

The Lance: Emerging Church 2022



We gather as one humanity at God's Table. We share a journey of discovery as a welcoming community of ever-deepening faith. We rejoice in serving one another and our neighbors through the love and grace of God in Christ. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are part of the tapestry that makes us one.

St. George's Episcopal Church

2425 South Germantown Road

Germantown, TN 38138 • (901) 754-7282

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The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, Rector

October 2022

Among author Phyllis Tickle's books were two – *The Great Emergence* and *Emergence Christianity* – that explored what Tickle believed was a re-emergence of Christianity occurring every 500 years. She specifically identifies the Fall of the Roman Empire in 476, the Great Schism of the 11th century – splitting Christianity into the Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Great Protestant Reformation of the 16th century, and the Great Transformation of the Industrial Revolution of the 18th and early 19th centuries. Within each of these world-changing eras, Tickle posits that Christianity changed with the world around it, and she believed that another such sea change was underway.

Tickle died in 2015, and wasn't with us here on earth to see a pandemic that threw global business and employment, health, education, travel – you name it – into upheaval. Churches were certainly not excluded from that upheaval, as many faith communities were closed for at least a few weeks, and the ways that Christians gathered for worship, for fellowship and for formation were changed.

Yet even as Christian faith communities shifted with sickness and uncertainty, those same faith communities also became a place of stability: Christians who missed and longed for faith traditions and community longed to return to familiar words and rhythms of worship. What was abundantly clear was that the “old” way of doing things was already giving way to new engagement, even as online worship began taking off when we were unable to gather safely together.

So if, as Tickle has suggested, we were already in the midst of a Great Emergence, we are emerging even more so now, as Christians continue to ask of ourselves, our church communities, our denominations and our faith what it means to be Christian in the world today, and, as author Brian McLaren has frankly put it, “do I stay Christian?”

What seems to be happening is that our faith communities are emerging with a new sense of purpose, and a new sense of intentionality in discerning God's will for us in the world in which we live today.

Like other faith communities, St. George's is emerging, too – called to discern what it means to be a community of faith in Germantown, Tennessee today. As our Vestry revisited our mission statement, one message became abundantly clear: We are called to be a place that welcomes all who are hungry for God and seeking to grow in faith, and a place that extends love to all of God's people. Our new mission statement makes clear that all who wish to be surrounded by the love of God are welcome here:

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All are welcome – for worship, for serving in any of our ministries, for gathering in fellowship, for sharing fully in and with our parish family.

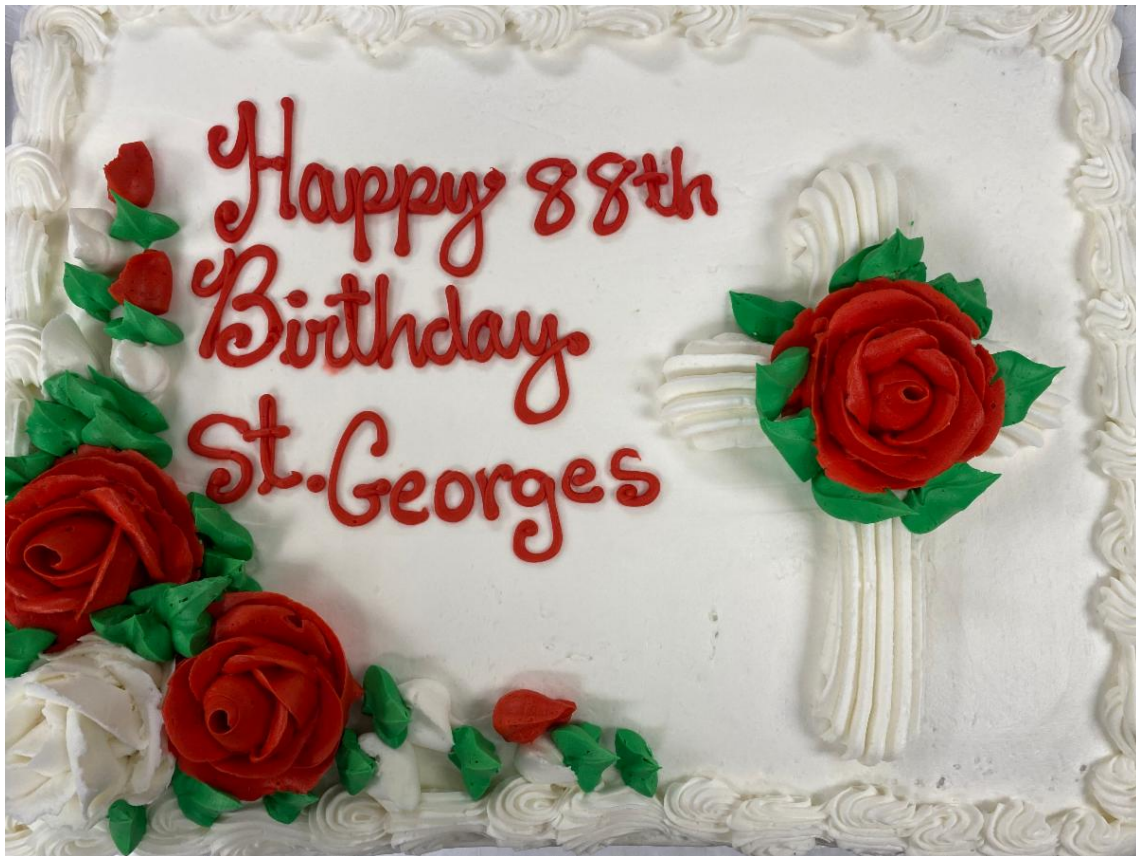
And, we are seeking new ways to engage all of God's people in the work of ministry to which we are all called.

- Sunday worship is being livestreamed; while nothing can really replace gathering in community for worship, we are aware that some in our parish family (and beyond!) are unable to be physically present with us, and we do want everyone to be included in our Sunday worship.
- Our new Food & Formation series combines formation, food and fellowship to help us all grow in our faith. We'll discuss many topics of interest in our world – and the ways God calls us to respond.
- We have opportunities to serve our parish family in times of joy and in times of sadness – by making keeping-in-touch calls, delivering altar flowers, sharing the Eucharist, preparing meals, or running occasional errands for the homebound.
- We have opportunities to serve our neighbors as a parish family and as individuals – from providing holy hospitality through Room in the Inn, to serving meals and more with More than a Meal, to inspiring young readers through Team Read, to sharing food with Collierville Food Pantry or our gently-used items with Calvary Church's and Constance Abbey's clothing closets.
- Our many and varied music offerings give us all ways to engage in God's gift of music, through music-making (in our choirs, Sanctifica or Exultemus) or through the enjoyment of amazing concerts.

This photolog shows some of the many ways that we are continuing to discern God's will for us to emerge as a beacon of love and service in our community. We hope that you see in these pages ways that you are indeed part of the tapestry that makes us one. All are welcome – as God's precious beloved.

In Christ,

Dorothy+



We celebrated our 88th birthday in August 2022! We give thanks for the vision of the first persons to seek to bring a mission church to Germantown, and we pray for God's continued blessing and guidance as we serve this community!

Most gracious and everliving God, we give you thanks for St. George's Episcopal Church, and those who helped to bring about this parish 88 years ago. Continue to strengthen us and inspire our witness to our Savior, Jesus Christ, in all that we are and in all that we do. Bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church, that we may be a beacon of Christ's light and love in this community, and that through our ministries all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his Resurrection. Grant these prayers, O Lord, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*We gather as one humanity at
God's Table.*

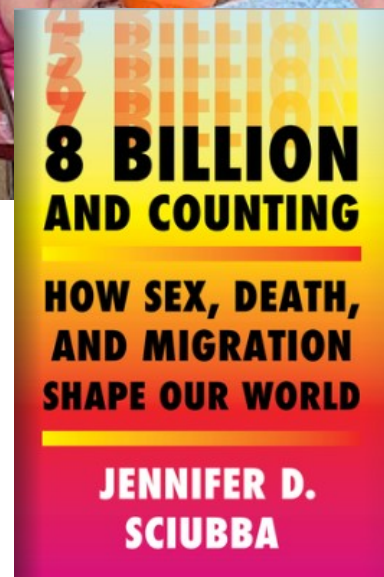
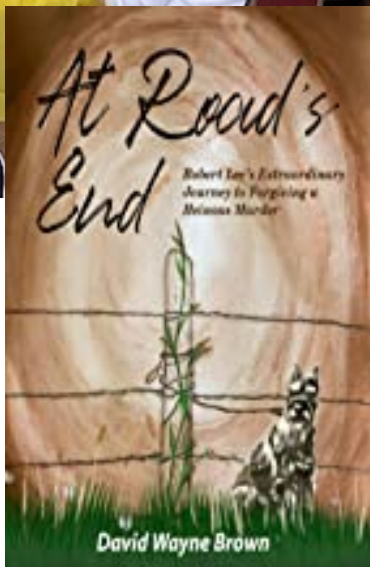


Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good! Worship the Lord in gladness, and
come before the Lord's presence with song!



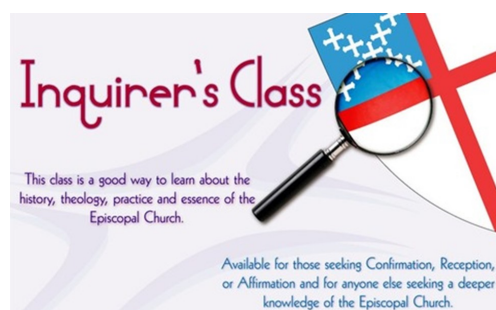
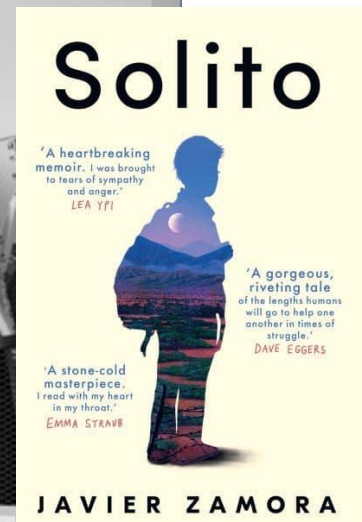
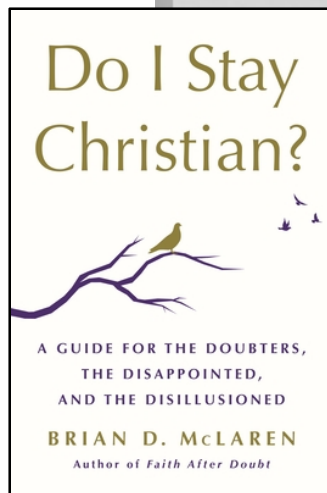
*We share a journey of discovery as
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deepening faith.*

- + Our new Food & Formation series combines formation, food and fellowship to help us all grow in our faith. Pictured here is Dr. Jennifer Sciubba, discussing her book, *8 Billion and Counting: How Sex, Death and Migration Shape our World*. We had a fascinating discussion on changing global demographics – and how God’s people are called to respond.



- + Opportunities to grow together as Christians abound: Reading with the Rector, Women's Book Club, Old Testament Bible Study, Education for Ministry, Inquirers Series!

Reading with the Rector...
First Tuesdays
7:00 p.m.



- + Our Children's Formation helps the youngest among us learn the Biblical stories of God's great love for us.





- + Vacation Bible School brought together a wonderful group of children, youth helpers and adult leaders, as we learned more about being peaceful people in God's world. AND, we were able to share gifts with MidSouth Food Bank, for diapers for families who are struggling to make those purchases.





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- + Our music ministries not only offer each of us a way to share our musical gifts with our parish family, but also allows us all to enjoy the many gifts that are shared by our choirs, musical ensembles and guest artists. Pictured here is our Exultemus folk guitar/vocal ensemble.





- + Our Sanctifica Wind & Brass Ensemble returned to our appreciative parish family on Sunday, August 21, 2022.

- + We share with one another in so very many ways – in caring for our worship space and campus, in supporting one another in joy and sorrow.





- + We have continued to seek out ways to be engaged in hands-on community ministry. PZ and Selby Horton led the way to St. George's taking on meal prep for More Than a Meal, which we serve on the third Sunday of each month at Grace-St. Luke's Church.





- + We continue our Room in the Inn ministry – now in our ninth season of holy hospitality as we share with neighbors who are without shelter November through March.





- + We continue to share a day of service with our Germantown neighbor churches; during Labor of Love 2022, we packaged 8,800 meals for MidSouth Food Bank and gathered hundreds of diapers, incontinence supplies and feminine hygiene supplies for families struggling to afford those items – and all to be distributed by MidSouth Food Bank to at-risk households in our community.



- + We have continued collecting clothing and supplies for Constance Abbey and Calvary Church's Clothes Closet. And, we continue to share food with Collierville Food Pantry.



- + We were privileged to be able to share food boxes, coats and other necessities with the households of children served by Emmanuel Center.



- + Our No Sweat Soirée is our annual fundraiser to help us with support of community ministry partners. This year, our funds support Emmanuel Center, Church Health, MIFA and Room in the Inn-Memphis! We thank our No Sweat Soirée team, and everyone who gave wines, spirits and goods, and everyone who purchased pulls and goods for your generous support!





+ Where will we catch YOU serving?!



MIFA (Metropolitan Inter-Faith Association) ...
15 hrs · 🌐

When we say you can bring the whole family, we mean it!
Today this sweet pup tagged along for meal deliveries.
#MIFAVolunteers #MoreThanAMeal



Pat Christopher
and Connie
Douglass,
delivering MIFA
meals.



Morgann Brown Ackerman ...
45 mins · 🌐

So proud of her! She wanted to organize a blood drive and did!



Alayna
Ackerman
organized a
parish blood
drive in
celebration of
her 16th
birthday.



Emmanuel Center Memphis ...
2h · 🌐

Emmanuel Center has been blessed with an incredible donation by an amazing, talented young woman, Caroline Higley. Below is the story of how Caroline's gift to us came to fruition. Thank you, Caroline, for your kind-hearted generosity! Our kids are LOVING being creative artists. As one of our students said, "I am a real artist now", Marcus W.

"Art by Caroline" was an idea for an Instagram handle before it was an idea for my "Senior Independent Study Project" at St. George's Independent School. I have been creating art for as long as I can remember, but only recently discovered that I wanted to make a career out of it. Creating a name for myself and a place to sell my work was the initial idea for this endeavor. I soon realized that I needed to set a monetary goal for my art sales. I knew that I wanted to use the money to help my community, but how? Why not donate an art cart full of supplies to help children have the materials needed to create whatever their hearts' desired? I began to plan everything I would need to make this happen. With my goal of \$500.00, I started to advertise and promote the St. George's Art Show which gave me the exposure I needed to sell my work. When I sold out of my collection, I began to commission pieces and was able to raise enough money to assemble a cart of art supplies. After a few phone calls and Google searches, I decided to donate my cart to the Emmanuel Center, a community-based organization that serves children and families in the 38126-zip code by offering after school and summer programs that encourage young minds." Caroline Higley

Caroline Higley
turned her
passion for art
into a gift for
Emmanuel
Center.



Sharing with our Community



- + St. George's Episcopal Church Preschool has consistently achieved the highest ratings. We are grateful to all of the families who have shared their young children with us so that we can be part of their learning and development! And we give thanks for our incredible, dedicated Preschool staff for all of their hard work and loving attention to the children!






- + 2022 saw the return of our Friends of Music Concerts – a way that we share tremendous music with our community! We welcomed the Oglethorpe University Singers in their Memphis and Tennessee premiere of Dr. Timothy Powell's *Consider the Lilies – An Appalachian Requiem*, written in memory of his daughter, Cecilia “Lily Kate” Powell, who tragically died in an automobile accident in 2017 at age 9.

The Oglethorpe University Singers,
conducted by Dr. Timothy Powell,
present

An Appalachian Requiem
(a work by Dr. Powell)



Sunday, March 20, 2022
7:00 p.m.
St. George's Episcopal Church
2425 S. Germantown Road
Germantown, Tennessee





- + Our Friends of Music Concerts also welcomed University of Memphis' Collegium Musicum for a delightful afternoon of early music. On All Saints Day 2022, we welcome famed UK *a capella* ensemble, Gesualdo Six.





- + And we welcome Memphis Light Opera/University of Memphis in a performance of Gian Carlo Menotti's fabulous short opera, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, as we imagine the kings' visit to Bethlehem in search of Jesus.

- + Our Concerts on the Garth series – our newest concert offering – gives us a casual way to enjoy music outside – and share fun times with the entire community. We welcomed Boom Chicken (our own Joe Austin, with Robert Hull), the ORIGINAL Spartones (our own Pat Patterson, with Tommy Gattas, Mike Dennie and Steve Ray) and the Grazers (Alice Hasen, Davey Coleman, Andy Ratliff, Craig Yarbrough).

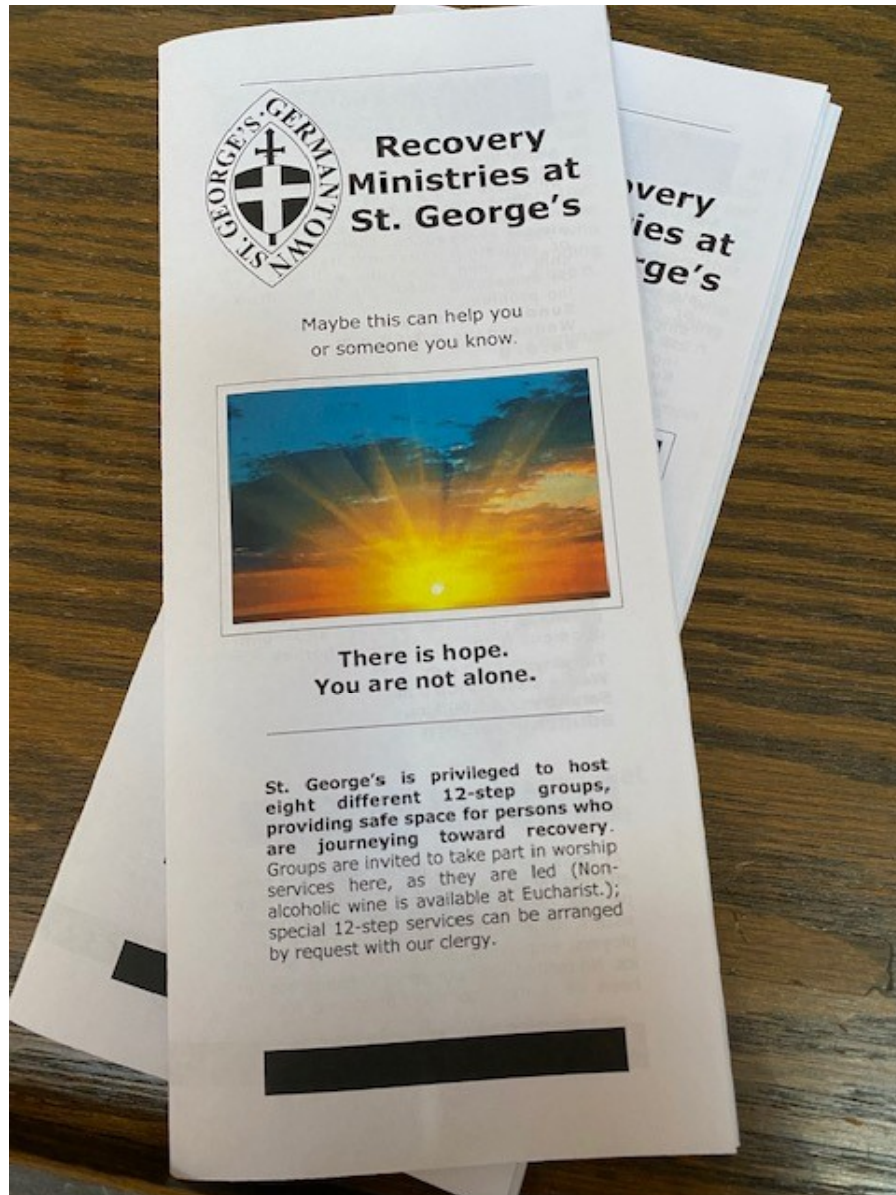


- + Thanks to many generous gifts, 2022 brought us the completion of our Goulding & Wood organ façades! We celebrate with joy and thanksgiving this gift from God to our parish and community!



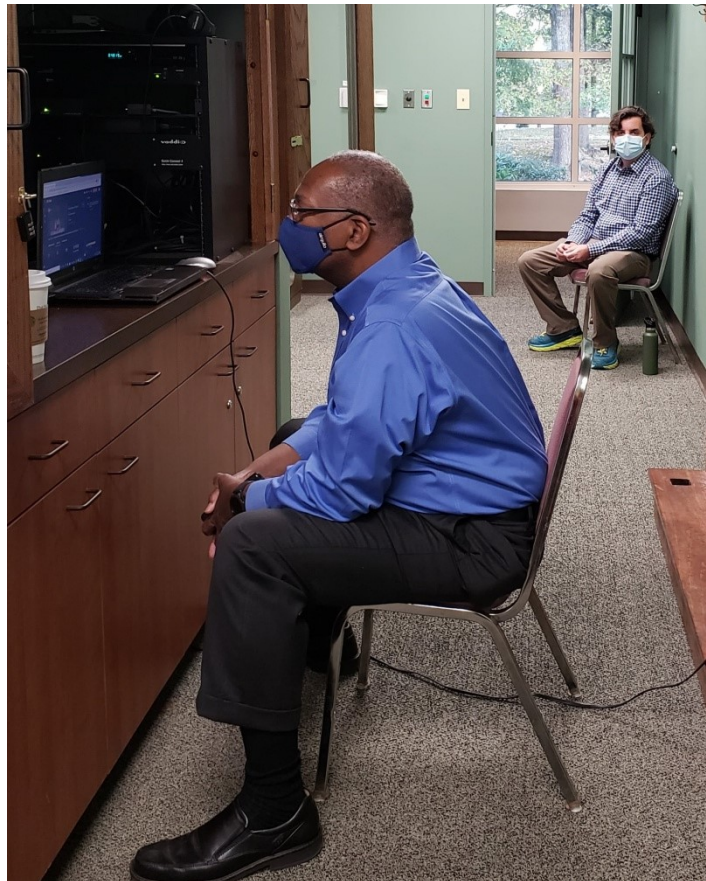


- + We continue to welcome 12-step groups to share our campus, as neighbors follow their paths to recovery.



O blessed Lord, you ministered to all who came to you: Look with compassion upon all who through mental illness or addiction have lost health and freedom. Restore to all the assurance of your unfailing mercy; remove the fears that beset us; strengthen us in the work of healing and recovery; and to those who care for and support the struggling, give patient understanding and persevering love. *Amen.*

- + We continue to offer livestreaming of our Sunday worship services, to allow our homebound parish family and our neighbors from all across the country and all around the world to share in Christian growth with us.



Sharing in Fellowship

- + Many of our opportunities for fellowship and growing with one another have returned!





+ Wear red for Pentecost!



- + Our Vestry has returned to in-person meetings, where we may share in community together as we address the business of St. George's Church.





St. George's 2022 Officers and Vestry, with the Rector

From top left: John Peaches; Carol Iverson; Melissa Cook (with husband, Don); Taylor Key, Junior
 Warden; Perry Pennington; Tracy Patterson, Senior Warden;
 Angela Saunders; Carolyn Mason; Virginia Baird; Henry Stokes; Dan Lange; Carmen Sisnett;
 Jackie Arévalo; Wayne Carpenter; the Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells; Jim Vogel, Treasurer;
 Charlotte Albertson Lescinskis (with daughter, Audrey), Clerk.

St. George's Episcopal Church

CLERGY, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

The Rt. Rev. Phoebe A. Roaf, *Bishop of West Tennessee*
 The Rev. Dr. Dorothy Sanders Wells, *Rector*
 The Rev. Amanda McGriff, *Curate Part-Time*
 The Rev. Peter W. Hawes, *Rector Emeritus*
 Lucas Fletcher, *Director of Music Ministry*
 Eileen Fields, *Parish Administrator for Operations and Finance*
 Karrie LaCroix, *Children, Family and Youth Ministry Coordinator*
 Sarah Bettendorf, *Preschool Director*
 Maria Fasciano, *Children's Choir Director*
 Kelly Flaherty, *Preschool Office Manager*
 Joe Austin, *Webmaster*
 Sarah Bettendorf, *Wedding Coordinator*
 Trish Lange, *Nursery Coordinator*
 Andrew Proctor, *Cantor*
 Kit Decker, *Volunteer, Communications*
 Tom Fields, *Volunteer, Exultemus Director*
 Billie Moore, *Volunteer, Sanctifica Director*
 Joe Austin and Herb Wells, *Volunteer, Video and Live-streaming*