



# The Albanac

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

**February 2013**

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## Vestry Officers Elected at Annual Parish Meeting



Kelsey Artman, Vestry

Following the January 13<sup>th</sup> Holy Eucharist, parish members gathered for a pot-luck luncheon and to review church activities in 2012. During the meeting, Betsy Selby was elected to serve as the new junior warden while Kelsey Artman and Charlie Brantley were elected to the vestry.

Vestry members are: Susan Price, senior warden; Betsy Selby, junior warden; Jim Drake;

Theo Williams; Kelsey Artman; Jennifer Normand and Charlie Brantley. Church officers are Harvey Smith, treasurer, Tommy Skinner, assistant treasurer and Ann Tompkins, secretary.

The community of St. Alban's would like to thank the retiring junior warden, Tommy Skinner and vestry members, Terry Brantley and Betsy Selby, for their service and welcome those who have been newly elected.



Betsy Selby, Junior Warden



Charlie Brantley, Vestry

## Bishop Theodore Bratton's Private Communion Set A Treasured Antique at St. Alban's

In March of 1999, Harvey Smith, a long-time member of St. Alban's Church, was surfing the Internet when he came across an item on eBay described as an "1850s Sterling Silver Communion Set, BEAUTIFUL." The owner provided a brief history of the set: "This set was



presented to the Rev. F. E. Thalman by the Rev. John Gass, Rector, 1942-48. It belonged to the Rt. Rev. Theodore Bratton, Bishop of Mississippi, and was made in the early 19th century."

Harvey, an antique dealer, immediately went into action to verify the authenticity of the private communion set and to find out more information regarding its history. After an inquiry, Harvey received a note from Mark Blanchet of New York stating, "This piece belongs to an elderly acquaintance of mine. She [resident of Albany, New York] received it from a man (reverend) that she was engaged to many years ago. He died before they were to be married and I am not sure whether he gave it to her before he died or in his will." Anxious to bid on the item, Harvey looked up the markings on the piece and discovered that the communion set had been made in 1855 by George Unite in Birmingham, England.

The item quickly doubled in price as the bidding continued on eBay. Convinced that the communion set should belong to St. Alban's, Harvey consulted with Easy Biedenharn, Bryan Brabston and The Rev. William Carlin, rector of St. Alban's from 1998—2002. They agreed to contribute to the purchase.

On St. Patrick's Day, Harvey received a note from Mark Blanchet who was handling the sale. The note read, "Hello...I have just been informed that you are the high bidder on the 1850s STERLING Silver Communion set. BEAUTIFUL. I hope to help you in any way that I can to make the transition from bid to possession as

smooth as possible.” The total cost of the communion set was \$570.85. Harvey later discovered that the person bidding against him was Sherry Scott from Waycross, Georgia. The communion set was shipped from Cohoes, New York, to St. Alban’s where church members received the treasure with great joy.

Sam Bratton, grandson of Bishop Theodore Bratton, later contacted Harvey asking to purchase the communion set for his father who wished to donate it to either All Saints’ School, Vicksburg, or St. Mary’s College, Raleigh, North Carolina. Bishop Bratton had helped to establish both Episcopal schools for girls. Harvey politely declined Sam’s offer to purchase.

Today, Bishop Bratton’s private communion set is proudly displayed under glass in the hallway of the Parish Hall. Although Harvey has dealt with more expensive items in the antique business, he would be the first to say that Bishop Bratton’s private communion set was the most precious item that he ever had the good fortune to purchase. The St. Alban’s community thanks Harvey Smith, Bryan Brabston, Easy Biedenharn and Reverend William Carlin for securing this treasured item.

## ECW Elects Officers for 2013



Sharon Hanks, ECW President

The Episcopal Church Women (ECW) held its first meeting of 2013 on January 19. The newly elected officers are Sharon Hanks, President; Beth Guynes and Betsy Selby, Co-Vice Presidents and Judy Morrissey, Treasurer. The ECW voted to send a check to Meals on Wheels and a donation to Betsy Selby for the mission trip to Honduras. We still need recipes for the St. Alban's Cook Book.

Any recipes you have should be submitted to Cassandra Price ([cpressprice@hotmail.com](mailto:cpressprice@hotmail.com)) or taken to the church by March 15, 2013. Recipe forms are available at the church. The next meeting of the ECW is scheduled at 9:00 AM on February 16, 2013. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to attend.

# Epiphany Pageant, January 6th



## Celebration of New Ministry for The Rev. Beth Palmer The Church of the Holy Trinity



On January 27, a *Celebration of New Ministry* was held at The Church of the Holy Trinity, Vicksburg, for The Reverend Beth Ann Palmer. The Rt. Reverend Duncan M. Gray, III, Bishop of Mississippi, was the celebrant for the special service. People from all walks of life, many representing other churches, gathered to be a part of the historic occasion. During the *exchange of gifts*, an ancient ritual, the sight of the children and young people bearing gifts to their new rector warmed the hearts of everyone present.

The music for *The Celebration of New Ministry* was provided by the Patrick Smith Band and the crowd was delighted with jazz arrangements of old time religious favorites: *This Little Light of Mine*, *Amazing Grace*, *Just a Closer Walk with Thee* and *I'll Fly Away*. The Induction of The Reverend Beth Palmer was a glorious service which will always be remembered in the pages of history at The Church of the Holy Trinity.

## 2013 Lenten Arts Series

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Wednesday, February 20

*Dr. Bobby Cooper and the Jubilee Singers*

Wednesday, February 27

*Raphiell Ashford and the  
Mississippi Community Clarinet Choir*

Wednesday, March 6

*Tammy Luke and the  
Holy Trinity Conservatory String Students*

Wednesday, March 13

*The Bovina Bell Choir*

Wednesday, March 20

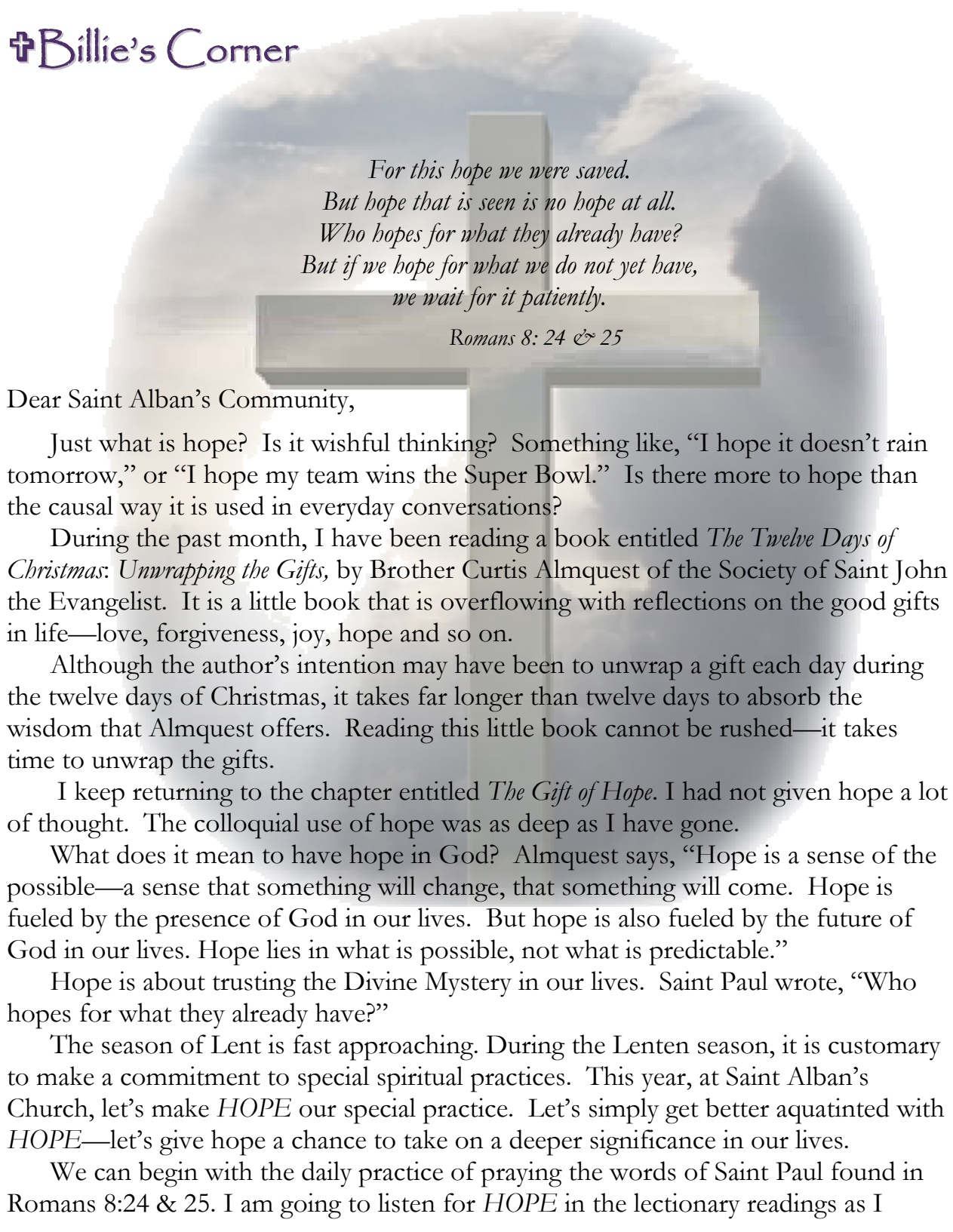
*Josh Nichols, Organist*

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*Each presentation begins with  
Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 – 6:30 PM  
Soup Dinner, 6:30 – 7:00 PM  
Arts Program, 7:00 PM*

*Admission—Free  
Donations Accepted*

## ✠ Billie's Corner



*For this hope we were saved.  
But hope that is seen is no hope at all.  
Who hopes for what they already have?  
But if we hope for what we do not yet have,  
we wait for it patiently.*

*Romans 8: 24 & 25*

Dear Saint Alban's Community,

Just what is hope? Is it wishful thinking? Something like, "I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow," or "I hope my team wins the Super Bowl." Is there more to hope than the causal way it is used in everyday conversations?

During the past month, I have been reading a book entitled *The Twelve Days of Christmas: Unwrapping the Gifts*, by Brother Curtis Almquest of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist. It is a little book that is overflowing with reflections on the good gifts in life—love, forgiveness, joy, hope and so on.

Although the author's intention may have been to unwrap a gift each day during the twelve days of Christmas, it takes far longer than twelve days to absorb the wisdom that Almquest offers. Reading this little book cannot be rushed—it takes time to unwrap the gifts.

I keep returning to the chapter entitled *The Gift of Hope*. I had not given hope a lot of thought. The colloquial use of hope was as deep as I have gone.

What does it mean to have hope in God? Almquest says, "Hope is a sense of the possible—a sense that something will change, that something will come. Hope is fueled by the presence of God in our lives. But hope is also fueled by the future of God in our lives. Hope lies in what is possible, not what is predictable."

Hope is about trusting the Divine Mystery in our lives. Saint Paul wrote, "Who hopes for what they already have?"

The season of Lent is fast approaching. During the Lenten season, it is customary to make a commitment to special spiritual practices. This year, at Saint Alban's Church, let's make *HOPE* our special practice. Let's simply get better acquainted with *HOPE*—let's give hope a chance to take on a deeper significance in our lives.

We can begin with the daily practice of praying the words of Saint Paul found in Romans 8:24 & 25. I am going to listen for *HOPE* in the lectionary readings as I

prepare sermons during Lent. I will post Scripture and prayers that pertain to *HOPE* in our weekly announcements.

Look for *HOPE*—in what you read, in how you pray and in your daily life. Share your experiences with others. The possibilities are endless.

Who will we be on Easter Sunday after we have actively sought *HOPE* during the six weeks of Lent? Where will *HOPE* send us in our lives as Christians?

In peace  
Billie+

## ✝ Josie's Journal

Do you know who preached “the four demons”—who founded the Society of Saint John the Evangelist—who wrote the hymn “O little town of Bethlehem—who invented the United Thank Offering box? All of these are accomplishments of our Wednesday saints for January 2013.



**January 2—Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah** was the first Indian bishop in the Anglican Church. His ministry involved speaking out against India's caste system. He traveled over the diocese by bullock, cart, or bicycle preaching on “the four demons—dirt, disease, debt and drink.”

**January 9—Julia Chester Emery** served forty years as

the Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary of the Board of Missions. Her ministry focused on educational issues, the recognition of social issues and leadership development among women. She created the UTO (United Thank Offering) and the box to hold donations. Fall and spring ingathering offerings are still in place today.





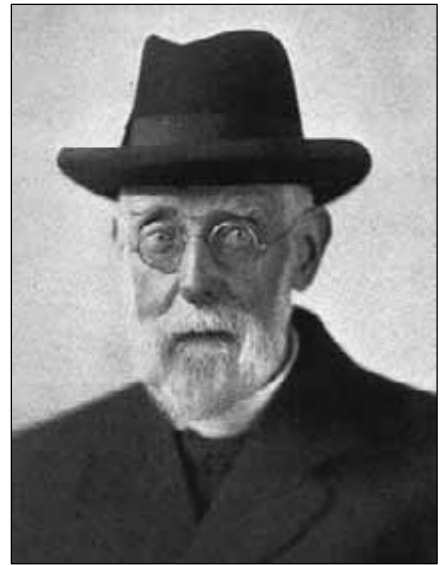
## January—16 Richard Benson, Charles Gore & Phillips Brooks



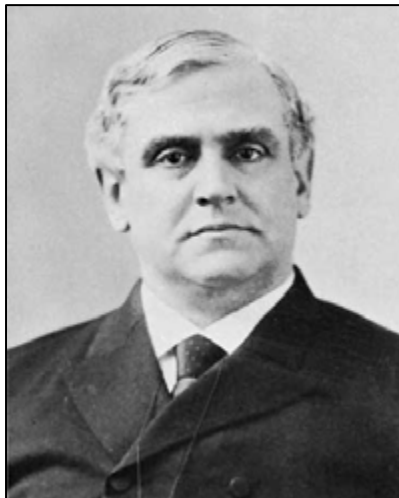
**Richard Benson**, a priest in the Church of England, was the founder of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE) in Oxford, England, 1866. Following the English Reformation, SSJE was the first established religious community for men. Benson wrote the original *SSJE Rule of Life*.

**Charles Gore** founded the Community of the Resurrection, a community of men that attempted to combine religious life and ministry in the modern world.

Gore's ministry pricked the conscience of the church in its approach to the work of social justice.



**Phillips Brooks**, Bishop of Massachusetts, was big in stature—6'4" tall and weighed 300 lbs. He was an ardent preacher whose sermons are still read today! Brooks influence was so great at Harvard that a building, pulpit and preaching series bears his name. He penned the lyrics to "O Little Town of Bethlehem" after a visit to the Holy Land.



These are only three of the saints on the Episcopal Liturgical for January. Check out your calendars for the names of saints throughout the year.

Peace  
Josie+

## February Schedule

### **Friday, February 1—Sunday, February 3**

Diocese of Mississippi Annual Council  
Jackson Convention Center  
105 E Pascagoula St.

### **Sunday, February 3**

Annual Council Eucharist  
Jackson Convention Center, 10:00 AM

### **Monday, February 4**

Yoga, St. Alban's Parish Hall, 6:00 PM

### **Wednesday, February 6**

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, St. Alban's Rectory, 7:00 AM  
Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM

### **Thursday, February 7**

DOCC, All Saints' School Chapel, 6:00—8:00 PM

### **Sunday, February 10**

Mardi Gras Celebration, 8:30 & 10:00 AM Eucharist  
Pot Luck Luncheon in Parish Hall, 11:00 AM  
Dessert at St. Alban's Rectory

### **Sunday, February 10**

Second Sundays at St. Mary's Church, Bolton, 4:00 PM  
Gena Everitt, soprano, will perform Cantata No. 82 by J. S. Bach

### **Monday, February 11**

Yoga, St. Alban's Parish Hall, 6:00 PM  
Vestry Meeting, 5:30, light dinner, 6:00 PM Meeting, Rectory

### **Tuesday, February 12**

Christ Church Pancake Supper, 5:00—7:30 PM

### **Ash Wednesday, February 13**

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, St. Alban's Rectory, 7:00 AM  
Ash Wednesday, Imposition of Ashes & Eucharist, Noon & 6:00 PM

**Thursday, February 14**

DOCC, All Saints' School Chapel, 6:00—8:00 PM

**Saturday, February 16**

Quiet Morning at Trinity Church, Natchez, 9:00 AM—Lunch  
The Reverend Billie Abraham, speaker

**Wednesday, February 20**

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, St. Alban's Rectory, 7:00 AM  
Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM  
Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM

**Lenten Arts Program:** Dr. Bobby Cooper & The Jubilee Singers, 7:00 PM



**Thursday, February 21**

NO DOCC

**Sunday, February 24**

Fourth Sunday at St. Mary's Church, Bolton  
Instructed Evening Prayer, 4:00 PM

**Monday, February 25**

Yoga, St. Alban's Pariah Hall, 6:00 PM

**Wednesday, February 27**

12 Steps to Spiritual Wholeness, St. Alban's Rectory, 7:00 AM  
Healing Service & Eucharist, 6:00 PM  
Soup Dinner, 6:30 PM

**Lenten Arts Program:** Raphiell Ashford & Jackson Clarinet Choir

## February Birthdays

1 Charlie Brantley	16 Joey Gerache
4 Georgia Turnage	19 Linda Kitchens
5 Sharon Hanks	21 David Selby
6 Michael Abraham	22 Mary Margaret Brabston Jane Hanks
11 Bonnie Pruett	24 Ian Ulmer
14 Beth Guynes Charles Langford	25 Walker Biedenharn
16 Joyce Butler	Joshua McDaniel

## February Anniversaries

11 Josh & Maggie McCarthy

## Prayers

### For those Sick or in Need:

Lance Lafan	Bob Crawford	Fredrick Hunter
Walker Biedenharn	Jay	Jimmy Cheatham
Joe Bonelli	John Williams	Harold Lee
Marsha Hammer	Stacy Douglass	Sharon Cloud
Debbie Gorney	Jan & Bobby Robinson	Wanda Walker
Jean Roberts	Madison, Tim & Sandy Raines	Ed & Bessie Norwood
Ashleigh Ford	Layla Gray	Marjorie Stevenson
Jessica Howell	Elizabeth Hopkins	Tim Hubbard
Jim Dantin	Bobby Godwin	Kathryn Chaneu
Edell Mixon	Malcolm Maxey	Bill Brunson
Buz Pickens	Courtney Carrington Rushing	Jewel & Glen Miller
Sharon Givins	Ada Hubbard	Mary Jane Holman
Puddin Milano	Rick Floyd	Elizabeth Cliett
Tom Biedenharn	Missionaries in Mali Africa	Tim Davis
Patrick Johnson	Fran Ross	Joan Leese
Jerry Mahloch	Brandon Marshall	Laura
Mollory Cessna	Denny & Norma Allman	Karen Magee
Kristi Kitchens	Sydney Ragsdale	Mary Beth Kavanaugh

### Men and women of the Armed Forces:

Cynthia Horan	Christoph Martin	Billie Hubbard
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## Liturgical Schedule Sundays in February

	February 3, 2013 <i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	February 10, 2013 <i>Last Sunday after the Epiphany</i>	February 17, 2013 <i>First Sunday in Lent</i>	February 24, 2013 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i>
<b>First Reading</b>	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Exodus 34:29-35	Deuteronomy 26:1-11	Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 71:1-6	Psalm 99	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	Psalm 27
<b>Second Reading</b>	1 Corinthians 13:1-13	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2	Romans 10:8b-13	Philippians 3:17-4:1
<b>Gospel</b>	Luke 4:21-30	Luke 9:28-36, [37-43a]	Luke 4:1-13	Luke 13:31-35
	<b>Annual Council Morning Prayer</b>	<b>8:30 &amp; 10:00 Eucharist Mardi Gras Pot Luck</b>		
<b>Lay Worship Leader</b>				
<b>8:30 a.m.</b>	Sherry Horan	Tommy Skinner	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	Betsy Selby	Richard Price	Ann Tompkins	Betsy Selby
<b>Master of Ceremonies</b>		Susan Price	Jennifer Normand	Beth Guynes
<b>Acolytes</b>				
<b>Crucifer</b>		Koury Collins	Harvey Smith	Beth Guynes
<b>Gospel Bearer</b>		Kerri & Peter Williams	Genevieve Walker Heaven Leigh & Sunny Faith	Kerri & Peter Williams
<b>Lector</b>		Ed Shelnut	Bertha Kolb	Sharon Hanks
<b>Prayers of the People</b>		Susan Price	Mary Carleton	Deacon Josie Williams
<b>Oblation Bearers</b>		Jenni Sciro & Caroline Sciro	Keith, Jill, & Douglas Upchurch	Becky Drake Jim Drake
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>		Jay Sciro Joey Gerache	David Normand Dan Cartleton	Bobby Barlow Charlie Brantley
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Judy Morrissey Ann Tompkins	Susan Price Kerri Williams	Cassandra Price Margie Scott	Sherry Horan Sharon Hanks
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>		Ed Shelnut		
<b>Coffee Host</b>		Sandra Melsheimer Becki Ferguson	Lisa Langford Ruth Green	Terry Brantley Charlie Brantley
<b>Wednesday Healing</b>	<b>February 6, 2013</b>	<b>February 13 Ash Wednesday</b>	<b>February 20, 2013</b>	<b>February 27, 2013</b>
	Harvey Smith	Tommy Skinner	Ann Tompkins	Harvey Smith