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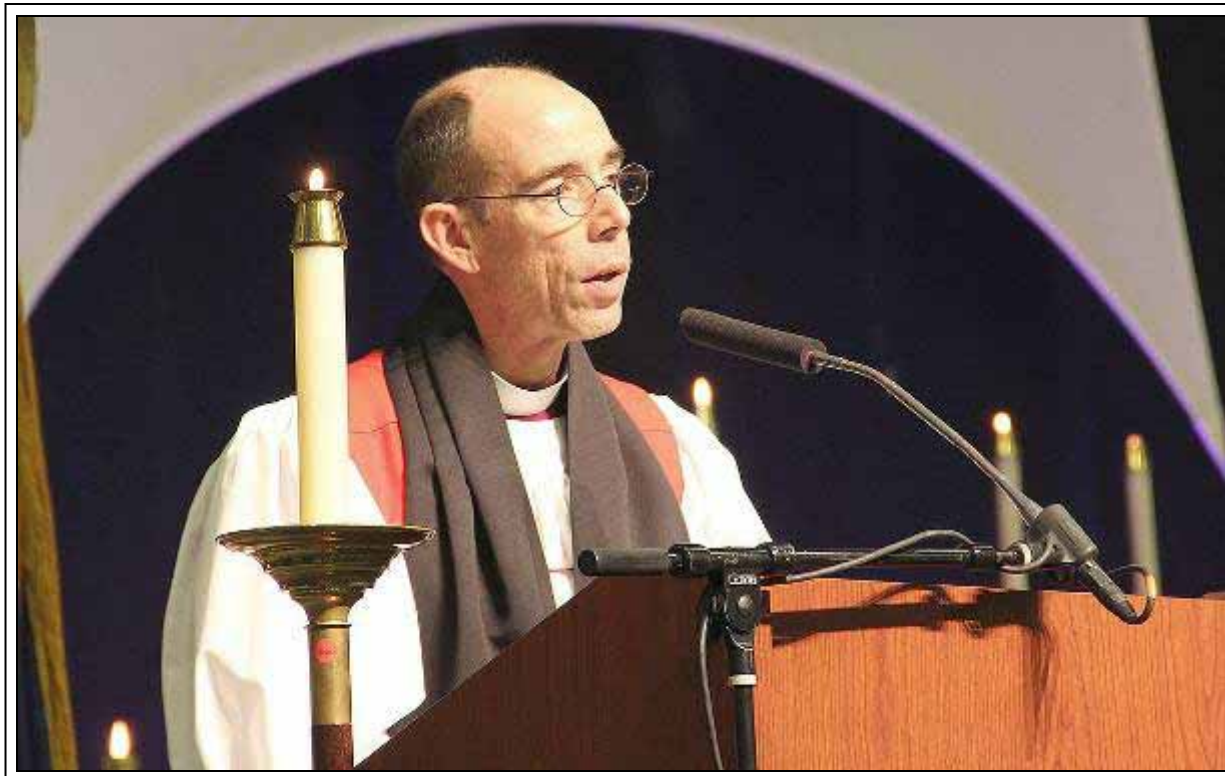
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5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
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March 2015



Bishop Gray Passes the Crosier to Bishop Seage

Bishop Seage Addresses the 188th Annual Council

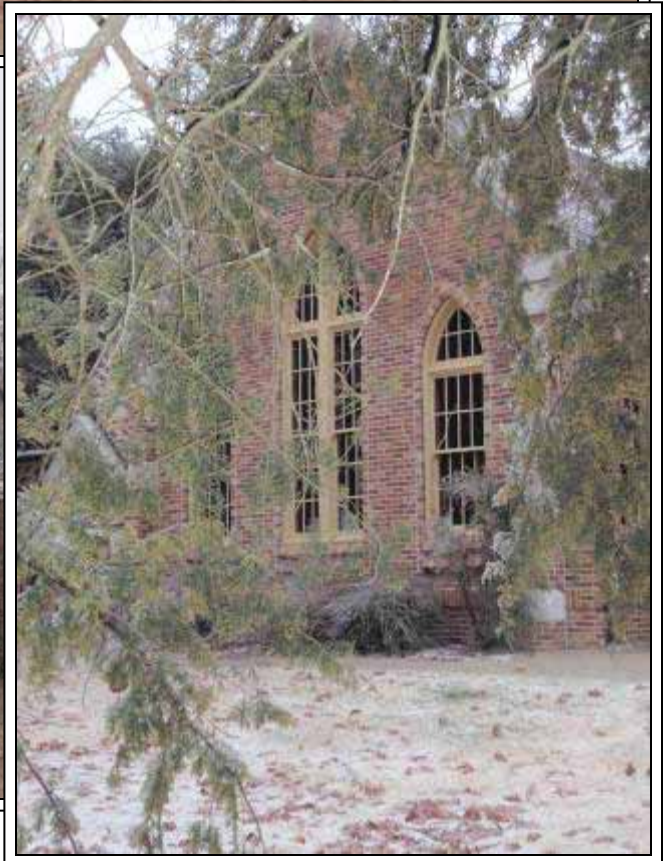
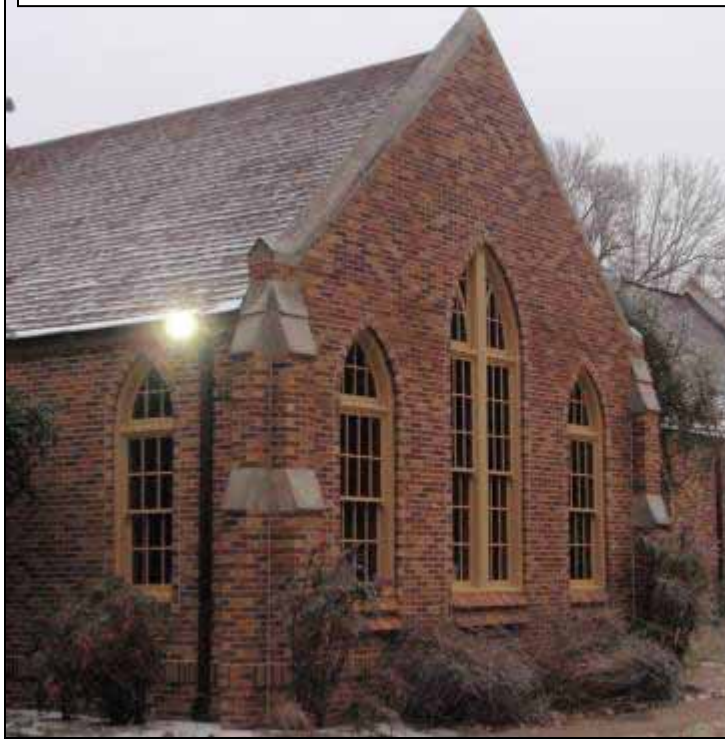
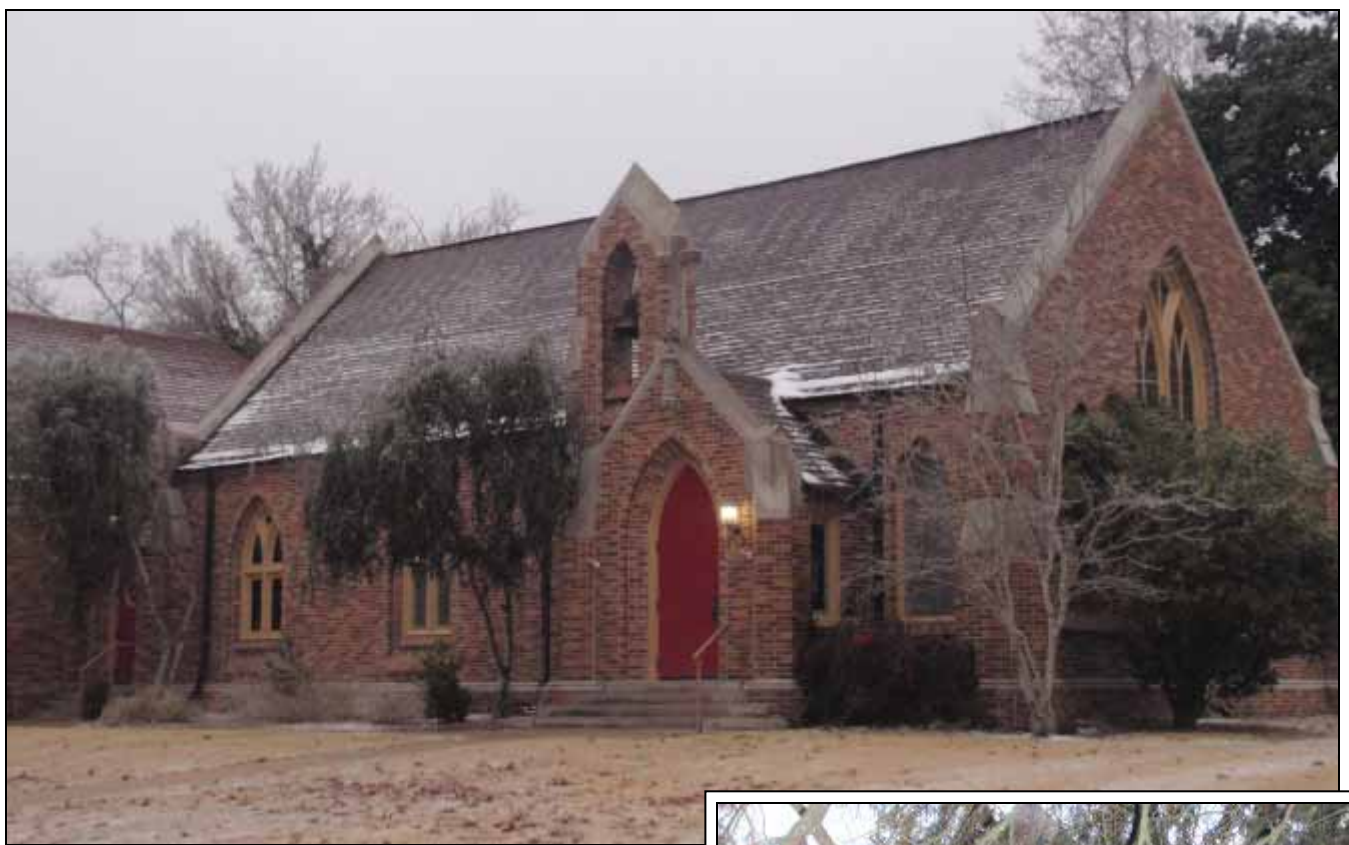


Annual Council for the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi was held March 6–8 at the Convention Center in Jackson. At this time, Bishop Duncan Gray III passed the Crosier to Bishop Brian Seage, officially making him the 10th bishop to serve the Mississippi Diocese.

The theme for the 2015 Council was *Being One Church*. Bishop Seage's opening address to the congregation focused on the message of *Unity*. "Friends, I believe Christ is calling us to Unity. I believe Christ is calling us to set aside differences in opinion. I believe Christ is calling us to selfless service in His name. I believe Christ is calling us to be visionaries. I believe Christ is calling us to action. I believe Christ is calling us to be a dwelling-place for God. I charge you with being one church. One Church in Mission: Inviting, Transforming, and Reconciling."

Representing St. Alban's Church at Council were: Billie Abraham and Josie Wilms, clergy; Kelsey Artman, Sharon Hanks & Susan Price, delegates; Charlie Brantley and Richard Price, alternate delegates; and David Pruett, inducted as Lay Worship Leader. Bonnie Pruett attended her husband's Induction Ceremony. Those attending Council as visitors were: Tommy Skinner, Ann Tompkins, Jennifer Normand, Kerri Williams, Theo Williams, Janice Herrington and Marci Turner.

Winter Weather at St. Alban's





†Billie's Corner

"By the seventh day God has finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done."

Genesis 2:2-3

Scripture tells us that God took a sabbatical from the work of *creation*. God rested. Why is it that we have such a difficult time with intentional periods of rest in our own lives? In a world that is saturated with timesaving devices, we seem to have less time now than in the past. The idea of taking a sabbatical from work to rest seems alien. Yet, even a simple pause can refuel us with creativity.

Sabbaticals are intended to be a time for renewal and reflection. I am ready for some renewal time. I want to pause and take a look at myself and my ministry. The expression "can't see the forest for the trees" describes what can happen in a parish ministry. It is easy to move from one demanding task to the next and lose track of the grand scheme of things. It is also easy to lose a perspective of one's self—to be consumed with *doing* and ignore *being*. A sabbatical is a time to retrieve a sense of balance.

The Episcopal Church recognizes the need for sabbatical time for clergy and recommends that sabbaticals be taken after the clergyperson has served for 5 years in an active field of ministry. Saint Alban's Church definitely meets the qualification since I was called here in 2009 and, it has now been over 5 years.

I anticipate taking a sabbatical in 2016 or 2017 for a two or three month period. I plan to apply for a lucrative and competitive grant funded by Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company. The congregation and the clergy apply for the grant which, if received, will fund expenses during the sabbatical. A former recipient commented that she & her congregation didn't expect to receive the grant, but they did. That is my attitude—we can't receive it if we don't apply for it. Participation of the congregation is an essential component. We are in this together! I invite your input.

I am discerning what my sabbatical may include—certainly time with my family, time for travel and time for solitude. The only confirmed segment is an extended stay with *The Brothers of St. John the Evangelist*.

In the coming months, we will work together and pray for an understanding of sabbatical and for guidance as we discern the unfolding of sabbatical time.

In Peace

Billie+

✠ Josie's Journal

Let me share with you what the huge poster in the parish house with Lent Madness 2015 is all about. Lent Madness is sponsored by *Forward Movement*, a ministry of the Episcopal Church whose mission is to reinvigorate the life of its parishioners. The Rev. Tim Schenck, rector of the Episcopal Parish of St. John the Evangelist in Hingham, Massachusetts, designed the tournament as a fun way to engage people to learn about saints—both men and women. The basic idea is a single elimination leading to the Golden Halo.

Saints William Laud, Dorcas-Tabitha and Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist, are saints I am familiar with. However, I have now been introduced to Saints Egeria, Barbara and Hadewijch. During the first week of Lent Madness, my choices did not fare well. Gregory was defeated by Brendan and Hadewijch by Juan Diego. Now, I am looking forward to the coming week. The next time you are in the parish house, check out the poster on the wall and examine the bracket of saints.



2015 Lenten Meditations can be found on the table in the back hall. The booklet consists of selections from the *Episcopal Relief and Development* and reflect on the core statements that are the basis for the program:

- I believe that everyone should have access to clean water
- I believe that no child should go hungry
- I believe that all children and families deserve a healthy start in life
- I believe that no one should live in poverty
- I believe that together we can heal a hurting world.

We are asked to examine how these core statements are reflected in our way of life. It is my belief that if we start with our home, neighbor and community then work outward, we can change the world one person at a time. It might appear to be a lofty idea, but if we have faith the size of a mustard seed we can move mountains. On Friday evenings at 6:00 PM, we gather in the nave to walk and pray at each *Station of the Cross*. Last Friday, we had a community of seven to participate. At the last station, we took turns reading the *Sabat Mater* which depicts the suffering of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, during his crucifixion. I invite you to walk with our Savior to the Cross.

Christ's Peace,

Josie+

Lenten Arts Programs

The Arts Come to St. Alban's Church

Healing Service, 6:00 PM, Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM, Arts Program, 7:00 PM

- February 25, *Thulani Mnisi, Tenor Vocalist, accompanied by Kipp Gill, Organist, Mississippi College Music Majors*. Soup prepared by Margie Scott & Beth Guynes
- March 4, *Mississippi Girlchoir*. Soup prepared by Cassandra Price
- March 11, *Temperance Babcock-Steiskal, Violinist*. Soup prepared by Charlie & Terry Brantley
- March 18, *John Maxwell performs St. Paul Monologue*. Soup prepared by Rev. Billie Abraham
- March 25, *The Feast Day of the Annunciation, Viola Dacus, Ave Maria Medley*. Soup prepared by Tommy & Frank Skinner

Penny Freund is Bread Chairperson for each Lenten Soup Dinner. Please contact Penny if you wish to volunteer to supply the bread.

Episcopal Church Women

The ECW met on Saturday, February 14, 2015, in the Parish House. The meeting opened with the ECW Prayer. Cassandra Price presented the Treasurer's Report. Cassandra also reported that 153 cook books have been sold. It was decided that the ECW would purchase 500 note cards with the picture of St. Alban's Church on the front for sale. The note cards will be packaged 10/pk and will be sold for \$5.00 per pack. It was decided that \$300 would be donated to the Little Light House in Jackson. The Little Light House is where Lucas Guynes goes to school.

Please join us for our next meeting on March 14, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish House. At that time we will decide where we want to go on our fun trip in May. We already have a few suggestions, but would love to hear others. See you next month!

Sharon Hanks Receives the Bronze de Fleury Medal

On January 3, 2015, after 43 years of government service, Sharon Hanks retired from the U. S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center. At her retirement ceremony she was presented the Bronze de Fleury medal from COL Jeffrey R. Eckstein, Commander of ERDC, and Mr. Jose Sanchez, Director of the Coastal and Hydraulics Laboratory.

The award was a complete surprise to Sharon since she had no idea that, upon retirement, she would receive the prestigious medal that is usually awarded only to professional engineers and scientists. To quote Sharon, “I was surprised and honored.”

The Bronze Medal is presented to an individual who has rendered significant service or support to an element of the Engineer Regiment. On the medal is a Latin inscription meaning: “A MEMORIAL AND REWARD FOR COURAGE AND BOLDNESS.” The de Fleury Medal was the first Congressional Medal struck, if not the first medal authorized.

During Sharon’s years of government service, she has played a major leadership role working for the Engineer Research and Development Center. The St. Alban’s Community congratulates Sharon on the honor bestowed on her by those she has worked with for nearly a half a century. What a wonderful retirement surprise!



By Rebecca Blackwell Drake

Schedule of Events

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

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

Create & Carry, Home of Penny Freund and Linda Wall, 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM

Centering Prayer Support Group, 8:30 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Choir Practice following the Healing Service **except during Lent**

Thursday, Cursillo Grouping, Noon

Centering Prayer Support Group, 4:00

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

Friday, Stations of the Cross, 6:00 PM— **during Lent only**

Event Calendar

Sunday, March 1, *Being a Christian—How It Starts and How It Grows*, Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM. Children's Chapel, *About Lent*, during 11:00 AM Eucharist

Wednesday, March 4—*Lenten Arts Program*. Healing Service, 6:00 PM, Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM, Prepared by Cassandra Price, *Mississippi Girlchoir*, 7:00 PM

Friday, March 6—Stations of the Cross, 6:00 PM

Sunday, March 8—*Episcopalians & The Book of Common Prayer*, Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM. Children's Chapel, *Rosary Making*, during the 11:00 AM Eucharist Practice to serve at the Eucharist follow the 11:00 AM service.

Sunday, March 8—*Second Sundays at St. Mary's*, Bolton, *Vocal Rendition of the Stations of the Cross*, Mississippi College Vocalists, directed by Ed Dacus, 4:00 PM

Wednesday, March 11—*Lenten Arts Program*. Healing Service, 6:00 PM, Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM, Prepared by Terry & Charlie Brantley, *Temperance Babcock—Steiskal*, *Violinist*, 7:00 PM

Friday, March 13—*Stations of the Cross*, 6:00 PM

Friday, March 13 – 15, Annual Parish Weekend at Gray Center **POSTPONED**

- March 14**—ECW meeting, Parish House, 9:30 AM
- Sunday, March 15**—*Praying Shapes Our Believing*, Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM,
Children will serve at the 11:00 AM Eucharist
- Tuesday, March 17**—Vestry Meeting, 5:15 PM
- Wednesday, March 18**—*Lenten Arts Program*. Healing Service, 6:00 PM,
Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM, Prepared by Billie Abraham, *John Maxwell, St. Paul Monologue*, 7:00 PM
- Friday, March 20**—*Stations of the Cross*, 6:00 PM
- Sunday, March, 22**—*Community Life at St. Alban's Church*, Adult Sunday School,
10:00 AM, Children's Chapel, *Rosary Making Project*, during 11:00 AM Eucharist
- Wednesday, March 25**—**The Feast Day of the Annunciation**, *Lenten Arts Program*.
Healing Service, 6:00 PM, Soup Dinner, Prepared by Tommy & Frank Skinner,
6:30 PM, *Viola Dacus, Ave Maria Medley*, 7:00 PM
- Friday, March 27**—*Stations of the Cross*, 6:00 PM
- Saturday, March 28**—*Lectio Divina Retreat*, Praying Holy Scripture, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Holy Week

- Sunday, March, 29**—**Palm Sunday**. 8:30 & 11:00 Eucharist, Dramatic Reading of
The Passion of Jesus according to Mark. *Praying our Way through Holy Week*, Adult
Sunday School, 10:00. Children's Chapel, *Rosary Making Project*
- Monday, March 30**—*Stations of the Cross*, 6:00 PM
- Tuesday, March 31**—*Stations of the Cross*, 6:00 PM
- Wednesday, April 1**—Quiet Day, "*Come In—Be Still—Light a Candle—Say a Prayer—
Leave in Peace*" Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM
- Thursday, April 2**—**Maundy Thursday**. Foot Washing Service, 6:00 PM
- Friday, April 3**—**Good Friday Service**, 6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 4**—**Holy Saturday**—Morning Service, 8:30 AM
The Great Vigil of Easter, 6:00 PM
- Sunday, April, 5**—**Easter Sunday**—Celebration of the Holy Eucharist, 8:30 &
11:00 AM, Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 AM, Reception following both services
- Sunday, April 12**—*Resurrection Appearance Stories from the Bible—What does Resurrection
Mean Now, Today?* Adult Sunday School, 10:00 AM.
- Saturday, April, 11**—Vestry Retreat at the farm house of Easy Biedenham. Retreat
will include monthly meeting, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM
- Sunday, April 12**—*Second Sunday at St. Mary's*, Holy Eucharist, Arts, *Accento Trio*,
Soprano, Flute and Piano Artistic Performers from USM, 4:00 PM. *Reception*.
- Monday, April 13 – Friday, April 24**—Rev. Billie will travel to New York to spend a
few days with Amy & Scott & Ernie, followed by a weeklong retreat at SSJE
- Sunday, April 12**—*Second Sundays at St. Mary's*, Bolton, 4:00 PM

March Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1 Michael Guynes
Lisa Langford
Parker Ramsay | 15 Lanore Fulgham
Ben Harper |
| 7 Anita Collins
Herb Jones | 24 Jeff Artman
Olivia Curtis |
| 10 Michael Rangel | 27 Stacey Sumrall |
| 11 Sherry Horan | 31 Clare Huntley
Jenni Sciro |
| 12 Jeanne Lunz | Bobby Sullivan |

March Anniversaries

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| 11 Michael & Ashley Abraham | 16 Bill & Liz Curtis |
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Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Betty Biedenbarn | Dalton Glatt | Rachelle Ferris |
| Alice Pronger | Cheryl Lloyd | Lawrence Fields |
| Bertha Kolb | Lucas Guynes | Jim & Sherry Horan |
| Bill Curtis | Parker Ramsay | Sid & Janet Champion |
| Linda & Jim Dooley | Barbara Ramsay | Jackson Monti |
| Margie Scott | Frances Kaufman | Mary Ruth Jones |
| Jerry & Kay McWilliams | Susan Yerger | Richard Stone |
| Terry Brantley | Arthur Bridges | Afton Wallace |

For the Departed: The Rev. Raul Mattei

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in March

	March 1 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>	March 8 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i>	March 15 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	March 22 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	March 29 <i>Palm Sunday</i>
First Reading	Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31- 34	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalms	Psalms 22:22-30	Psalms 19	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalms 51:1-13	Psalms 31:9-16
Second Reading	Romans 4:13-25	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel	Mark 8:31-38	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	Mark 14:1-15:47
Lay Worship Leader					
8:30 a.m.	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	David Pruett	Theo Williams
11:00 a.m.	Ann Tompkins	David Pruett	Theo Williams	Harvey Smith	Betsy Selby
Master of Ceremonies	Ann Tompkins	Josie Williams	Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes
Crucifer & Acolyte	Beth & Canada	Theo Williams	Beth & Children		Koury Collins
Gospel Bearer	Marci & Children	Marci & Children	Marci & Children	Josie & Children	Beth & Children
Lector	Mary Carleton	Herb Jones	Children	Sharon Hanks	Passion Gospel Herb Jones Ed Shelnut James Anderson
Prayers of the People	Harvey Smith	Deacon Josie	Sharon Hanks	Deacon Josie	Mary Carleton
Oblation Bearers	Cynthia Strawn Margie Scott		Children	Betty Rushing Janice Herrington	Jess Gates Kelsey Artman
Ushers & Greeters	Peter Meyers Dan Carleton	Richard Massey Charlie Brantley	Children	Allan Leese Rymn Parsons	Lance Stewart Dan Carleton
Altar Guild	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey Herb Jones	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Beth Guynes Ed Shelnut
Eucharistic Minister					
Coffee Host	Margie Scott Wilma Mitchell Bonnie Pruett	Margo Massey Betty Rushing	Dalton Thames Sara Porter	Ann Jones Betsy Selby	The Parsons Peter Myers
Children's Chapel	Jennifer Normand	Jess Gates Betty Rushing	Children to serve at the Eucharist	Jess Gates Carol Simmons Josie Williams	Ann Tompkins Kerri Williams
Wednesday Healing	March 4 Harvey Smith	March 11 Tommy Skinner	March 18 David Pruett	March 25 Theo Williams	April 1 Ann Tompkins