

The Voice

St. John's United Church of Christ, 141 W. Main St.
Fredericksburg Pa, 17026

October 2012

The Pastor's Voice: "Blessed Past, Bold Future"

Dear Friends,

I want to first take the time to thank you for your support of me during this time of transition. I want all of you to know that it was not easy decision for me to resign as your pastor. However, I believe that God is calling me to new challenges so that I can continue to grow in my ministry. I also believe that God is calling you to new challenges so that you can grow in your ministry. Therefore, I believe this is a good time for all of us!

St. John's has had a blessed past. You have been a place of love and hope in the Fredericksburg community for almost 275 years. That is a wonderful legacy! A lot has changed over the years. Some of our loved ones are no longer with us and new people have come into our midst. Through all of this we can boldly proclaim that God is good! The problem with some churches today is they try to hang on to the glory days. All you need to do is look around and you will quickly notice that it is no longer the 1950's. The culture has changed around us and it continues to change. The church tends to gripe about those changes rather than look for ways to respond and to engage with those changes. How can we make the gospel relevant in the midst of a changing world? How will we move forward into the future?

I am aware that many of

you are concerned and maybe even afraid of what the short term future looks like without a settled pastor. I want to ask every member to be in prayer during this time of transition. You must hold the Consistory in prayer as they search for an interim pastor, who will then guide you during this transition. I hope that if you are asked to serve on the Profile Committee or the Search Committee that you will see this as a way to help your church move forward into the future.

Several people have been asking me about the future of St. John's. As we look around on Sunday mornings we see the numbers declining. Our Christian Education program has dwindled over the years. We don't have the young people that we once did. I must be honest and so it is hard for me to not take this personally. I feel in many ways that I have failed. Therefore, I think this time of transition is a great opportunity for St. John's to take time to discern how God can shape you into a new thing. I hope and pray that you will be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit. I guess that is my answer to the question regarding the future of St. John's. In order to have a bold future, you must be open to the Holy Spirit! We must remember the words of the familiar hymn by Isaac Watts, "O God, our help

in ages past, our hope for years to come." I pray that you will look to God to guide you for the years to come.

As we begin the month of October, I am reminded that I began my ministry here on October 1, 2004. As we reflect on the past eight years, we can truly see how God has been present with us and how God has used us to share the gospel of Jesus Christ. As you take time to think about all that we have accomplished over the past eight years, I leave you with the words of a hymn that will serve as a blessing for you as a congregation:

**Great work has God begun
in you, so let the Spirit follow through;**

**The mark of Christ upon
your brow, baptismal touch
remember now.**

**Great work has God begun
in you; take on God's love in
all you do,**

**And may that love in you
increase now, with God's
blessing, go in peace.**

Blessings,

Pastor Chris



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October Worship News

Worship Highlights for October :

October 7 (19th Sunday after Pentecost/World Communion Sunday): We will join our brothers and sisters around the world in celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We begin a series of readings from Job and confront the complex problem of human suffering. How can we find God's loving presence in the midst of distress?

October 14 (20th Sunday after Pentecost): In great misery, Job cries out, wanting to plead his case before the Lord. Jesus is asked, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus gives the command to sell everything in order to become a disciple. We come to God with a lot of questions, but we must be ready to receive some unexpected answers

October 21 (21st Sunday after Pentecost/Harvest Home Sunday): The gospel reading tells us about James and John requesting Jesus for special treatment. The passage concludes with Jesus saying, "For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." We will celebrate Harvest Home Sunday by collecting canned goods for the JOY food pantry in Jonestown.

October 28 (22nd Sunday after Pentecost/Reformation Sunday): Our service will include the order of healing as we read the story of Bartimaeus in our gospel passage. As we celebrate the history of the church on this Reformation Sunday, how can we continue to be a reformed and reforming church so that we can extend the healing love of God?

Scripture Readings for October

October 7

Job 1:1, 2:1-10

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Mark 10:2-16

October 21

Job 38:1-7

Hebrews 5:1-10

Mark 10:35-45

October 14

Job 23:1-9, 16-17

Hebrews 4:12-16

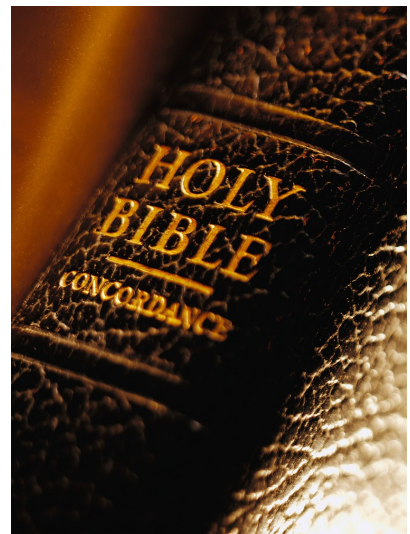
Mark 10:17-31

October 28

Job 42:1-6, 10-17

Hebrews 7:23-28

Mark 10:46-52



October 2012 Celebrations...

Happy Birthday to:

2 Wendy Dorsey
6 Peggy Mohn
9 Tracy Hevel
13 Colt Dorsey
13 Linda Tyrpin
16 Angela Michael

22 Mark Tyrpin
22 Joyce Myers
23 Lee Flanick
26 Kathryn Myers
26 Richard Rudy
26 Yvette Oskam

27 Savannah Fox
30 Gerald Rudy
31 Julie Brandt
31 Marc Griffiths

Happy Anniversary to:

8 Missy & Cory Daub
12 Robin & Keith Gingrich
17 Rodney & Aleta Babe
22 Herb & Sharon Hibshman

22 Josh & Crystal Stoltz

Sunday Worship Volunteers, Thank You

October Readers

7-Sharon Hibshman
14-Charlene Ziegler
21-Tracy Hevel
28-Terry Knapp

October Acolytes

7-Dylan Walmer
14-Nick Benfer
21-Jason Eberhart
28-Kayla Benfer

September Attendance

Sept. 2-75
Sept. 9-2
Sept. 16-Hinkelfest Day
Sept. 23-65

October Bulletins

7-Robin Getz
14-Betty Schriver
21-Butch Rudy
28-Becky Griffiths

October Flowers

7-Gary Trautman
14-Aleta Babe
21-Butch & Shirley Rudy
25-Brad & Becky Griffiths

October Deacon

Angela Michael

October Coffee Hosts

7 & 14- Arlene Walmer & Gerald Rudy
21 & 28- Barb Trainor & Connie Martin

Budget & Stewardship Committee News Update *By Neal Grimes*

The Budget Committee has resumed their monthly meetings. We met on Thursday, August 23, 2012 to review where we are for the current year and to talk about starting the process of preparing the budget for 2013.

The July 2012 figures are listed below. As of this printing the August numbers are not available.

Offerings (5 weeks) July:

Envelopes	\$ 8,824.10
Loose Plate	\$ 325.00
Fundraisers	\$ 105.87
Bulletins	<u>\$ 140.00</u>

July 2012 Totals	\$ 9,354.97
Less Expenses	<u>\$ 9,278.62</u>
Total July Profit	\$ 76.35

Our weekly budget offerings are projected to be \$2,250. In the month of July, we averaged \$2,273.52. YTD we are averaging \$2,168.57.

ATTENTION: Tax Exempt Purchases

By Walter Bolles

St. John's members now can buy items for our church from Home Depot, Lowe's and Michael's Art & Crafts store "tax free". We are now PA Tax Exempt at those participating businesses. Anyone wishing to buy items for St. John's may see Pastor Chris or the church secretary, Gloria, to use the tax exempt card at anyone of these locations. To buy items from Lowe's see either of them for the code needed. Please remember this can ONLY be used for purchases that are specifically related for our church purposes.

If there are other stores where you would like to have a tax exempt account, please let either Pastor Chris or Gloria know.



Fundraising News

Don't forget that the 4th Sunday of each month is our regular fundraiser project "Dine & Donate". A portion of your purchases get returned to St. John's UCC. So, have fun and help your church at the same time!

Don't forget about our Sub/Pretzel sandwich sale on Oct. 4th. Pick-up is at the church 4pm. Also remember that we will be selling pies made by Country Fare and potato filling from Verl's for the upcoming holidays. Ticket sales will be from Nov. 5-9th.

Men's Fellowship News

By Neal Grimes

The men of St. John's met on Sunday, September 9th at Esther's Diner. There were 5 men in attendance and Anne Hambrick-Stowe.

The treasury balance was reported as \$ 828.47. It was decided to close out our treasury and turn over the balance to the church. The men will join forces with the women to hold fundraisers in the future.

The men will continue to meet for breakfast every 2nd Sunday of the month at Esther's.

From the Christian Education Corner by Angela Michael

First, thanks to Pastor Chris, Julie Ditzler and Robin Getz for organizing and leading the youth in the Car Wash/Bake Sale/Picnic that kicked off Rally Day weekend on Sept. 8th. Proceeds from the Car Wash/Bake Sale benefited both the Christian Connection Heifer International Summer mission project (we'll be sending some chickens & possibly another animal to a family in a third world country) and Operation Christmas Child. Thank you to all who came out to support these events. At the picnic the youth started a devotional series called "Fruits of the Spirit" that they will follow through during the rest of the Youth Adventures throughout August 2013.

The next Youth Adventure is Saturday, Oct. 27, the youth will meet at the church at 6pm before leaving for the Risser Marvel Corn Maze, Hay Ride & Camp Fire activities. This adventure will be lead & organized by Melissa Seltzer. (Please note that the date changed from the one that appears in the Youth Adventures pamphlet) The Youth Adventures schedule through Jan 2013 is posted on the Youth Ministry page of the church website.

The 2013 Children's workshop schedule has been completed. Next year the children will learn about the following stories or people from the Bible: Elijah vs. the False Prophets, the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus Feeds the 5,000, Joseph in Egypt, the Lord's Prayer, Moses, Ruth & Samuel. This year there is a slight change to the Christmas program in that the Music & Worship Committee will be working with the children and the adults to put on a show for us on December 23 during worship. Christian Education continues to plan new experiences throughout the year & I encourage you to look for details of coming events in future newsletters.

Christian Connection Workshop Rotation Schedule for October 2012

Circle Time Schedule:

Oct. 7—Pastor Chris & Anne Hambrick-Stowe
Oct. 14—Melissa Seltzer & Melissa Daub
Oct. 21—Robin Getz
Oct. 28—TBD



Children's Connection Workshop:

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-2:25 Story of Creation

Oct. 7—Game rotation, children learn about environmental awareness & stewardship (teacher: TBD)

Oct. 14—Food rotation, children listen to story as they make a snack mix. (teacher: Melissa Seltzer)

Oct. 21—Art rotation, children experience story by creating their own works of art (teacher: TBD)

Oct. 28—Drama & Music, children will act out story using music & movement. (teacher: TBD)

Rally Day Thank You

By Julie Ditzler

Thanks again to all who participated in our pre-Rally Day celebration on Saturday, September 8. We appreciated the cars to wash and the baked goods that people provided. Those of us who attended had a good time of fellowship together. We took in approximately \$220, which will be used toward the sending of our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Again, many thanks!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

By Julie Ditzler



Gift Ideas:

Toys—Small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yo's, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries)

School Supplies—Pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, stamps & ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring & picture books, etc.

Hygiene items—toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in plastic baggie), comb, washcloth, etc.

Other—Hard candy & lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps/hats, sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

As we look forward to the beginning of the fall season, it is time to think about gathering items to fill our holiday shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. Our goal this year is to fill eighty boxes. We are well on our way! Here are suggestions from Samaritan's Purse for items we can include in our boxes:

To help keep us organized, we will follow this schedule for taking in and organizing our gifts:

October 14- hygiene items

October 21- school supplies

October 28 -toys and items from the other categories

November 4- candy and gum

November 11- wrapping and blessing of our boxes

Throughout this period we will also be encouraging our young people to fill out Operation Christmas letters to enclose in our boxes to introduce ourselves to the children who receive them. A donation of \$7 per box is requested for shipping expenses. We will be making announcements in church throughout the month for ways that you can contribute. If you have any questions, speak to Julie Ditzler. Please plan to join us in this joyous project!

DO NOT include: Used or damaged items, war-related items such as toy guns/knives/military figures, chocolate or food, out of date candy/liquids/lotions, medications/vitamins, breakable items such as snowglobes or glass containers, aerosol cans.

SENIOR CHOIR NEWS

The Sr. Choir began their 2012-13 season on Sun., September 23, singing the new anthem, "Let His Love Be Found in You". Members are rehearsing anthems for the Musical Offerings every Wednesday evening at 7pm. If you think you may be interested in singing with us, come to a rehearsal and give it a try!

Sr. Choir Musical Offerings for October are:

Oct. 7—World Wide Communion Sunday, *"Bread of the World"*

Oct. 21—Harvest Home Sunday, *"O God Beyond All Praising"*

**We are in need of someone or a group, to provide the Musical Offering on Sunday, Oct. 14, 2012. Please contact Louise Walmer at (717) 865-5103, if you are able or interested in filling this need.*

MUSIC AND WORSHIP NEWS

The Music & Worship Committee met on Wednesday, Sept. 12, Louise led devotions.

Dates were set for our Harvest Home Sunday on Oct. 21 and Thank Offering Sunday on Nov. 18 for this year. Louise has asked Dena to coordinate decorating the sanctuary window sills for the autumn season.

All Saints Sunday was discussed and the list of members, family and friends of members, was reviewed. The names will be published in the Oct. Voice. We request that Voice readers notify the church office if we missed anyone that should be included on the list. We will need to know all the names by Sunday, Oct. 28, in order to have the flowers and candles ordered.

Advent & Christmas services and music was discussed. Our 2012 Christmas Program will be an inter-generational program, with our committee working with the Christian Education Committee. The Sr. Choir will also participate. The drama, *"The Christmas Guest"*, has been chosen. The scripts, music, books and production/rehearsal CD has been ordered. We plan to begin distributing scripts and have the Choir work on the music in November.

Our next meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 9th at 7 p.m. Robin Getz will lead devotions.

"All Saints Sunday" - November 4, 2012 :

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday during the morning worship service on Sun., Nov. 4. The memory of members, family members and friends of our congregation who passed away since All Saints Sunday 2011 will be remembered with the lighting of a candle and the tolling of a bell.

Please review this list of names we have for remembrance. This year we have a large number on names. We want to be very sure that we are not forgetting someone. So please, if you notice that we missed a name of a family member or friend, contact the Church Office before Oct. 28.

Members, family members and friends to be remembered during our All Saints celebration 2012:

JAMES AXEL	MARGARET BREWER	HARVEY DITZLER
JOE FEGAN	BEATRICE FELTY	DELMAS HERNLEY
MARY ANN HERNLEY	MARK HIBSHMAN	GENEVIEVE LOUNDER
CHRISTINE MASON	MARK MOYER	ELBY MYERS
JOSEPHINE RANK	WAYNE RENTSCHLER	ALVERTA RUDY
RALPH RUDY	BEN SCHRIVER	LEROY SHUCKER
HERMAN SMITH	GERALD WALMER	LYDIA WENRICH
ROBERT WETZEL	BARBARA YAGER	JOANNE ZIDIK
REV. REYNOLD ZIELGER		

Congregational Life News

Prayer Chain Ministry

There is a devoted group of women (where are the men??) who serve on our prayer chain and we are grateful for their willingness to participate in this special ministry. When the pastor or the church office knows of a prayer concern, we then activate the prayer chain. Our current members are: Regina Engler, Priscilla Dearwechter, Peggy Mohn, Melissa Seltzer, Anne Hambrick-Stowe, Amy Zechman, Madelyn Fegan, Karen Light, Pat Renstchler, Wendy Dorsey, Donnette Quairoli, and Robin Getz. If a current member of the group wants to be removed from the list, please speak with Pastor Chris. If anyone in the congregation wants to become part of the prayer chain ministry, please speak to the pastor. We will send out a new list in November.



Visitation Ministry Team

There is a small, but dedicated group of people who visit our church members when they are in the hospital. We are always looking for new people to join this very important ministry. We are grateful to Regina Engler, Pat & Earl Ziegler, Neal & Jean Ann Grimes, and Peggy & Jerry Mohn for serving on this time. If you are interested in helping, please speak to Pastor Chris or Peggy Mohn, the Visitation Team Leader

A Thank you from Charlene Ziegler:

Fall is here, the Sr. Choir is back in their loft and it is time to thank the talented volunteers at St. John's for the Summer Musical Offerings. The St. John's Quartet sang for us early on and then Joe Ditzler organized the St. John's Singers. Robin Getz sang and Gary Trautman and Wendy Dorsey performed a duet on other Sundays. Denise Voshell also shared her talent and Aleta Babe and her granddaughter, Michelle Jackson, sang a duet. You all did a wonderful job!

I also want to thank Regina Engler for making sure that her sons, Glenn and Darryl Engler, came to sing and play for us. Regina also brought The Ringleaders, a barbershop quartet to St. John's. Terry and Ginny Knapp's grandson, Elliot, played his cello and his friend, Serena Cheng, played the piano. What talented young people!! And to finish out the season, The Swatara Singers sang for us in Pennsylvania Dutch.

We were truly blessed to have a nice variety of music this summer. Thank you for making a joyful noise to the Lord or for asking others to share their talents!

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

Our next luncheon will be held on October 2 from noon-1pm! If you can't stay for the whole time that is ok! All you need to do is bring a sandwich and Pastor Chris will supply the rest!



MISSIONS NEWS

2012 Annual Crop Walk (from Neal Grimes)

This year's crop walk has been set for Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 at Memorial Lake. The start time is 1:30 p.m., with registration starting at 1:00 p.m. All walkers will meet at the middle parking lot to get their instructions and begin the walk.

A good representation from our church is needed to help support this worthwhile event. All proceeds go toward ending world hunger at home and around the world. The CROP Hunger Walk is a unique response to the needs of poor and hungry people.

Literature and donation envelopes will be available in the church secretary's office. Watch the bulletin board in the social hall for more information.



Neighbors in Need Offering

On October 7 & 14, we will receive the Neighbors in Need offering. The special offering of the UCC supports our denomination's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. You will find envelopes in the pews. We ask that you be generous with this special mission offering.

Harvest Home Basket of Love

On October 21, we will have our annual harvest home collection of canned goods. We will donate our collections to the JOY food pantry in Jonestown. Here is a list of items currently needed at the pantry: **canned fruit and juices, canned meats, spaghetti sauce, toilet paper, and dish detergent.** Look for the basket of love inside the front door on October 21. We will take them into the sanctuary and place them in the chancel with the harvest home decorations! As we enter the sanctuary we can sing the words of Psalm 95: *"Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to the Lord with songs of praise."*



College Addresses: We would like to keep in touch with our college students, so please forward their addresses to the church office or Pastor Chris. Thank you!

Current College Addresses:

Jordan Seltzer—Messiah College, One College Ave., Unit #6164, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Colt Dorsey—2010 N. 18th Street, #2, Philadelphia, PA 19121

Jillian Ditzler—1960 Spectrum Circle, Apt. #335, Marietta, GA 30067

Taylor Gingrich—Elmira Jeffries Apt. 206, 1500 N. 15th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121-4301

NEWS FROM THE WIDER CHURCH :

Lebanon Association Fall Meeting

The Lebanon Association will meet on October 21 at Salem UCC, Campbelltown. Registration will begin at 3pm and the meeting will begin at 3:30pm. Rev. Dr. Thom Webster, our new Conference Associate Minister, will be speaking. After the meeting there will be a meal of soup, bread, desserts, and beverages. The cost is \$6. **The deadline is October 15!!** Speak to the pastor if you are interested in joining him for the meeting.



Rev. Dr. Thom Webster

Hartman Center Fall Festival

The annual fall festival at Hartman Center will be held on October 20 from 9am-3pm. There will be craft items to purchase as well as food, includes home-made baked goods, chicken BBQ, hot dogs, chicken corn soup and ice cream. There will also be hayrides and games. A new feature this year is a petting zoo! There is fun for all ages.

Pastor Chris is also looking for a basket for the silent auction. This basket could contain items from Lebanon County. Please let him by October 7 if you are willing to help with this project!

This is an important fundraiser for Hartman Center. If you have never been to Hartman Center, this is a good time to check it out!! Talk to Pastor Chris for more information!

Annual Bake Sale for Namibia Partnership

We will once again sponsor a bake sale on October 7 (World Communion Sunday) to support the Namibia partnership of the Penn Central Conference. Since 2005, St. John's has been in a partnership with the Congregational Church in Swakopmund, Namibia. Pastor Chris visited our partner congregation in 2007. We have met numerous folks from Namibia when they visited our Conference. Pastor Chris currently serves as chair of the partnership committee for the Conference. One of the major projects that we have right now is a Peace Camp at Hartman Center for young people from each of our partnerships (German partnership, Native American/Dakota Indian partnership, and the Namibia partnership) as well as youth from our own Conference. We will need some financial support to make this happen. The proceeds from this bake sale will support this wonderful opportunity for young people from different parts of the world to gather together for a week of faith filled conversation! So bring your baked good items on October 7! Don't forget to bring your money to buy the baked goods!

Spaghetti Supper at Grace UCC:

There will be an all you can eat spaghetti supper at Grace UCC (1000 S. 5th Ave., Lebanon) on October 6 from 4-7 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children 6-12 years. All children under 6 years old are free.

October 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> 12pm lunch with Pastor	<i>3</i> 12pm-Bible Study 6pm Missions 7pm AA 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	<i>4</i> 4pm Sub/pretzel sandwich sale pick-up	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>7</i> 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am- Communion Svc.	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> 7pm Music & Worship meet- ing	<i>10</i> NO Bible Study 5:30pm Budget mtg. 7pm AA 7pm Choir Re-	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>14</i> 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am-Worship 4:30pm-Fall	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 12pm-Bible Study 7pm-AA 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i> 9am-3pm Hart- man Center Fall Festival
<i>21</i> 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am-Worship 1:30pm 2012 CROP walk @ Memorial Lake	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i> 12pm-Bible Study 7pm AA 7pm Choir Re- hearsal	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i> 6pm Youth Event Hayride (Risser Mar- vel)
<i>28</i> 8:30am- Circle Time 9am-Christian Connection 10:30am-Worship Christian Ed mtg following worship service Dine & Donate Esther's	<i>29</i> 7pm-Consistory Mtg.	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i> 12pm-Bible Study 7pm AA 7pm Choir Re- hearsal			

St. John's United Church of Christ,

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Every Sunday
8:30am Circle Time
9:00am Christian Connection
10:30am Morning Worship

St. John's United Church of Christ is: A church of faith, heeding to God's call, through worship, evangelism, discipleship and fellowship. We are building on our church's history, while looking to our future. Our church is filled with messengers, who share the gift of God's love, with the community and beyond. We strive to be a church that reaches out to all with compassion, a vision of God's everlasting peace and a witness of spiritual hope to our present and future generations. For all this and so much more, we pray in God's name.

Church Staff

Rev. Christopher M. Rankin, Pastor
Mrs. Beth Ann Griffiths, Organist
Mrs. Louise Walmer, Choir Director
Ms. Gloria Herneisey, Secretary

Consistory

Robin Getz, President
Wendy Dorsey, Vice President
Charlene Ziegler, Secretary
Walter Bolles, Treasurer

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Wendy Dorsey
Jean Ann Grimes
Jerry Mohn
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Missy Daub
Robin Getz
Terry Knapp
Angela Michael
Amy Zechman