

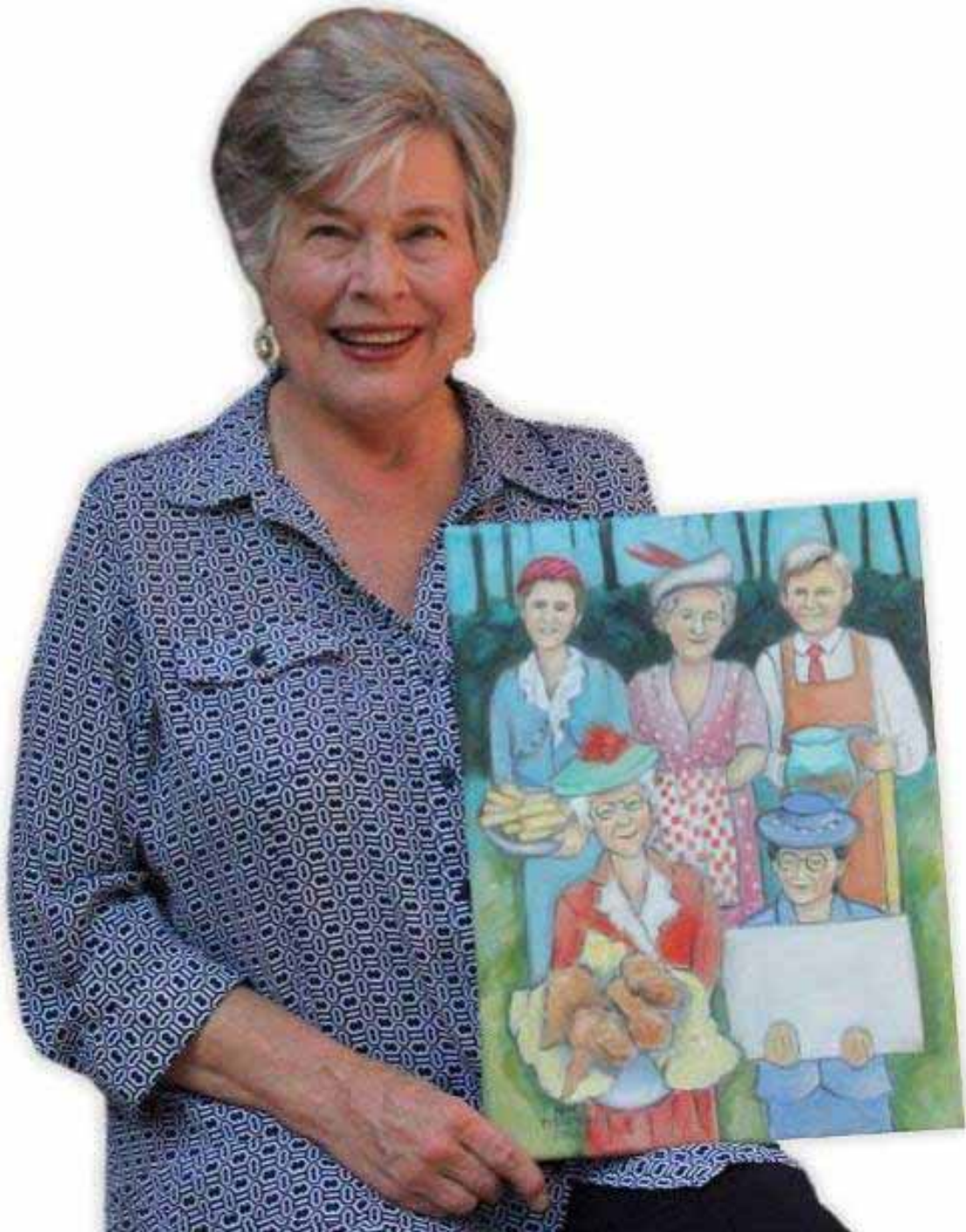


# The Albanac

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

**December 2014**

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## ECW's 2014 Cookbook Has Arrived!

The ECW's new cookbook, *Dinner-on-the-Grounds at St. Alban's II*, has arrived! This wonderful book contains over 450 recipes submitted by St. Alban's church members and friends. Also included are nine photographs, each depicting church settings and its members.

The artwork for the book cover was painted by Ann Biedenharn Jones, local artist and long-time church member. Rebecca Drake, historian, wrote the *Foreword* giving a brief history of the church. Also included in the cookbook is a

*Letter to St. Alban's Community* by The Very Reverend Billie Abraham, rector since 2008.

The cost is \$15.00. Checks should be made out to St. Alban's ECW and given to any cookbook committee member— Cassandra Price, Judy Morrissey, Mary Ann Wright, Janice Herrington, Sherry Horan, Susan Price or ECW president, Sharon



Hanks. Checks may also be mailed to treasurer, Cassandra Price, 6525 Fisher Ferry Road, Vicksburg, MS 39180. The books will make wonderful Christmas gifts. If you know how many copies you would like to purchase, please e-mail Cassandra at [cpressprice@hotmail.com](mailto:cpressprice@hotmail.com). The books will also be sold at the church.

Please call Cassandra at 601-529-8752 if you have any questions.



## Bishop Seage's First Annual Visit

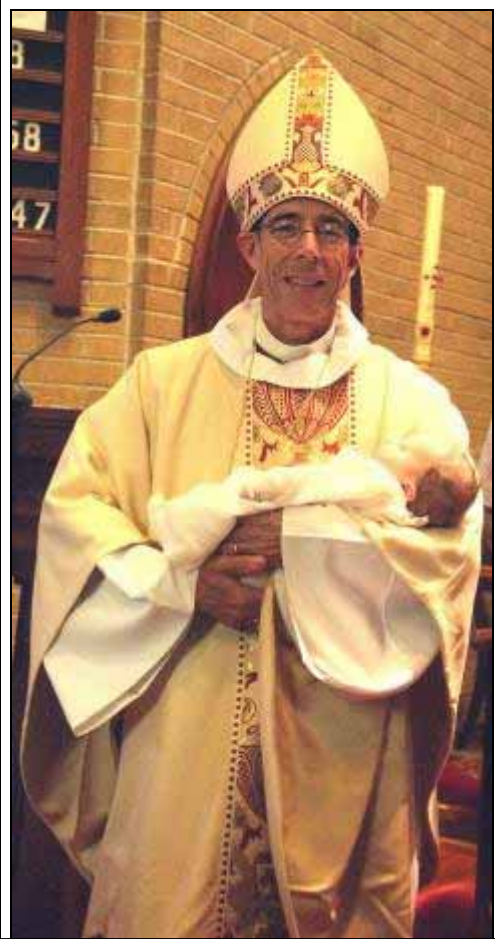


### **Bishop Seage Baptized, Confirmed, Received and Reaffirmed Seventeen Individuals at St. Alban's Church**

On November 9, Bishop Seage made his first annual visit to St. Alban's Church. During the 10:00 AM service, he baptized Mason Selby, son of Richard & Kristin Selby; confirmed Linda & Jim Dooley, Jessica Gates, Lanore Fulgham and Bonnie Pruet; received Lance Steward, Margaret Stewart and Kristin Selby; and reaffirmed Rymn & Joan Parsons, Herb & Mary Ruth Jones, Richard Selby, Peter Meyers, Dale Gibson and Cynthia Strawn.

During the visit, Bishop Seage enjoyed meeting with members of the congregation and the vestry. His quick wit and engaging conversation endeared him to the community of St. Alban's. Seage will succeed the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III as the 10th bishop of Mississippi when Bishop Gray retires in February 2015.

# Holy Baptism





# Confirmation





# Reception & Reaffirmation



## *“Lift High the Cross”* Considered for 2015 Laurence D. Fish Parish History Award

Rebecca Drake, author of *Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church* along with co-author, Kenon Ruska, has been notified by Phillip Ayers, Vice-president of the *National Episcopal Historians and Archivists*, that *Lift High the Cross* is being considered to receive the *Laurence D. Fish Parish History Award*.

The National Episcopal Historians and Archivists (NEHA) is an organization that “...promotes and encourages every diocese, congregation and organization in the Episcopal Church to collect, preserve and organize its records and to share its history.”

This prestigious national award, established in 2010 to honor Larry Fish, Archivist & Historiographer for the Diocese of New Jersey, is given annually to the author(s) of an outstanding example of a parish history.



The first *Laurence D. Fish Award* was presented in 2014 to St. Peter’s Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, for *St. Peter’s Church: Faith in Action for 250 Years*. Four authors were honored for authoring this book.

In the letter written to Rebecca Drake, Ayers stated, *It has come to my attention that your parish has published “Lift High the Cross, a History of St. Alban’s Church, Bovina.” I’ve had the pleasure of looking at your parish’s web site and listening to some of the narratives from the rector and others in the slideshow that was presented. Works such as this are exactly what we are looking for in searching for parish histories to be considered for the Fish Award.”* Ayers also wrote, *As Book Editor of “The Historiographer,” I will see that your book is reviewed in a future issue. This way, we can publicize it and give it the attention I am sure it well deserves.*

Drake commented on the honor saying, *I was thrilled that “Lift High the Cross” is being considered for a national award. The book was definitely a work of love and one that preserved the history of our church - a church that has the distinction of being one of the oldest churches in the Diocese of Mississippi. It would be nice to capture this award for St. Alban’s Church but, either way, I am just grateful for the book to have received national recognition.*

*Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church* was published in October, 2012 and dedicated to *All Members of St. Alban’s Church, Past, Present & Future; And to the Rectors who through the years have Held High the Cross.*



## Rare Photograph Featured in “Owl Roost Plantation”

While writing *Owl Roost Plantation*, there were several photographs that I had hoped to find, especially ones of Matilda and Louisa Townsend Palmer. However, after an exhaustive search in Connecticut, I decided there were none. As I neared completion of the book, I was thrilled to finally locate a photograph of Louisa Townsend Palmer in the files of the *New London County Historical Society*. I would venture to say that no one had looked for her picture for over a century—yet there it was just waiting to be found!

The photograph of Louisa was taken in 1863, a short time after leaving “Owl Roost” and arriving at the home of her wealthy grandparents, William Gale & Louisa Johnson of Middletown, Connecticut. The photographer was Giles Bishop who was well-known in the area. When Louisa, age 12, posed for the photograph, she had on a dress and coat supported by an iron frame around her waist—exhibiting the style of the day. Her winter apparel is the key to the fact that she and Matilda (and their two younger siblings) arrived in Connecticut in the fall/winter of 1863, a short time after Vicksburg fell.



### Louisa Townsend Palmer

Daughter of Samuel & Caroline Townsend

Bequeathed

St. Alban's Church

The Palmer Trust, 1936

In later years, after Louisa married multi-millionaire Frank Loomis Palmer (1876), Giles Bishop pulled Louisa's childhood photograph from the files and inscribed on the front, *Mrs. Frank ~Townsend~ Palmer.*

I will always regret that I never found a picture of Matilda Townsend Palmer, but am most grateful to have located the one of Louisa, the benefactor of the Palmer Trust to St. Alban's Church—made possible by her daughter, Virginia Palmer, who bequeathed the Trust upon her death in 1936. The prized photograph will soon hang in the Parish House hallway.

Rebecca B. Drake



## † Billie's Corner

*"To become a contemplative does not necessitate becoming a monk.  
It is sufficient to be a child of God, a human person."*

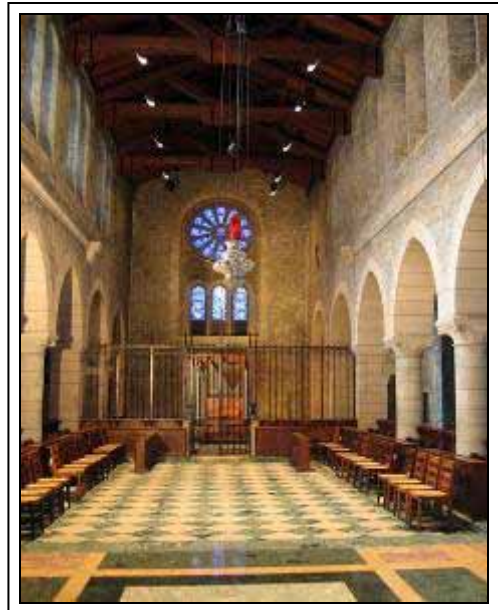
Thomas Merton

If there was one thing I realized while on retreat at *The Monastery of Saint John the Evangelist*, it was the truth of the above sentence. A person does not have to be a monk to be a contemplative—but it sure helps to be surrounded by monks to nourish a contemplative mindset. The days of silence, interspersed with worship services where the monks chanted the liturgies, provided me with a sense of tranquility and the nearness of God.

I arrived at the monastery after overnight travel on the train that initiated the slowing down process within me. The rhythm of the train's motion did its magic on me. I couldn't take my eyes off the passing scenery—lichen spotted outgrowths of rock, running streams, yellow, orange, gold, and brown colored leaves dangling from trees and covering the ground. I loved passing through towns—seeing the neighborhoods of homes, shops, schools and churches. I had no trouble sleeping; the train rocked me to sleep.

My relationship with time began to unfold. Once the silence set in, I discovered a vast open space was buried under the clutter of my over-stimulated mind. I didn't suddenly stop thinking and go into a trance—I discovered my thoughts were simply not weighed down with the sense of too much to do in too little time. My noisy mind was not interrupting the freedom to ponder and wonder, to watch my thoughts instead of mass producing them.

It is not hard to be a contemplative in silence, a contemplative in action presents some obstacles. All I know is that I don't want to lose the clarity that comes when I honor my need for silence. God and I listened to the silence together in the enclosed monastery. My prayer is that God and I will continue to listen to the silence together now that I have returned to daily life.



In Peace

Billie+

## ✝ Josie's Journal

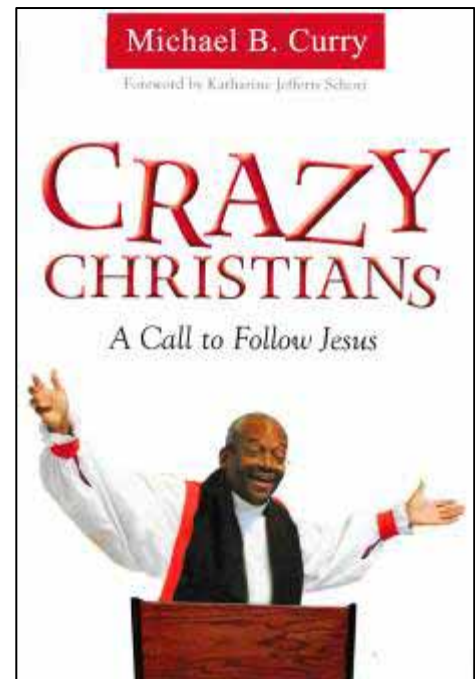
### *Will You be Faithful in Prayer and in the Reading and Study of the Holy Scriptures?*

The quote is one of my ordination vows that I am trying to live into. I am a member of the *Bible and More Study Group* that meets on Thursday evenings from 6-8 p.m. We are studying *Glimpses: A Study in the Book of Acts* with the Rev. John Stone Jenkins. Topics we have discussed are: *The Ascension, The Disciples Organize, Pentecost, The First Christian Sermon, Responding to the Preaching of the Gospel, Life in the Christian community, The First Miracle of Healing, The Second Proclamation of the Gospel and Conflict with the World.*

The topics on December 4, 2014, will be *The Stoning of Stephen* and *The Conversion of Paul*. We will watch the video and answer the questions in the study guide. The study group has twelve sessions. I invite you to consider coming to the *Study of Acts*.

Attending workshops is another way that I glean information from the Scriptures. On November 14, Theo and I attended *The ECW Fall Conference* with Bishop Michael Curry, IX Bishop of North Carolina. Bishop Curry has written a book, *Crazy Christians, A Call to Follow Jesus* which I recommend highly. Bishop Curry focused the conference on Love, saying *We Only Exist Because God is Love*. We were challenged to read 1 Corinthians 13 in its entirety. Bishop Curry set forth many challenging ideas to ponder.

Another book I have studied is *Breathing Underwater* by Richard Rohr. Whether or not I agree with the author, the important thing is that I am studying and broadening my knowledge base and developing a deeper sense of community with those I love at St. Alban's.



In Peace,

Josie+



## Schedule of Events

### Weekly Activities & Services

#### Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM  
 Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM  
 Choir Practice, Nave, 10:00 AM  
 Children's Chapel during the 11:00 AM Eucharist

#### Tuesday

Crafter's Gathering, Home of Penny Freund, 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM  
 Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM  
 Choir Practice following the Healing Service & Eucharist

#### Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, Noon  
 Bible & More Discussion Group, Parish House, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

### December

**Monday, December 1**—A Service and Celebration for the Life of John Scott

**Wednesday, December 3**—Advent 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 – 2:00 PM

**Sunday, December 7**—Morning Prayer, 8:30 AM, Eucharist, 11:00 AM

**Saturday, December 13**—ECW Christmas Luncheon & Ornament Exchange, All Saints' School Rectory, 11:00 AM. The luncheon will be catered at a cost of \$17 per plate

**Saturday, December 13**—*Day of the Diaconate*, introduction event for discerning ministry of deacon, Deacon Josie Williams will accompany Marci Turner

**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

**Sunday, December 21**—Children Christmas Pageant during the 11:00 AM Eucharist, Potluck Christmas Goodies & Coffee Time between worship services and after the 11:00 AM Eucharist

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

**Wednesday, December 24**—*Carols by Candlelight*, 5:30 & 9:30 PM, Eucharist, 6:00 & 10:00 PM

## January & Beyond

**Friday, January 2 – Sunday, January 4**—Retreat for Young Adults, *Wanderings: God in Darkness*, the Big House at Gray Center. Space is limited - register by December 20. Contact [ehwj68@gmail.com](mailto:ehwj68@gmail.com)

**Wednesday, January 7**—Quiet Day, *Come In, Be Still, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Leave in Peace*

**Sunday, January 11**—Annual Parish Meeting, ONE Eucharist, 10:00 AM, Potluck Luncheon following the Eucharist, Parish House

**Sunday, January 18 & 25**—*Who Are Episcopalians?* Adult Sunday School, Parish House, 10:00 – 10:45 AM

**Friday, February 6 – Sunday, February 8**—Annual Council, Jackson Convention Center

**Sunday, February 8**—Second Sunday at St. Mary's, 4:00 PM

**Sunday, February 1, 15 & 22**—*Who Are Episcopalians?* Adult Sunday School, Parish House, 10:00-10:45 AM

**Wednesday, February 18**—Ash Wednesday



## December Birthdays

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Harvey Smith, Jr.   | 18 Kristen Gayle     |
| 3 Ashley Abraham      | 22 Jennifer Normand  |
| 10 Patti Dunham       | 26 John Bonar        |
| 11 Clarissa Walker    | 27 Linda Gerache     |
| 12 Pam McCoy Ethridge | 28 Dominick McCarthy |
| Joan Leese            | Sara Porter          |
| 13 Michael Bailey     | 29 Buddy Hanks       |
| 15 Jim Butler         | Ann Jones            |
| Jim Harper            |                      |

## December Anniversaries

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14 Bill & Margharita Davis  | 23 Allen & Linda Kitchens        |
| Jerry & Kay McWilliams      | 29 Rudolph & Allison Price Nieto |
| 16 Jimmy & Ann Jones        | David & Mary Ann Wright          |
| 20 Charlie & Terry Brantley | 31 Bobby & Rachel Sullivan       |

## Prayers for the People

### For those Sick or in Need:

- |                    |                        |                       |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Petesy Smith       | Sherry Barton          | Eleanor Price         |
| Alice Pronger      | Cheryl Lloyd           | Lucas Guynes          |
| Jackson Monti      | Laura                  | 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        | Billy Graves          |
| Ronnie McGowan     | Bo Joseph              | Calvin Fields         |
| Lawrence Fields    | The Tryman Family      | Sherry Felts          |
| Richard Stone      | Mary Branciere         | Carolyn Ellis Stanton |
|                    | Keegan James Concannon |                       |

## Liturgical Schedule – Sundays in December

	<b>Dec 7</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Dec 14</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Dec 21</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>Dec 28</b> <i>First Sunday after Christmas</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalm 126	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Psalm 147
<b>Second Reading</b>	2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Romans 16: 25-27	John 1:1-18
<b>Gospel</b>	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Luke 1: 26-38	Galatians 3:23-25
	8:30 Morning Prayer 11:00 AM Eucharist		Children's Christmas Pageant	
<b>Lay Worship Leader</b>				
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Deacon Josie	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Theo Williams
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby	David Pruett
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Susan Price	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby	Jennifer Normand
<b>Crucifer &amp; Acolyte</b>	Susan Price	Theo Williams	Koury Collins	Jennifer Normand
<b>Gospel Bearer</b>	Marci & Children	Deacon Josie	Marci & Children	Deacon Josie
<b>Lector</b>	Sharon Hanks	Mary Ruth Jones	Ed Shelnut	Penny Freund
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Beth Guynes	Deacon Josie	Mary Carleton	Deacon Josie
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Betty Rushing Janice Herrington	Rymn Parsons Joan Parsons	Jenni, Caroline Sciro Linda Gerache	Becky Drake Jim Drake
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Allan Leese Charlie Brantley	Lance Stewart Richard Massey	Jay Sciro Joey Gerache	Allan Leese Rymn Parsons
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Beth Guynes	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Susan Price	Herb Jones	Ed Shelnut	David Pruett
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Margo Massey Bonnie Pruett	Betsy Selby Ann Jones	Potluck Christmas Goodies	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter
<b>Children's Chapel</b>	Ann Tompkins	Betty Rushing	Kerri Williams	No Children's Chapel
<b>Wednesday Healing</b>	<b>Dec 3</b> Tommy Skinner	<b>Dec 10</b> Ann Tompkins	<b>Dec 17</b> Theo Williams	<b>Dec 24</b> Christmas Eve