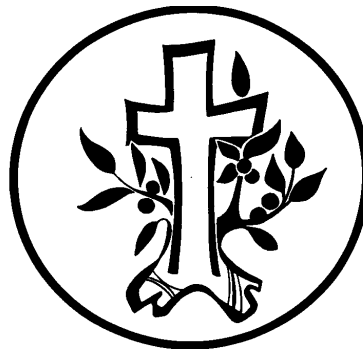


SHARING GOD'S GRACE

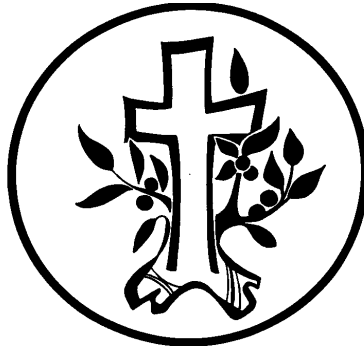
CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

August 2018 - August 2019



Congregational Meeting
Sunday, August 25, 2019
11:05 a.m.

Grace Lutheran Church ▪ 1300 Kishwaukee Valley Road ▪ Woodstock, IL 60098



REPORT FROM THE PASTOR-Rev. Kenneth Gibson -Senior Pastor

It is, once again, our time to gather and reflect halfway through our calendar year and, as such, another year of our Life Together here at Grace. It is at this meeting that we will elect from our midst those who have stepped forward to place their names in nomination to serve in our ministry here at Grace. We thank them and all who are now finishing their terms of service. We are blessed to have so many talented persons among us who share their gifts.

In my report I share with you all, as I have done over the last 11 years, numbers and statistics that are good to note. I am pleased to report that we have welcomed several new members into our midst-many through baptism and some by transfer from other congregations, etc. I am also pleased to share the weddings that have either taken place here at Grace or presided by one of us Pastors on their special day and we congratulate them. Our life together here at this place we call Grace is good and faithful. These past 11 years have been special, and I thank God for our time together and the support I have felt through the joys and the sorrows we all share in this life together. May we continue to share God's Grace in meaningful and Christ-centered ways.

Here are some statistics:

FUNERALS: 15

NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED: 20

BAPTISMS: 9

WEDDINGS: 5

Finally, let us note we have added two new persons to our staff. Please help me welcome Jen Freeman as our Director of Educational Ministries and Dawn Domanus as the Director of our Grace Preschool. Also, let us thank our Grace staff that, year in and year out, performs their respective responsibilities with true dedication to our mission and let me add with emphasis, that this staff continues once again to bring our mission goals to fruition all under projected budget expense lines. May we continue to grow in our mission, and may Christ go forth in all we do. See you in the pews and in our mission places around the community and beyond.

In Christ's love always,

Pastor Ken Gibson

REPORT FROM THE PASTOR-Rev. Amanda Bergstrom –Associate Pastor

Dear People of Grace Lutheran Church, I pray that this year has been, and will continue to be, a time of rejoicing in the gift of abundant life in Christ. I hope that you have both shared and experienced God's grace in your relationships with God, one another, and community.

Early this year, we gathered for midweek Lenten worship services around the text of Colossians and the theme of "Hidden with Christ" as we eagerly awaited the turning of seasons. From polar vortexes to fleeting signs of spring, we entered into the Easter season of new life and resurrection. Now in this summer time, the weeks after Pentecost, we keep journeying through a time for recreation and renewal. We have been reminded once more in recent lectionary readings from Colossians that in Christ, all things hold together.

Members and participants in our faith community were invited to share in a Congregational Vitality Survey earlier this year, which measures the strengths and challenges of a congregation and assesses vitality and sustainability. This survey and information gathering are a part of Grace's church council's efforts towards strategic planning as we reflect, discern, and steward mission and ministry.

A few ministry highlights this year included a variety of adult education book study opportunities, a new Women's Conference in the spring, confirmation students and leaders traveling to Sky Ranch in Colorado for camp, and the new soup ministry. This summer has included transition time for our staff team as we welcome Dawn Domanus as Grace's Preschool Director and Jen Freeman as Director of Educational Ministries.

As we now prepare for the start of the program year this fall, I hope you will make plans to participate in the 7th ELCA Service Day, "God's work. Our hands," on Sunday, September 8. On this day we commit to sharing God's grace through an afternoon of fellowship and service as one way of living out our call to love and serve God and neighbors near and far. I also hope that you will prayerfully consider committing to faith formation for all ages. Will you consider teaching the faith to the youngest of children through Sunday school, confirmation, or high school youth group? Will you commit to your own growth in faith through worship participation and a variety of upcoming adult education opportunities?

I find great joy, life, and grace in being church together. I give thanks to God for you, I will keep holding you in prayer, and I look forward to seeing you here in worship, participating in a variety of ministries at Grace, and out and about in the greater community.

Pastor Amanda Bergstrom

REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT-

Andy Bellavia

When I read the report of the summer meeting a year ago in preparation for this one, I noticed that Pr. Amanda opened hers with "Grace and Peace..." For me those words resonated differently than they had back then. As many of you know, we recently formed a partnership with Peace Lutheran Church in Spring Hill, TN to jointly sponsor a second Honduran school under Lunches For Learning. Quite naturally the nickname for our partnership became "Grace & Peace." Pr. Amanda's greeting resonated all the more so because Mary Beth & I recently traveled to Spring Hill to meet their pastor & congregation, and to introduce Grace to all of them. They send their thanks for our partnership and wishes that we all truly experience God's Grace and Peace. In our own congregation I remain joyful that I can serve with you as we all share God's grace here in Woodstock, with our new partner church in Tennessee, in Honduras, and around the world. We are all connected by the bonds of common humanity and God's love for us.

One of our missions that I am grateful for is our preschool. I am more than pleased to welcome Dawn Domanus, a person with both prior director & teaching experience, as our new preschool director. Under Dawn's leadership we look forward to a bright future for the preschool. At the same time I have to give kindest thanks to Chris Learman for coming out of retirement to serve again during our search process. It would have been impossible for the school to carry on if she had not helped in that way. Through the actions of people like Chris, all our staff who work hard every day to make Grace special, our Council members, and everyone who contributes their time & treasure in one way or another, I feel God's presence and strength as we live out the Word together. Grace and Peace to you all,

Andy Bellavia

REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL VICE PRESIDENT-

Lisa Banker

Sacred spaces are places where heaven meets earth and places that allow us to experience the holy most fully in our lives. In Celtic spirituality, these places are called "thin places - where the normally opaque membrane between Heaven and earth is stretched and thinned so humans get a glimpse of the sacred." We all have an idea of what is sacred and where the places are that let us experience that feeling of holiness; for many of us, church is one of those places.

This summer I was fortunate enough to travel on several trips. During those travels, I was able to visit places that many people (including myself) consider sacred; the palpability of holiness was very distinct in these places - most were churches or cathedrals. However, other places that I visited throughout the summer also gave me a feeling of God's holiness and became sacred spaces for me - those were as diverse as water's edge and a battlefield.

Sacred spaces allow us a place to disconnect from the tumult around us (the turmoils we can control and those that we cannot) in our every day and rejuvenate our relationship with God. We have no better an example of this than Jesus himself. In Luke 5:15-16, "But now more than ever the word about Jesus spread abroad; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be cured of their diseases. But he would withdraw to deserted places and pray."

Sacred spaces can help us pause and reflect on loving the world, practicing gratitude, and conversing with God.

Look for the unexpected sacred places in your daily life.

Lisa Banker

REPORT FROM THE TREASURER-Jessica Potoczky

Through the first six months of 2019, income is about 5% (or \$12,580) below what was budgeted. Expenses are about 6% (or \$17,550) below budget. Keep in mind that in the budget expenses were kept to an absolute minimum and were based on what was spent last year. This year we have had an increased amount of bank fees due to electronic giving. (This is 80% over our budget; but, we have yet to utilize an equipment rental which is resulting in maintaining our budget.) Any differential in weather compared to last year would result in higher or lower snow/ lawn service bills. Also, as a side note, a nursery supervisor has not been hired, so this expense has not been spent as of yet. It was projected that we would be -\$20,848.85 at this point in the year, we currently sit at -\$14,788.67. Our expenses have exceeded 70% of total in the first half of the year. Your continued faithful giving coupled with prudent spending by our staff and ministry committees has put us on the path of being sound stewards of the gifts God has blessed us with.

MEETING AGENDA — SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019

Meeting Name:	Grace Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting
Presiding:	Andy Bellavia
Date of Meeting:	Sunday, August 25, 2019
Time of Meeting	11:05 AM
Location of Meeting:	Grace Sanctuary
Meeting Objective:	Congregational Meeting

Meeting Minutes to be recorded by: Gayle Hoch, Secretary

	Agenda Item Description	Presenter	Notes
1	Call to Order	Andy Bellavia	
2	Determination of Quorum	Gayle Hoch	
3	Opening Prayer	Pastor Ken	
4	Introduction of Council Members	Andy Bellavia	
5	Approval of Minutes	Gayle Hoch	
6	Financial Report	Jessica Potoczky	
7	Presentation of Ballot from Nominating Committee for Open Positions/Voting	Andy Bellavia	
10	Synod Assembly Report	Synod Assembly Delegate-Caryl Dierksen	
11	Adjournment	Andy Bellaiva	
12	Closing Prayer	Pastor Amanda	

Annual Meeting Minutes—February 10, 2019

Minutes of the Annual Meeting – February 2019	
Meeting Name	Grace Lutheran Church Annual Meeting
Presiding	Andy Bellavia, President
Date of Meeting:	February 10, 2019
Meeting Objective:	Annual meeting
Meeting Attendees	A quorum of members of the congregation was present
Minutes Compiled by	Gayle Hoch, Council Secretary

Location	Church Sanctuary	Time	12:05 PM
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Topic	Recommendations / Decisions / Actions	Summary
Call to order	Andy Bellavia called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. It was determined that a quorum of over 58 members were present for the Annual meeting	
Opening prayer	Pastor Amanda Bergstrom opened the meeting with prayer. Council members were introduced.	
February 26, 2018 Meeting Minutes	Paul Lockwood motioned to accept the minutes of the August 26, 2018, congregational meeting; Marlene Botts seconded. Motion was unanimously approved.	August 2018 Minutes Approved
Financial Report	Treasurer Jessica Potoczky presented the Budget showing a \$31,116 surplus. It was noted that Grace will strive to increase our commitment to the Northern Illinois Synod. Paul Lockwood questioned where the additional monies were coming from. It was explained that the increase was attainable through budgeting of the pledged amounts. Cindy Meyer motioned to approve the budget as presented; Mike Liedtke seconded. Motion approved.	2019 Budget Presented
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.	2019 Budget Approved
Closing Prayer	Pastor Ken Gibson closed the meeting with prayer.	Meeting adjourned

Grace Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expenses Year-to-Date Actual & Budget

	Jan - Jun 19	Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
3000 · Income			
3005 · Giving			
3010 · Pledges & Envelopes	257,213.25	268,527.87	95.79%
3030 · Loose Offering	10,920.39	11,183.97	97.64%
3040 · Sunday School	65.00	100.00	65.0%
3050 · Special Services	4,918.00	5,992.31	82.07%
3051 · Bulletins & Presence Light	1,350.00	1,250.02	108.0%
Total 3005 · Giving	274,466.64	287,054.17	95.62%
3055 · Other Receipts			
3060 · Facility Use	3,050.00	2,600.02	117.31%
3070 · Interest Income	1,899.31	1,250.02	151.94%
Total 3055 · Other Receipts	4,949.31	3,850.04	128.55%
Total 3000 · Income	279,415.95	290,904.21	96.05%
Total Income	279,415.95	290,904.21	96.05%
Expense			
4100 · BENEVOLENCE			
4110 · Northern Illinois Synod	26,350.02	26,349.98	100.0%
4115 · Social Ministry	3,750.00	3,750.00	100.0%
Total 4100 · BENEVOLENCE	30,100.02	30,099.98	100.0%
4200 · COMPENSATION			
4205 · Gross Payroll			
Total 4205 · Gross Payroll	153,164.15	152,084.48	100.71%
Total 4200 · COMPENSATION	197,544.31	196,768.30	100.39%
4300 · ADMINISTRATION			
4312 · Bank Fees	1,083.97	600.00	180.66%
4314 · Strategic Planning	450.00	500.02	90.0%
4315 · Continuing Education	653.74	750.00	87.17%
4320 · Convention & Meetings	546.00	750.00	72.8%
4325 · Equipment Rental/Maint.	0.00	1,050.00	0.0%
4327 · Computer Services & Software	2,458.61	2,850.00	86.27%
4330 · Office Supplies			
4460 · Stationery	1,969.96		
4330 · Office Supplies - Other	1,004.45	1,950.00	51.51%
Total 4330 · Office Supplies	2,974.41	1,950.00	152.53%
4335 · Postage	541.75	1,299.98	41.67%
4345 · Telephone & Internet			
4345-1 · Cell Phone	650.00		
4345-2 · Internet	1,844.07		
4345 · Telephone & Internet - Other	0.00	2,610.00	0.0%
Total 4345 · Telephone & Internet	2,494.07	2,610.00	95.56%
4350 · Transportation			
4351 · Mileage & Tolls	754.99	1,749.98	43.14%
Total 4350 · Transportation	754.99	1,749.98	43.14%
Total 4300 · ADMINISTRATION	11,957.54	16,119.98	74.18%

Grace Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expenses Year-to-Date Actual & Budget
Continued

	Jan - Jun 19	Budget	% of Budget
4400 · COMMUNICATION/EVANGELISM			
4415 · Newspaper Ads	760.00		
4475 · Special Projects/Artwork	99.85		
4485 · Coffee Ministry	50.32		
4400 · COMMUNICATION/EVANGELISM - Other	0.00	1,221.98	0.0%
Total 4400 · COMMUNICATION/EVANGELISM	910.17	1,221.98	74.48%
4500 · EDUCATION			
4505 · Adult Education	0.00	125.00	0.0%
4506 · Marriage Counseling Material	-70.00		
4510 · Confirmation	46.32	7,380.00	0.63%
4515 · Library	495.07	400.00	123.77%
4520 · Sunday School			
4520-B · Materials	36.03		
4520-G · First Communion	257.43		
4520 · Sunday School - Other	71.13	822.24	8.65%
Total 4520 · Sunday School	364.59	822.24	44.34%
4525 · Vacation Bible School	0.00	1,125.00	0.0%
Total 4500 · EDUCATION	835.98	9,852.24	8.49%
4640 · SPIRITUALITY TEAM	0.00	50.00	0.0%
4650 · STEWARDSHIP			
4651 · Offering Envelopes	1,340.68	1,800.00	74.48%
Total 4650 · STEWARDSHIP	1,340.68	1,800.00	74.48%
4700 · PROPERTY - BUILDING			
4705 · Church Maintenance	3,046.02	3,999.98	76.15%
4710 · Custodial Supplies	2,269.06	1,749.98	129.66%
4715 · Insurance	9,106.50	9,500.02	95.86%
4725 · Real Estate Taxes	1,758.05	1,850.00	95.03%
4735 · Scavenger Services	705.10	600.00	117.52%
4740 · Service Contracts	6,961.32	6,999.98	99.45%
4745 · Utilities	12,566.88	13,500.00	93.09%
Total 4700 · PROPERTY - BUILDING	36,412.93	38,199.96	95.32%
4760 · PROPERTY - GROUNDS			
4765 · Grounds Maintenance/Upkeep	95.59	500.02	19.12%
4766 · parking Lot Maintenance	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.0%
4770 · Snow/Lawn Services			
4770-A · Lawn Mowing & Leaf Pick Up	95.74		
4770-B · Snow Removal & Salt	1,238.74		
4770 · Snow/Lawn Services - Other	1,058.76	2,100.00	50.42%
Total 4770 · Snow/Lawn Services	2,393.24	2,100.00	113.96%
4776 · Truck Insurance	483.82	474.98	101.86%
4780 · Misc. Property Expenses	0.00	50.02	0.0%
Total 4760 · PROPERTY - GROUNDS	4,972.65	5,125.02	97.03%

Grace Lutheran Church
Statement of Income & Expenses Year-to-Date Actual & Budget
Continued

4800 · WORSHIP			
4801 · Music			
4825 · Instrumentalists	952.00		
4841 · Special Choir Programming	25.37		
4801 · Music - Other	20.00	1,749.98	1.14%
Total 4801 · Music	997.37	1,749.98	56.99%
4860 · Piano & Organ Maint.	120.00	600.00	20.0%
4870 · Worship Service Expenses			
4871 · Holiday Worship Supplies/Exp.	255.31		
4873 · Weekly Worship Supplies/Expense	417.49		
4874 · Communion Supplies/Expenses	154.50		
4870 · Worship Service Expenses - Other	146.09	999.98	14.61%
Total 4870 · Worship Service Expenses	973.39	999.98	97.34%
4876 · Vineyard	0.00	125.00	0.0%
4885 · Nursery Supervision	0.00	999.98	0.0%
Total 4800 · WORSHIP	2,090.76	4,474.94	46.72%
4900 · DEBT SERVICE			
4902 · Mortgage Interest	3,532.14	3,532.50	99.99%
4904 · Readel Interest	4,507.44	4,508.16	99.98%
Total 4900 · DEBT SERVICE	8,039.58	8,040.66	99.99%
Total Expense	294,204.62	311,753.06	94.37%
Net Ordinary Income	-14,788.67	-20,848.85	70.93%
Net Income	-14,788.67	-20,848.85	70.93%

Grace Lutheran Church

Dedicated Funds Summary

As of June 30, 2019

	Balance
2200 · Dedicated Funds	308,961.16
Total 2150 · Memorials & Gifts	76,770.37
Total 2207 · Sabbatical Leave Funding	3,999.96
Total 2210 · Adult Education	-157.28
Total 2215 · Assist-Thanks, Christmas, Good Sa	739.78
Total 2217 · Direct Assistance Program	629.00
Total 2222 · Women's Retreat	1,428.92
Total 2225 · Coffee Ministry	-3,077.22
Total 2227 · Vineyard	30.80
Total 2230 · Discretionary Pastor Ken	6,261.72
Total 2231 · Discretionary Pastor Amanda	5,855.16
Total 2235 · Festival Decorations	4,258.42
Total 2238 · Food Pantry	0.00
Total 2250 · Kitchen	637.62
Total 2255 · Library and Archives	172.16
Total 2260 · Graceful Men	108.40
Total 2265 · Mistletoe Magic	0.00
Total 2270 · PADS	1,197.12
Total 2273 · Preschool Expenditures	0.00
Total 2275 · PrimeTime	2,384.24
Total 2277 · Rummage Sale	50.40
Total 2285 · Seniors Program	3,184.95
Total 2292 · Vacation Bible School	3,770.62
Total 2295 · WELCA	711.63
Total 2300 · Woodstock Area Com. Ministry	0.00
Total 2303 · Lutheran World Relief	0.00
Total 2305 · World Hunger	128.00
Total 2306 · Synod Special Giving	20.00
Total 2307 · Lunches for Learning	471.90
Total 2310 · High School Youth Programs	6,804.47
Total 2318 · Young Adults Fellowship Group	354.30
Total 2320 · Fair Trade Coffee	1,998.31
Total 2330 · Confirmation Camp	3,752.82
Total 2332 · Diaper Fund	90.00
Total 2335 · Adopt A Sailor	150.00
Total 2350 · Hymnals	280.62
Total 2351 · Devotionals	-343.83
Total 2355 · Worship Ministry	1,379.74
Total 2370 · Discipleship Ministry/Adult Ed	190.35
Total 2372 · Stephen Ministries	223.16
Total 2375 · Spirituality Ministry	1,208.40
Total 2380 · Youth Ministry	1,500.00
Total 2385 · Leadership Ministry	822.41
Total 2390 · Cash Reserve	23,236.90
Total 2395 · Capital Reserve Fund	135,374.98
Total 2400 · Misc.	2,110.70
Total 2460 · Capital Campaign	31,921.90
TOTAL	320,631.90

Grace Lutheran Preschool
Statement of Income & Expenses July 2018 to June 2019

Ordinary Income/Expense	<u>July '18 - Jun '19</u>
Income	
3000 INCOME	
3020 Tuition	47478.46
3021 Registration Fee	1210
3025 Field Trips	452
3030 Fall Festival and Winter Wonderland	1060
3035 Panera Fundraiser	52.37
3036 Culvers Fundraiser	125
3040 Yankee Candle Fundraiser	1443.3
3055 Scholastic Book Fair	447.62
3065 Primetime	275
3085 Additional Fundraisers	792
3091 Donations	220
Total 3000 INCOME	<u>53555.75</u>
Total Income	<u>53555.75</u>
Expense	
4200 COMPENSATION	
4205 Gross Payroll	36927.86
4250 FICA/Medicare	2825.57
Total 4200 COMPENSATION	<u>39753.43</u>
4300 ADMINISTRATION	
4312 Bank Fees	59.91
4335 Postage and Delivery	12.5
4385 Membership Dues & Subscriptions	435
4390 Licenses and Permits	525
4392 Insurance	175
4395 Miscellaneous	1841.52
Total 4300 ADMINISTRATION	<u>3048.93</u>
4400 ADVERTISING	
4415 Newspaper Ads	1142
Total 4400 ADVERTISING	<u>1142</u>
4500 CLASSROOM	
4510 Program Equipment/Supplies	1260.61
4520 Classroom	87.86
4522 Scholastic	447.62
4530 Field Trips	319
4560 Fall Fest	70.99
Total 4500 CLASSROOM	<u>2186.08</u>
4700 PROPERTY	
	4800
Total Expense	<u>50930.44</u>
Net Income	<u>2625.31</u>

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following names are submitted for your consideration
for leadership positions at Grace Lutheran Church.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Three Vacancies; 3-Year term,
Expiring August 2022

- **Andy Bellavia** (3-Year Term)
- **Gayle Hoch** (3-Year Term)
- **Mary Koehn** (3-Year Term)

2020 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Three Vacancies; 1-Year term,
Expiring 2020

- **Cathy Buhrow** (1-Year Term)
- **Ken Hansing** (1-Year Term)
- **Rob Ribbe** (1-Year Term)

ENDOWMENT FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One vacancy; 5-Year term,
Expiring 2024

- **Michele Neuhart** (5-Year Term)

N. ILLINOIS SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES - JUNE 19 & 20, 2019

Two (2) male, Two (2) female delegates,
and Two (2) Alternates

- **Al Beckman**
- **Paul Lockwood**
- **Mike Liedtke**
(alternate)
- **Barb Aavang**
- **Cindy Meyer**
- **Laura Lagerhausen**
(alternate)

PRESCHOOL BOARD

Three Vacancies; 3-Year term,
Expiring 2022

- **LaVerne Foerster** (3-Year Term)
- **Carolyn Liedtke** (3-Year Term)
- **Mary Ruffino** (3-Year Term)

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Terms Expiring 8/2019

Andy Bellavia
Cathy Buhrow
Gayle Hoch
Hannah Paulson

Terms Expiring 8/2020

Mike Freeman
Lisa Gerloff-Banker
Mike Liedtke

Terms Expiring 8/2021

Matt Meiners
Gretchen Hutchens
Kevin Kleinjan
Jessica Potoczky

GRACE STAFF

Rev. Kenneth D. Gibson	Senior Pastor	Dale Carlson	Saturday Worship Accompanist
Rev. Amanda Bergstrom	Associate Pastor	Carrie Filetti.....	Laudate/Youthful Spirit Director
Denise Klabunde	Administrative Secretary to the Sr. Pastor	Ken Zank.....	Building Supervisor
Carrie Fiorina	Financial Secretary	Kim Ethridge.....	Custodian
Jennifer Freeman	Dir. of Educational Ministries	Chris Ethridge	Custodian
Shirley Busse	Director of Senior Ministries	Terry Aavang.....	Revelation Ringers
Ron Fredriksen	Director of Music Ministry	Tammy Baier.....	Director Of Communications, Cherub Choir, Joyful Sound, Messengers Director, & Preschool Staff
Dawn Domanus.....	Director of Preschool Ministries		
Janice Burns	Organist, Graceful Ringers & Chimes Director		