



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
5430 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi
www.stalbansbovina.org

October 2012

St. Alban's Annual Fall Festival

“A Day in the Country” – October 27-28

On Saturday and Sunday, October 27-28, 2012, St. Alban's Episcopal Church will host its annual fall festival, “A Day in the Country,” an event featuring a weekend of fun and fellowship. This year's festival will mark the 155th anniversary of the idyllic country church in the countryside of Bovina.

Kicking off the weekend event on Saturday will be the dedication of Rebecca Blackwell Drake and M. Kenon Ruska's new book, *Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Church*. The dedication service will take place in the nave of St. Alban's at 10:00 a.m. A variety of talented performers will take part in the dedication: Barney McCann, pianist extraordinaire, playing a *Celebration of Hymns*; The famed *Jubilee Singers* performing *Soon and Very Soon* by Andraé Crouch; Edward Shelnut, Mary Ruth Jones and James Anderson, each reading a chapter from the book and the St. Alban's Choir directed by Joan Leese, organist and choirmaster. A reception and book signing will follow in the parish hall.

Lift High the Cross is a 230-page hardback featuring a glossy cover of St. Alban's Church. The book will sell for \$20. All proceeds from the book sale will go to benefit St. Alban's Church. Another item being sold to benefit the church will be prints of a pen & ink sketch of St. Alban's 1870s church that is now serving as the parish hall. The artist, Jerry McWilliams, is well-known for his painting of *General John C. Pemberton* and the *USS Cairo*.



Other exciting events scheduled to take place on Saturday will be **Artillery and Infantry Demonstrations** at 2:00 p.m. and viewing the **Civil War encampments** on the church grounds. The traditional **All Saint's Luminary Service** will take place at 4:00 p.m. followed by a lantern-lit **Cemetery Stroll**.

On Sunday at 11:00 a.m., The Very Reverend Billie Abraham will celebrate the Holy Eucharist. Reenactors and Boy Scouts are invited to attend the service in period dress and uniforms. ***Dinner on the Grounds***, a church tradition since 1859, will feature fried catfish, hushpuppies, coleslaw, potatoes and green beans. The dinner will take place in the grove following the church service – plates are \$10.00 each. Performing for the lunch hour will be *Bridging the Gap*, a popular Irish group performing Irish music and other favorites.

During the Sunday activities, festival goers will not want to miss the traditional **Country Market** where homemade jams, preserves and jellies and casseroles will be sold by the Episcopal Church Women. Many wait for the annual Country Market to buy their hot pepper jelly for the winter season. Copies of *Lift High The Cross* and McWilliams' prints of the 1870s church will also be sold.

Day in the Country is one of St. Alban's favorite celebrations of the year. Church members look forward to greeting everyone for a weekend of relaxation and fellowship. For many, the fall festival is like coming home.

Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 7, 11:00 a.m.

Outdoor Chapel

During the month of October, pet-lovers arrive at St. Alban's for the ***Blessing of the Animals*** or what is known as the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*. Animal owners bring their pets, large and small, to the service to be given a special blessing. The age-old custom commemorates St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.

St. Francis, who loved all animals in nature, wrote a *Canticle of the Creatures*, an ode to God's living things: *All praise to you, Oh Lord, for all these brother and sister creatures*. The bond between a person and his pet is like no other relationship.



*All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.*

Anglican Hymn

Wanda Warren Donates Celtic Cross



On Sunday, September 2, 2012, The Very Reverend Billie Abraham blessed a beautiful metal Celtic cross donated to St. Alban's Church by Wanda Warren. The cross, made of metal and a special material that is burned on with a torch, was made by her son, Dee Warren. Dee and his brother, Scott, are owners of Independent Metal Craft in Clinton. Later this year, Wanda also plans to donate an Advent candle made by Dee. The cross in its setting at St. Alban's brings to mind the famous quote by John Keats — "A thing of beauty is a joy forever."

"A Day in the Country" Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the Fall Festival, *A Day in the Country*, October 27-28. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Parish Hall.

Reception Held for The Reverend Beth A. Palmer

On Sunday, September 16, a reception was held in the parish hall of The Church of the Holy Trinity to welcome The Reverend Beth Palmer, the new rector-elect. Hundreds of guests attended the reception honoring Reverend Palmer and her husband Dr. David Rorick.



Prior to accepting the call to Holy Trinity, Reverend Palmer was rector of St. John's Episcopal Church in West Point, Virginia. She and her husband arrived in Vicksburg in June to meet their new congregation. They are now settled in their new home at 1415 Baum Street, a short distance from the church. St. Alban's joins the other Episcopal Churches in Warren and Hinds counties in extending a warm welcome. The Reverend Palmer commented on the move to Vicksburg: "We look forward to being with our newfound friends in the grand state of Mississippi, in the Red Carpet City of Vicksburg, at the beautiful Church of the Holy Trinity. God is good...ALL the time."

My First Week In Oklahoma

The first thing I noticed when I turned out the lights to go to bed in Buffalo was that it wasn't dark outside. After years of living so far out in the country, the idea of street lights is a novelty. The next thing I noticed was that it was quiet—no background noise of the interstate or cicadas.

Monday was my first day at my new job. The people I work with are great. Everyone works together to accomplish everything from walking boarding dogs to diagnosing and treating patients to cleaning up. It's not uncommon to see one of the technicians treating a patient while a veterinarian is cleaning up the mess. The hours here are from 8 a.m. until 12 noon and 1 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Even when we are late leaving for lunch, there is time to get home (less than five minutes) eat and return on time.

As fast as the days go by, I've discovered that accomplishing simple tasks can be slower than Mississippi molasses on a cold day. Jim Drake was still in Oklahoma, when I exclaimed to the Oklahoma Natural Gas service representative, "I AM talking to you!" after she told me for the third time that I would have to call and schedule a day to have my gas turned on. I did finally get gas three days later—after four more phone conversations and two trips from my landlord to the rental house. That night I

celebrated with steak and trimmings and the bottle of “Masked Rider” wine that was among the gifts from the dinner at Gibb’s Grocery.

Thursday, I took an hour off in the morning to drive back to Woodward (30 miles south) to get my Oklahoma Driver’s License. I thought it would be easy to appear at the License Bureau with my old license and passport—no test required. Everything was fine until the clerk handed back my Mississippi License with an 8 ½ x 11” sheet of paper stapled to it and instructions to “report to a Tag Agency with this form to get your license.” There is supposed to be a Tag Agency in Buffalo within a block of the main corner in town. It is supposed to have a big sign on the door; “I can’t miss it.” Well, I can’t find it.....

I had the weekend off. I went to Woodward Saturday morning and bought a lot of things, the biggest being a washing machine that will (might) get delivered on Tuesday at lunch time. I explored the three grocery stores and went to the Atwoods (the west’s answer to Tractor Supply Company). I was excited to find cinnamon gummy bears in a package that looks like the TSC package. There aren’t nearly as good though, no bite to them.

Sunday I returned to visit the church in Woodward. The nave is very small, only slightly larger than the chapel at Christ Church. The hymns were accompanied by a very talented guitarist. Everyone was friendly. I missed the organ and the liveliness of St. Alban’s and St. Mary’s, though. Next week I will visit St. Cornelius in Dodge City. I just found out that there is a Kroger’s in Dodge, too. I hope they have green things—I also miss the variety of vegetables available in a larger town.

I took time after church on Sunday to drive by Ft. Supply Lake. It is a Corps of Engineer’s flood control project. I spent an hour there just enjoying the scent of sagebrush and gazing at the water. Then I came home and unloaded more boxes. Every box I empty makes me feel more at home here.

On my second Monday, the other technician showed me the Tag Agency. Yes, there is a sign—it is right under the larger sign that says “Insurance!” I also finally opened a bank account here. That took 45 minutes—they used a typewriter!

Tuesday was washing machine day. WOW, the Sears delivery came on time. The technician decided to check hot and cold water taps by running water from the tap into the washer drain. Water ran everywhere – from the drain pipe. So I called the landlord. He called his brother, the plumber. (Just like being junior warden!) I took the dogs and went back to work. The plumber went to work on the pipes. Well, yes, it will take two days—the plumbing has to be repaired in the wall. But by noon on Wednesday, I had a new drain pipe and a working washing machine.

Now for that driver’s license... Kenon+



Jerry McWilliams to Sell Church Prints at Festival

Jerry McWilliams, Civil War artist, will offer color-washed prints of St. Alban's church (1870) for sale during the October 27-28 **Day in the Country** weekend. The drawing was commissioned to be featured in Rebecca Drake and Kenon Ruska's new book, *Lift High the Cross: The History of St. Alban's Church*.

Since a photograph of St. Alban's 1870s white-framed church was non-existent, the Drakes researched the internet hoping to find a photograph of the church. Jim lucked out when he ran across a 1920's book entitled, *How Our Church Came to Our County*. Chapter XXII detailed the early growth of the Episcopal Church in Mississippi. The illustrations used in this chapter included a picture of The Reverend James A. Fox and a dark 2 x 2" picture of St. Alban's Church, Bovina. This is the only known photograph that exists of the church.

Jerry's pen and ink drawing, a replica of the old photograph, is featured on page 66 of *Lift High the Cross*. A variety of 11 1/2 x 17" color-washed prints will be sold during the festival weekend. The price of each print will be \$15.00 with all proceeds going to St. Alban's Church.



Jennifer Normand Elected to the Vestry



The St. Alban's vestry elected Jennifer Normand to fill the unexpired term of Kenon Ruska, at the September 10th meeting. Jennifer Normand graduated from Mississippi College in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science degree in secondary education. After eight years in the classroom, Jennifer decided to return back to school and earned her Master's degree in guidance counseling in 2011. Jennifer is currently an Intervention Strategist with the Vicksburg-Warren School District as well as a court appointed guardian ad litem with the Warren County Youth Court.

† Billie's Corner

Stewardship, A Way of Life

A Prayer for Vision

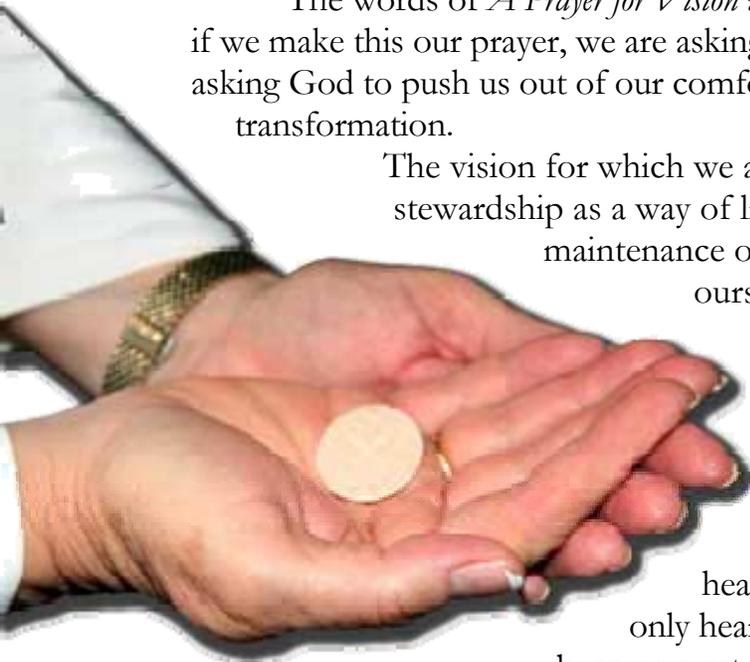
*Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves;
when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little;
when we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to the shore.
Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess,
we have lost our thirst for the water of life.
Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas,
where storms will show your mastery;
where losing sight of land, we shall find stars.
We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes
and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love.
Amen.*

The words of *A Prayer for Vision* are beautiful. The sentiment is inviting. But if we make this our prayer, we are asking for boldness, daring, and adventure. We are asking God to push us out of our comfort zones and challenge us to be open to transformation.

The vision for which we are praying encourages us to look at stewardship as a way of life, not merely a financial pledge for the maintenance of the church. We are asking God to help us see ourselves as stewards of the Kingdom of God—the entirety of our time, talent, treasure, plus the gifts of the earth and all it holds, our personal vocations and our very lives. Stewardship is about life, the whole of life. It is living more boldly, more faithfully.

Most of us have become bored with hearing about time, talent and treasure. Most of us only hear treasure, treasure, treasure. Stewardship has become a catch word to describe fund raising. But, stewardship is not just about money. It is not just about church. Stewardship is rooted in our relationship with God and therefore it touches every aspect of our lives.

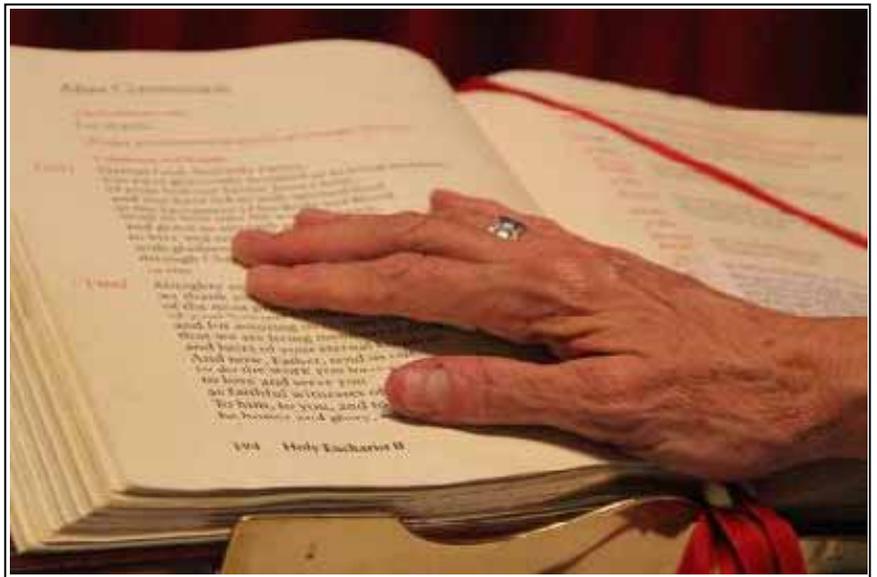
God has lovingly given us all that we are. We receive with our hands open. Our open hands are ready to give and receive. A clenched hand can neither give nor receive. Our open hands are ready to reach out to another, to hold another's hands, to support another's hands. Our hands can be symbol for stewardship. Holding the gifts



God has given us, sharing the gifts God has given us, honoring God the gift giver by living a life of generosity.

Saint Alban's Church thrives due to our spirit of stewardship. It permeates our community. Our hands are open as we give our time and talent. It seems to me that time and talent cannot be separated. When we give out talent, we are giving our time. Can we calculate the time we give to the church? It might be possible to add up the hours each of us spends at church or at church related ministries. The grand total would be

astonishing. But the truth is we spend 24/7 working for our church. At the end of each Eucharist, we are sent into the world to "Love and serve the Lord." All of our time is invested in the ministry of loving and serving the needs of the world. Stewardship of our time and talent is our way of life. We simply need to claim it.



Treasure is money. Financial generosity is an aspect of stewardship. The money that is given to the church is not only used for ministry, it is a ministry. We open our hands and offer God our thanksgiving by sharing our money with others. Open hands provide a sense of freedom. Clenched hands restrict freedom. There is a cliché that says people should give until it hurts. I suggest that we give until it feels good. The community of Saint Alban's gives generously. Money is not first in the lives of our community, God is first. Giving money is one more way "To serve the Lord."

I suggest that each of us make *A Prayer for Vision* a daily practice. Pray it with our hands open to receive and give. Pray and be prepared for its radical effects on our individual lives and our life as a community. What will happen at Saint Alban's Church when God pushes back the horizons of our hopes and broadens our perspectives? Our hands will be overflowing with the abundance of God's gifts. Our way of life will be a way of stewardship.

In peace

Billie+

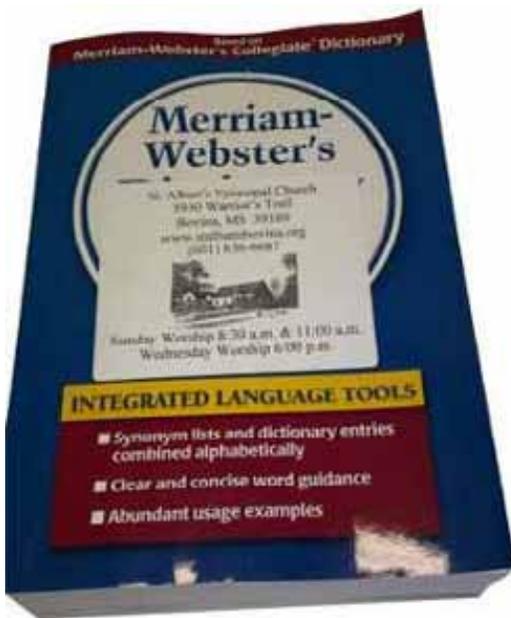
† Josie's Journal

Sharing Our Gifts

What do dictionaries, pencils, calculators, notebook paper, erasers have in common? All of these were donated to the Warren County Juvenile Detention Center by St. Alban's Episcopal Church during the month of September.

Also donated were:

- 3 copies of *When God Winks At You*
- 3 copies of *God's Promises And Answers*
- 7 copies of *Bible Word Search*
- 3 copies of *Fill In Puzzles*
- 4 bottles of hand sanitizer
- 2 packs of erasers
- 2 packs of graph paper



The students asked, “Why did your church do this? They don’t even know us.” My reply was, “We don’t have to know you to love you. It is what we do. We saw that you needed supplies and we were able to buy them for you. We put our money where are hearts are.” They looked at me with wonderment and said thank you and proceeded to claim the puzzle books.

I know you are wondering how they knew that the items came from St. Alban's. Let me get to that. All items bear the St. Alban's sticker complete with address and phone number. I think that is stewardship at its best.

Peace

Josie+

October Events



Friday, October 5, 11:00 a.m.

ECW Salad Luncheon

Hosted by Wanda Warren

Sunday, October 7, 11:00 a.m.

Blessing of the Animals

Outside Chapel — Bring your pets and invite guests

Sunday, October 14, Noon

In-gathering Lunch

Catered luncheon. Chefs: Harvey Smith, Tommy Skinner

Sunday, October 14, 4:00 p.m.

Second Sunday at St. Mary's, Bolton

Dr. John Paul & Shawn Leopard, duo-harpsichordists, in concert.

Monday, October 15, 6:00 p.m.

Vestry Meeting

Sunday, October 21, 4:00 p.m.

St. Mary's, Bolton

Instructed Eucharist

Saturday, October 27

Fall Festival — *Day in the Country*

Book Dedication, 10:00 a.m.

Lift High the Cross, The History of St. Alban's Episcopal Church

By Rebecca Drake and Kenon Ruska

- Music by the Jubilee Singers, St. Alban's Choir and Barney McCann
- Readings by James Anderson, Ed Shelnut and Mary Ruth Jones
- Reception following

Artillery and Infantry Demonstrations, 2:00 p.m.

All Saints' Service, 4:00 p.m.

Cemetery Stroll, 5:00 p.m. (after All Saints Service)

Sunday, October 28

Fall Festival — *Day in the Country*

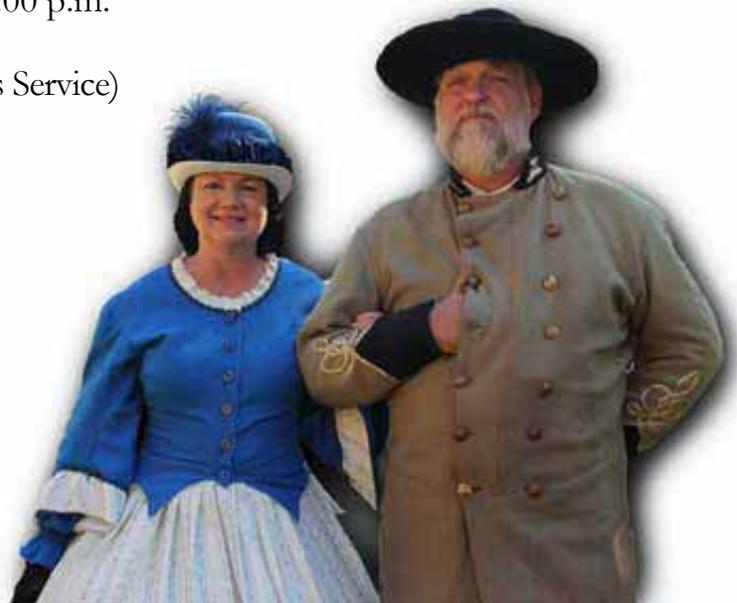
Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.

Dinner on the Grounds, noon

Country Market, noon—2:00 p.m.

Music by Sandra Melsheimer and

Bridging the Gap



October Birthdays

3 Rachel Sullivan	22 Stanley Lee
4 Key Davis	23 Mary Ann Wright
8 Alan Leese	24 Ann Tompkins
Michael Morrissey	25 Jack Abraham
9 Wanda Warren	Peter Williams
13 Jana Guynes	27 William Newell Brabston
15 Mickey Barlow	28 James Drake
16 Anita Bonar	30 Bill Davis
19 Annedele Toups	Alice Pronger

October Anniversaries

6 David & Jennifer Normand	18 Bill & Lynda (Horan) Hubbard
14 John B. & Margie Scott	21 Scott & Amy Burr

Prayers

For those Sick or in Need:

Cathy Ingram	Tavara Samuels	Fredrick Hunter
Kay Townes	Jay	Jimmy Cheatham
Joe Bonelli	John Williams	Harold Lee
Frances Marble	Jessie Ross	Amber Ross
Debbie Gorney	Jan & Bobby Robinson	Pat McNair
Jean Roberts	Buddy Ragsdale	Karen Magee
Ed & Bessie Norwood	Ashleigh Ford	Layla Gray
Marjorie Stevenson	Letty Fry	Elizabeth Hopkins
James Rumfelt	Jim Dantin	Stacy Douglass
Kathryn Chaneu	Edell Mixon	Malcolm Maxey
Bill Brunson	Buz Pickens	Bobby Temple & Family
Jewel Miller	Glen Miller	Ada Hubbard
Mary Jane Holman	Pete Phifer	Rick Floyd
Elizabeth Cliett	Tom Biedenbarn	Missionaries in Mali Africa
Tim Davis	John Jenkins	Lynn Jenkins
Joan Leese	Beth Rawls	Brandon Marshall
Parker Ramsey	Mollory Cessna	Bobby Godwin
Jackson Monti	Amanda & Jack Monti	The Price family
Courtney Carrington Rushing	Madison, Tim & Sandy Raines	
	Faith, Bridget & Mike Wildschuetz	

Departed: Ann Penley, Pearl Massey and Betty Pace

Pray for men and women of the Armed Forces, especially:

Cynthia Horan	Christoph Martin	Billie Hubbard
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Liturgical Schedule Sundays in October

	October 7 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	October 14 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	October 21 Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost	October 28 Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost
First Reading	Job 1:1; 2:1-10	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Job 38:1-7, (34-41)	Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Psalm	Psalm 26	Psalm 22:1-15	Psalm 104:1-9, 25, 37b	Psalm 34:1-8, (19- 22)
Second Reading	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Hebrews 4:12-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 7:23-28
Gospel	Mark 10:2-16	Mark 10:17-31	Mark 10:35-45	Mark 10:46-52
	Animal Blessing Outside Chapel	Ingathering Catered Luncheon		Fall Festival
Eucharistic Minister				
8:30 a.m.	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Tommy Skinner
11:00 a.m.	Ann Tompkins	Richard Price	Harvey Smith	Richard Price
Master of Ceremonies	Jennifer Normand	Susan Price	Beth Guynes	Susan Price Kerri Williams
Acolytes				
Crucifer	Koury Collins	Michael Rangel	Beth Guynes	Koury Collins
Gospel Bearer	Kerri & Peter	Susan Price	Betsy Selby	Kerri & Peter
Lector	Ed Shelnut	Butch Ferguson	Bertha Kolb	Ed Shelnut
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Sharon Hanks	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	The Artman Family	Amanda Arodin Carey Price	The Williams Family	Janice Herrington Becky Drake
Ushers & Greeters	Allan Leese David Normand	Butch Ferguson Max Rangel	Charlie Brantley Jeremy Privett	Bobby Barlow Jim Drake
Altar Guild	Sherry Horan Sharon Hanks	Mary Ann Wright Lisa Langford	Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Kerri Williams
Eucharistic Minister	Ed Shelnut	Susan Price	Deacon Josie	Ed Shelnut
Coffee Host	Margie Scott	Catered Luncheon	Terry & Charlie Brantley	Fall Festival
Wednesday Healing	Betsy Selby	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Ann Tompkins