



The Albanac

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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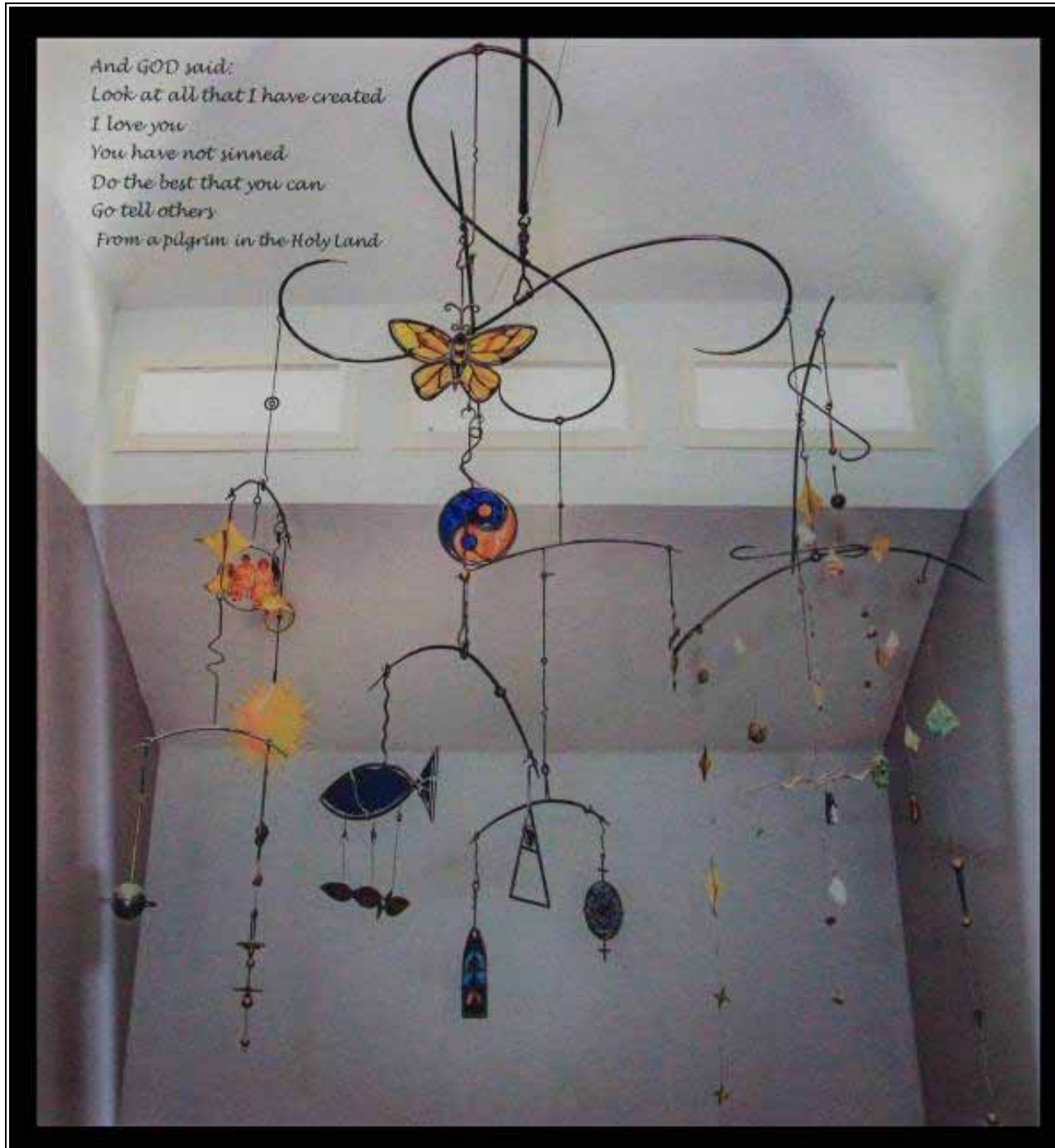
August 2018



5th-Century Mosaic

*The Church of the Multiplication of Bread and Fishes
Tabgha, Israel*

Tabgha Inspired Mobile



Christian theme mobile designed and created by Dale Gibson. The objects in the mobile are souvenirs from Tabgha, an area on the shore of the *Sea of Galilee* known for Jesus' miraculous multiplication of loaves and fish to feed the multitudes.

A Journey to the Holy Land

By Dale Gibson

Events in one's life are unpredictable. This is the story of one such account as I made a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Our tour bus was owned and operated by Palestine Christians. They kept us safe and knew all the sites in detail.

On the second day we stopped in Tabgha at *The Church of the Multiplication of Bread and Fishes*, near the *Sea of Galilee* where Jesus performed the miracle of cooking and feeding 5,000 people with two fish and five loaves of bread. Tabgha is also near the location of the *Sermon on the Mount*. A really historic site!

The church in Tabgha is built on the original site of the 4th- and 5th-century church of *The Church of the Multiplication of Bread and Fishes*. The preserved 5th-century mosaics in the two transepts depict various wetland birds and plants. The mosaic in front of the altar depicts two fish flanking a basket containing loaves of bread.

Inside the church was a small chapel adjacent to the sanctuary where our priest had arranged with the Franciscan Monks for us to enter and pray. I put down my camera and entered with a member from my choir; we were the last two to enter the empty chapel. We sat on basketball-court-type-benches and begin to pray. Suddenly the room filled from the ceiling to the floor with an orange liquid that was pulsing through our bodies and stroking us. Fearful, we began to cry and I was wondering why this powerful thing was happening? All of a sudden, I was standing on an asteroid jutting out into the universe in the presence of God who looked just as I had pictured him. I assumed that I was having an out-of-body-experience. Communicating telepathically and raising His arms, *GOD* said, *Look At All That I Have Created! I Love You! You Have Not Sinned! Do The Best That You Can! Go Tell Others!*



The moment was interrupted by our priest who opened the door to say that it was time for us to leave. I was so filled with the Holy Spirit that all I could do was stumble when I tried to walk. I could see how Jesus performed miracles such as *Feeding the Five Thousand* with all that power that surrounded me! This truly was a Holy Place!

On the bus heading toward Jericho, I told the priest of my miraculous event with *GOD* at Tabgha. He said six others had similar experiences! As the bus continued on to Jericho, we all sat quietly, contemplating the great thing that had just happened in our lives.

After returning from the trip, I found that my souvenirs were not enough to reflect all the emotions of the time spent in the Holy Land so I began creating a large mobile using the souvenirs. With the help of others, the mobile was constructed using iron, copper, brass, steel, stained glass, seashells and rocks. Fifteen months later when we finished, the mobile weighed forty pounds and was eight feet wide by eight-and-a-half feet long. The *Tabgha Inspired Mobile* is the centerpiece of my home in Bovina. It hangs in my living room from a twenty-six foot high ceiling.

You can share my experience by purchasing an 11"x11" glass image of the *Tabgha Inspired Mobile*. Purchase price is \$100 with all proceeds donated to St. Alban's Capital Building Fund. Contact Dale Gibson at bdalegibson@hotmail.com.

Christian Symbols Used in the Mobile

Butterfly: symbol of the resurrection

Fish: represents the feeding of the five-thousand and other Christian symbols

Yin and Yang: duality in life; consume and support each other, the circle is the oneness of God

Eye of God: symbolizes his omnipresence and omniscience. Also associated with the Trinity

Rose Window: Remembering those who believed deeply and explore their religion and Inner conscious; the reflective soul, a learned view of faith

A Church Window: made of iron and stained glass

Christian Crescent Cross: the whiteness of the moon represents virginity, the Virgin Mary

Cross of Nails: Memorializes Christ's death

Sun and Moon: The day and night of life

Geese: Protectors on earth and in dreams

Saturn and a Space Station

Shells, Asteroids, Stars and Space Ship: what to be found in God's greatest—the deepest to the heavens

Historic Letter Discovered in St. Alban's Firebox

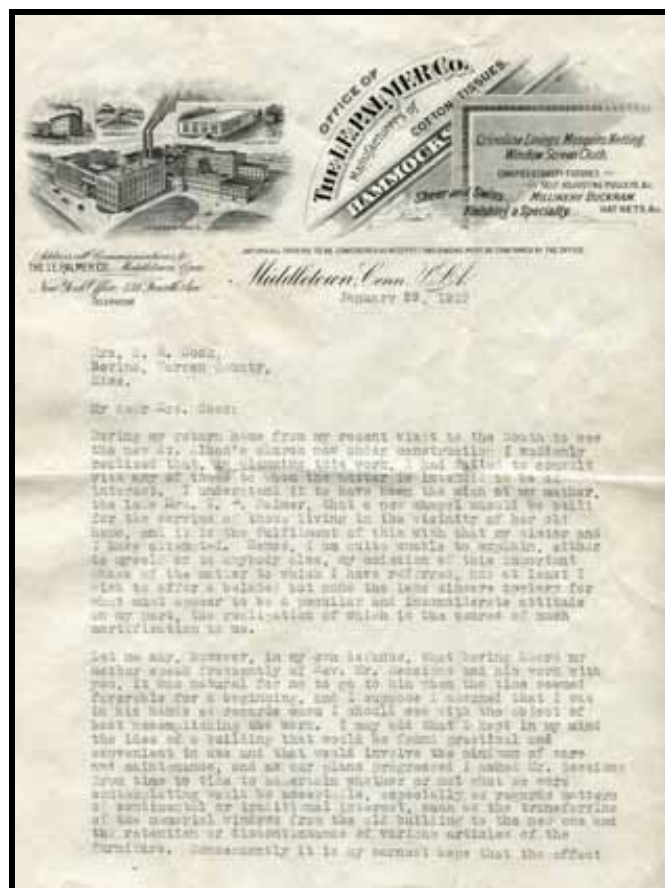
By Rebecca B. Drake

Recently, while going through the contents of St. Alban's firebox, Ann Tompkins and John Bonar discovered a faded, typewritten letter dated, Middletown, Conn., January 29, 1929, addressed to Mrs. A. H. Cook, Bovina. The letter was penned by Townsend Palmer (47-year-old son of the late Matilda Townsend Palmer) who had just returned from a visit to Bovina where he conferred with Rev. Val Sessions, rector of St. Alban's, and Bishop Theodore Bratton regarding the construction of the new church that was being funded in fulfillment of his mother's wishes.

In the letter, Palmer expressed regret that he had not sought input from St. Alban's congregation before beginning construction on the church: *I failed to consult with any of those [church members] to whom the matter is intended to be of interest.* He further stated, *"I understand it to have been the wish of my mother, the late Mrs. I. E. Palmer, that a new chapel should be built for the service of those living in the vicinity of her old home [Owl Roost Plantation], and it is the fulfillment of this wish that my sister [Nathalie] and I have attempted.*

The letter also questioned the ultimate ownership and control of the church under construction. Addressing the subject Palmer wrote: *Mr. Sessions informed in the beginning that title to the church yard at Bovina rested in the Diocese of Mississippi and the new church must, I suppose of necessity, belong to whoever is owner of the land.* In closing, Palmer expressed concern for St. Alban's future—*"would St. Alban's remain a mission church or become a parish church?"* Only time would tell.

The story of Matilda Townsend Palmer's life reads much like other Southern plantation owners who went from "riches to rags" after the Siege of Vicksburg. Her parents, Samuel and Caroline Townsend, owned *Owl Roost Plantation* and were charter



members of St. Alban's Church. Tragedy struck in 1863 when her mother and baby sister, Mary, died from dysentery. During the conflict, St. Alban's was used as a field hospital before being burned by the Union soldiers. Heartbroken and penniless, Matilda, age 14, as well as her sister, Louisa, age 12, moved to Middletown, Conn. to live with their well-to-do grandparents. In 1879, age 30, Matilda married Isaac E. Palmer, multi-millionaire, and was blessed with three children—Nathalie, Townsend and Isaac Jr. who died young.

In 1914, Matilda (age 65) suffered yet another heartbreaking situation when her husband of 35 years committed suicide. Once again, her life was forever changed. On Sunday, July 3, 1927, one day after her 78th birthday, Matilda slipped quietly away. Through the efforts of her children, St. Alban's Church would become her legacy.



Nathalie and Townsend Palmer

In compliance with Matilda's wishes, construction began on the new church in 1928 and was completed in October of 1929. During construction, two memorial windows were moved from the 1870s church (current parish house) to the nave of the new church: the *St. Paul's Memorial Window*, dedicated to the memory of Rev. James Angel Fox, St. Alban's rector from 1870-1881; and the *Hannah Latimer Fox Memorial Window*, dedicated to the young daughter of Rev. Fox who died as a result of the Siege.

As a final touch, Townsend and Nathalie ordered the *Matilda Townsend Palmer Memorial Brass Plaque* made by Tiffany & Company in New York to be

placed in the narthex. The plaque reads: *This church is erected to the GLORY OF GOD in compliance with the wishes of MATILDA TOWNSEND PALMER, July 2, 1849 – July 3, 1927, Eldest Daughter of Samuel Townsend and Caroline Johnson Townsend.*

St. Alban's new church was consecrated on October 20, 1929, with Bishop Theodore Bratton officiating and Reverend Val Sessions assisting. The consecration signified that St. Alban's had come full circle, rising from the ashes to once again to become a beautiful house of worship, a *Holy Place* that would last for centuries and centuries to come.

Postscript: Townsend Palmer and his sister Nathalie Palmer Fabrizio, continued to live at the family mansion in Middletown. Townsend died of heart failure in 1953, age 70, and Nathalie died in 1976, age 91. There were no descendants.

Holy Baptism: Riley Grace Hankins

“You are a child of God, wonderfully made, dearly loved, and precious in His sight.” Psalm 39



Family and Friends from Louisiana and Mississippi gather for the baptism of Riley Grace Hankins





Godparents—John Addison (holding Aubrey Addison) & Trisha Addison (holding Riley Grace) with Kelsey & Zack Hankins



Grandparents with Family—Tommy Hankins, Zack Hankins, Teresa Hankins, Kelsey Hankins holding Riley, Jeff & Suzanne Artman, and Kim & Wayne Lang.





✠ Billie's Corner



I am sure everyone recognizes the setting of this photograph—it is Presiding Bishop Michael Curry preaching at the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Bishop Curry broke with the traditional five minute English sermon to preach a full blown sermon that included witnessing to the power of God’s love: “We must discover the power of love, the power, the redemptive power of love. And when we discover, that we will be able to make of this old world a new world.” Bishop Curry had the attention of the world, and he used the sermon to implore the world to put love at the center of relationships with others—relationships in married life, business life, home life, political life and spiritual life.

We’ve been hearing about the *Jesus Movement* since 2015 when Bishop Curry was installed as 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Bishop Curry emphasizes that the *Jesus Movement* is not some trendy catchphrase intended to attract the attention of today’s population. Jesus began the movement when he was walking, talking, preaching and teaching—Jesus and his followers were the creators of a movement that offered the Good News of God’s abundant love for all people. At the core of the *Jesus Movement* is God who came to us in the person of Jesus and showed us that the way of God’s love is the way of life.

Have you noticed? Bishop Curry uses every opportunity to preach and teach about the power of love. So, of course, Bishop Curry preached about love at the opening Eucharist of the 79th General Convention in Austin, Texas. And Bishop

Curry gave us a list of seven practices to incorporate into our daily lives—seven ways to fuel the power of love in our relationships with God, each other and creation.

TURN: Pause, listen and choose to follow Jesus.

LEARN: Reflect daily on scripture, especially the life and teachings of Jesus.

PRAY: Spend time with God in prayer each day.

WORSHIP: Gather in community for worship every week.

BLESS: Share one's faith and find ways to serve other people.

GO: Move beyond one's comfort zone to witness to the love of God with words and actions.

REST: Dedicate time of restoration and wholeness.

Today we are the *Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement*—we are the followers of Jesus who are called to be the mediators of God's love by our words and actions in our relationships with each other. In his book, *Crazy Christians—A Call to Follow Jesus*, Bishop Curry wrote, “As Jesus draws us closer to God, he draws us closer to each other.”

Be crazy! Crazy enough to refuse to be swept up in our culture that promotes individualism. Crazy enough to stretch out our arms of love just as Jesus did and embrace everyone. Crazy enough to turn, learn, pray, worship, bless, go and rest.

Please keep Bishop Curry in your prayers as he undergoes surgery for prostate cancer on Tuesday, July 31.

May God the Father bless Bishop Curry,

God the Son heal him,

God the Holy Spirit give him strength.

Amen.

In Peace,
Billie+

✠ Josie's Journal

The Mississippi Conference on Church Music and Liturgy

Wilma Mitchell, Kerri Williams and I attended the 2018 Music Conference held at Gray Center, Canton, July 24-29.

The faculty for this year's conference included: **Jason Abel**, organist and choirmaster, Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia; **Colin Lynch**, Associate Director of Music, Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston; and **The Rev. Rita T. Powell**, Associate Rector, Trinity Church, Copley Square, Boston.

We especially enjoyed performing for the Thursday Choral Evensong at St. Phillips Episcopal, Jackson and the Sunday Eucharist at St. Andrews Cathedral.

We enjoyed the excellent teaching, preaching, singing and communion with other conferees who came from all across the country to be at the Conference.

A wonderful week for all!



Deacon Josie, Wilma Mitchell & Kerri Williams

Peace,
Josie

August Birthdays

1 Beth Sojourner	21 Norma Jones
4 Woody Hanks	22 Mason Selby
6 David Normand	23 Carter Guynes
7 Mary Michael Southall	Edward Shelnut
17 Jake Artman	26 Bobby Barlow
Josh Artman	26 Cynthia Strawn
19 David Wright	27 Terry Guynes
21 Kate Abraham	James Price
	28 David May

August Anniversaries

14 Burke & Barbara Torrey	21 Alan & Joan Leese
20 Herb & Mary Ruth Jones	27 Bryan & Joy Brabston, Jr.

Prayers for the People

Allen & Nancy Teeter	David Hinston	Martha Benson
Analiese Wasson Bryan	Dianne Carlton	Mary Ann Seage
Ann Hanks	Hollis Newman	Megan Cook Vincent
Ann & Jimmy Jones	Jackson Monti	Millie Gasaway
Barbara Ramsay	Jim Dantin	Milton Richardson
Bertha Kolb	Jimmy & Mamie Bright	Nancy Stewart
Betty Biedenham	Joan Leese	Noah Lowe
Bradley Freeman	Kelley Massey	Norma Jones
Brian Smith	Larry Sanders	Parker Ramsay
Bryan Brabston	Landrieu Townsend	Peggy Lynn
Carol Green	Laurie Concannon	Peter Meyers
Charlie Brantley Family	Lee Tompkins	Phillip Summerlin
Christine Nelson Family	Linda & Jim Dooley	Rachelle Ferris
Cynthia Strawn Family	Linda Washington	Richard Massey
Dalton Glatt	Liz Curtis Family	Shan Hudlow
Damion Hansford	Lucas Guynes	Sherry Horan
Dan & Mary Carleton	Margarette Swett	The Selby Family
	Mark Herrington	

Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi Mission Trip to Port Aransas, Texas
Victims of Violence & Natural Disasters

Weekly Activities & Services

Church Office Hours

Monday–Wednesday: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Phone: (601) 636-6687

Sunday

Eucharist, 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM

Choir Practice, 9:45 AM

Christian Education, 10:00 AM

Nursery, 10:00 AM

No Children’s Chapel, June, July & August

Game Day at *Lifting Lives Family Shelter* is cancelled until September

Tuesday

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

Walking the Mourner’s Path, Rectory, 6:00-7:30 PM

Wednesday

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness Meeting, 7:30 AM

Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

Quiet Day, First Wednesday of Each Month, 7 AM—7 PM

Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Parish House, 12:30 PM

Sunday, August 12—*Second Sundays at St. Mary’s*, 4:00 PM. Holy Eucharist celebrating *The Feast of the Assumption of Mary*. Sermon, *Magnificat! Praising Mary in Song*, performed by Mandy Spivak, soprano, accompanied by Tyler Kemp

Friday, August 24–Sunday, August 26—*13th Annual Spiritual Retreat* at Gray Center. Speaker will be The Very Rev. Todd Donatelli

Friday, August 31–Friday, September 7—*Richard Rohr Retreat*, Albuquerque, NM



Photography credits for this issue of the Albanac:
Suzanne Artman, Rebecca Drake and
Reverend Billie

Liturgical Schedule—Sundays in August 2018

	August 5 Pentecost 11 Children's Sunday	August 12 Pentecost 12 The Transfiguration	August 19 Pentecost 13	August 26 Pentecost 14
First Reading	2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a	Exodus 34:29-35	1 Kings 2:1-12; 3:3-14	1 Kings 8:1,6,10-11, 22-30, 41-43
Psalm	Psalm 51:1-13	Psalm 99	Psalm 111	Psalm 84
Second Reading	Ephesians 4:1-16	2 Peter 1:13-21	Ephesians 5:15-20	Ephesians 6:10-20
Gospel Reading	John 6:24-35	Luke 9:28-36	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69
MC	Beth Guynes	Liz Gent Kerri Williams	Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins
LWL	8:30 a.m. Harvey Smith 11:00 a.m. Betsy Selby	Theo Williams Herb Jones	Tommy Skinner David Pruett	Tommy Skinner Harvey Smith
OT Lector	8:30 a.m. Penny Freund 11:00 a.m. Gloria Hall	Penny Freund Canada Stewart	Penny Freund Liz Gent	Penny Freund Ed Shelnut
Psalm Leader	Sam Hall			
Crucifer & Acolyte	Beth Guynes Gray Weaver	Kerri Williams	Jennifer Normand	Koury Collins
Crucifer (Wooden)	Peter Williams			
Gospel Bearer	Gabby Rushing	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie
Prayers of the People	Deacon Josie	Kerri Williams	Deacon Josie	Deacon Josie
Oblation Bearers	Harris Southall Mary Michael Southall	Lance Stewart Canada Stewart	Dalton Thames Sara Margaret Porter	Betty Rushing Anita Collins
Ushers & Greeters	Josh Artman Jonah Artman	Allan Leese Dale Gibson	Dale Gibson Dawn Rickard	Dale Gibson Lance Stewart
Standing Communion Station	Deacon Josie Theo Williams	Deacon Josie David Pruett	Deacon Josie Theo Williams	Deacon Josie Harvey Smith
Altar Guild	Mary Ann Wright Susan Price	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey	Cassandra Price Dawn Rickard
Coffee Host	Betsy Selby Rev. Billie	Ann Tompkins Theo Williams	Jennifer Normand Penny Freund	Betty Rushing Laura Cook
Nursery Assistant	April/ Ashley	April/Ashley	April/Ashley	April/Ashley
Children's Chapel		No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel	No Children's Chapel
Offertory Counters	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Mike Southall	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Herb Jones	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Theo Williams	Ann Tompkins Sharon Hanks Lance Stewart
	August 1	August 8	August 15	August 22
Healing Service	Tommy Skinner	Theo Williams	David Pruett	Tommy Skinner