St. John's Evangelical Church 211 E. Carrol Street Kenton, Ohio 43326 (Non Profit Organization)

Do Not Delay Dated Material





St. John's Evangelical Church Newsletter

May 2021

211 E. Carrol Street Kenton, OH 43326 Church Phone: 419-673-7278 Pastor Randall cell: 724-290-3651 Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester, Senior Pastor Website: www.stjohnskenton.org Email: stjohnskenton@gmail.com

Please join us for a casual night of prayer & praise on Wednesday, May 26 at 7 pm in the sanctuary. The praise team will be here to lead the songs. All are welcome! Let's uplift our hearts to the Lord in worship, uplift each other, and our community.





St. John's Evangelical Church

211 East Carrol Street Kenton, OH 43326

REV. DR. RANDALL J. FORESTER, PASTOR & TEACHER

Phone: 419-673-7278 (o) Phone: 724-290-3651 (c)

MAY 2021

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

E-mail: PastorRandall@stjohnskenton.org

This year, Pentecost falls on May 23rd. To me, part of this season in which we find ourselves is akin to the time before the first Pentecost. We are waiting expectantly for a better day that sets farther on up the road, but we do not know exactly where, and we don't know when we will receive this gift. Still, we are waiting for it.

For us, waiting can seem rather passive, and for many people it is. They wish for a better outcome. They act as though they've put a few dollars on the lottery instead of investing themselves in what truly

matters.

After Jesus' Ascension into the heavens (Acts 1:6-11), the disciples returned to Jerusalem and went into the upper room where they were staying. They were not passive. They devoted themselves to prayer, which is more than a wish or a chance at a big payout. Prayer, for them, was wholehearted; it was active; it was full engagement.

Something else made their prayer unique. It was done with one accord (see Acts 1:14). This wasn't about everyone having their own view and then taking a vote to see where the majority was or what the survey said. Instead, they prayed together and let the Holy Spirit unite their hearts with the one goal to glorify God and to receive the gift that Jesus had promised them. (Spoiler: the gift proved to be the Holy Spirit, which further united them as one.)

When the Holy Spirit burst onto the scene in Acts 2, the disciples were still gathered together (v 1). Likewise, we need to gather together in these days and wait upon the Lord. Like the disciples, we need to gather in one accord. We need to come together actively searching for the Lord's will, and we need to do this wholeheartedly and fully engaged.

To that end, I am planning to do something different this summer. In past years, prior to COVID, summer meant a

season of Wednesday Bible Studies. This year, I would like to gather in the sanctuary, the fellowship hall, or the chapel, to pray, to have holy conversations, and to sing praises to God.

Honestly, like the early disciples, I don't have a grand plan, but I am calling upon us to gather in Jesus' name and to see what He reveals to us through the Holy Spirit. To that end, I have asked James, who has been helping to lead our Praise Team, to organize the first of theses

events. It will be a time of prayer and praise and will be May 26th at 7PM here at St. John's. The scriptural theme will be **John 14:19-26**—Worship in Spirit and Truth.

Now that I have set my vacation and continuing education dates for the summer, we can begin to set dates for June-August. Other dates may be on Wednesday like the first one or they may fall on a Friday or Saturday evening or possibly a Sunday afternoon.

I'm hoping to find others to lead a bit of music or song. Otherwise, it will be a time of conversation and prayer if I'm the only one leading the time. The goal, for me, is to have God's people gather in prayer and to seek for the Lord. As Jesus taught, when we seek, we shall find (**Luke 11:9-10**). When we seek the Lord, we find so much more than peace and comfort in the moment; we find purpose and power that propels us forward in God's will to do His work on earth as it is done in heaven.

There are several biblical passages that contain the phrase "seek the Lord," but as I am writing about Pentecost in Acts, chapter 15, verses 16-18 says:

"After this I will return, and I will rebuild the tent of David that has fallen; I will rebuild its ruins, and I will restore it, that the remnant of mankind may seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles who are called

THE PASTOR'S PAGE

by My name, says the Lord, who makes these things known from of old."

God seeks to build His kingdom here on earth, and He uses His people as instruments of His love to do this work. Every good work that we do can only be done in Christ, and every good work begins with prayer. That is why I am calling on the church to commit to a summer of prayer as we prepare to do future good works that are greater than ones we have done before that our Heavenly Father may be glorified.

This commitment to prayer isn't just about everyone attending special times of prayer and praise. As a Christian, you can pray anywhere, at any time, with anyone—that is the gift of having the Holy Spirit upon you. I am asking the

members of the church to commit to 100 prayer gatherings EACH month of June, July, and August. That isn't 100 prayers by 100 individuals or 25 prayers by 4 individuals. I am calling on St. John's members to gather with other members to pray together. This is St. John's members praying for friends, colleagues, cashiers, and strangers that you meet.

Prayers can be focused on growing the church, discovering a better vision that unifies our members, or helping our brothers and sisters to discover spiritual gifts and finding ways to use them to strengthen the church. Additionally, prayers can be about the needs of people we engage who are outside of the church. Doing this becomes a way to get non-believers to think about how God cares about them. It is also a comfortable way to share our faith with others while lifting up Christ while empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Indeed, these are days of waiting and looking forward like the time of the disciples before Pentecost. It is also a time to have urgency, as the time of fulfillment is not far down the road but just around the corner. Understanding that, gives our prayers a sense of urgency and expectancy coupled with a commitment to being ac-

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAI CHURCH:

MAKING AND MATURING
DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

tively engaged in what God is about to do. So, come and pray May 26th if you can. Likewise, plan to help lead or contribute on future dates (contact me for ways you can do that).

Most of all, just start where you are and pray. Find a prayer partner or two at the next worship service, and set

times to pray together. Open the directory, call an old friend or make a new one, and commit to pray together. Advertise on social media, if you are so savvy, for people to gather with you online to pray. You can post prayer meetings in the bulletin or on the church Facebook page or website. Or, you can look for opportunities to pray where God plants you. Ask the Holy Spirit to put 5, 10, or 20 people in front of you each week with whom you will take time to pray with them and for them.

Prayer changes things. We all know that but little changes because we are not committed to prayer. Now is the time to change that and to follow through as the disciples did.

Who knows? Maybe a new outbreaking of the Holy Spirit is just

around the corner—a new Pentecost is on the horizon. When it does, revival will come to our land, and a renewal will fall upon Christ's Church.

May it be so and soon. Come, Holy Spirit, come!

With love and faith and service,

Pastor Randall



Preaching Series

As we bring our study of **Micah** to a close, we will remain in the prophets through Pentecost and the end of May. **Hebrews 13:8** tells us that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His message is timeless as He was there at the Creation. As the Word, He is in every Word written in the Bible. As the Messiah, He fulfilled the Old Testament Law and Prophets and brought their teaching to new people. As we have seen, the ancient words of the Old Testament parallel New Testament passages and speak to us freshly today.

During the Summer, you are once again invited to submit sermon suggestions to the pastor. That can be in the form of scripture to use or topics to cover. You may also suggest hymns or other elements you would like to see included on a Sunday morning. Thus far, only a few suggestions have been submitted. These are times to hear from the heart of the congregation and give voice to what the Holy Spirit in raising in the minds of God's people in this congregation. Feel free to

share. Most likely, if you are thinking it, it will bless several other people.

02 May

Scripture Micah 7:18-20

Revelation 7:1-17

Sermon God's Faithfulness and

Saving Grace

Special note: **Jeremiah 26:18-19**—Micah's preaching brought revival in his day and pardon during Jeremiah's day.

09 May

Scripture **Zechariah 1:7-17**

Acts 1:1-11

Sermon Messengers from Above

16 May

Scripture I Samuel 16:1-13

Acts 1:12-26

Sermon The Lord Beholds Differently

23 May Pentecost

Scripture **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Romans 8:22-27

Sermon Dry Bones Dancing

30 May Trinity Sunday

Scripture Isaiah 6:1-8
John 3:1-17

Sermon The Lord Sends

06 June

Scripture Psalm 79

Isaiah 6:8-13

Sermon The Forgettable Message

What a way to end a sermon series. See you in June to find out what it is all about!!!



"We do not need to wait for the Holy Spirit to come: He came on the day of Pentecost. He has never left the church."—John Stott
"Without Pentecost the Christ-event-the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus-remains imprisoned in history as something to remember, think about and reflect on. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us, so that we can become living Christs here and now."—Henri Nouwen

Bethlehem was God with us, Calvary was God for us, and Pentecost is God in us.—Robert Baer

"I owe everything to the gift of Pentecost. For fifty days the facts of the Gospel were complete, but no conversions were recorded. Pentecost registered three thousand souls. It is by fire that a holy passion is kindled in the soul whereby we live the life of God. The soul's safety is in its heat. Truth without enthusiasm, morality without emotion, ritual without soul, make for a Church without power."

—Samuel Chadwick "Pentecost came with the sound of

a mighty rushing wind, a violent blast from heaven! Heaven has not exhausted its blasts, but our danger is we are getting frightened of them."

—Smith Wigglesworth

"There is only one purpose of pentecost; that is to effectively evangelize lost souls."—T.L. Osborn

"My brethren, do you believe in the Holy Ghost?...Have we such a reliance upon the Holy Ghost? Do we believe that, at this moment, He can clothe us with power, even as He did the apostles at Pentecost? Do we believe that, under our preaching, by His energy a thousand might be born in a day?"—Charles Spurgeon

"Christians have no business thinking that the good life consists mainly in not doing bad things. We have no business thinking that to do evil in this world you have to be a Bengal tiger, when, in fact, it is enough to be a tame tabby—a nice person but not a good one. In short, Pentecost makes it clear that nothing is so fatal to Christianity as indifference."—William Sloane Coffin

"God pity us that after years of writing, using mountains of paper and rivers of ink, exhausting flashy terminology about the biggest revival meetings in history, we are still faced with gross corruption in every nation, as well as with the most prayerless church age since Pentecost."

—Leonard Ravenhill

When you strip it of everything else, Pentecost stands for power and life. That's what came into the church when the Holy Spirit came down on the day of Pentecost. ~David Wilkerson

The unoccupied fields of the world must have their Calvary before they have their Pentecost.

-Samuel Marinus Zwemer





Graduation Sunday

On Sunday, May 16, we will honor our graduates during the worship service. Please contact the church office with your information. Congratulations to all!



Youth Summer Camp-Camp Cotubic

Camp Cotubic is open this summer. Camp dates will be July 4-5 (5-7th grade) and June 27-July 2 (8-12th grade) Any youth interested in attending, please see Michele Sherman.



VBS Info./Planning Meetings (Fellowship Hall)

May 16: 11 am planning

June 6: 11 am planning/final decorations

Please prayerfully consider helping out this year. Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in hall by the east entrance. Please contact Michele Sherman with any questions.

Bible Study Starting Wednesday Nights

A Bible Study led by Jerry Pfister will be Wednesday Nights at 6:30 pm in the church library. They will begin with the Book of John. This Bible Study grew out of Celebrate Recovery but is open to all who want to attend.

Community Men's Bible Study

A Community Men's Bible Study meets Saturday mornings at 7:30 am at Our Place Family Restaurant.



Community Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study is now meeting on Sunday morning at 9 am in fellowship hall. All are welcome! We have plenty of room to spread out and you do not have to prepare ahead of time. The scriptures come from The Jesus Map, which contains 52 key events in the life and path of Jesus.

Join Us for VBS

Music - Missions - Crafts - Snack



June 7-10 5PM-7:15PM K-5th Grade

Vacation Bible School at St. John's Evangelical Church

This summer we will build on the love of Jesus. So, grab your hard hat and tool belt! As kids explore a world of concrete and cranes, rivets and rebar, buildozers and backhoes, they will discover that skyscrapers aren't the only things that need a rock-solid foundation. During VBS, kids will learn to build their faith on Jesus as they uncover the truth that He who began a good work will be faithful to carry it on to completion.

If you plan to attend or volunteer, please Pre-Register online by June 4^{th} at https://kideventpro.lifeway.com/myEvent/?id=57752 Reservations are very helpful for preparation purposes. Hope to see you all there!!!

St. John's Evangelical Church

211 E. Carrol Street Kenton, OH 43326 419-673-7278 stjohnskenton@gmail.com



Mission of the Month— Shine FM

The station is a community-supported station, which means they rely on the generous support of families, businesses, and churches. In May 2012, they launched their two stations in West central Ohio. They simulcast their contemporary Christian music format on 88.5 FM in Kenton, and 88.9 FM in Bellefontaine. In February, they added a third signal to their family...88.9 FM in Tiffin. They are now "three signals, one station." Their focus is to provide their listeners spiritual encouragement, build relationships in the community, and see lives transformed by the Gospel message. Shine FM has been blessed to serve our area with a message of hope, outstanding music, and terrific concerts. Their office is located in Bellefontaine.

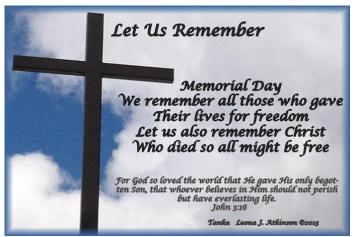
St. John's Care Team

We have a group of people that make calls to members to try to keep in touch with each other and to just check in. If you would like to participate in any way, please let the church office know or contact Carol Wilcox. If you are not receiving a call and would like one periodically or know of someone who would, please let us know.

Confirmation Class Interest

Anyone interested in participating in a confirmation class in the fall please contact the church office or Michele Sherman.





Friday With Friends

Friday With Friends is a wonderful group of widows, widowers, and single seniors who meet twice a month for a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. We meet the first and third Fridays of every month. Please join us if you are a widow, widower, or single senior adult. This is not exclusive to St. John's, so pass the word along to someone that you know who could be blessed by this special group. For more information, contact Ethel Koch at 419-674-6344.

Forthcoming outings will be as follows:

If out of town, meet at St. John's, corner of Wayne St. and E. Carrol St. to carpool. They leave sharply at 10:45. Still eating at 11:30 am.

May 7 Mr. Cheezy's Pizza—Dunkirk

May 21 Belle Center Restaurant – Belle Center

June 4 Cranberry's—Huntsville (Lake)

June 18 Acheson's—Lakeview

July 2 Homecoming—Bellefontaine

July 16 Tilton Hilton—Lakeview

August 6 Viva Maria—Ada

August 20 Coonies—LaRue



Birthday Blessings (over 80 yrs. Young)

Happy Birthday!! Please contact the church office if a name was omitted from the list. Thank you so much.

May 13: Dick Jones

630 N. High Street Kenton, OH 43326

May 14 Dorothy Ziegler

16316 SR 309 E Kenton, OH 43326



Hey moms, step-moms, grandmas, sisters, and mom-figures. Happy Mother's Day! Thank you for the way you love, influence, and mother the teenagers in your life. We love you!

Here are a few things coming up in our ministry . . .

Wednesday Youth has come to end for the year. As graduation and summer approaches, we pray for guidance for our teens and wish them all the best in their future plans.

Hardin County Collective begins back May 2nd. We will be having food and fellowship at Kenton Missionary Alliance Church. 5-7pm. If your Youth needs a ride, please let me know.

VBS Volunteers needed June 7-10th, 5pm-7:15pm. If your Youth or their friends would like to volunteer, please make sure you sign- up on the Kids Event Pro website. They will be meeting a week or so ahead of time to make sure we have music and etc. ready to go.

Tip of the Month

What can you do to help your teenager make worship a regular part of their lives outside of church? 1) Teach them what worship really is. 2) Talk about how you worship outside of church. 3) Give them new ideas about how to worship. 4) Remind them to worship often.

Resource of the Month

Have you checked out the free <u>BIBLE APP</u> by YouVersion? It's free and packed with Bible reading plans! This week, consider starting a new reading plan as a family.

Question on the Month

We know you're learning a lot about parenting a teenager, so we'd love to learn alongside you. What's one thing you've learned this year that ever parent of a teenager should know? Email us and share your wisdom! michelesjyouth@gmail.com

Sunday School with Miss Hope and Miss Natasha begins at 9am each Sunday. We would love for your child to join us and invite their friends.



Nursery is open to families as a self-serve, we just ask you respect others if using the space with you. There will be disinfectant spray and every precaution will be taken to keep families safe.

VBS is scheduled for June 7^{th} - 10^{th} , 5pm-7:15pm. Volunteers are needed to help share the good news. Sign-ups are located by the East door.

What's happening this month...

Wednesday Night program has come to an end. This year has been full of surprises but with God's guidance, we made it! The last month the kids learned The Lord's Prayer, which they recited for the radio station 88.5, Shine FM. Make sure to listen each morning at 7am.

A HUGE Thank you to all the volunteers that helped when we were lost and not sure what the right steps were. Because of you the Wednesday Night program was a success. I watched so many kids grow and enjoy their time here with you. You all are amazing and helped in more ways than you will ever know. I truly appreciate each and every one of you! May God bless you for all your hard work and dedication to this program.

Tip of the Month

"How you speak to children becomes their inner voice." #D6EveryDay



Be mindful of your voice

BELLS & STEEPLES



As Christians we are to called to patience and perseverance. I know many of you have commented about the 1877 Cornerstone which now is displayed in the Skylight Room. Researching the history of this through the newly translated records brings to light just how these Christian virtues were practiced by our founding members.

First mention of a steeple in the minutes:

"Kenton, OH 1863

General meeting on Sunday, 31 May 1863 at the Evangelical Protestant St. Johannes congregation. The church council and the ward members gathered after the completed Sunday service, where the president called the meeting to order. Important business was handled.

2. Ehrhart Blum made the suggestion and Benedict Fink supported it, saying a new roof with pine shingles and a steeple should be put on the church, which was passed unanimously."

Second stage of constructing a steeple (turned out to be the base for one that did house a bell).

"Monday evening, 18 July 1864

The church council gathered to vote once again, if the church steeple should be finished completely at once or piece by piece. The majority decided on completely. It was also decided that Allies Meyer, who has done other work on the church building, would be tasked with this job for two hundred and ninety dollar - \$290, with all the material being delivered to him. Allies Meyer would have to do the work well and durable, which would be checked by the building committee. K. Zulauf, G. Resch and M. Gerlach are that committee. Since there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned until an unknown time.

Attested Konrad Zulauf."

In 1865 a Bell Society was formed to purchase a bell for the new Tower. John Pfeiffer was sent to Springfield to purchase and deliver the bell. He did so by ox cart. A journey that would have taken an 11-to-12-day round trip.

Third mention of the steeple (tower) when project was approved.

"Monday evening, 25 May 1877

The church council together with the various committees gathered at the church and Mr. Pastor Diehl, who was presiding, opened the meeting with a prayer. First the finance committee reported, that although they had not been able to acquire the money, they ensure that they would be able to. With the in mind, the building committee could move forward in their planning, so that the start of construction could start as soon as possible.

2. The building committee reported, that they were unable to reach a conclusion about the truss. The situation was discussed by the council and the whole committee and after all ideas and points were discussed, the following was decided: 1. The truss

should be raised 5 to 6 feet and shall be covered in slate. 2. The tower should be 10 feet over the rooftop, build with bricks and should ca. 100 feet tall. 3. That the tower, the new addition and the truss, as well as the removal of the inner wall, and the opening of the pulpit alcove, shall be given out with a contract. 4. That the congregation will order the needed brick, but all other materials shall be obtained by the contractors. The meeting was adjourned"

The actual construction is finally mentioned.

"Monday night, 6 Aug 1877

The church council gathered at the parsonage and the meeting was opened by a prayer of Mr. Pastor Diehl. After the protocol of last meeting was read and approved, the committee responsible for finding a new local for the Sunday service during the repairs, shared their news. They had reached out to Pastor Waddel of the United Presbyterian Church and said church would be available to the congregation to use every Sunday afternoons for no charge. It was decided, that this offer would be accepted with gratitude and in friendship.

The following question was also being discussed: Should we let Mr. Heinrich Schnaut do the inner work of our church or not. The decision was, that Mr. Schnaut would be supervise the work.

2. That the day laborers should be selected of the congregation, that the wage of the trades people should not be paid more than \$2.00 per day, that day laborers should not be paid more than \$1.50 per day and that the supervisor should not paid more than \$2.50 per day."

As you can see it took over twenty years for the plan for a Church with a bell and real steeple to come to fruition. It would be the following year, 1878, before the project was completed. So, when we get frustrated with the pace of change at church, remember this is not a new experience. God's timing always trumps our human expectations. It is our job to persevere.



St. John's Evangelical Church Church Council Agenda Thursday, March 11, 2021 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER - Terry Hord, President

OPENING PRAYER - Pastor Randall

Soup Kitchen representative Mary Rahl asked council when the Soup Kitchen will be allowed to reopen. Discussion followed with council deciding to check with county health board to ask advice on opening to such a large group. We will be referring back to them after a decision has been made. They are also in need of Board Members and Volunteers.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - Pastor Randall

OFFICER'S REPORT

Secretary's Report - Heather Erwin

• February 11 minutes – Motion to accept minutes and seconded, council vote, motion carried.

REPORTS

- 2) Finance Kay Rush
- Insurance Changes
- Organ expenses of \$2,000.
- Jerry gave the report from the financial committee.
- The farm income will be invested with a cap \$50,000 and the balance will be tiered invested. Since Willis Anderson and Steve Mays annuitant's of investments have passed, those funds will be reinvested other than annuities since annuities do not make as much money now on the market. A motion was made and seconded that the Carl Lotz scholarship fund will be re designated to any student for further education. Motion passed. Shawn Dyer will head this committee this year only. In house applications only will be accepted.
- 3) Christian Education—Michele Sherman
- Christian education reminded the council that Vacation Bible School will be June 7-10 and informed as to Michele's plans for this program. Committee report was reviewed by all council.
- 4) Women's Ministry Toni Pfister
- Not doing anything right now
- 5) Worship, Arts & Music Nancy Weaver
- It was noted that larger gloves are needed for the communion servers. Going forward what is the commitment for the contemporary music position.
- 6) Personnel Committee Jerry Pfister, chairperson
- He will be addressing more reviews and children's ministry position. Denny Sprang, Janitor, was commended for an outstanding job.
- 7) Pastoral Relations Carol Wilcox
- The committee will be meeting April 11, 2001. Rudy Freer will be chairman of this committee going forward.
- 8) Trustees: Greg Martin, Jerry Pfister
- Audio Visual: The security cameras are being finalized. Camera for the Jerry Cross Park will be reviewed further. A \$1,000 piece was returned with replacement part found at a lower price.
- Van: The van steps are ordered and the wrap for the bus are continuing to progress.
- Farm: The hunting proposal for hunting leases is still under consideration.
- 9) Missions, Evangelism Heather Erwin/ Mark Sherman
- Mark announced we will be having spring work day on April 25. More information will follow. Carol said she would pay for mulch if Mark had workers to spread the mulch.

- 10) Pastor's Report Pastor Randall
- Pastor Randall's report was reviewed by the council.

OLD BUSINES:

- Safety of Church/Alice Program—will be handled going forward with Shawn Dyer and Mark Sherman
- Rental agreements- tabled for further review
- Church inventory tabled—will be completed this summer 2021
- Church Survey—A motion was made and seconded to continue with survey using the NCD source. Motion passed.
- Red Cross paperwork will be finished soon.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A motion was made and seconded by to pay Pastor Randall's dental bill. Motioned Passed.
- Two names were presented to the board for replacing the open trustee position. A motion was made and Seconded to Elect Anna LaWarre for the balance of the year open position of Trustee.
- Rebecca Craig proceeds from the sale of her house and farm will generate a Council designation fund for infrastructural improvements.

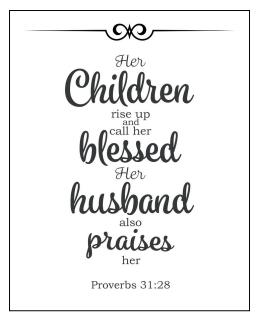
Next Meeting: April 8, 2021 7:00 PM

ADJOURNMENT – Motion and seconded to adjourn, Council Vote, motion carried.

LORD'S PRAYER

To all the MOMS,
GRANDMAS,
AUNTS,
SISTERS,
Or COUSINS,
Wishing you a
Happy Mother's
Day, Whether you
are here Or in
HEAVEN now,
We are what we
are Because of
you!!!





Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Randall J. Forester Youth Ministry: Michele Sherman Financial Secretary: Kay Rush Church Secretary: Kathy Forester Chancel Choir Director: David Beazley Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Brose

Organists: Randall S. Rogers, Teresa Broseke and Linda Zeigler

Children's Choirs Director: Hope Cauley Bell Choir Director: Jane Baker Technical Support: Richard Katterjohn

Historian: Gerald Pfister Janitor: Denny Sprang