

THE VOICE OF

St. Matthew

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

1420 SOUTH GABLES BLVD.

WHEATON, ILLINOIS 60189

630-665-1236

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www.stmatthew-ucc.org



November 2015

Why Open and Affirming?

As many know, we have recently begun a process to consider becoming an Open and Affirming church. Open and Affirming is a designation of the United Church of Christ which declares that a congregation has taken the time to discuss and come to an understanding about how they will receive and accept groups of people who have at times been judged, excluded, or harmed by the Christian church. The end goal of this process is a clear statement of openness and affirmation for specific groups of people. This statement is to be voted on by the membership.

I have appreciated the honesty of many people as we have begun this process. Some have asked, “Why do we need to go through such a process? Are we not already open and affirming?” Others have expressed the concern that such a process seems to be related only to one sort of group – namely gays, lesbians, and transgender. “Why so much focus on a group that makes up only 3% to 5% of the population?” Some also have expressed the concern that our going through this process might be divisive. Still others have said, “It’s about time!”

I believe it important to state a few of the reasons I believe this process is important for our congregation at this time in our life together. I want to begin by saying that the process is not only about gays, lesbians, and transgender folks. The process is our way of being intentional in understanding what we mean when we say, “No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome in this place.” This includes not only gays, lesbians, and transgender, but also people who are economically challenged, mentally and/or physically handicapped, differing racial backgrounds, and non-traditional families.

It is true that in our denomination the process originally began with a focus on gays, lesbians, and transgender. Another essential purpose for our process is that people who have been unwelcome and hurt by churches before will not come unless they know a church is truly welcoming and affirming of them. We all know what it means to feel unwelcome, judged, and excluded. How easily will any of us return to a place where we have had a painful experience of rejection or being misunderstood? We likely would not return unless we were given an extravagant welcome and knew that a group of people truly cared enough to reach out with intention.

I also believe St. Matthew is a church that wants to make an extravagant welcome. We are like a family with one another and it is our character to welcome and affirm people who come into our presence. Families need at times to have open discussions to talk about who they are together and how they wish to live in the world. That is what this process is about. As in any family we likely will not all come to the same conclusion, but it is essential that we hold to the same love and respect for one another.

Finally, a church’s greatest call is to make a faithful witness to the person and the way of Jesus Christ. The larger church’s witness in the world unfortunately has, at times, become a negative one: judgmental, legalistic, and hurtful. I come from a state, Mississippi, where during racial injustice and brutality few were willing to speak for the way of Christ. I know the cost of that silence to human lives, to the people who remained silent, and to the church’s witness. I hope our witness will be that the church is not about judgment and exclusion, but an extravagant welcome.

(Continued on page 2)

I have a confidence that rather than pushing people away from our church, we will become more inviting and attractive because we reflect the love of Jesus.

I hope you will attend the forum that we are hosting after worship on November 1st to discuss our process. I also hope you will be in worship on November 15th and 22nd. On November 15th, I will be preaching on the idea of hospitality to people “no matter who they or where they are on life’s journey.” On November 22nd, I simply want to share my own story in coming to terms with gays and lesbians and how my understanding of scripture shaped changes in my attitudes.

Peace,

Pastor Allen

Food on the First

Thanks to all who donated in October. Here is what is needed in November:

- Feminine pads
- Diapers—any size
- Baby wipes
- Soap
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Canned pineapple slices
- Canned corn—no creamed
- Stuffing
- Soup
- Cereal
- Birthday candles
- Boy & girls (ages 8-12) - small items to put in birthday bags



As always, please make sure food is not expired and packages are not open. If you have questions, please call me.

Betty Greer
630.682.4084.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Betty Luessenhop**
- 8 Pastor Allen Mothershed**
- 11 Joe Hall**
- 14 Dianne Hutchison**
Rick Jungk
- 15 Diana Padilla**
- 23 Jessica Guerrieri**
Kristine Schroer
- 24 Jim Keuck**
- 26 Aimee Phillips**
- 28 Lindsay Christensen**
Ryan Christensen
Betty Greer
- 29 Colin Kirincich**
- 30 Jose Padilla**

Administrative Assistant

Have you met the new smiling face in the Office? Our new Administrative Assistant is Kathy Robson. Stop in and introduce yourself. You can also contact Kathy at 630.665.1236 or office@stmatthewucc.org.

Style Sheet

To help with consistent written documents, we now have a style sheet for St. Matthew. You can find the style sheet on the church website under the sermons/resources tab. We've chosen Times New Roman as our standard font, we use a single space between sentences and we eliminate periods from acronyms. Thank you for submitting your documents for publications using these guidelines.



Notes from the Music Room....

The days are getting shorter, the air is cooler and the trees are showing off their colors...definite signs of mid-fall, aka November. The month starts busily with Stewardship and moves quickly (or at least it seems) into Thanksgiving. The 29th, which is the last Sunday of the month, is the beginning of Advent and the holiday season.

The bell choirs and the Sanctuary Choir are in preparation for the season. This year's Christmas Cantata is "Morning Star" by Joseph Martin. It is a wonderful weaving of familiar tunes laced with original compositions to tell the story of Christmas. We will present it on December 6th at the regular service. Please plan to be here that day and bring some friends.

Musically, the rest of Advent is shared by all the musical groups, culminating with two services on Christmas Eve. Then a week later, we are at New Year's Eve. With some people already starting to define their New Year's resolutions, please consider singing in the choir – say, through Easter – as one of your resolutions.

Yours in Christ, through music,

Jamie Craig

Director of Music

630.202.6788

Lanni1@comcast.net

Children's Ministry November 2015

Zap, Slay the Giant

Thank you to all the teachers and shepherds who made our David and Goliath unit so special for the Sunday School children: **Patti Woods Jungk, Dawn Schubert, Kenna Anderson, Michelle Bresingham, Deb Felsenthal, Miegan Bresingham, Emily Ciner, Natalie Brandy, Dave Boyd and Bob Barnshaw.** The children had so much fun and were blessed by your leadership.



Esther, A Believer in Persia

November 1st begins our five-week unit “Esther, A Believer in Persia.” Esther is not a story of Esther’s beauty and her becoming queen, but of God’s saving power and how God used a willing and brave person like Esther to save God’s people. Workshops in art, Purim Celebration, storytelling, cooking and a movie will tell the story in a fun hands-on way.

Sunday School Food Drive Mission Project

During our Esther unit the children will take part in a Sunday School Food Drive mission project. The Jewish people celebrate the **Festival of Purim** to remember that God saved His people through the willingness of Esther. Collecting gifts for those in need is one of the requirements of Purim. The children will collect food and paper items throughout November and they will be donated to People’s Resource Center. Our church family is welcome to help us celebrate Purim by making donations; a basket where you can place items will be in the narthex.

Happy November Birthdays to: Parker Holshouser 11/1, Avery Scalora 11/12, Kyle Bresingham 11/25, Bonnie Bailey 11/28, Logan Cook 11/30,

A big Thank you to the Stewardship Committee and Youth Group for sponsoring the Tie-Dye t-shirt event. The children had so much fun making their special St. Matthew t-shirts!



Upcoming Events!

Red: Adult/Parent Meetings |

Black: crazies Special Events |

Green: crazies Regular Events

Blue: All-Church Events

crazies

St. Matthew UCC

crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, November 1 st	6-8pm
Sleep Out Saturday	Sat., Nov. 7 th - Sun., Nov. 8 th	TBD
NO crazies	Sunday, November 8 th	OFF
Mission Trip Info Meeting	Sunday, November 15 th	5:30-6pm
Special Gathering with FCCGE	Sunday, November 15 th	6:00-8:30
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, November 15 th	6-8pm
crazies Christmas Shopping	Sunday, November 22 nd	TBD
Turkey Bowl Football Game	Thursday, November 26 th	8-10am
NO crazies	Sunday, November 29 th	OFF
Christmas Cantata	Sunday, December 7 th	9:30-11am
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, December 7 th	6-8pm
crazies Fellowship and Study	Sunday, December 14 th	6-8pm
Birthday Party for Jesus	Sunday, December 21 st	9:30-11am
crazies Christmas Party	Sunday, December 21 st	5-8pm
Christmas Eve Services	Wednesday, December 24 th	6pm & 10pm
NO crazies	Sunday, December 28 th	OFF

It's not too late to support Sleep Out Saturday!

On Saturday, November 7th, the crazies slept outdoors in boxes and tents to raise awareness about—and funds for—the homeless population in DuPage County. You can still show your love to the crazies and to Bridge Communities in Glen Ellyn by making a donation. Contact Emmy Davis at youth.ministry@stmatthewucc.org for more details!

Turkey Bowl on Thanksgiving Day!

It's time for the annual crazies Thanksgiving Turkey Bowl! Join us at Seven Gables Park (1750 Naperville Rd. in Wheaton) from 8-10am. Emmy will bring a ball, the trophy, hot cocoa, and snacks. Meet her at the parking lot by the tennis courts!

Sign up to provide meals and a loving presence!

We need YOUR help, adults, to make crazies happen every Sunday. Please use the sign-up sheet outside of our sanctuary or email Emily Davis at youth.ministry@stmatthewucc.org to sign up to help out on Sunday evenings by providing a meal for 12 or giving 2 hours of your time to hanging out with some awesome kids.

FREE STUFF for crazies & Parents!

All crazies who get their Registration Forms turned in will receive a surprise gift from the infamous Trunk 'o Junk! Don't have your Registration Form—complete with **FREE TOTE BAG**—yet? Pick 'em up any time from Emmy at the church office.







Thank you to all who donated candy, helped out with food and games, and decorated their trunks for our annual Trunk or Treat event. It was a beautiful day and attendance from the community was outstanding!

- Christian Education, Membership and Congregational Life Committees



Stewardship Corner

Dear Friends of St. Matthew:

Before jumping into the 2016 Stewardship campaign, we would like to note that third quarter giving statements were mailed out last week. Thanks to all of you who continue to support the church. It was also noted that a number of folks have fallen behind in their 2015 giving – we ask you to catch up before the holiday season if possible.

As you probably know already, our Stewardship theme for 2016 is ‘***Come Together, Right Now Over Me***’. It is the title of the popular 1960’s Beatles song that ties nicely to our annual Stewardship drive. This time of year provides the opportunity for us to be reflective and intentional as individuals and as a church family, *Come Together* in covenant, and commit to growing in faith and service at St. Matthew.

We have three primary goals in this year’s campaign:

- To give generously to support our Church budget so that we can continue to support our many inwardly and outwardly focused ministries. If you have given of your treasure in the past, we hope that we can count on you again and that you can increase your contribution. If you have not submitted a pledge in the past, we ask that you strongly consider doing so this year to support our Church family.
- To engage the hearts and bodies of more of those in our congregation to do the work of the church, participate in music, help with maintenance, or whatever else you are passionate about doing. This year, in lieu of a time and talent sheet, we are inviting those who have an interest in volunteering their time to engage anyone in church leadership in conversation on how we can utilize your unique talents.
- To view St. Matthew as your haven from the busy day-to-day life and make it a point to be present and involved. The experience for all is enhanced when we *Come Together* in worship, singing, ringing, teaching, caring, leading and supporting.

In the two weeks leading up to Commitment Sunday (November 8th) we invite all of those in our church family to prayerfully consider their investment in St. Matthew and then complete the recently mailed estimate of giving card to be presented during the worship service on November 8th. If you are unable to attend that week, we ask that you mail your pledge card to the Church prior to that date. We also ask anyone not involved in our ministries to engage in conversation with anyone in church leadership to figure out how your individual passion can come to life at St. Matthew. Please don’t miss an opportunity to be fulfilled through service by offering your time, talent, and treasure.

Thank you for being a part of the wonderful ministry of St. Matthew. By Coming Together we are making a difference locally, nationally, and internationally!

Grace and Peace,

Rob Neufelder & Edie DeBoard, Stewardship Co-Chairs

Pennies From Heaven

Now that this year's Stewardship Campaign is at full speed, we'd like you to think about taking a step up in your giving. If that seems difficult for you to do, consider using the Manna program to get the retailers to donate to our church. Make your money stretch! Every time you buy a card, you get full value AND the retailers give a donation to St. Matthew.

DON'T THINK OF THE MANNA CARDS AS GIFT CARDS, BUT AS ANOTHER FORM OF CASH.

Use them where you shop every week, even if it's only for your groceries and gas. Check the order form on our website "Donate" page to see the hundreds of retailers that are in this program. If you are a Manna participant, thank you for your continuing support. If you have not yet tried it, stop by the Manna table in Dobstaff Hall on Sunday for more information on this no-cost fundraiser!



Open and Affirming Exploration

We invite you to attend a discussion forum after Worship on November 1st to share information and questions about our exploration of St. Matthew possibly becoming, officially, an Open and Affirming church. There is a box in the narthex if you would like to share your feedback or questions ahead of time or anonymously. We also encourage you to talk to Pastor Allen or to anyone on the exploration committee – Lee Staton (committee chair), Alex Alavi, Jennifer Buhmann, Carol Honeywell, Diane Mook, Leslie Ortman, or Dorothy Peterson – regarding questions or feedback you may have.

Calling All School-Aged Musicians!



All kids, grandbabies, nieces, nephews and neighbors age three and up who will be attending the 6pm Christmas Eve service are invited to participate in a hand chimes performance. No experience is needed. If the kids can read words, they can participate by themselves. If they cannot read words, the kids will require mom or dad, big sister or brother, or grandma or grandpa to assist. The helper does not need to read music, just words. Rehearsal starts at 5:15pm on Christmas Eve and the performance will be during the Christmas Eve service. Questions? Contact KC at handbell.director@stmatthewucc.org

If you are a school-age musician who attends St. Matthew or will be visiting family on Christmas Eve, please consider sharing your talents with the St. Matthew family. We would like the Prelude before the 6pm Christmas Eve church service to feature the talents of our young musicians. We are looking for performances on piano or cello or flute or....Please prepare a Christmas-themed musical piece to play for the congregation that night. Contact KC at handbell.director@stmatthewucc.org so she can add you to the schedule.

WANT TO BE A MEMBER?

If you'd like to know more about St. Matthew, contact Kathy in the Church office to arrange a meeting with Pastor Allen. During the "Meet and Greet" you'll learn more about mission opportunities, Christian Education and Congregational Life events at St. Matthew. Contact Kathy at 630 665.1236 or email: office@stmatthew.org to schedule a time.



Nursery Help Needed

We are in need of folks to help volunteer with our littlest members in the nursery. It's only a four-time-per-year commitment! Please contact Sarah Muntz at smuntz23@hotmail.com for details. Thank you!

Looking for new Congregational Life Members in 2016

We will be looking for new Congregational Life team members to help us plan and host events in 2016. If you are interested in joining our committee or would like to help out with some events, please contact Rob Neufelder 630.355.9684 or email at rneufelder@ipmcinc.com



Congregational Life – Euchre Night

When: November 7th, 7 pm

Where: Dobstaff Hall

Who: Singles, couples, and college-age folks

What to Bring: Yourself, a drink, and a snack to share

Experience: None needed, we will provide instruction to newbies and a refresher to those who have not played in awhile at 6pm

Format: Rotate tables, multiple partners. Interested? Call the office to sign up or e-mail kingz@me.com.

FAMILY CAMP SIGN-UP HAS BEGUN!

We are excited to announce that you can now sign up for Family Camp 2016! Next summer we'll be heading to Watson Homestead, located in the picturesque Finger Lakes region in western New York, from Sunday, July 24th to Saturday, July 30th. Join us for a "Week of Wine and Waterfalls" where possible group activities include hiking among the region's gorges and waterfalls, visiting some of the wineries and breweries in the area, and exploring the many museums in and around town--including the world-renowned Corning Glass Works. In addition, there are plenty of activities on-site at Watson Homestead, including an indoor pool, archery range, hayrides, and a climbing wall. Sign-up forms are located in the narthex. Please see Mark Hutchison, Dianne Hutchison, Sam Kouns, John Kouns, or Hi Baird with any questions. We hope that you will be a part of our great St. Matthew tradition!

UPCOMING EVENTS



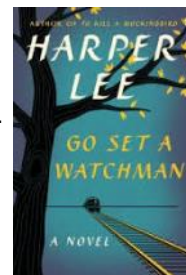
“COME TOGETHER, RIGHT NOW, OVER ME” We invite you to make worship a priority for the next several weeks as we have an enjoyable time in fellowship and worship. We’re going retro and finding our groove together as we explore the gifts of life and how to share them. Our theme is “Come Together, Right Now, Over Me.” Nov. 1 - I John 3:16-18 - “Embracing Wealth” (What does it mean to embrace our wealth in a way that neither leaves us feeling guilty or selfishly inconsiderate?) Nov. 8 - Genesis 1 - “Giving the Blessing” (We come together in Christ to bring our gifts of self and wealth to God as we dedicated our yearly estimate of giving.)

SLEEP OUT SATURDAY Mark your calendars for Saturday, November 7th. Not only is it Euchre night at St. Matthew, it is also Sleep Out Saturday (SOS). This annual event, sponsored by Bridge Communities, has had a St. Matthew youth presence for several years. We sleep out to raise much-needed funds for the Transitional Housing Program as well as to raise awareness about the plight of the homeless right here in our midst in DuPage County. We will again participate this year, and we ask for your financial support. Any and ALL are also welcome to sleep out on the church grounds that night. We will have a link through the Bridge page to make an online donation (details to follow in the Happenings), or you can write a check to St. Matthew with SOS in the memo line. For details on this event, please contact Emmy Davis or Dawn Schubert. Thanks in advance for your support!



PANCAKE BREAKFAST As many of you know, I (Dawn Schubert) recently became President of the ESSE Board of Directors. St. Matthew has been a supporter of ESSE since its inception in 1983. I succeeded Diane Mook, who had served on the board for many years. I would like to invite all of you to come out and support our largest fundraiser of the year. It's the annual Pancake Breakfast, and this year marks the 19th year. The breakfast will be on Saturday, November 7th from 7:30-11 am at St. Paul Lutheran Church (515 S. Wheaton Ave.), and tickets are **\$5**. There will be raffle and door prizes as well as a silent auction. I will have tickets at church, but you can also buy them at the door. **PLEASE** help me sell my quota of tickets and support a WONDERFUL organization! I hope to see many of you there. The pancakes ARE great!

NOVEL APPROACHES The novel to be approached in November is “Go Set a Watchman”, the recently released “prequel” to “To Kill a Mockingbird” also written by Harper Lee. It serves as its essential companion, adding depth, context, and new meaning to an American classic. **Date:** Friday, November 20th at 7:30pm. **Place:** The Boyd’s, 510 South Aurora Way, Wheaton. **All are welcome!** Please join us for lively discussion, food and fellowship.



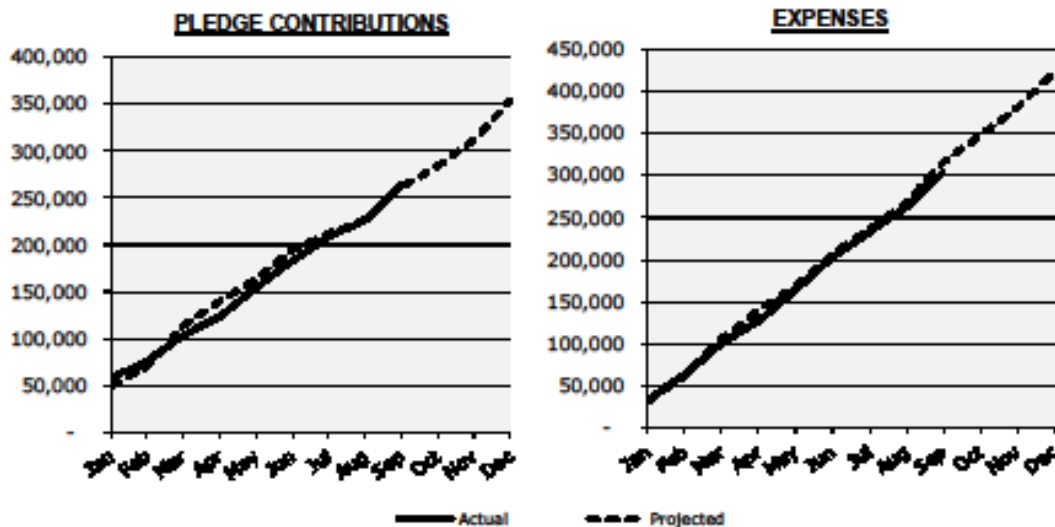
A NEW WORSHIP SERVICE Taize for Advent - December 3rd at 7 p.m. Taize worship is a reflective and prayerful form of worship using beautiful, simple songs accompanied by piano and flute, alternated with prayers, readings, and silence. All this is set in a candle lit sanctuary and with a focus on God rather than worship leaders. We invite you to our first experience of this at St. Matthew on Thursday, December 3 at 7 pm. This is a beautiful way to enter more deeply into the Advent and Christmas journey. Pass the word onto friends and

**ST. MATTHEW UCC GENERAL OPERATING FUND
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES**

For the Period Ended September 30, 2015

	ACTUAL CURRENT MONTH	ACTUAL YEAR-TO- DATE	ANNUAL BUDGET
RECEIPTS:			
Pledge Contributions	37,637	263,946	354,327
Loose Offerings	385	4,718	10,000
Rental Income	200	2,480	5,000
Fund Raising	623	3,185	8,000
Investment Income	3	1,139	-
More Property	-	16,500	46,000
More Property (special projects)	-	-	-
Miscellaneous Income	-	-	-
TOTAL RECEIPTS	38,848	291,969	423,327
EXPENDITURES:			
Ministry	21,614	168,475	229,129
Building	11,327	83,872	116,028
Mortgages & Notes	2,229	20,062	26,750
Mission / OCWM	4,965	18,701	29,000
Committees:			
Christian Education	623	6,912	10,270
Membership	167	1,180	2,750
Music	89	3,012	4,500
Worship	87	1,222	1,500
Endowment	-	-	-
Congregational Life	128	492	800
Memorial	-	-	100
Stewardship	-	-	500
Misc. & Contingency	-	-	2,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES (before Special Projects)	41,231	303,928	423,327
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT)	\$ (2,383)	\$ (11,959)	\$ -

2015 Activity - Actual vs. Projected



Please contact John Adams if you have questions or need additional information.

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 -9:30a Worship Service -10:45a Open & Affirming Forum -6p crazies	2 7p Christian Ed	3 7:30p Mission	4	5 7p Adult Ed	6	7 -Sleep Out Saturday -7:30a ESSE Pancake Breakfast - 7p Euchre Night
8 -9:30a Worship Service -Commitment Sunday -6p crazies	9 7p Worship Committee	10	11	12 6:30p Confirmation 7p Finance	13	14
15 -9:30a Worship Service -New Member Sunday -5:30 crazies Mission Mtg -6p crazies	16	17	18	19 6p SRC 7p Council	20 7:30p Novel Approaches	21
22 -9:30a Worship Service -6p crazies	23	24	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving! 8a Turkey Bowl Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 -9:30a Worship Service -Voice Articles due -6p crazies	30	Tuesdays 6p IntergeneRingers 7:30p Chancel Ringers	Wednesday 6:30p Praise Band 7:30p Cantata 8:30p Sanctuary Choir			



St. Matthew United Church of Christ

630.665.1236 (Office)

630.665.1436 (Fax)

Office Email: office@stmatthewucc.org

Web Site: www.stmatthewucc.org

Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday, 9am-4pm

Friday, 9am-1pm

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Sunday Church School: 10 am

Our Purpose:

Become, Live, and Serve as Disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our Identity:

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome and accepted here at St. Matthew United Church of Christ.

Our Staff

Rev. Milton Allen Mothershed, Senior Pastor

allen.mothershed@stmatthewucc.org

Susan Wold, Director of Children's Ministry

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Emily Davis, Director of Youth Ministry

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Jamie Craig, Director of Music/Choir Director

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Brian Dobbelaere, Organist/Pianist

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Kim Congdon, Handbell Director

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Joan Johnson, Business Manager

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Kathy Robson, Administrative Assiatant

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