AM  
Thanksgiving Day Potluck Feast in the Parish House

**Sunday, November 30**—First Sunday of Advent  
Assemble Advent Wreaths, 10:00 AM, Parish House

## December

**Wednesday, December 3**—Quiet Day, *Come In, Be Still, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Leave in Peace*, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Saturday, December 6**—St. Mary’s Church, Bolton, *Annual Christmas Bazaar*, Chicken–Spaghetti Luncheon, and Silent Auction, 10:00 AM – 1:30 PM

**Saturday, December 6**—Vicksburg Christmas Parade, St. Alban’s Church Nativity Float, 5:00 PM

**Saturday, December 13**—ECW Christmas Luncheon, details forthcoming

**Sunday, December 14**—Second Sundays at St. Mary’s, Bolton, 4:00 PM. *The Galloway Methodist Concordia Ensemble* performing *Seasons and Holy Days*. Reception to follow

**Monday, December 22**—Christmas Eucharist at St. Mary’s Church, Bolton, 6:00 PM

**Wednesday, December 24**—Christmas Eve  
Choir Christmas Concert, 5:30 PM, Eucharist, 6:00 PM  
**Choir Christmas Concert, 9:30 PM, Eucharist, 10:00 PM (note time change)**

## November Birthdays

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 3 Bertha Kolb    | 17 Kay McWilliams   |
| 8 Whitney Nieto  | 19 Margaret Massey  |
| 9 Margie Scott   | 22 Betty Rushing    |
| 10 Koury Collins | 23 Charles Barton   |
| 12 Jonah Artman  | 24 Barbara Ramsay   |
| David Pruett     | 26 Sherry Barton.   |
| Letty Biedenharn | 27 Margharita Davis |
| 17 Josie Huntley | 29 Eva Panelo       |

## November Anniversaries

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 12 David & Bonnie Pruett | 17 Greg & Jamie Tierce |
|--------------------------|------------------------|

## Prayers for the People

### For those Sick or in Need:

|                    |                        |                       |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Petesy Smith       | Sherry Barton          | Eleanor Price         |
| Alice Pronger      | Richard Massey         | Lucas Guynes          |
| Jackson Monti      | Keegan James Concannon | Kristin               |
| Barbara Ramsay     | Parker Ramsay          | Jim & Sherry Horan    |
| Linda & Jim Dooley | Mikelle Young          | Sid & Janet Champion  |
| David Pruett       | Brian Robinson         | Mike Nieto            |
| Larry Smith        | Pam Warnock            | Mechelle Stockett     |
| R. A. Logue        | Barbara Hampton        | Laura                 |
| Ronnie McGowan     | Bo Joseph              | Calvin Fields         |
| Lawrence Fields    | The Tryman Family      | Laura                 |
| Robert Pickett     | Richard Stone          | Carolyn Ellis Stanton |
| Mary Branciere     |                        |                       |

## Liturgical Schedule – Sundays in November

|                              | <b>Nov 2</b>                     | <b>Nov 9</b>                                | <b>Nov 16</b>                              | <b>Nov 23</b>                      | <b>Nov 30</b>                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                              | <i>Feast of All Saints</i>       | <i>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>Last Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>First Sunday of Advent</i>  |
| <b>First Reading</b>         | Revelation 7:9-17                | Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25                       | Judges 4:1-7                               | Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24            | Isaiah 64:1-9                  |
| <b>Psalm</b>                 | Psalm 34:1-10, 22                | Psalm 78:1-7                                | Psalm 123                                  | Psalm 100                          | Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18            |
| <b>Second Reading</b>        | 1 John 3:1-3                     | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18                     | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11                     | Ephesians 1:15-23                  | 1 Corinthians 1:3-9            |
| <b>Gospel</b>                | Matthew 5; 1-12                  | Matthew 25:1-13                             | Matthew 25:14-30                           | Matthew 25:31-46                   | Mark 13:24-37                  |
| <b>Lay Worship Leader</b>    |                                  | <b>Bishop's Visit</b>                       |  |                                    |                                |
| <b>8:30 a.m.</b>             | Tommy Skinner                    | <b>10:00 AM Eucharist</b>                   | Harvey Smith                               | Ann Tompkins                       | Tommy Skinner                  |
| <b>11:00 a.m.</b>            | Betsy Selby                      | Richard Price                               | Betsy Selby                                | Theo Williams                      | Harvey Smith                   |
| <b>Master of Ceremonies</b>  | Betsy Selby                      | Susan Price                                 | Betsy Selby                                | Beth Guynes                        | Jennifer Normand               |
| <b>Crucifer</b>              | Betsy Selby                      | Koury Collins                               | Betsy Selby                                | Beth Guynes                        | Jennifer Normand               |
| <b>Gospel Bearer</b>         | Josie & Peter                    | Susan Price                                 | Canada & Lance Stewart                     | Josie & Peter                      | Marci & Children               |
| <b>Lector</b>                | Penny Freund                     | Ed Shelnut                                  | Mary Carleton                              | Mary Ruth Jones                    | Bertha Kolb                    |
| <b>Prayers of the People</b> | Josie Williams                   | Josie Williams                              | Sharon Hanks                               | Beth Guynes                        | Josie Williams                 |
| <b>Oblation Bearers</b>      | Bonnie & David Pruet             | Joan & Rymn Parsons                         | Linda Gerache<br>Jenni Sciro               | Janice Herrington<br>Betty Rushing | Jim & Becky Drake              |
| <b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b> | Herb Jones<br>Lance Stewart      | Richard Massey<br>Alan Leese                | Jay Sciro<br>Joey Gerache                  | Kelsey Artman<br>Jessica Gates     | Rymn Parsons<br>Herb Jones     |
| <b>Altar Guild</b>           | Kerri Williams<br>Judy Morrissey | Cassandra Price                             | Sharon Hanks<br>Betty Rushing              | Mary Ann Wright<br>Margo Massey    | Ann Tompkins<br>Beth Sojourner |
| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b>  |                                  | Ed Shelnut                                  |  | Herb Jones                         |                                |
| <b>Coffee Host</b>           | Margie Scott & Volunteers        | <b>Potluck Luncheon</b>                     | Betty Rushing<br>Butch Mitchell            | Betsy Selby<br>Ann Jones           | Margo Massey<br>Bonnie Pruet   |
| <b>Children's Chapel</b>     | Marci Turner<br>Ann Tompkins     | Marci Turner<br>Kerri Williams              | Marci Turner<br>Jennifer Normand           | Marci Turner<br>Betsy Selby        | Marci Turner<br>Ann Tompkins   |
| <b>Wednesday Healing</b>     | <b>Nov 5</b><br>Tommy Skinner    | <b>Nov 12</b><br>Theo Williams              | <b>Nov 19</b><br>Josie Williams            | <b>Nov 26</b><br>Josie Williams    | <b>Dec 3</b><br>Harvey Smith   |