



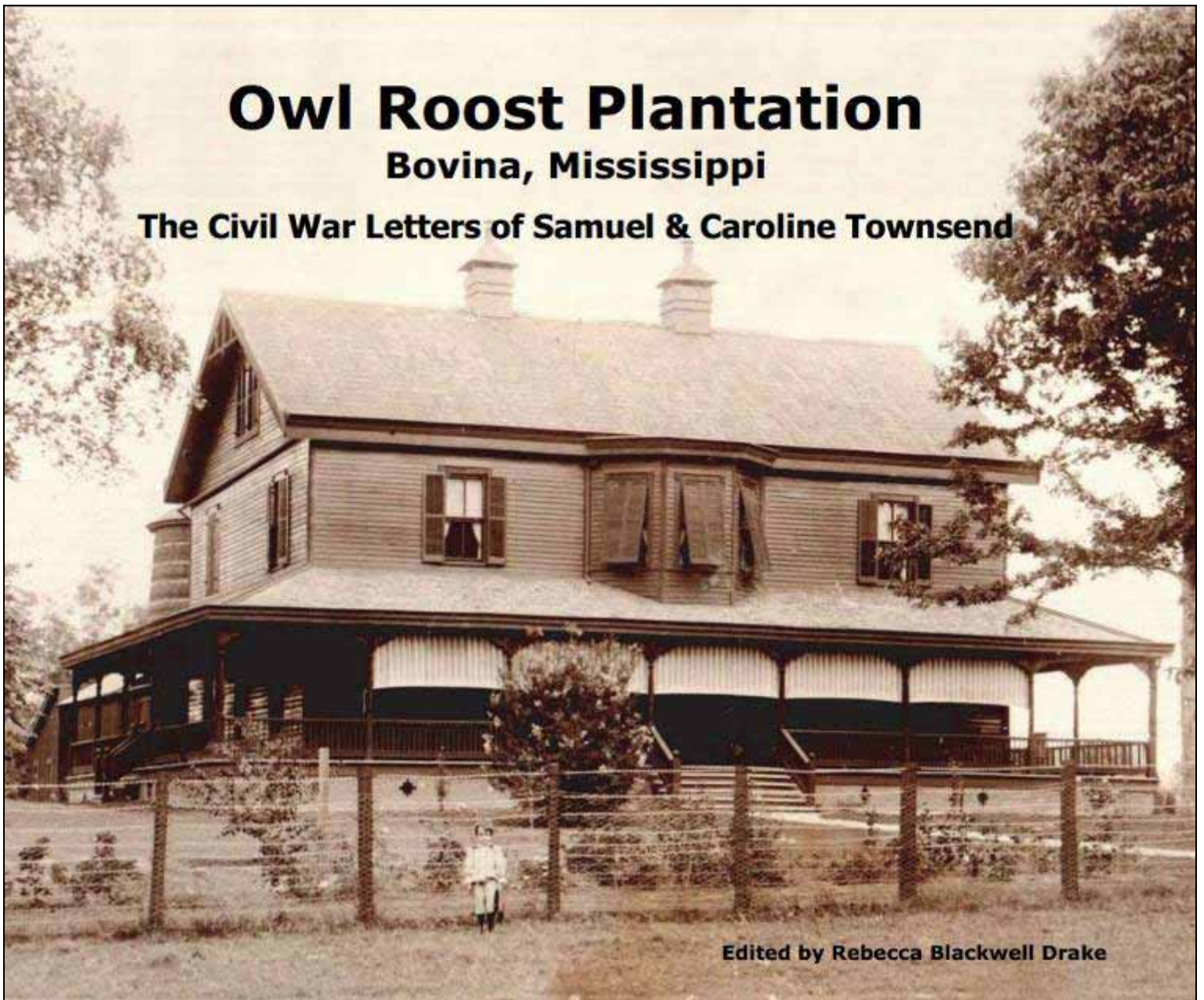
The Albanac

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

August 2014

Owl Roost Plantation Bovina, Mississippi

The Civil War Letters of Samuel & Caroline Townsend



Edited by Rebecca Blackwell Drake

October Book Dedication Planned

Owl Roost: The Civil War Letters of Samuel and Caroline Townsend will be dedicated by Rebecca Drake on Saturday, October 25, 10:30 a.m. at St. Alban's. The books will be donated to the church.

The central characters in the book are Samuel and Caroline Townsend, charter members of St. Alban's, and their daughters, Matilda and Louisa, whose lives were forever changed during and after the Siege of Vicksburg.

Small oval pictures of Samuel and Caroline have hung in the church hallway for decades—Samuel, a handsome young man with dark features and blue-green eyes and Caroline, a young

wife and mother with golden braided hair. Over the years, the photographs have been admired by church members but none had an *inkling* of the tragedy that befell the family soon after the pictures were taken.

In 2012, after Caroline and Samuel's pictures were featured in *Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Episcopal Church*, several ancestors wrote requesting copies. In return, the family offered to share five letters written during the War by Samuel, Caroline and her father in Connecticut. It was an exciting day when the letters arrived and, for the first time the fate of the lovely people in the photographs was unveiled.

Realizing the historic value of the letters, not only as related to St. Alban's but also to Mississippi history, permission was requested to edit and publish the letters in book form. The research for the editing of the letters was two years in the making.

After previewing the book, Sherry Johnson, descendant from Wyoming, commented, "*What an exciting thing to happen—and what a wonderful tribute to Samuel and Caroline. This will be the first time the letters have been made public. Thanks to their children, Matilda and Louisa, the torch to preserve St. Alban's was passed on from generation to generation.*"

In 1927, after Matilda's death, her children bequeathed a large sum of money to St. Alban's to build a new Gothic-styled chapel. A brass plaque in the narthex reads: *This church is erected to the GLORY OF GOD in compliance with the wish of MATILDA TOWNSEND PALMER.* In 1936, Virginia Palmer bequeathed a \$30,000 trust fund to St. Alban's in memory of her mother, Louisa Townsend Palmer. The trust has provided financial stability—past, present and future—for St. Alban's.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.



Look Who Moved to Bovina & Found St. Alban's!

The population of Bovina, our tiny community that doesn't even have a stop light, does not greatly fluctuate from year to year. But in the last two years, two of the people who relocated in Bovina also relocated to St. Alban's Church. Penny Freund moved from Tuscaloosa to live with her sister, Linda Wall. Dale Gibson moved from Baltimore to live with his brother, Greg Gibson. Penny and Dale are Episcopalians and are now a part of our church community. They bring with them many gifts that offer enrichment to the life of our church.

Penny Freund retired as a librarian having worked at the University of Alabama and the Tuscaloosa Public School System. Penny is not short on talent. She is an artist in many mediums—from culinary arts to knitting, drawing, singing and playing the organ and piano. She and her sister Linda share space in their



studio where Linda quilts and Penny knits. Linda is the gardener and Penny is the chef that incorporates their homegrown vegetables in the dishes she prepares. The table is set with flowers from their garden. As her profession indicates, Penny loves to read.





Dale Gibson is a retired entrepreneur in the field of scientific supplies and equipment. Dale's creativity is not limited to science research and inventions. He sees the world with the eyes of an artist and one who seeks God. Dale made a trip to the Holy Land where he had a spiritual experience in the Church of the Multiplication—a tiny chapel in Tabgha on the Sea of Galilee. He had a deep sense of the presence of God. After returning home from his travels, Dale designed a mobile with symbols to visually represent his experience in the Holy Land.

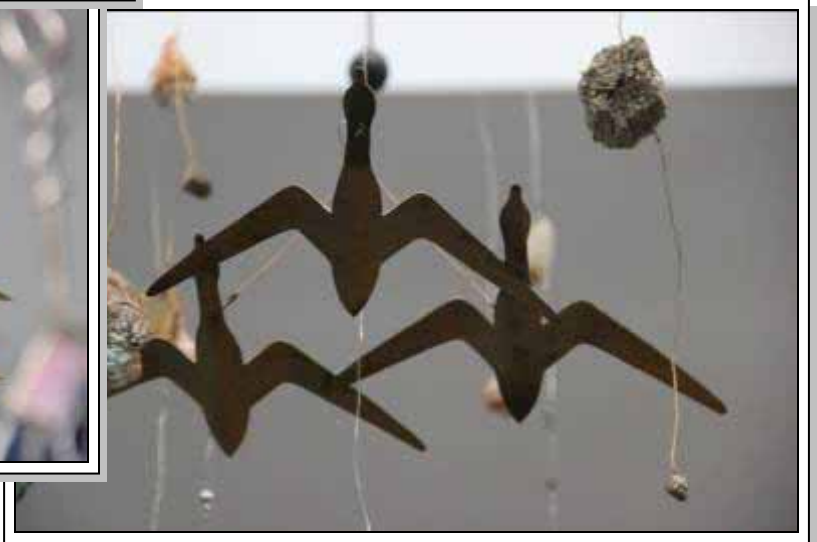
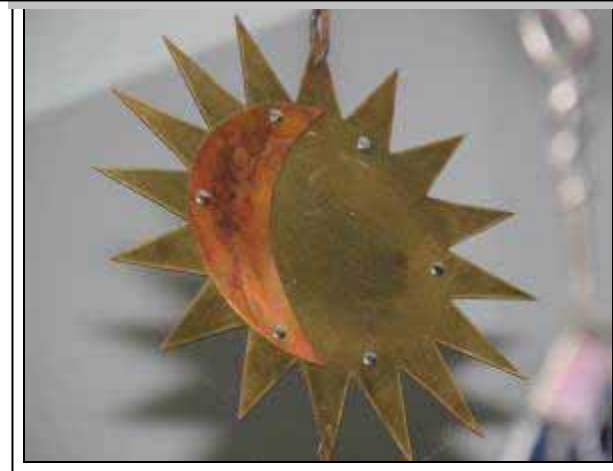
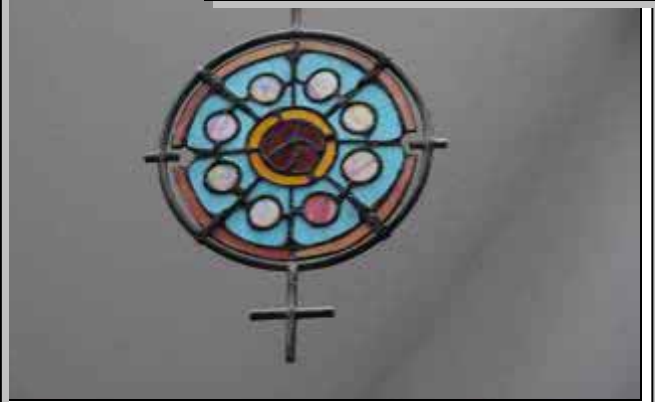
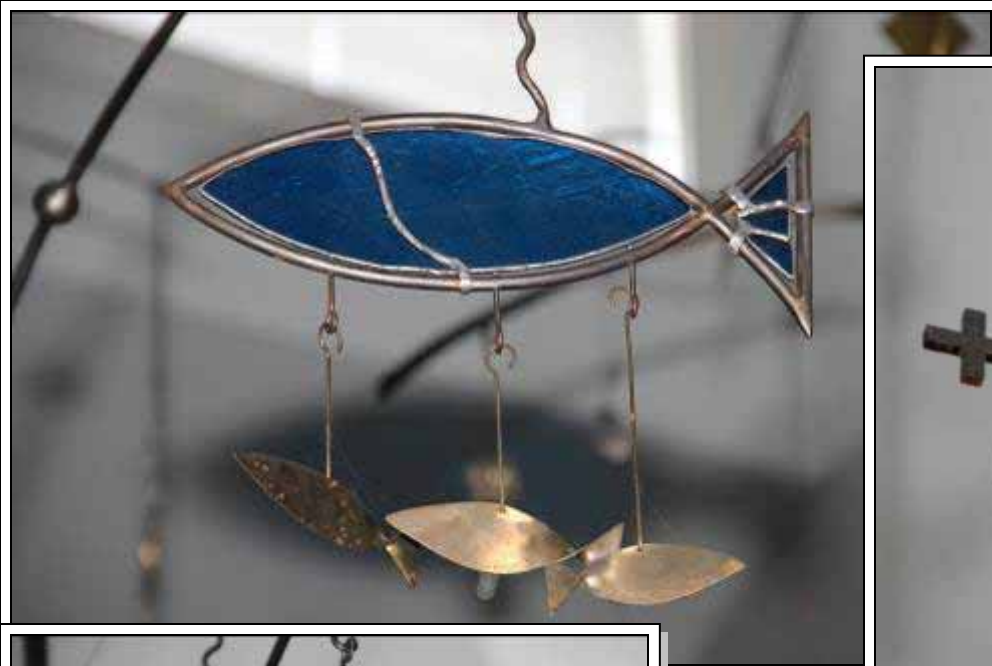
This is not just any mobile—the size alone will grab your attention. Dale designed the mobile to hang from the two-story vaulted ceiling in his living room. The final product is the collaborative work of

an ironsmith and a stained glass artisan.

Dangling from the mobile with well balanced precision are—shells and asteroids mixed with a brass and copper medallion of the sun and the moon representing creation; a miniature Rose Window that invites the viewer to enter the center of the window and go to the center of one's being; a gothic shaped stained glass window that represents church; a butterfly that represents resurrection; flying geese that are the Celtic symbol of the Holy Spirit; and a Mary Cross with a crescent moon intersecting the foot of the cross—and more, much more.

Creation is the major theme in the mobile. It will be no surprise that Dale's favorite Eucharistic Prayer is C with the words: "*At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.*" When you see the mobile—you'll see Dale and come to know him.

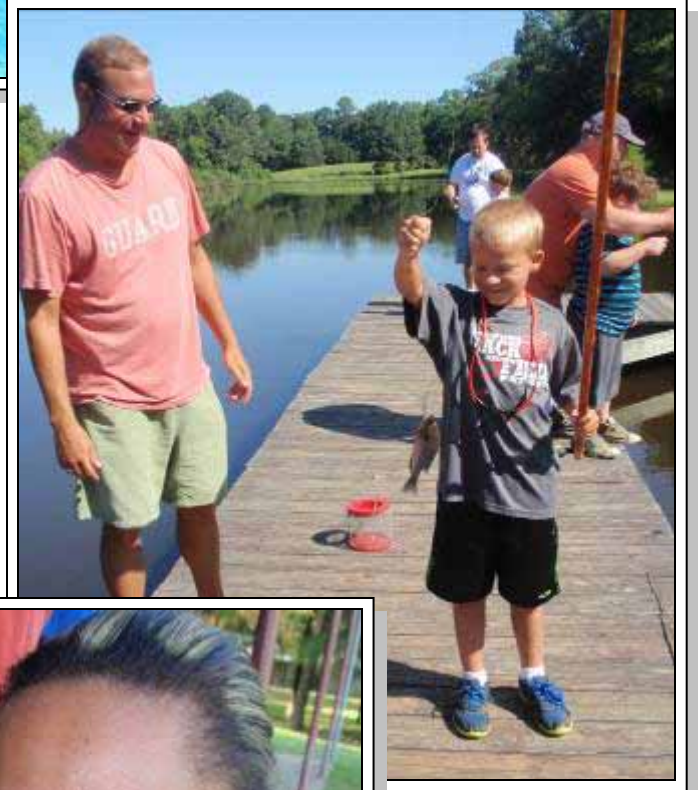




Camp Bratton Green



Camp is a lot of things but at the heart of camp is childhood laughter. *First Camp* is a weekend experience of camp for children six and seven years old. In one brief weekend the children are invited to participate in every camp activity. They are also exposed to a very creative and nontraditional version of a Bible story portrayed by the Senior Staff Counselors—and of course, they learn to sing plenty of camp songs. Camp plants the seeds for a life of formation where Christianity is lived out in a loving relationship with other people. Friendships are made and the desire to return to camp is the typical response.



✝ Billie's Corner***Liturgical Music Conference***

*“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...
with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.”*

Colossians, 3:16



Our community was deeply invested in the Liturgical Music Conference this year—from the choir members who participated in the conference to those of us who traveled to St. Philip’s Church in Jackson for Choral Evensong—and to the future choral influence that the participants will bring back to St. Alban’s.

It all started with a generous donation to financially support anyone who wanted to attend the conference. Six of our choir members attended—Penny Freund, David McLaughlin, Marci Turner, Clarissa Walker and Theo and Josie Williams.

Thursday evening’s Choral Evensong was far more than a simple order of service—it was filled with prayers and Holy Scripture set to music and chants, it was the fragrance and smoke of incense drifting heavenward, it was our communal participation. Choral Evensong was a holy experience of worship that swept us up into something far greater than ourselves. It was a glimpse of the beauty and grandeur of God. It was the essence of choral worship, *Episcopal Church Style*.

St. Augustine of Hippo is quoted as saying: “*Those who sing pray twice.*” I would add that those of us who listened to Choral Evensong listened with the ears of our hearts—and we too prayed twice.

In peace

Billie+



✝ Josie's Journal

Following ordination, my work as a deacon began! First, I had to submit a *Letter of Agreement* to the vestry for approval. The agreement confirmed: the number of sermons I would preach and the number of Sunday's I would have off; my weekly hours; money the vestry would set aside for my continuing education and that I would serve the church in a non-stipendiary position.



Along with other deacons, I am required to submit a yearly report to the bishop defining my ministry. I also submit all continuing education hours, conferences attended and visits to various churches, including those outside the Diocese of Mississippi. The report is given at St. Alban's Annual Parish Meeting.

All deacons are scheduled for an annual consultation with the bishop. Prior to the visit, an annual physical is required. The bishop discusses a variety of subjects including my ministry, my family and my work with the Warren County Youth Court. He then gives my assignment for the next year. Since my ordination, I have been assigned to St. Alban's and would like for that to continue.

During 2014, continuing education hours include: *Annual Council, Clergy Conference, Anglican Rosary Workshop, Lay Leadership Workshop, Deacon Retreat, Council Reconvened* and the *Music and Liturgy Conference*. The *Deacon Retreat* and *Clergy Conference* are required annual events.

Often I recall the words spoken by Bishop Gray during my ordination... "*God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely...*" My ministry as a deacon is not only my mission but also my joy.

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

In peace

Josie+

August Schedule

Weekly Activities & Services

Sunday, *Want to Learn More About the Episcopal Church?*

Summer Adult Sunday School, Parish House, 10:00 AM

Tuesday, Crafter's Night at St. Alban's Church, Parish House, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, 12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, Parish House 7:00 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Thursday, Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, Noon

August Activities

Sunday, August 3: Morning Prayer, 8:30 & 11:00 AM, Jennifer Southall, Officiant

Wednesday, August 6: Quiet Day, 7:00 AM—7:00 PM

August 8–10 & 15–17: *Les Miserables*, Vicksburg Little Theater. Clarissa Walker and Kerri Williams performing. Evening performances—7:30 PM & Sundays—2:00 PM

Sunday, August 10: Second Sundays at St. Mary's, Holy Eucharist—*Celebration of the Feast of St. Mary, Blessed Mother of Jesus*. Viola Dacus, mezzo soprano, and Carol Joy Sparkman, pianist, will present songs featuring *Mary, the Mother of Jesus*, as the sermon.

Thursday, August 14: Young Adult Gathering & Dinner, Rectory, 6:00 PM

Sunday, August 24: Vestry Meeting, after the 11:00 AM Eucharist

Tuesday, August 26: Tentative date for dinner at Gibbs Grocery

Beyond August Events

Sunday, September 7: Time & Talent Fair, Parish House, 10:00 AM

Sunday, September 14: Children's Chapel Sunday School Kick-Off, Marci Turner, coordinator. Adult Gospel Lesson Sunday School Kick-Off, David Pruett, facilitator

Thursday, September 18—Sunday, September 21: Cursillo, Gray Conference Center

Saturday, September 25: Consecration of Bishop-Elect Brian Sage, Jackson Convention Center, 10:30 AM

Sunday, September 28: Treasure Kick-Off, *The Gift of Giving*

August Birthdays

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Beth Sojourner Terri Ulmer | 21 Kate Abraham Norma Jones |
| 4 Woody Hanks | 23 Carter Guynes Edward Shelnut |
| 6 David Normand | 24 Julia Lee |
| 15 Greg Williamson | 26 Bobby Barlow |
| 17 Jake Artman Josh Artman | 27 Jean Ethridge Terry Guynes |
| 17 Bill Curtis | James Price |
| 18 Beth Williamson | 28 Max Rangel |
| 19 Bo Gayle David Wright | |

August Anniversaries

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 3 Russell & Stacey Sumrall | 21 Allan & Joan Leese Robert & Terri Ulmer |
| 13 Rymn & Joan Parsons | 27 Bryan & Joy Brabston, Jr. |
| 20 Herb & Mary Ruth Jones | |

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| Brian Robinson | Richard Massey | Alice Pronger |
| Jan Robinson | Lucas Guynes | Parker Ramsay |
| Petsy Smith | Jackson Monti | Sherry Horan |
| Sherry Barton | Richard Gates | Anna |
| Ann Helgason Ammons | Ken Alexander | Afton Wallace |
| Toni Ferguson | Patti Duncan | Mikelle Young |
| Eleanor Price | David Pruett | Ronnie & Joyce |
| Billy & Aline Graves | Dan Carleton | Janet Champion |
| | Rudy, Allison & Whitney & Judah Nieto | |

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in August

| | August 3 | August 10 | August 17 | August 24 | August 31 |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| | <i>Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</i> | <i>Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost</i> |
| First Reading | Genesis 32:22-31 | Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 | Genesis 45:1-15 | Exodus 1:8-2:10 | Exodus 3:1-15 |
| Psalms | Psalms 17:1-7, 16 | Psalms 105, 1-6, 16-22, 45b | Psalms 133 | Psalms 124 | Psalms 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c |
| Second Reading | Romans 9:1-5 | Romans 10:5-15 | Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 | Romans 12:1-8 | Romans 12:9-21 |
| Gospel | Matthew 14:13-21 | Matthew 14:22-33 | Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28 | Matthew 16:13-20 | Matthew 16:21-28 |
| | Morning Prayer Jennifer Southall, Officiant | | | | |
| Lay Worship Leader | | | | | |
| 8:30 a.m. | Betsy Selby | Ann Tompkins | Theo Williams | Harvey Smith | Tommy Skinner |
| 11:00 a.m. | Betsy Selby | Theo Williams | Ann Tompkins | Betsy Selby | Harvey Smith |
| Master of Ceremonies | | Beth Guynes | Jennifer Normand | Betsy Selby | Deacon Josie |
| Crucifer | | Beth Guynes | Jennifer Normand | Koury Collins | Penny Freund |
| Gospel Bearer | | Deacon Josie | Betty Rushing & Gabby | Deacon Josie | Keri & Peter Williams |
| Lector | | Bertha Kolb | Mary Ruth Jones | Ed Shelnut | Mary Carleton |
| Prayers of the People | | Deacon Josie | Herb Jones | Deacon Josie | Beth Guynes |
| Oblation Bearers | | Jessica Gates Kelsey Artman | Margo Massey Richard Massey | Terry Brantley Charlie Brantley | Bonnie Pruett David Pruett |
| Ushers & Greeters | David Pruett Alan Leese | Jeff, Josh & Jonah Artman | David Normand Theo Williams | Alan Leese | Richard Massey Dan Carleton |
| Altar Guild | Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing | Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey | Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner | Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey | Cassandra Price |
| Eucharistic Minister | | | | Ed Shelnut | |
| Coffee Host | Margie Scott Beth Guynes | Penny Freund Carol Simmons Betty Rushing | Lela Flowers Need Volunteers | Betsy Selby Ann Jones | Need Volunteers |
| Wednesday Healing | August 6 Theo Williams | August 13 Ann Tompkins | August 20 Tommy Skinner | August 27 Harvey Smith | |