FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH RALEIGH, NC

ORGANIZED MARCH 8, 1812



December 10, 2023

THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 10, 2023 Eleven o'clock

About our Worship: On this, the Second Sunday of Advent, we continue in our journey of preparation for the coming of God into our hearts, our midst, and our world. Today's service is musical and festive and is loosely modeled in the conversational form of the traditional Lessons & Carols service. Hymns, anthems, and carols led by the Sanctuary and Elementary choirs reflect the scripture readings as found in the Revised Common Lectionary for this Sunday. The homily is a first-person account from a biblical author exploring the different ways the story of Jesus' beginning is told and why. The Sanctuary Choir presents *Christmas Day*, one of the first-ever published "Christmas cantatas" in the early years of the last century, when composers of the Western classical tradition began to explore the deep heritage found in folk music.

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GATHERING FOR WORSHIP

The Greeting of Worshipers

Michael Hood

The Trinity Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, awakening us to the presence of God, alerting us to the voice of Christ, centering us in the embrace of the Spirit. As we gather, we present ourselves "as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship."

The Prelude

"Rejoice and Be Merry"
GALLERY CAROL/Robert Powell, arr.

The Lighting of the Advent Candle

Artenida Cela and Kenneth Mayner

READER: Without peace, we have no solace, no fulfillment.

As we continue the season of Advent,

we wait in hopeful anticipation

of the peace the Christ-child will bring to a weary world.

We seek to live as a people of peace,

working toward a world free of violence and vengeance,

where all can live free of abuse and fear.

PEOPLE: We light this candle to symbolize the peace of Christ's presence.

We gather to share this peace with one another.

(The candle is lit.)

The Introit

"Make We Merry on This Fest"

Andrew Carter

 ${\it Make we merry on this fest, Jesu Christus natus est; (\it Jesus Christ is born)}$

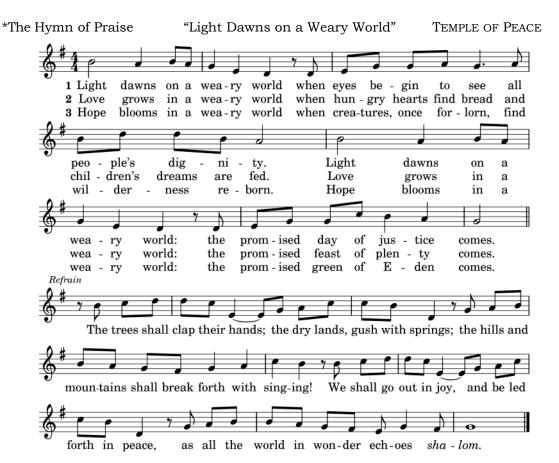
Sing we all with joy and jest: Alleluya!

Make we merry and rejoice, O be joyful sing always.

Gloria laudamus te: Alleluya! (We glorify and praise you: Alleluia)

Make we merry on this day, Welcome Christ and sing always.

Resonemus, Resonemus, Alleluya! (Resound, Resound: Alleluia)



Words: Mary Louise Bringle, 2002 Music: William P. Rowan, 2000

The Call to Confession (responsive)

Michael Hood

LEADER: We have been afraid of the fierceness of your love, which sears

our hearts as with a laser.

PEOPLE: We have refused to believe that you are gentle in judgment, that your hands loosen the knots of our bitterness.

LEADER: We have failed to see that your eyes are wise in discernment,

that your justice restores and heals us.

PEOPLE: Therefore, let us confess our sins, for God's salvation is at hand.

The Silent Prayer

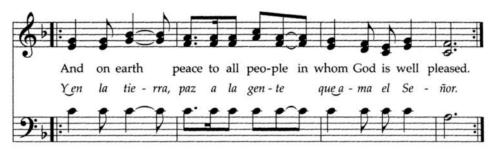
The Assurance of Forgiveness

Beloved children of God, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven, for salvation is at hand for all who turn to God.

The Act of Praise

(Sung responsively the first time, and together on the second)





Words: based on Luke 2:14, Pablo Sosa, 1989 Music: Pablo Sosa, 1989 ¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

The Anthem

"Comfort, Comfort"

 16^{th} century Geneva Psalter/John Ferguson, arr.

"Comfort, comfort now my people; Tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim That God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever!

For the herald's voice is crying
In the desert far and near,
Calling us to true repentance,
Since the Kingdom now is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way!
Let the valleys rise to meet him,
And the hills bow down to greet him.

Straight shall be what long was crooked,
And the rougher places plain!
Let your hearts be true and humble,
As befits his holy reign!
For the glory of the Lord
Now on earth is shed abroad,
And all flesh shall see the token
That God's word is never broken.

Words: Johann Olearius, 1671, Catherine Winkworth, tr., 1863, alt.

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" ¹⁰See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

The Anthem

"Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, Joyous tidings proclaim to the world, Lift up your voice, shout the good news: Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, He will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, From time eternal he was God, The Alpha and Omega, He. Behold, your Lord!

He will come in power and glory, He will rule with mercy and truth, Hope of all the nations Light of all the world!

He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms. Love him and trust him as a child, Behold, your Lord comes to you.

Words adapted from Isaiah 40

The Reading (responsive)

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

Michael Hood

LEADER: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes

of Jacob.

PEOPLE: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all

their sin.

LEADER: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak

peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in

their hearts.

PEOPLE: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that

his glory may dwell in our land.

LEADER: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and

peace will kiss each other.

PEOPLE: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and

righteousness will look down from the sky.

LEADER: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

PEOPLE: Righteousness will go before him, and will make a path for

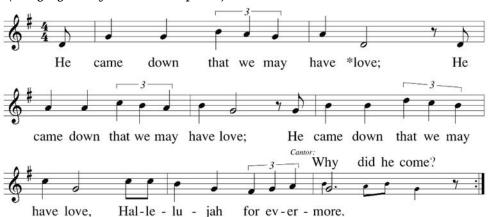
his steps.

*The Carol

"He Came Down"
Traditional Cameroon Song

Elementary Choir and Congregation

(Congregation joins on all repeats)



* substitute: hope, peace, joy

Words and Music: Cameroon, transcr. and arr. John L. Bell

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven.
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Anthem

"Love Came Down at Christmas" Howard Helvey

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1885

The Reading

Mark 1:1-8

Jud DeBra

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; ³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,"
⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

The Carol

"Here's a Pretty Little Baby" Negro Spiritual/André Thomas, arr.

Dean Blakeley, solo

Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger! Behold, believe, and be baptized! Wise men riding. Bright star shining. Name is Jesus.

The Homily

"An Interview with an Author" Christopher Chapman

The Carol Fantasy

"CHRISTMAS DAY"
Gustav Holst, 1910

[A musical fantasia of the traditional carols, "Good Christians, All Rejoice," "God Rest Ye Merry," "Come, Ye Lofty, Come, Ye Lowly," and "The First Nowell"]

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today: Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now. Christ is born today!

God rest you merry, gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay, Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day, To save us all from woe and sin, When we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy. In Bethlehem, in Judah, This blessed babe was born, And laid within a manger, Upon that holy morn; The blessed mother, Mary, Did nothing take in scorn. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christians all, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this. He hath opened heaven's door, And all are blessed for evermore. Christ was born for this. Come ye lofty, come ye lowly, Let your songs of gladness ring; In a stable lies the Holy, In a manger rests the King: See in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heav'n adored. Come, your circle round him closing, Pious hearts that love the Lord. Come, ye poor, no pomp of station Robes the Child your hearts adore. He, the Lord of all salvation, Shares your want, is weak and poor. Oxen, round about behold them; Rafters naked, cold and bare, See the shepherds, God has told them That the Prince of Life lies there.

Come ye children, blithe and merry, This one Child your model make; Christmas holly, leaf, and berry, All be prized for his dear sake; Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, come, ye spirits, keen and bold; All in all your homage render, Weak and mighty, young and old.

> Nowell! Nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

High above a star is shining, And the wisemen haste from far: Come glad hearts and spirits pining: For you all has ris'n the star. Let us bring our poor oblations, Thanks and love and faith and praise: Come, ye people, come ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze.

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with true love and brotherhood Each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas All others doth deface. O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christians all, rejoice, With heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave: Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all, To gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save.

The Invitation to Christian Discipleship

If you desire membership in this congregation, you are invited to present yourself during the singing of the Hymn of Discipleship. As an open membership church, we honor your previous baptism in any other Christian community. If you have not made a confession of faith, we invite you to do so and receive Christian baptism. Church members are invited to use this time to reflect upon their covenantal relationship with God and their commitment to Christian service.

*The Hymn of Discipleship, 135

HYFRYDOL

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

*The Benediction

*The Chimes

Three chimes are sounded, sending us into the world with the love of God, the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As you go, remember, "you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people."

*The Postlude

"Dear Maker of the Starry Skies" CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM/Robbert Hebble

*The congregation may stand.

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Maureen Howell, organ Becky Mercer, flute Cady Mercer, piccolo Amanda LaBrecque, oboe Beth McCollum, violin John Holley, viola Will Mercer, double bass Louis Raymond-Kolker, steel pan Dennis Ellis, percussion

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The lighting of the Advent candle text is from liturgylink.net and was written by Rev. Stephen M. Fearing, Shelter Island Presbyterian Church, IL.

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During the Sundays of this year's Advent season, the bulletin cover images are by artist LaCount Anderson depicting scenes from the birth narratives of Jesus. Each picture features something from our sanctuary decor in the design. Here is LaCount's clue to this week's hidden design:

In the beauty of Christmas; Our angel's clothes show; In the iron work today; Sing "Glory to God."

The Deacon on Call is Jud DeBra. Jud is a 21-year member of First Baptist and a member of the Finance Committee and the Everette Miller Friendship class. He and his wife Glennis live in Raleigh.

Giving Generously with Gratitude, our 2024 stewardship emphasis: so far, we have received 123 pledges in the amount of \$1,071,990. Please prayerfully consider how you can give generously and with gratitude to God through First Baptist Church. If you didn't receive a stewardship packet, please contact the church office. If you need offering envelopes and haven't received them in the past or would like to stop receiving them or change the number of each envelope you receive, contact Wayne Hager (whager@fbcraleigh.org).

Come celebrate expectant parents Sara and Michael Hood at a baby shower today from 2–4pm in the fellowship hall. The Hoods are registered at <u>babylist.com</u> and <u>Target</u>. If you're not able to come to the shower but still would like to give them a gift, there is a box in the reception area in the church office.

Are you interested in providing care for our preschoolers during worship (10:45–12 noon)? Volunteers must be church members or actively involved in the life of the church for at least six months and would serve once a quarter (four days a year). Contact Lynn (<u>llingafelt@fbcraleigh.org</u>) as soon as possible if you're interested.

Church conference: Wednesday, December 13; meal served at 5:15pm, prayer time and program at 6:15pm. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for documents and Zoom link.

Wednesday night meal reservations may be made at the church website (www.fbcraleigh.org/foodservice), by email (dmast@fbcraleigh.org), or by calling the church office (919-832-4485). The menu for December 13 is: orange chicken with fried rice; non-meat option: mock orange chicken; kids: pizza rolls.

As we approach Christmas, we want to provide an opportunity for our congregation to serve our neighbors a hot meal from *And Also With 'Cue*. We will be serving it to the clients of the Helen Wright Center on December 12. See the *Rose Window Weekly* for more information and the sign-up link.

Global Missions Offering supports CBF personnel around the world as they spread the Gospel. Please prayerfully consider your support of these missionaries. So far, we have received \$2,380.

Diaper changing stations are located in the men's and women's bathrooms on each floor of the Lewis building, and a nursing room is located in our preschool suite on the first floor.

Children of all ages are welcome in worship! Worship bags are located in the narthex and in the Gathering Room; preschoolers (birth – kindergarten) are also welcome to join the supervised play in the preschool suite on first floor.

Visiting? We'd love to get to know you. Scan the QR code to the right to share your contact information.

Calendar Highlights • December 10–17

Sunday, December 10	
9:45	Sunday School
11:00	FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
	JBC worship (226)
12:15	Deacons' meeting (220/Zoom)
2:00	Baby shower for Sara and Michael Hood (fellowship hall)
5:00	Youth Christmas
Monday, December 11	
10:00	Clothing ministry open
6:15	Finance Committee meeting (Zoom)
6:30	Music Made in Heaven (302)
Tuesday, December 12	
10:00	Staff meeting (conference room)
10:45	WMU Group 2 (Springmoor)
1:00	WMU Group 2 (Independence Village)
1:30	Yoga class (302)
6:00	Helen Wright Center meal
Wednesday, December 13	
5:15	Meal served (fellowship hall)
6:15	Church conference (fellowship hall)
7:30	Adult choir rehearsal (310/sanctuary)
Thursday, December 14	
7:00	Band of Brothers (Zoom)
10:30	Thirty-Niners (fellowship hall)
Saturday, December 16	
10:00	Memorial service for Charles Suggs; visitation following (sanctuary, fellowship hall)
Sunday, December 17	
9:45	Sunday School
11:00	FBC worship (sanctuary/YouTube)
	JBC Christmas service/luncheon (301/302)
12:00	Grade school kids Lunch Bunch (2nd floor children's suite)

The Greening of the Church

The fresh flowers, wreaths, garland, and Chrismon tree that adorn our sanctuary are given to the glory of God and in honor of or in memory of these loved ones and friends.

- The three wreaths on the rail in front of the church are given in loving memory of Dr. Clifford Byrum and Ruby Byrum by their family.
- The wreaths on the sanctuary doors are given in memory of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brantley, Sr.; Mr. and Mrs. John C. Brantley, Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Castlebury; and John C. Brantley, IV, by John C. Brantley, III.
- The Advent wreath is given in honor of Alan, Kimberly, Emily, and Matthew Taylor by Mom and Dad.
- The center wreath on the choir loft rail is given in loving memory of Mary Powell Ward and William Titus Ward, M. D., by their daughter Mary Powell Ward White and grandchildren: Mary Boney and Dunlop White, III, and their families.
- The right-side wreath on the choir loft rail is given in memory of Scott Lingafelt.
- The left-side wreath on the choir loft rail is given in honor of their grandchildren, Asher and Ryder Helms, by Sterling and Myra Brickell.
- The wreaths on the Clothing Ministry doors are given in memory of Daddy Ree, Mama Nette, Nana, and Da by their grandchildren, J. D. and Sarah Catherine Rhodes.
- The wreath on the State lot door is given in memory of Ed Vick by Laura Anne Vick and their daughters, Jennifer, Carolyn, and Elizabeth.
- The wreath on the left choir loft door is given in grateful honor of Warren and Maureen Howell by the Sanctuary Choir.
- The wreath on the right choir loft door is given in loving memory of their parents, Mary Kellam and Jimmy Hollis and William and Lillian Dickens, by Carolyn and Kent Dickens.
- The wreaths on the church office doors are given in memory of Madge and O. H. Dillard by their twelve disciples.
- The wreaths on the Infant Toddler Center entrance of the Lewis Education Building are given in loving memory of Julia C. Read by Vann and Jody Langston and Julia's grandchildren, Margaret and Jim.
- The wreaths on the Edenton Street doors of the Lewis Education Building are given in memory of Madge Dillard; O. H. Dillard, Jr.; Helen J. Davis; Norman Earl Davis, Jr.; Helen D. Smith; Charles Smith; Catherine C. Davis; Roger Allen Gregg, Jr.; and Dr. Roger Allen Gregg, Sr., by their family.
- The wreaths on the west parking lot doors of the Lewis Education Building are given in memory of their son, Blayne, and Regina's great aunt, Doris Bagby, by Steve and Regina Brown.
- Five pew wreaths are given in loving memory of Margaret Morton by Vann and Jody Langston.
- The poinsettia in the library is given in loving memory of Aileen Simpson by Edith and Steve Simpson.

In Honor of: **Given By:**

Annette Barnes Mike and Paula Barnes Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey Warren and Maureen Howell Clint and Betsy Neal Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey Minnie and Agee Welch The Dammanns Anna and William Wilson The Dammanns Lindsey and Brantley Blanchard Christina Davis **Greg Flowers** Marchelle Flowers Sonia Moore Greg and Marchelle Flowers Carolyn Crutchfield Wayne Hager and Matthew, Nathan, and Laura Karen Coffey Hager Wayne Hager and Matthew, Nathan, and Laura Nick, Lauren, Caroline, and Savannah Bradley Shirley and John Hobson Shirley and John Hobson Joan Hobson Their teachers John Hiott Fellowship Class Their granddaughters Olivia and Delia Haas Brenda Jordan and Jerry Washington The members and teachers of the Everette Miller Friendship class Sheila Jordan The Everette Miller Friendship class Lynn and Bill Loomis **FBC Choirs** Lynn and Bill Loomis Allison, Tanner, Ana, Caleb, Tom, Ben, and Dylan Charles and Jamie Petty Bonnie Baker Linda Sears First Baptist Church/Community CPR The Stocks-Heath Families Sue Crocker Anne Tunstall Maureen and Warren Howell Anne Tunstall

In Memory of: Given by:

Max Baldwin and family Doris Baldwin Mike and Paula Barnes George Barnes Jerry T. Blanchard, Sr. ("Daddy, Granddaddy") The Blanchard Family Joe E. Overman ("Daddy, Papa") The Blanchard Family Glenn Davis Lindsey and Brantley Blanchard, Jr. Their parents Sterling and Myra Brickell Sterling and Myra Brickell Mike Dodd Robert Lewis ("Uncle Bob") Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey Charles and Katherine Childrey

("Pop" and "Grandmama") Maria, Tom, Katie, Ann, and Caroline Childrey Jim Clary Margaret Clary

The parents of Margaret and Jim Clary Margaret Clary

Andy Wilson The Collins Family Valerie Cumbea Raymond Cumbea Valerie Cumbea Robert and Nettie Cumbea Valerie Cumbea Phyllis Dance Fannie Leggett Valerie Cumbea Mike Dodd Mary Lou, Michael, Kathryn, Anna, and Margaret Dodd H.F., Ginny, and Forest Flowers Greg and Marchelle Flowers Dick Moore Greg and Marchelle Flowers Her mother, Caralie Brown Nancye Gaj Nancye Gai Her husband, Steve Gaj Dr. Graham Crutchfield Wayne Hager and Matthew, Nathan, and Laura Wayne Hager and Matthew, Nathan, and Laura Rev. Joy Crutchfield Hager Their grandmas, Louise Harker and Lucille McCumber The Harker Family Blayne Brown and Anna Helms Chase and Jess Helms Scott Lingafelt, Durwood Pegram, Andy Wilson, and Harold Yelverton Chase and Jess Helms Their deceased teachers John Hiott Fellowship Class Their parents John and Sheila Hite Jodi Canady, Polly Wilkins Garrard, Sam Garrard, and John Wilkins John and Shirley Hobson John and Shirley Hobson **Edward Hobson** Kay Huggins Barbara Huggins Her parents, Mary Frances and Ernie Johnson **Emily Johnson** Her grandparents, Clarence and Emily Perry **Emily Johnson** Her sister, Becky Wines **Emily Johnson** Their parents Sheila Jordan and Jerry Washington Mack Conway Mike and Denise King, Lauren Teague **Dudley and Nell Kinsey** Alan and Janet Kinsey David and Frances Olive Alan and Janet Kinsey Katie Latham Alan Latham and Ashley Prather Alan Latham and Ashley Prather Mary Prather Lynn's daughter, Jennifer Lynn Lane Lynn and Bill Loomis Fannie Memory Mitchell Lynn and Bill Loomis Mason Moore Paula Gupton Page Robert Page Paula Gupton Page Bennie Ray and Mary Gupton Paula Gupton Page

Harold, Annie, and Scott Moore The Poteat family Richard Gene Puckett Robbie Puckett Nancy Jo and Bob Fleming The Rusher Family Randall and Lou Lolley The Rusher Family Fannie Memory Mitchell The Rusher Family Maurice Baker Linda Sears Howard Shell Frances Shell **Rolin Stevens** Berti Stevens Jerry Stevens Berti Stevens Anne Tunstall Danny Thomerson Her parents, Lloyd and Betty Hardison Sandra and DeLeon Turnage His wife, Marianne Webb Joe Webb Her brother, William Titus Ward Jr. Mary Powell Ward White