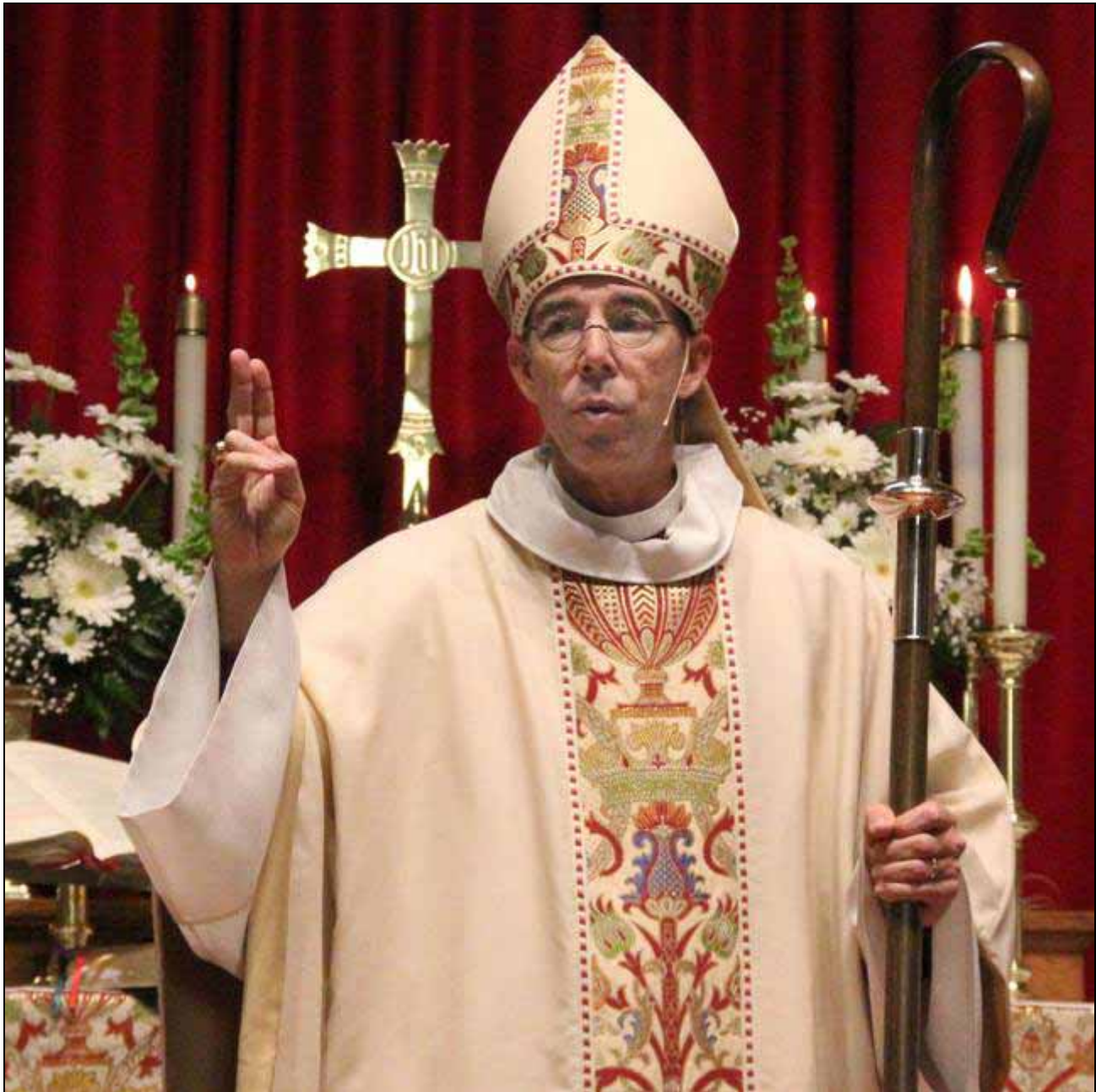




The Albanac

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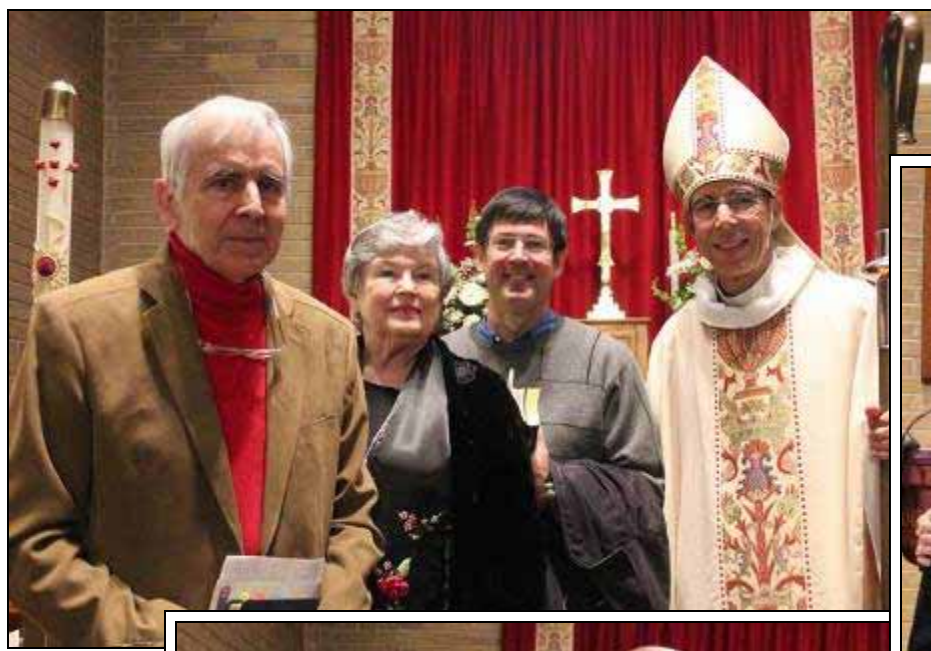
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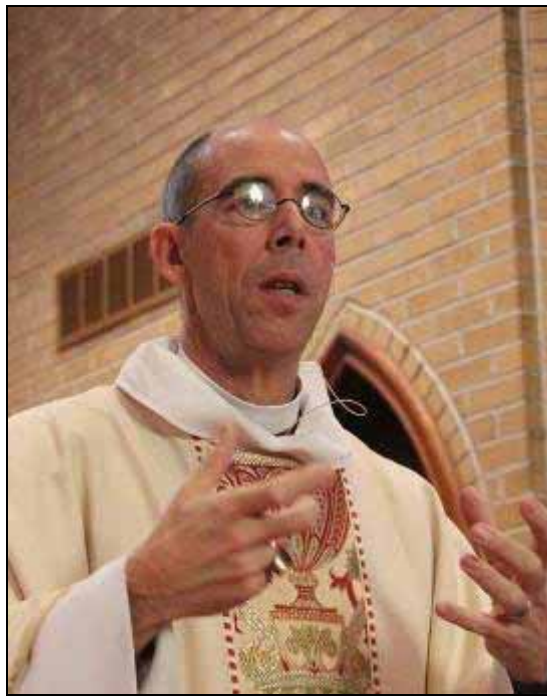
Bishop Brian Seage Celebrates Holy Eucharist at St. Alban's

Baptism, Confirmation and Reaffirmation



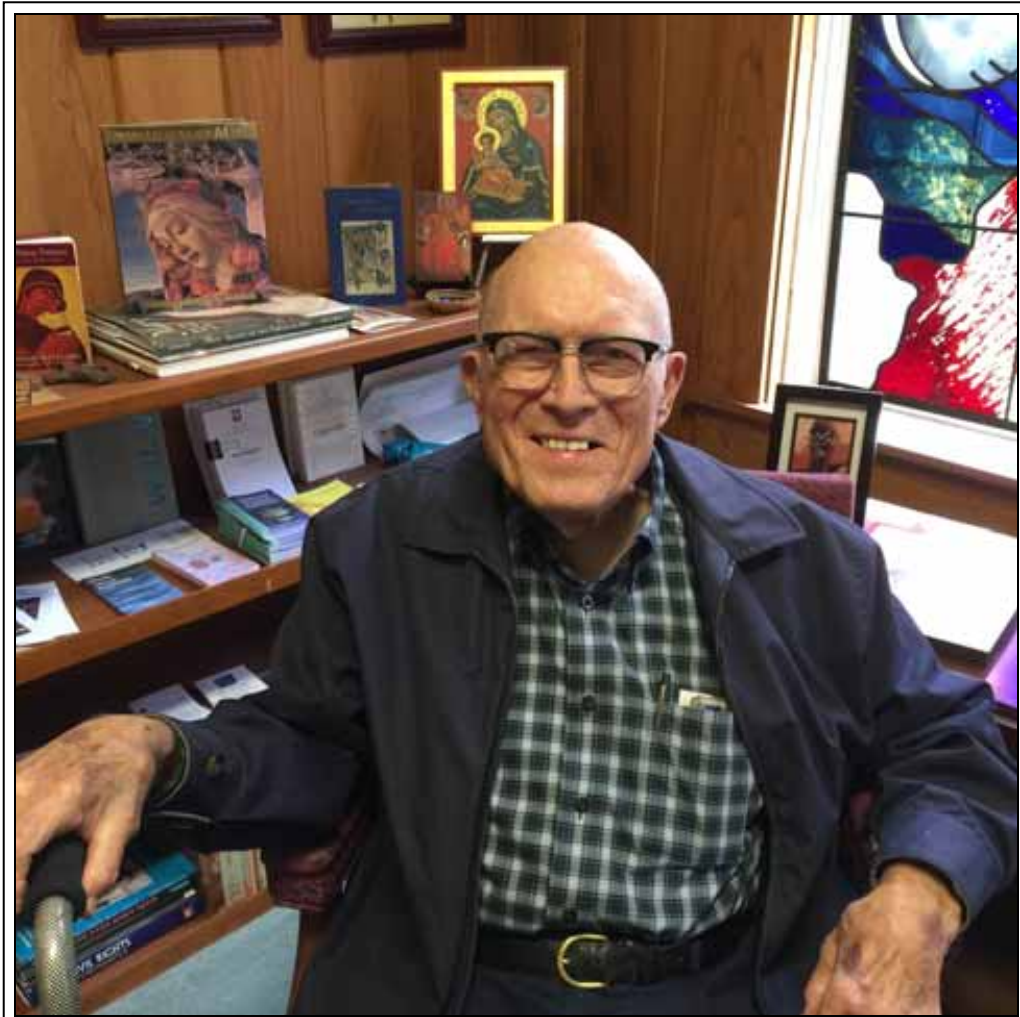








The Right Reverend Duncan Gray, Jr. Visits St. Alban's



For these are times which not only try men's souls, but also infect and poison them. The seeds of anger and hatred, bitterness and prejudice, are already widely sown, and as Christians, we need to do our utmost to uproot and cast them out.

Bishop Duncan Gray, Jr.

On Wednesday, February 24, Bishop Duncan Gray Jr. visited St. Alban's Church unannounced. He and his driver, Michelle, were out for a ride and the place the bishop wanted to visit was St. Alban's in Bovina. Imagine Rev. Billie's surprise when she saw him walk through the door! Bishop Gray served as the diocesan bishop of Mississippi from 1974–1991, a tenure that often brought him to Bovina for visitations at St. Alban's, one of oldest Episcopal churches in the diocese.

Bishop Gray, born in Canton in 1926, became the seventh bishop of Mississippi. He received his academic degrees from the University of the South, also known as Sewanee and was ordained to the diaconate on April 8, 1953, by his father, Bishop Duncan Gray, Sr. In 1957, he became rector of St. Peter's Church, Oxford, where he also served as chaplain to the Episcopal students at Ole Miss. During this time he became well-known for his strong stance against racism and earned the respect (and contempt) that would shape his legacy as a civil rights advocate within the Episcopal Church. Firm in his decision to fight for equality, he bravely wrote: *Segregation is incompatible with the Christian Gospel. All major denominations have taken this stand. Church has spoken. Implementation of the principle poses tremendous problems which will take a long, long time to work out. The place to start is in our lives.*

In 1974, when Bishop Gray became diocesan bishop of Mississippi, he continued to work diligently for the reconciliation of the races. His legacy will be the Mississippi bishop who fought for social justice and lived to see the fruits of his labor.

As the seasons turn, we hope that Bishop Gray will return again to St. Alban's to visit and enjoy the ambiance of the church and grounds. St. Alban's is an indelible part of the bishop's past. His stand for "liberty and justice for all" opened the gateway to St. Alban's future.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*Photograph of Bishop Duncan Gray Jr. by Reverend Billie Abraham
Article by Rebecca B. Drake*

† Billie's Corner



Sandia Mountains
Albuquerque New, Mexico

The Vastness of God's Creation

Thus says the Lord:

"My heaven is my throne.

My earth is my footstool."

Isaiah 66:1

Dear St. Alban's Community,

I don't know about you, but I see most of my daily life through tunnel vision. I narrow down my focus to my never ending to-do list that centers on life at St. Alban's Church in Bovina. I forget that the world is far larger than my immediate environment and relationships. Instead, I spend my every moment looking down at my most current task.

A few weeks ago I visited my daughter who recently moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico. Getting there was no simple chore. I spent days pre-arranging church details for the week that I would be gone. The flight took me in and out of three time zones. I arrived in a daze—my brain still in Bovina while my daughter and I plunged into our time together.

I rested and read the day after my arrival while my daughter was at work. Slowly a sense of calm descended upon me. My first opportunity to see the Albuquerque landscape took place when I ventured out the following day to explore the sights. It wasn't until I was returning to my daughter's home that the Sandia Mountain range came into view. Oh my gosh! The sight was literally breathtaking. I had to stop and look—look at the grandness—look at the majesty—look at God's resplendent and

towering creation. I was jolted out of my encapsulated way of seeing my tiny segment of the world into viewing the boundless span of God's creation.

Deadlines, commitments and tasks are a part of life, **but not the whole of it**. I had forgotten that fact. As the old saying goes, "I couldn't see the forest for the trees." I had to step away to get a fresh perspective. It took a massive mountain range to get my undivided attention—to remind me that God's world stretches into eternity. I had put God in a box the size of Bovina—the size of my immediate concerns.

The time apart from church, the time with my daughter, the time hiking, the time resting, the time praying refueled my soul to return to Bovina beholding the vastness of God's creation in my daily life.

*"I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart;
I will tell of all your marvelous works."* Psalm 9:1



The Hike



The Reward



Sound of Silence

In Peace
Billie+

† Josie's Journal

LENT MADNESS FIRST ROUND OBSERVATIONS

We are thirteen days into Lent Madness. I say “we” because I know that you are reading the biographies right along with me. Lent Madness is a good discipline for me because in order to participate I have to be intentional and set aside time to cast my vote. Even if you are not voting online but are reading the biographies of the saints, that is participation— setting aside time to “take something on” for Lent.

I had three miscues in the First Round of Lent Madness. **Constance vs. Dominic**— Constance was a 19th century American Nun and Dominic, a 12th Century Spanish Monk who was the founder of the Order of Preachers. I voted for Dominic. **Roch vs. Gertrude**—Roch was a 14th century Frenchman who is the patron saint of dogs while Gertrude is the patron saint of the West Indies. I voted for Gertrude. **Columba vs. Kateri Tekawitha**—Columba established a monastery at Iona and Kateri was among the first Native Americans to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.

Next, is the **Round of the Sainly Sixteen**. The saints competing are Helena vs. Constance, Methodius vs. Albert Schweitzer, Roch vs. Julian and Clare vs. TBA. The other half of the bracket will see these saints in competition; Meister Eckhart vs. Columba, Dietrich Bonhoeffer vs. TBA, Sojourner Truth vs. TBA, and Joseph vs. Absalom. The competition gets stiffer. Who will survive this round to advance to the Elate Eight?

You can follow the progress of the rounds by checking the large bracket on display in the parish house. Have a blessed Lent.



Christ Peace,

Josie+

Lenten Arts Series

Join Us for Wednesday Evening Arts Events

Healing Service, 6:00 PM
Homemade Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM
Lenten Arts Program, 7:00 PM
Bring Guests—No Charge

Wednesday, March 2

An Evening of Gospel Music

Performed by

The Lewis Family Singers

Champion Hill Missionary Baptist Church



Wednesday, March 9

An Evening of Organ Music

Performed by

Dr. David Mahloch, Organist

Jackson State University



Wednesday, March 16

An Evening of Choral Music

Performed by

The Mississippi Girlchoir

High School Chorus



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, Parish House, 10:00 AM
 Choir Practice, Nave, 10:00 AM
 Children's Chapel during 11:00 AM Eucharist

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM
 Centering Prayer Support Group, 8:30 AM
 Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Thursday

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

Wednesday, March 2—*First Wednesday Quiet Day*, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Come In, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Be Still, Leave in Peace

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:00 AM

Morning Prayer, 9:00 PM—Centering Prayer, 9:30 PM—*Silence*—Noon Prayer—*Silence*—

Evening Prayer and Centering Prayer, 4:00 PM

Healing Service, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 2—*An Evening of Gospel Music*, The Lewis Family Singers

Friday, March 4—*Stations of the Cross*, 5:00 PM

Wednesday, March 9—*An Evening of Organ Music*, Dr. David Mahloch. 7:00 PM.

Friday, March 11—*Stations of the Cross*, 5:00 PM

Sunday, March 13—**Second Sunday's at St. Mary's**, Bolton, 4:00 PM. *Stations of the Cross* led by Mary Ruth Jones & Charlie Carlisle, with hymns, anthems and motets performed by Mississippi College Choristers. Directed by Kipp Gill

Tuesday, March 15—Vestry Meeting, Parish House, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 16—*An Evening of Choral Music*, The Mississippi Girlchoir, High School Chorus 7:00 PM.

Friday, March 18—*Stations of the Cross*, 5:00 PM

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, March 20—**Palm Sunday**, Palm Procession & Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Monday & Tuesday, March 21 & 22—*Stations of the Cross*, 6:00 PM

Wednesday, March 23—Healing Service & Eucharist, Taize Music, 6:00 PM

Easter Triduum

Maundy Thursday, March 24—Eucharist—Foot Washing—Followed by
Contemplative Prayer at the Altar of Repose, 6:00 PM

Good Friday, March 25—Memorial Service for Christ's Crucifixion, 6:00 PM

Holy Saturday, March 26—The Great Easter Vigil, 6:00 PM

Easter Sunday, March 27—Celebration of the Feast of the Resurrection

Eucharist, 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Easter Reception, following the 8:30 & 11:00 AM Eucharist

Easter Egg Hunt, 10:00 AM



Mississippi Diocesan Altar Guild

2016 Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 30, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

\$25 registration fee includes
Continental Breakfast and Lunch

Bishop Brian Seage, Guest Speaker

March Birthdays

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

March Anniversaries

9 Greg & Beth Williamson	16 Bill & Liz Curtis
11 Michael & Ashley Abraham	

Prayers for the People

For those Sick or in Need:



Betty Biedenharn	Dalton Glatt	Rachelle Ferris
Hallie Jo Ragsdale	Catherine Riggs	Jim & Sherry Horan
Bertha Kolb	Lucas Guynes	Jim Dantin
Parker Ramsay	Linda & Jim Dooley	Millie Gassaway
Barbara Ramsay	Jackson Monti	Evan Olievera
Glenda Ferguson	Mary Ruth Jones	Bare Ahner
Charlie Brantley & Family	Ann Hanks	Kristi Biedenharn
Bob & Yvette	Karen Bates	Aryana T. Strawn (infant)
Walker Biedenharn	Frances Weissinger	The Wasson Family
Larry Lambiotte	Dan & Mary Carleton	The Greene Family
Richard & Margo Massey	Dale Gibson	Norma Jones
Dick Taylor	John Hardy	David McLaughlin
Louise Gray	Damion Hansford	Mary Ellen Flowers
Libby Mulloy	Richard Stone	The Chaney Family
Erin Worthy	Mat Mitchell	Desi Leeann Eaton
Bill & Liz Curtis	Bonnie Pruett	Juliah & John Brumley
Caroline Nations	Gina & Julia Raddatz	Gail Tuminello
Jennifer Minsheu	Christine Frisbee	Betty Runyon Graham
Trey Engelhardt	Jacob Downey	

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in March

	March 6 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i>	March 13 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i>	March 20 <i>Palm Sunday</i>	March 27 <i>Easter Day Children's Sunday</i>
First Reading	Joshua 5:9-12	Isaiah 43:16-21	All Holy Week Schedules Will Be Sent Out Separately	Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm	Psalm 32	Psalm 126		Psalm 118:1-2; 14-24
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:16-21	Philippians 3:4b-14		1 Corinthians 15:19-26
Gospel	Luke 15:1-13, 11b-32	John 12:1-8		Luke 24:1-12
Lay Worship Leader 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Theo Williams David Pruett	Richard Price Harvey Smith		Tommy Skinner Richard Price
Master of Ceremonies	Ann Tompkins	Beth Guynes		Beth Guynes
Crucifer & Acolyte	Ann Tompkins Brantley Dunaway Mary Ellen Dunaway	Beth Guynes Brantley Dunaway Gloria Hall		Beth Guynes and Gloria Hall
Holy Spirit Kite				Peter Williams Kerri Williams Brantley Dunaway Gabby Rushing
Banner Bearer				
Gospel Bearer	Brantley Dunaway	Rev. Josie Peter Williams		
Crucifer (Wooden Cross)	Mary Ellen Dunaway			Mary Ellen Dunaway
Torch Bearers				Lawson Selby Sam Hall
Old Testament Lector 8:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Penny Freund Mary Carleton	Penny Freund Canada Stewart		Penny Freund Canada Stewart
Psalm Lector				Sunny Faith
Epistle Lector				Heaven Leigh
Prayers of the People	Bruce Carleton	Rev. Josie		Bruce Carleton
Oblation Bearers	Anita Collins Janice Herrington	Becky Drake Betty Rushing		Betty Rushing
Ushers & Greeters	Dan Carleton Allan Leese	Lance Stewart Richard Massey		Jonah and Josh Artman Peter Williams
Lord's Prayer				Susan Price
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Shelnut	Herb Jones		
Altar Guild	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Beth Guynes	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey
Coffee Host	Betsy Selby Ann Tompkins Jennifer Normand	Cynthia Strawn Margo Massey Bonnie Pruett		Easter Reception Potluck Goodies
Children's Chapel	Marci Turner Betty Rushing	Marci Turner Ann Tompkins	Marci Turner Ann Tompkins	Easter Egg Hunt
Offertory Counters	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Jennifer Normand	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Janice Herrington	Rymn Parson Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Theo Williams
Healing Service	March 2 Ann Tompkins	March 9 Tommy Skinner	March 16 Theo Williams	March 23 Tommy Skinner