



# The Albanac

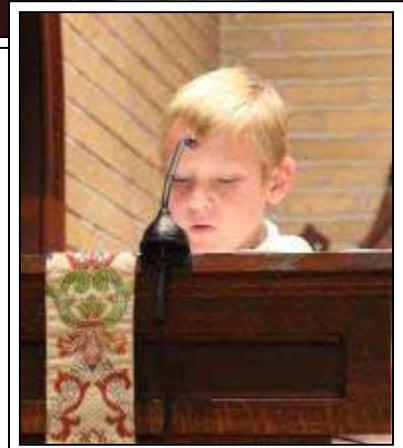
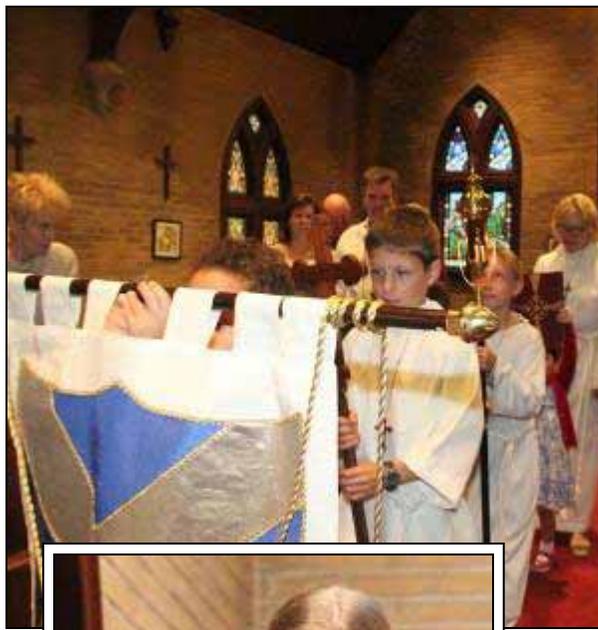
A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
5930 Warriors Trail, Bovina, Mississippi  
[www.stalbansbovina.org](http://www.stalbansbovina.org)

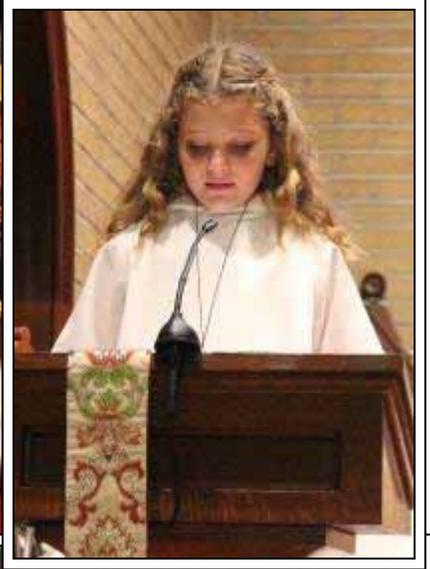
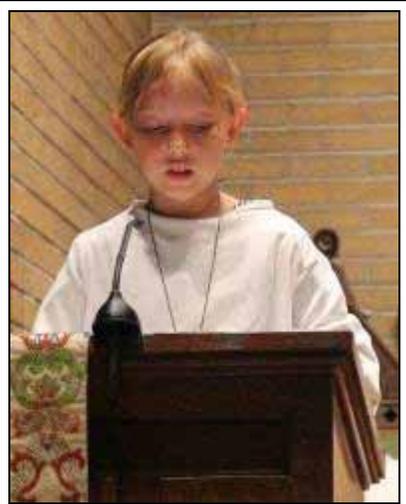
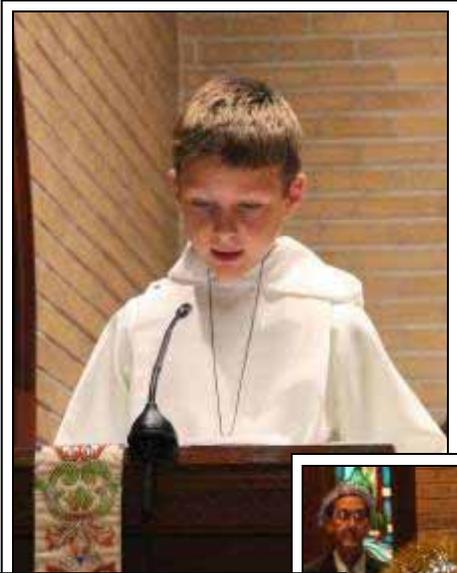
**December 2015**

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# Children Celebrate All Saints' Day





## “Band of Angels” Praise God in Song



On November 1<sup>st</sup> during the All Saints' Day Eucharist, the children's choir, *The Band of Angels*, performed, "We Sing a Song of the Saints of God." The congregation was delighted to hear the children singing to the sound of cymbals, drum, bells and other hand-held instruments. Penny Freund, choir director, loves working with the children as they learn new songs. She also exposes them to some of the instruments that were used in earlier times.

*Praise him with the sound of trumpet: Praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with timbrel and dance: Praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: Praise him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.*

*Psalm 150: 3-6*

## Bertha Ragsdale Kolb Celebrates 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



On Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, family and friends gathered at *Roca Restaurant* in Vicksburg to celebrate Bertha's 90th birthday. The reception was a gift from her son, Charles H. Kolb, who now lives in Seattle, Washington. Also attending the reception were her sisters, Haley Jo Ragsdale, Martha Benson and Barbara Stevens as well as her brother, Sidney (Buddy) Ragsdale.

"The party was so much fun," said Bertha. "I had a beautiful chocolate cake with a topper saying 'Happy 90th Birthday Bertha' and, also a delicious coconut cake along with trays of hors d'oeuvres. It was a beautiful party because so many members of my family and St. Alban's family shared the day with me."

Bertha was born in Dumas, Arkansas, on November 3, 1925, but spent most of her life in Vicksburg. She was popular at church, at work and at play. Around 1948, one of the Vicksburg civic clubs sponsored a fundraiser called the *Vicksburg Swim Suit Beauties*. Bertha was the winner. From that time on she was introduced around the city as *Miss Vicksburg*.

One of Bertha's admirers was Charles R. Kolb, PhD, well-known for his geological and engineering work. They were married October 9, 1951, in Memphis. Following the ceremony, Charles drove all day to reach Suwannee River, Florida, where he surprised his bride by kneeling in the moonlight and singing, *Way Down Upon the Suwannee River*. Their honeymoon continued on a cruise to Havana, Cuba.

Although Catholic, Charles attended church with Bertha. He had a beautiful voice and often sung with St. Alban's choir. Playing "Santa" at Christmas was nothing less than a performance. Charles passed away in 1982 after thirty-one years of marital bliss.

Today, Bertha continues to worship at St. Alban's where she is embraced by her love of God, love of family and love of church. Reflecting on her longtime affiliation with St. Alban's Church, Bertha commented, "St. Alban's provided me a foundation for a Christian life and my faith continues to grow stronger as the years go by."

## Christmas Make & Take Event Planned



On Dec 6th, the *Create and Carry Craft Group* will hostess a *Christmas Make & Take* event complete with cocoa or Christmas tea. There will be a variety of crafts to sign up for and most can be made that evening from pre-assembled kits. The kits will be available for only a

small charge.

Bonus information: bring your own yarn, t-shirt, or ribbons and you will not be charged for instructions on making the project.

Sign up sheet for kits and attendance are available in the Parish House. Questions? Call Penny at 205-792-7730.

Cost of materials:

- Yarn wreath \$5.00—one ball of yarn and ribbon
- Knitted wristlets any size \$6.00—one ball of yarn, pair of knitting needles  
(Cup cozy can also be made from this kit included in price)
- Spool ornaments or pendants \$5.00— cost of ribbon and paint. Spools included
- T-shirt no-sew bag, cost of t-shirt only \$5-10 or bring a t-shirt or sweatshirt at no cost!
- One burlap jumbo bow or two smaller package bows \$6.00—cost of ribbon only or bring your ribbon and there's no charge to learn the technique

In Peace,  
Penny

## Linda Gerache Moving to Olive Branch

November 8<sup>th</sup> was a nostalgic day at St. Alban's Church since we had to say "goodbye" to a beloved church member, Linda Gerache. Linda is moving to Olive Branch, Mississippi, located twenty-three miles south of Memphis.

Linda and her family have been a part of St. Alban's Church for decades. Her father, Jimmie Graham, is

buried in the historic cemetery that adjoins the church as well as her husband, Joseph A. Gerache, Jr. who passed away in 2012 following a lengthy illness. Joe, age 64, was a vestry member at St. Alban's at the time of his death.

Although Linda hates to leave Vicksburg and St. Alban's, she decided to sell the family home and move to Olive Branch to live with her sister and mother, Dodi Pritchard. After relocating, Linda plans to continue her work as a pharmacy tech. In past years, Linda worked beside her husband, also a pharmacist, at Corner Drug Store, a family owned business located in Vicksburg on the north end of Washington Street. Tourists loved visiting Corner Drugs since it also served as a Civil War Museum, especially regarding medical memorabilia dated to the Vicksburg Campaign.

During the service, Reverend Billie Abraham presented Linda with a going away gift and offered many kind remarks. After church, Linda greeted well-wishers as she stood in front of the stained glass windows given in memory of her father who passed away in 1984.

To Linda we say, *Our arms and prayers surround you. Wherever you are, your church family will also be with you...we won't say goodbye, for as we move forward in life, we hope to meet again.*



## † Billie's Corner

### Retreat at Emery House Monastery

*Think of a retreat as a pilgrimage, a journey that is holy  
not because of destination, but because of attentiveness.*

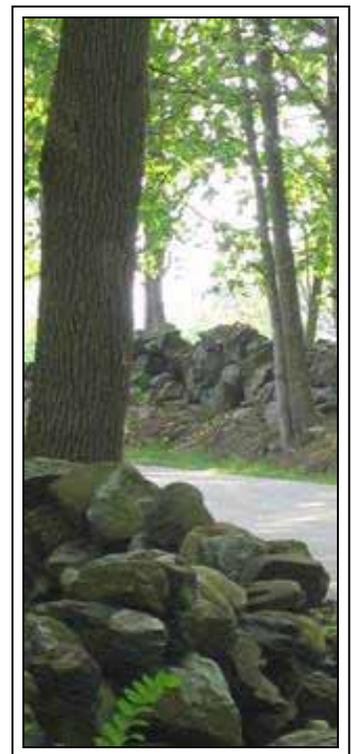
*Brad Sartor*



Emery House Monastery, a rural retreat north of Boston, captured my interest the minute I entered the spacious grounds. The landscape had the pull of a magnet. Everywhere I looked I saw the glory of God the Creator—the Merrimack River, the Artichoke River, woodlands and Maudslay State Park.

As I entered the drive that stretched from the entrance of the property to the river's edge, I was greeted by the sight of a winter-green pasture speckled with orange dots. The orange dots turned out to be pumpkins! Woodlands could be seen down to the edge of the river. Emery House, originally a farm house built in the mid 1700s, was as wide as the landscape and as high as a skyscape. The interior featured a wall of windows where one could look out and enjoy the view of God's creation.

The sweeping panorama, the silence, the solitude, the communal worship, the rest, the walks and the shared meals came together to make a retreat into the presence of God. God was the focus of my attention. His presence was



everywhere and I had nothing to distract me.

On Friday morning, November 20 - the day that marked the anniversary of the automobile accident in which my parents were killed 62 years ago—I opened the door to my hermitage and was greeted by a dense fog that



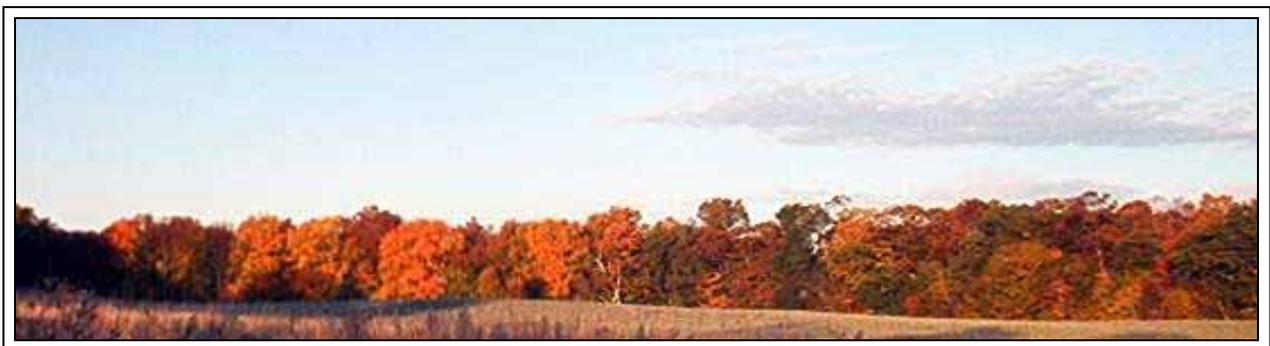
engulfed me. It reminded me of “the cloud of witnesses.” I took a deep breath of the cloud. How much closer could I be to my mother and father than a breath away? This retreat was indeed a pilgrimage into thin space.

Reluctantly, I departed the monastery’s sacred space on Sunday afternoon. The retreat had been a mountain top experience. I thought of Peter who did not want to leave the mountain top and tried to convince Jesus to let him build tents and stay. I would have stayed had it been possible. Instead, I took the memory of the retreat with me and hope to return to that sacred place again someday.

I went from landscape to skyscape as I traveled to New York to visit with Amy, Scott and Ernie. Our days were filled with visiting, walking, viewing art and attending plays. The time spent in New York was a retreat of a different nature. And now, back home to Saint Alban’s Church—a full circle and what a circle it was!

## In Peace

## Billie+



## † Josie's Journal

### In Watchful Anticipation



As we wait for the birth of Jesus, I looked back over my sermon notes from previous Advents. Maybe something will spark an idea for your Advent meditation if you have not already selected one.

- “Isaiah-Chairman of the Board”—The Rev. Dr. Richard T. Middleton, III
- “Repentance is when you recognize that you are headed in the wrong direction and turn around”—The Rev. Canon David Johnson
- “Two Images diametrically opposed.”—Rev. Cecil Jones
- “How is God speaking to you?”—Rev. Ann Whitaker
- “*The Annunciation* by Botticelli shows Mary’s response”—The Rev. Marian Fortner
- “We start our new church year with our eye waiting on the second coming of Christ”—David Pruett
- “We are in the stage of awake, waiting, ready, but not yet”—The Very Rev. Billie Abraham
- “We long for salvation from grief”—Rev. John Stone Jenkins
- “What if John the Baptist were placed in the crèche?”—The Rev. Kyle Dice Seage
- “I am not the Messiah you expected. Can you accept me?” —The Rev. Sam Tomlinson
- “How can we affect any noticeable change in the multitude of things needing change?”—The Rev. Mike Dobrosky

As I enter the season of Advent I am looking over previous years’ books and pamphlets to see how they look this year as compared to the year I studied them. I am anxious to see if I have grown in my reflections on the season of Advent.

## Prayerfully Waiting

Josie+

## 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

#### Tuesday

Create & Carry, Parish House, 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

#### Thursday

Cursillo Grouping, Noon

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

**Wednesday, December 2**—Quiet Day, *Come In, Light a Candle, Say a Prayer, Be Still, Leave in Peace*, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM

**Thursday, December 3**—Hearts & Hands Gathering, *Visit, Create, Play, Eat, Enjoy* Parish House. Bring a sack lunch, 11:00 AM

**Saturday, December 5**—ECW Christmas Party and Ornament Exchange, All Saints' School Rectory, time to be announced.

**Sunday, December 6**—**Second Sunday in Advent**, Adult Sunday Class will view: *A Thrill of Hope, The Christmas Story in Word and Art, The Visitation*, 10:00 AM

**Tuesday, December 8**—Vestry Meeting, Rectory, 6:00 PM

**Tuesday, December 8**—The Create & Carry Group invite everyone to a *Christmas Make & Take* event, 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Sign-up sheets are available in the Parish House

**Saturday, December 12**—St. Mary's Church, Bolton, *Holiday Bake Sale*, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

**Sunday, December 13**—**Third Sunday in Advent**, Adult Sunday Class will view: *A Thrill of Hope, The Christmas Story in Word and Art, The Nativity*, 10:00 AM. St. Alban's Adult & Children's Choirs will sing *Lessons & Carols* followed by Holy Communion, 11:00 AM

**Sunday, December 13**—Second Sunday at St. Mary’s, Bolton, 4:00 PM. Galloway

United Methodist Church Concordia Ensemble will perform *Seasons & Holy Days*

**Sunday, December 20—Fourth Sunday in Advent**, Greening of the Church, 9:30

AM. Parish Christmas Party—Potluck finger foods & Christmas goodies, between the services and following the 11:00 AM Eucharist. Children’s Christmas Pageant, 11:00 AM Eucharist

**Sunday, December 20**—Pre-Christmas Eucharist, St. Mary’s Church, Bolton.

Congregational Christmas Caroling, 3:45 PM, Holy Eucharist 4:00 PM

**Thursday, December 24—Christmas Eve**, St. Alban’s Church, Christmas Eve

Services. **Early Service:** Christmas Carol Concert, 5:45 PM, Holy Eucharist, 6:00

PM. **Late Service:** Christmas Carol Concert, 9:45 PM, Holy Eucharist, 10:00 PM

**Sunday, January 10**—Eucharist, 10:00 AM, Annual Parish Meeting. Yearly ministry reports, election of senior warden & two vestry members, potluck lunch

**Friday, January 29–Sunday, January 31**—Diocese of Mississippi Annual Council, Biloxi

## Advent Lessons and Carols

The fruits of our choir’s participation in the Church Music Conference, in addition to their weekly discipline of practice and commitment to the ministry of music, are materializing in a momentous way during Advent. The Adult and Children’s Choirs are going to present *Lessons and Carols* on Sunday, December 13 at the 11:00 AM Eucharist. *Lessons and Carols* will begin the service instead of The Liturgy of the Word (the reading of the lectionary lessons). Holy Communion will follow.

*Lessons and Carols* is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. Each Scripture lesson is followed by a carol or hymn. *Lessons and Carols* is a service that sets the tone of anticipation for the forthcoming birth of Jesus.



## 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

- |                           |                             |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 John & Anita Bonar      | 20 Charlie & Terry Brantley |
| 14 Bill & Margarita Davis | 23 Allen & Linda Kitchens   |
| Jerry & Kay McWilliams    | 29 Rudolph & Allison Nieto  |
| 16 Jimmy & Ann Jones      | David & Mary Ann Wright     |

## Prayers for the People

### For those Sick or in Need:

- |                           |                        |                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Betty Biedenharn          | Dalton Glatt           | Rachelle Ferris    |
| Kathy Gergo               | Catherine Riggs        | Jim & Sherry Horan |
| Bertha Kolb               | Lucas Guynes           | Jim Dantin         |
| Parker Ramsay             | Linda & Jim Dooley     | Millie Gassaway    |
| Barbara Ramsay            | Jackson Monti          | Caroline Nations   |
| Glenda Ferguson           | Mary Ruth Jones        | Bare Ahner         |
| Charlie Brantley & Family | Ann Hanks              | Clyde Smith        |
| Bob & Yvette              | Tori Meyers            | Karen Bates        |
| Walker Biedenharn         | Frances Weissinger     | Suzanne Harpole    |
| Larry Lambiotte           | Dan & Mary Carleton    | Margie Scott       |
| People in Syria           | Ashleigh Ford Holliday | Andrew Walls       |
| People in Europe          | Lawrence Fields        | Bob Bell           |
| Louise Gray               | Damion Hansford        | Mary Ellen Flowers |
| Libby Mulloy              | Richard Stone          | Natalie Bailess    |
| Jeanette Warren           | Bill & Liz Curtis      | Desi Leeann Eaton  |
| Richard Massey            | Erin Worthy            |                    |

# Lurgical Schedule—Sundays in December

	<b>December 6</b> <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>December 13</b> <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>December 20</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	<b>December 27</b> <i>First Sunday After Christmas</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Baruch 5:1-0	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	Isaiah 61:10-62:3
<b>Psalm</b>	Canticle 16	Canticle 9	Canticle 15	Psalm 147
<b>Second Reading</b>	Philippians 1:3-11	Philippians 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Galatians 3:23-25;4:4-7
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-45, (45-55)	John 1:1-18
		Lessons & Carols	Children's Christmas Pageant	
<b>Lay Worship Leader</b>				
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Theo Williams	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Theo Williams
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Richard Price	Penny Freund Ann Tompkins	David Pruett	Harvey Smith
<b>Lector</b>				
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Bitsy Segrest	Bitsy Segrest	Bitsy Segrest	Bitsy Segrest
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Mary Carleton	N/A	Susan Price	David Pruett
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Susan Price	Ed Shelnut	N/A	N/A
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>	Susan Price	Penny Freund	Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins
<b>Crucifer &amp; Acolyte</b>	Beth Guynes Canada Stewart	Koury Collins	Jennifer Normand	Ann Tompkins
<b>Banner Bearer</b>	N/A	David Normand	Theo Williams	N/A
<b>Gospel Bearer</b>	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie
<b>Prayers of the People</b>	Beth Guynes	Bruce Carleton	Rev. Josie	Rev. Josie
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>	Anita Collins Janice Herrington	Jennifer Normand David Normand	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames	Becky Drake Betty Rushing
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Sara Margaret Porter Dalton Thames	Dan Carleton Allan Leese	Richard Massey Margo Massey	Betsy Selby Allan Leese
<b>Our Father</b>	Canada Stewart	Heaven Leigh Sunny Faith	Sam Hall Gloria Hall	Peter Williams
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sharon Hanks Betty Rushing	Mary Ann Wright Margo Massey	Ann Tompkins Beth Sojourner	Kerri Williams Judy Morrissey
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Cynthia Strawn Kristi Hall Betsy Selby	Margo Massey Butch Mitchell Bonnie Pruett	Parish Potluck Christmas Party	Bring Leftover Christmas Goodies
<b>Children's Chapel</b>	Marci Turner Ann Tompkins	Marci Turner Ann Tompkins	No Children's Chapel Pageant Practice, 10:00	No Children's Chapel
<b>Offertory Counters</b>	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Janice Herrington	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Charlie Brantley	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Kristi Hall	Rymn Parsons Ann Tompkins Theo Williams
<b>Healing Service</b>	<b>December 9</b> Theo Williams	<b>December 16</b> Tommy Skinner	<b>December 23</b> Tommy Skinner	<b>December 30</b> Theo Williams