

The Courier



of Saint Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church — Wilmington, Delaware October 2008

From the Pastor..

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I want to thank those of you who have, over the past few months, taken the time to inquire about my mom. She is still hanging in there. She knows who we are when we visit, and she can speak to us in simple sentences. There are times when I feel as one does sitting at the station with a loved one, keeping company until the train arrives and the final goodbyes are made and the journey begins in earnest. I have always loved companionable silences. We know not when that final goodbye will take place, but we do know the train is coming. So thank you for your words and prayers.

I have been thinking of those words and where they come from. They come from the community of faith, from the Body of Christ, which is the Church. It is us. It is Saint Stephen's. Over the past several months, there have been a number of moments of which it has been my privilege to see the caring that can come only from the disciples. We cannot always talk about these matters publicly, but to those who know whereof I speak, I want to say how proud I am of you and of Saint Stephen's.

But the caring does not happen by magic. It is part of the life of discipleship, and part of that life is stewardship. Witness the stewardship of time spent and caring for one another. I know when we hear or read the word Stewardship we can feel the muscles tugging our eyeballs up as we expect the money pitch. But why is

that? The congregation and our ministry together is a thing of God, it is a spiritual thing, it is a thing of beauty, but it is also a thing of this world. And as a thing of this world, it needs help in sustaining its existence. And in this world, money is one of those means. It is money that quite literally pays the bills, and therefore is the mortar that allows us to build up the body of Christ. .

Over my years in the ministry, I have heard people talk about stewardship from a number of different ways. We have all heard the dues approach, I am sure. *"You're a member, this is what it costs, pay*

(Continued on page 2)



Council Corner

By Ann Wagner

Dear Friends,

These past three years have encompassed much change in our church family and I am very proud of our Council and committee leaders for exploring and introducing new ideas along the way. We've hoped to encourage everyone to seek our own roles within The Church's mission by the nascent implementation of the Re-focusing plan. With Pastor Matt, we've shouldered the burdens of financial shortages, staff turnover, and the ceaseless tending to a large, aging building complex. Now that I am about to rotate off the Council, I want to toot our horn a bit and say thanks to God for our committed and thoughtful leaders who have taught me much during these years. I'm energized to volunteer on new committees to help the ways we are worshiping God and serving all of his people.

What are we doing this fall? Well, you'll hear more at our annual meet-

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Pastor, cont.

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your fair share.” That may work short run, but is that the best image? Then there is the spiritual discipline approach. *“Giving isn’t about what we do for the church; it’s about what giving does for us.”* Giving a proportion of our income helps us to see that our income, ultimately is not ours, but God’s. Living in that truth is very important. But it is not the entire story. We give because we are part of a greater whole. We participate in something transcendent. Our life together transcends time. Think of all who have been part of the common life at Saint Stephen’s, who rest now in Christ. Think of those future generations who will hear the Gospel and who will meet the risen Christ when they come to the altar. Our life together transcends space. We are connected with fellow members of the Body of Christ around the world. Over the past several years, it has been my privilege to welcome Lutherans from Finland and from Tanzania to Saint Stephen’s, to say welcome in the name of the one Lord of the Church.

Giving helps us understand ourselves better as God’s creatures, yes. But it is also the privilege that God extends to us, giving us the dignity of being part of His work in proclaiming the in-breaking kingdom of His Son. So I ask you to do something transcendent with your life, and pledge to the support of our mission and ministry. Sunday 26 October is the start of our pledge collections.

**In Christ’s Peace,
Pastor Matt+**

Stephen Ministry - October 2008

“Challenges and Opportunities of Retirement”

On Thursday, October 16, our continuing education program will feature four panelists, two men and two women, who have retired in the last five years, each for different reasons. The panelists will answer questions posed by the moderator and audience on the topic “Challenges and Opportunities of Retirement.” We invite all interested members and friends of our congregation to attend this program which will be held from 6:45 to 7:30 p.m. in Classroom 6 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, our partner in Stephen Ministry. No reservation required.

Stephen Ministry is an outreach to members of our congregation who are experiencing a crisis in their lives. St. Stephen’s now has eight trained Stephen Ministers. We are in active service as caregivers to members who could benefit from confidential, one-on-one contact with a trained listening ear. In addition to 40 plus hours of initial training as Stephen Ministers, we continue to develop and expand our skills through an ongoing program of continuing education, peer support and supervision.

If you have any questions or if you or someone you know might benefit from having a Stephen Minister, please contact either Bob Linderman (302.239.7650, rlinder@umich.edu), or Pastor Matt (302.652.7623, pastor-matt@ststeph.org).

Marvin Stouffer

Council, cont.

(Continued from page 1)

ing, but thanks to Ann and Dave Warner our Bylaws are heroically updated. We also are launching a “Wonder of the Windows” project to conserve the sanctuary’s beautiful colored glass. The Council will participate together in a retreat hosted by the DE-MD Synod coincidentally called, Opening Windows Opening Doors, so ask anyone of us what we’ve learned to benefit the church. And don’t forget to be a real Lutheran by attending or participating in all of the splendid musical occasions Dan Howe has scheduled for the congregation! We wish you a blessed month.

From Pastor Blackwelder:

Dear friends at St. Stephen’s:

I can’t begin to tell you how meaningful your prayers, concerns, cards and wishes have been for Theda and me in my recent health crisis. Thank each of you with all my heart.

Since May 14, I have been seriously ill with cancer, but was unable to get an accurate diagnosis until we went to the University of North Carolina Medical Center on June 27 (Tavie Lynn practices as a nurse fractioned at this center). In four days, my condition was diagnosed and I had immediate lung surgery on July 1. My primary cancer is in my small intestine (which I understand is quite rare), and has metastasized into a lung tumor. I began chemotherapy at UNC, and after 11 weeks, have transferred for continued chemo at the local Tunnel Cancer Center in Lewes. No future prognosis is possible at this time.

Got bless you all. I continue to cherish your prayers and love.

**Praise be to God,
David Blackwelder**

Music Update for the Season of 2008-2009

By Daniel Howe

To my friends at STS: There are three areas I am endeavoring to expand outreach at St. Stephen's:

Concert-Vespers Services. Picture this: you walk into the candlelit sanctuary with evergreens and seasonal flowers placed all around signifying that, even at the close of the day, the Light of Christ shines continually through all seasons, days and nights. Instrumental music will set the tone for the service. We sing about the eternal Light of Christ, a Psalm that reflects Christ's presence in our lives, the Song of Mary (Magnificat) that praises God for the Creator's continual care for all people of all time and prayers for the world around us.

In the midst of this, you will hear wonderful music by area musicians — everything from 19th century Spirituals and the stories that surround them, music of 19th century Germany (songs by the great masters of that century), guitar music from Latin America and Spain and great choral works by: 1) our own choirs in December and 2) either the Settlement Music School's Children's Choir (about 70 children) OR an ensemble I hope to develop — a Wilmington Lutheran Choir composed of Lutheran church choirs around the Wilmington area — in May. More information regarding these events can be found on the church's website. These services are opportunities for you to enjoy and to invite family, friends and neighbors.

Saturday Seminars. These are designed to help the amateur musician, from beginners to the time-experienced, learn either to play hand-bells or sing with new skills. The instructors will be: **1. Kate Mallon-Day**, a professional singer and voice teacher who is soundly qualified to teach the fundamentals of how the voice works and how we can develop the skills to sing effortlessly and beautifully. Kate teaches all around the Philadelphia area in schools and privately as well as singing in professional choirs, with the Opera Company of Philadelphia and in musicals with

various professional theater companies. **2. Kathleen Ebeling-Thorne**, a professor of music at Westminster Choir College who tours around the world with the hand-bell choirs of WCC. Similar to the voice seminar, you would learn the fundamentals of how to ring the hand-bells effectively with many kinds of articulation and special ringing effects. We play through many pieces that bring these effects to life.

The 8:15 A.M. Services. were originally designed as a Contemporary Service but over time, the services have devolved to mere convenience and little appeal towards the neighborhood surrounding us. If this service is to continue and be successful, it needs an overhaul of intent, structure, worship environment, format and musical flavor as contemporary.

I am endeavoring to work on new ideas that, I hope, will bring new life and appeal to St. Stephen's. There ARE churches all around the world whose only worship environment is contemporary and they are thriving. Of course, there are churches whose environment is built upon the ancient elements of the Ordinary Mass (Kyrie, Gloria, Creed, Sanctus and Agnus Dei) who are also thriving — and the reason they are thriving is because there is a creative energy that is built with the intention of spiritual integrity, love of God and the whole community (no child...or adult is left behind — no matter who they are!). We need this at St. Stephen's and that is what I will try to accomplish with you.

With continued hope that St. Stephen's beacon of light will continue to draw others to our God.

Dan

"Art on the Town" is back at St. Stephen's on Friday, October 3, 2008 from 5:00 to 8:00 PM, featuring our own Dorothy Davis, Carolyn Hartman and Betty Metzner ("Artists Three"). You will be amazed! Tell all of your friends and acquaintances. There will be refreshments, as usual. We will need volunteers to help transform the gathering area into an Art gallery with all that that entails on Wednesday, October 1, 2008, afternoon and/or evening, and on Friday evening, October 3, 2008, to act as hosts, hostesses and as ambassadors for St. Stephen's. Please let me know if you can or will help out at this outreach opportunity by getting in touch at faltergott@potteranderson.com or (302) 984-6026 (office) or (302) 655-6034 (home) : or see me at Church (10:30)!

Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

First Annual Dinner

October 24, 2008

By Eric Mease

What a busy fall it has been at the Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center. But wait; it's about to become a whole lot busier!



With the start of the school year came the return of after school programs at Hilltop and the children to participate in them. Tutoring, computer skills, recreation, Latchkey, and instruction are all back in full swing. And that's just the beginning.

Lest we be accused of being "all work and no play", the Center Board of Directors in October presents its first annual Recognition Dinner. This year's event includes presentations by students and former students at Hilltop as well as the featured reason for the affair, recognition of 25 years of service to the Center by our Executive Director, Jea Street. The deadline for making a reservation for the program, meal, and DJ dancing at the Minquadale Fire Hall, has already passed, but if you call the Center at 656-3224 and ask for Ramona Sierra you might just be able to find a seat!

November and December bring a series of traditional events that have always drawn a terrific response and have been a lot of fun for young and old. First, on November 23rd we have the annual Thanksgiving Basket drive to collect turkeys and all the trimmings for needy families in the Hilltop area. Then in December, we have the Christmas Toy drive to collect gifts for needy children in Hilltop. Both of these events are especially important this year as the economy continues to be in the doldrums.

Watch the November and December newsletters for more information on these and other programs at Hilltop this fall.

The Board of Directors

The Hilltop Lutheran Neighborhood Center

**Altar Guild Meeting
Sunday, October 5
9:30 AM in the Chapel**

We Are Called

**Third Annual Fundraising Dinner of the
Lutheran Campus Ministry at the
University of Delaware**

October 25, 2008

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

701 South College Ave.

Newark, DE 19713

Featuring:

**The Rev. Richard Graham,
Metropolitan Washington D.C.**

Synod Bishop &

Father of two LCM Alumni

**The Rev. H. Gerard Knoche
Delaware/Maryland Synod Bishop**

**"Go therefore and make disciples
of all nations!"**

**Sue Culley needs cards — birthday cards,
anniversary cards, get-well cards, thinking
-of-you cards, and blank cards for writing
special messages.**

**Please drop your contributions off at the
church office.**

Thank you!



By Steve Tindall

NEW Lutheran Volunteer Starts at LCS

LCS is pleased to have another Lutheran Volunteer Corps volunteer begin a year of service helping out as the new Food and Shelter Assistant. Our new LVCer is Steven Hays, from Dayton, Ohio, a graduate of Berry College in Rome, Georgia with a BA in History. The LVC program is intensely important to LCS as it provides the agency with a highly motivated and skilled staff member. As Food and Shelter Assistant, Steven will support Program Director Dara Snyder and Program Manager Sandy Betley with the day to day operation of providing emergency food and housing assistance to literally thousands of clients in need of LCS help. Steven resides at the LVC Martin Luther King House on Concord Avenue in Wilmington with 5 other LVCers. His host family is Ellen and John Rendle, St. Marks.

St. Philips Kicks Off First LCS Nutrition Education Program

On Monday morning, September 15, LCS held its first nutrition education program at the twice-monthly St. Philip's produce distribution for low income people. St. Philip's is on the Kirkwood Highway, but draws clients, particularly Hispanic people, from throughout the community. From all reports, the 32 attendees were thoroughly engrossed in the nutrition presentation and took away valuable information about healthy eating, shopping and food preparation. In addition, they sampled a soup made from ingredients typically available at the St. Philip's and other LCS produce distribution programs. The presenter was Jennifer Seabrook-Scott, a bilingual nutrition educator from the U of D. The program was developed through a partnership between the U of D and the Food Bank of Delaware. It includes a series of 5 seminars, given every two weeks, and lasting one hour each.

Leisure Luncheon October 2nd, at Noon.
The program will be a Power Point presentation of the restoration of the Statue of Liberty, by Peter Kaplan.
This should be a very interesting program.



Lutheran Volunteer Corps

Working for Social Justice
Living in Intentional Community
Exploring Simplified Sustainable Living

By Judy Zahnow

In the coming months we will meet each of the six current volunteers doing a year of service in Wilmington.

Paul Johnson is working at Samaritan Outreach.

Here is Paul's brief bio:

"My Name is Paul Johnson. I am originally from Hudson, WI which is a relatively small and quaint town right on the St. Croix river. I have two very loving and supportive parents, Kent and Jan. My brother, who is 25 years old, is currently starting his second year of law school at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. I attended St. Olaf College for 4 years and majored in psychology. St. Olaf is a small, private liberal arts school in Northfield, MN. I also played baseball at St. Olaf all four years as a pitcher. I really enjoy the outdoors and being active. I like pretty much every sport that I have tried, especially baseball, tennis, basketball, floor hockey and golf. I also really enjoy camping, kayaking, hiking, photography and reading. My favorite place on earth is the North Shore of Lake Superior. Other than the fact that I wanted to delay the real world job search, I decided to do LVC because I wanted to spend a year of my life using my gifts to serve others instead of myself so much. I also liked the fact that LVC strongly emphasized simplicity, sustainability and community; three things that are very important to me."

People With Important Dates in October & November

October Birthdays

- 2 Christina Mantyla, Richard Parker, Elizabeth Wolf
 4 David Hazuda, Conrad Rechsteiner, III
 9 Charlotte Gimbutas, Susan Mack
 10 Betsy Fritschel, Anna Hall
 12 Frederick Altergott, Jacob Gordon
 13 Dennis Schmidt, Kenneth Thompson
 15 Rebecca Bradley, Carl Fritschel, Jeffrey Rollins, Jr.
 17 Stacie Mutschler, Alexander Wilson
 24 Matthew Warner
 25 Ursula Kroll, Brian Wolf
 27 Zachary Gordon
 29 Thelma Jackson
 31 Susan Culley

October Anniversaries

- 2 Michael Jr & Julie Hazuda
 7 James & Gailmarie Cook
 6 Carl & Kristine LaPorte
 10 Thomas & Pamela Brenneman
 17 Ralph Jr. & Deidre Fillingame
 William & Audrey Schlegel
 19 Meghan Graves & Sean Sullivan

October Volunteers

October Greeters

- 5 Lydia Turner
 12 Sue Culley
 19 Ingrid LaPorte
 26 Virginia & Forrest Boettcher

October Gathering Time Hosts

- 5 Carol Lay
 12 Sharon Mutschler
 19 Sharon Potter
 26 Bill Sperati

October Ushers

- 5 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt
 12 Team 5, Fred Altergott, Capt
 19 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt.
 26 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt

October Sound System Operators

- 5 Lou Jackson

- 12 John Gordon
 19 [New SSO Needed — see Lou]
 26 Lou Jackson

October Flower Delivery

- 5 Jane & Chick Baddorf
 12 Lila Hall
 19 Lou Jackson
 26 Carol Lay

October Altar Guild

Carol Lay & Ann Ammerman — all month

October Food Pantry Packers

- 5 Cynthia & Marvin Stouffer
 12 Sue Heiss
 19 Susan Mack
 26 Sue Gooden

October Lectors

- 5 Dave Culley
 12 Ralph Heiss
 19 Ann Warner
 26 James Cook

October Cantors

TBA

October Acolytes

- 5 Abby Jones
 12 Ryan Heiss
 19 Tyler Heiss
 26 Charles Hummel

October Chalice Bearers

- 5 John Rodammer & Ann Wagner
 12 Bob Linderman & James Cook
 19 Sue & Ralph Heiss
 26 Dave & Lynn Splittorff

October 8:15 Assistants

- 5 Gary Gooden
 12 TBA
 19 Dick Parker
 26 Ann Warner

November Volunteers

November Greeters

TBA

November Gathering Time Hosts

- 2 Lynn Splittorff
 9 Clarice & Dale Wolf
 16 Lisa Campbell
 25 Helen Cripe
 30 Dave Culley

November Ushers

- 2 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt
 9 Team 5, Fred Altergott, Capt
 16 Team 3, Dave Culley, Capt.
 25 Team 2, Dave Potter, Capt
 30 Team 1, Mike Hazuda, Capt

November Sound System

Operators

- 2 John Gordon
 9 Lou Jackson
 16 [New SSO Needed — see Lou]
 25 John Gordon
 30 Lou Jackson

November Flower Delivery

- 2 Potter Family
 9 Lydia Turner
 16 Ann Wagner
 25 Jane & Chick Baddorf
 30 Lila Hall

November Altar Guild

TBA

November Food Pantry Packers

- 2 Clarice & Dale Wolf
 9 Dick Parker
 16 Marvin & Cynthia Stouffer
 25 Sue Heiss
 30 Susan Mack

November Lectors

- 2 John Gordon
 9 Helen Cripe
 16 Dave Culley
 25 Ralph Heiss
 30 Ann Warner

November Cantors

TBA

November Acolytes

- 2 Abby Jones
 9 Sarah Mack

- 16 Ryan Heiss
- 25 Tyler Heiss
- 30 Charles Hummel

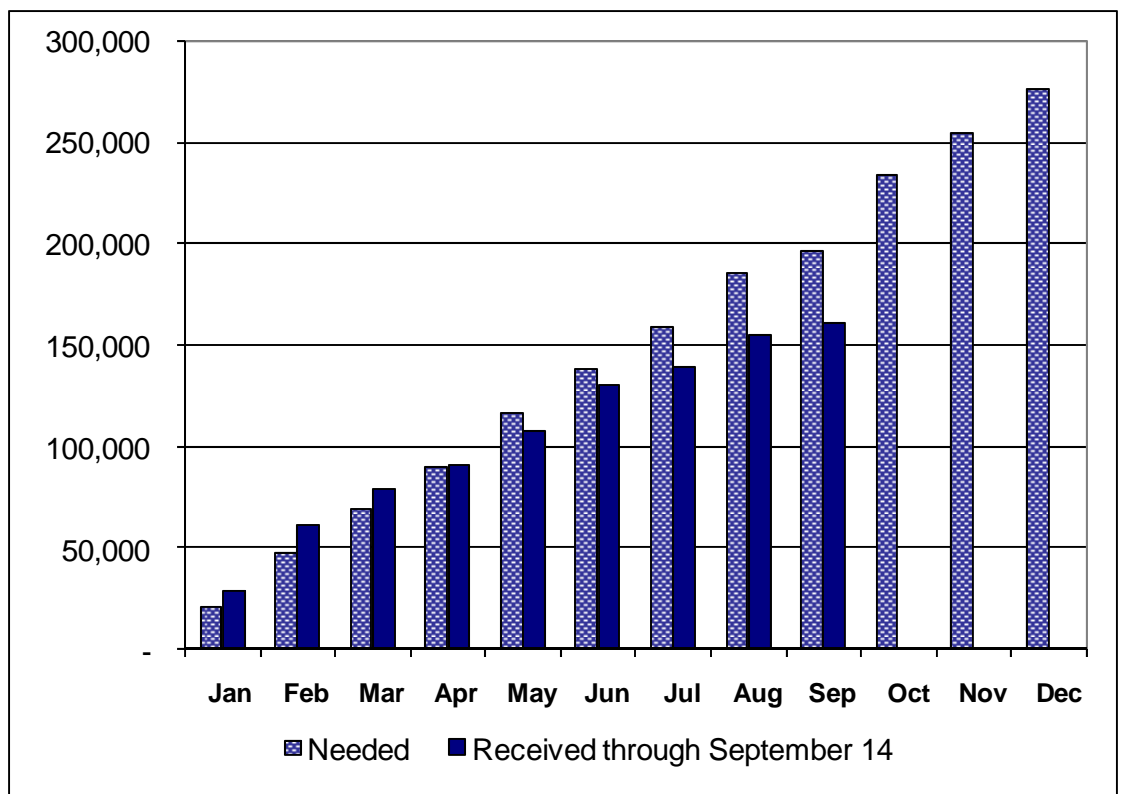
November Chalice Bearers

- 2 Dave Culley & Marvin Stouffer
- 9 Dave Warner & Lydia Turner
- 16 Chick & Jane Baddorf
- 25 Sue Culley & Fred Altergott
- 30 Betty Sperati & John Rodammer

November 8:15 Assistants

- 2 Gary Gooden
- 9 John Rodammer
- 16 Dick Parker
- 25 Ann Warner
- 30 Gary Gooden

| 2008 Contribution Status: Year To Date Through August 3rd | | | | |
|---|---------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Cash Received | Cash Needed: Budget | Ahead/ (Behind) | Cash Received as % of Cash Needed |
| Operating | \$161,324.22 | \$196,056.60 | (\$34,732.38) | 82.3% |
| Debt Reduction | \$20.00 | | | |
| Memorials | \$820.00 | | | |
| | Cash Received | Cash Expected | Ahead/ (Behind) | |
| Operating | \$161,324.22 | \$164,628.30 | (\$3,304.08) | |



Courier Deadlines for 2008

- November 2008 issue — due date is October 17
- December 2008 issue — due date is November 14
- January 2009 issue — due date is December 19

Due date for copy for the November 2008 Courier will be **October 17 at midnight**. Please email your Courier items to the editor at cripehl@itrcorporation.com, me@hlcripe.com, helen.cripe@itrtechservices.com, fax to 302-425-4646, or leave them in the newsletter's box in the church office. Thank you!



The Courier

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Office
1304 North Rodney Street
Wilmington, DE 19806

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Wilmington, DE
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Address Correction Requested

Sunday Morning Schedule

- + 8:15 AM Early Service
- + 9:00 AM Christian Education
- + 10:30 AM Primary Worship

Who Does What at St. Stephen's

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David L. Blackwelder, Pastor Emeritus.....
Daniel Howe, Director of Music e-mail dirmusic@ststeph.org
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Officers

Betty Sperati Council President..... 994-6049
Lynn Splittorff..... Council Vice-President..... 239-7457
Debbie Nicholson Treasurer..... 652-8758
Woody Mutschler Financial Secretary 410-398-0446
Dave Warner..... Secretary 762-2389

Council Liaisons

Christian Education Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446
Evangelism Ann Wagner 494-8406
Finance and Audit..... Dave Warner..... 762-2389
Nominating John Rodammer 454-5858
Nurture Sharon Mutschler..... 410-398-0446

Personnel..... Betty Sperati.....994-6049
Property..... Lydia Turner655-5493
Social Ministry..... John Rodammer454-5858
Staff Support Lynn Splittorff239-7457
Stewardship..... Ralph Heiss798-5355
Worship and Music Lynn Splittorff239-7457

Mission Teams

Sunday School Jane Conlon.....764-2910
..... Sally Dudderar234-1676
..... Sue Heiss.....798-5355
Courier Editor Helen Cripe652-1895
Fellowship..... Sharon Potter.....239-3896
Outreach—Evangelism John Gordon.....8327054
Finance..... Dave Potter.....239-3896
Personnel..... Dave Splittorff239-7457
Property..... Errol Hartmann762-9648
..... Lou Jackson479-0226
..... Forrest Boettcher.....378-3553
Social Ministry.....
Staff Support Marvin Stouffer.....239-7457
Stewardship.....
Worship and Music Julie Hazuda.....239-5221
Altar Guild
..... Sonia Brode.....836-4907
Ushers