



THE VOICE

JULY
2016

A Publication of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church & School

**THANKS TO
SUMMERHOUSE FOR
FOLDING THE VOICE
AND OUR SERVICE
BULLETINS**

Serving adults with intellectual disabilities in the Houston Heights.

summerhousehouston.org
shredforindependence.com



Thanks for Your Support!

As part of our Memorial Day observance, St. Andrew's donated \$500 to Operation Finally Home, a non-profit organization that provides homes for veterans. Thanks to your generosity, we will help them welcome home 30 deserving recipients in 2016. In the Operation Finally Home acknowledgement of our contribution, they wrote:

"All amounts of gifts add up to make each home possible, so please know how VERY important your gift is to our wounded, ill, or injured!YOU are part of the solution and the healing for each and every veteran we care for."

Evening Prayer and Taize Bring Spiritual Peace

End your Wednesdays with the peaceful calm of Evening Prayer. Offered at 6:30 pm in the Good Shepherd Chapel, this 30 minute service is simple and moving. This is a quiet, beautiful way to bring closure to a busy day.

On Friday, July 1, join us for our monthly Taize service at 6:30 pm. This worship is a peaceful way to pray, using simple musical chants, silent meditation and scripture readings. Our Taize service features candlelight, prayers, readings, silence and soft music.

Come for Breakfast July 10

Join us upstairs in the Parish Hall for Second Sunday Breakfast on Sunday, July 10 at 9:30 am. Our hardworking volunteer crew will once again prepare a delicious, hot meal. There is no charge for this monthly treat, but donations to continue this ministry of food and fellowship are welcome and appreciated. Please come hungry and join the fun!

Finding Hope in Community

by David Roberts



A series of seemingly unrelated events can have a profound effect upon our lives. My story is one example.

The doorbell rang on the front porch of St. Andrew's House. As I opened the door, sack lunch in hand to give the stranger, I was greeted with, "I don't need a sack lunch, I need for you to pray for me!" For a stunned moment, I did not know how to respond to his unique request.

The question ran through my mind, "Why is he asking me to pray for him; does he think that I'm the minister?" Regaining my senses, I invited him to come in, sit down, and tell me why he needed prayer.

After hearing a long and tearful account of his losses, struggles, regrets and his now desperate situation, I assured him that I was not the minister of this church, but would be happy to pray for and with him.

Oh, God, this situation requires more than "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep," I thought to myself. Then, seemingly from nowhere a prayer came into my mind, and I spoke it aloud as it came to me. The stranger seemed satisfied and left.

A second event occurred a few months later. A well-respected member of the church asked me if I would be interested in becoming a Community of Hope member after attending 11 weeks of training. I had never heard of Community of Hope, but liking the sound of the name, I said yes. As I attended the learning sessions, I discovered that the Community of Hope (COH) trains Lay Pastoral Caregivers, and is an international organization which started here in Houston at St. Luke's Hospital by lay people of the Episcopal Church. During our training, we learned about: Prayer, Listening, Pastoral Visits, Spirituality of Aging, Understanding Family Systems, Meditation and Silence, and many other critical issues in order to do our ministry.

Shortly after completing the course, a Lutheran COH member asked if I would help her as she visited and prayed for patients at the Kindred Hospital here in the Heights. Feeling like I now had the training, and could pray more than "Now I Lay Me Down To Sleep," I agreed to help her.

Continued on page 3

Welcome

Glenn Wesley Elliott

Born May 21, 2016
Son of
Kelly & Garrett Elliott

*Altar Flowers
Given to the
Glory of God:*

- On June 12 by Dave Roberts in honor of Hammond Allgood Roberts
- On June 19 by Lisa Moore in honor of her dad and husband on Father's Day
- On June 26 by Bruce Banta in memory of his mother Carolyn Griffin Clark

Communion Available To Go

If you are unable to attend church because of health or mobility issues and would like to share Eucharist with your parish family, please notify The Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis at CBaldwin-McGinnis@saecheights.org or call the church office at 713-861-5596 by Friday. We have trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors who are ready and able to bring our Holy Banquet to you.



From the Rector

by The Rev. Jimmy Grace
Stewardship in July...Wait, What?



I know – the title of this article makes you not want to read any further, but I promise I will be brief! Most of us think about stewardship, especially in the church, as that time of year (usually in the fall) where the church makes an annual appeal. That is certainly true, and the dates for St. Andrew's stewardship campaign this year will be October 9–30, but that is not the kind of stewardship that I am interested in talking about here. Stewardship is the sharing (or stewarding) of God's blessings in a way we commonly talk about as time, talent and treasure.

Some of us have the gift of talent. I think of a person like Susan Kelly who faithfully tends to our beautiful green spaces at the church. Last month, our lilies were in full bloom, and roses of all colors continue to grow and thrive in the gardens. Susan has an amazing talent for gardening.

Some of us have the gift of time. Here I think about the members of our choir who devote weeknights and long hours on Sunday mornings to the glory of God through their beautiful voices. They enrich our worship so much. I think also of someone like David Roberts who faithfully gives his time week in and week out to oversee Trish's desk and hand out sack lunches to the hungry while the staff enjoys an uninterrupted staff meeting.

Some of us have the gift of treasure. I am so grateful to all who give faithfully to the ministry of this parish. Your generosity enables the church to reach out and serve our community, and also allows us to worship our Creator in a way that is uplifting and transcendent. Thank you for your generosity.

It is clear to me (and hopefully to all of you) how abundant St. Andrew's is in God's rich blessings. On July 3, we will celebrate our stewardship of these blessings on Abundance Sunday. Everyone in church will be invited to reflect on the abundance in their lives and to write down the blessings they enjoy. It might be your family, your friends, this church, your job, or your health. We will collect the pages upon which we write our abundance, and offer them at the Eucharist at all services in thanksgiving to God. I can think of no finer stewardship, than the stewardship of gratitude!

God's Peace,



Come Upstairs for Coffee Time

Every Sunday, you're invited to join the fun after the 10:30 am service as we enjoy Coffee Time in the Parish Hall. This casual gathering is a time to visit with old friends and meet new ones while enjoying snacks, coffee and other beverages. St. Andrew's ministry teams and individual parishioners host our time together each Sunday. Weekly hosts are assisted by our vestry person of the day, and it's recommended that two to four people share the hosting task each week. Whether you're a host or a guest, we hope you all will enjoy this wonderful time together. Summer hosts are especially needed. Check the Parish Hall for the Coffee Host sign-up sheets or contact Trish Mehrkam at trish.mehrkam@saecheights.org or 713-861-5596.

Finding Hope in Community

by David Roberts

Continued from page 1

Words fail me when I try to express what a wonderful, deeply spiritual, and personally rewarding experience my helping her turned out to be! I have now made a commitment to Kindred Hospital to visit each patient on three floors, about 50 patients each week, as a Lay Chaplain of Community of Hope. I enter each patient's room, never knowing what to expect; my intention being to pray for and with the patient and/or the family, who often also needs the support of prayer. Almost universally, after introducing myself and my purpose for the visit, I am welcomed with smiles and open arms. Holding a patient's hand while listening to his or her fears, sorrows, near death experiences, and often great faith, has opened the ears of my heart and I shall never forget our spiritually rich conversations. For this opportunity, I thank God for the outreach philosophy of St. Andrew's Church and its Community of Hope program!

For more information about becoming part of the Community of Hope ministry, contact Dave Roberts at dhroberts1110@aol.com or 713-864-0452.

Feed My Sheep

Jason comes to the front door of St. Andrew's House every weekday. When Trish Mehrkam, St. Andrew's Parish Administrator, opens the door she says hello and checks on this quiet, gentle young man. She knows that he has a "camp" somewhere that he calls home, and she is one of the few people that he interacts with.

Not everyone who rings the doorbell is chronically homeless, but they are all in need. Your donations of supplies and money to the sack lunch program means so much to so many. Each month St. Andrew's gives away 300 sack lunches to members of our community. These lunches are filled with food donated by parishioners. Can you help us meet our monthly quotas?

- 300 cans of Vienna sausage
- 300 snack packs of peanuts
- 300 packs of peanut butter/cheese crackers
- 300 snack packs of fruit chews
- 300 granola bars

Sign up on the bulletin board in the rear entry hallway, and drop your donations in the bins across from the elevator on the first floor. Please mark donations "sack lunch ministry." You may also make a monetary contribution to this ministry by dropping a check payable to St. Andrew's in the collection plate and writing "sack lunch ministry" in the memo line.

Greeters Wanted

Remember when you were new to St. Andrew's? Walking into an unfamiliar place of worship can be a bit intimidating and confusing. The St. Andrew's greeters help make newcomers feel comfortable and included and provide a welcoming face for St. Andrew's. We are in need of additional greeters for the 10:30 am service. The duties are simple. Our greeters offer welcome bags to newcomers, invite visitors to our Coffee Time, and encourage them to complete a visitor's card so they can be contacted and invited to special events. Greeters serve once a month on a team, or individuals can serve as a substitute when needed. If you are interested, please contact Paige Pecore at paigepecore@hotmail.com or 832-721-6756.

50+ Group to Enjoy Musical Matinee

Addie's 50+ Travel Group will take in a performance of Feelin' Groovier at the Music Box Theater on Sunday July 24. A bus will leave St Andrew's parking lot at 1 pm. After the show, which highlights great music from the 60's and 70's, the group will enjoy a late lunch.

For details call Addie at 832-986-5378. Save the date for future 50+ trips August 10 and September 14.

Building Update

Our Building Committee includes:

Jimmy Grace, Rector

Nancy Simpson

Head of School

Rick Kellogg

Treasurer, Southwestern Association of Episcopal Schools

Steve Runner

Sr. Warden, SAEC

Elaine Massey, SAEC

Chris Barker, SAEC

Sarra Moseley, SAEC

Richard Quarles, SAEC

Erin Craig, SAES

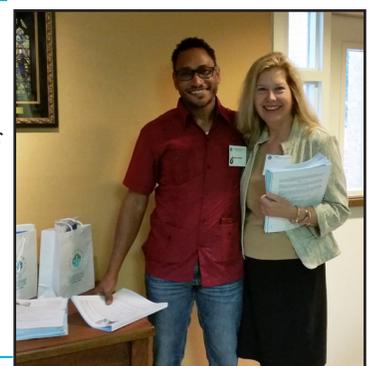
Shayn Robinson, SAEC

David Webber, SAEC

If you have building-related questions, please email building@saecheights.org

Think Green!

Did you know you can read *The Voice* on our website? Issues are posted each month at www.saecheights.org/the-voice/ To go "online-only," contact communications@saecheights.org or call 713-681-5596.



Children and Youth Explore the Bible Through Art



This summer on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am PreK through 5th graders are having fun with art and the Bible. Join us on July 3, 17, 24 and 31 as we explore a different art medium and other hands on activities. Children meet in the Godly Play classroom on the 2nd floor for this mini art camp.

Junior and senior high youth continue d365 reflection and response in The Parlor. Youth meet in St. Andrew's House during the Sunday morning Education Hour. On July 24, artist Cindy Babbitt will be sharing how to respond to God's work through clay sculpture.



Nursery Welcomes Little Ones

The St. Andrew's Nursery is available from 9:15 am until noon every Sunday for infants through 3 years and is located on the first floor just beyond the Oak Table Room. Our professional caregivers provide a safe and caring environment to nurture our youngest children. Along with age appropriate classroom materials, we offer Seasons of the Spirit Bible stories and activities for toddlers.



Exploring and Learning Together

by Nancy Simpson, Head of School



Our summer theme, *"All Creatures Great and Small"* may seem familiar for one of two reasons. Some of you may have seen or read a book that was first published in 1972 by James Herriot (his real name was James Wright) who told of his adventures as a veterinarian across Yorkshire Dales, England. A well-written book, each experience with an animal and the humans involved is described with compassion and a kind voice. It is more than heart warming; the storyteller holds one's heart and mind in a soft gentle hand all the while

describing the facts and emotions around caring for something precious.

Perhaps some of you remembered a hymn, "All Creatures of Our God and King" when you saw our summer theme. The song has seven verses and they all refer to things in our natural world with awe and reverence. Phrases like "sun with golden beams, pale silver moon that gently gleams" or "Dear mother earth, you day by day unfold your blessings on our way... all flowers and fruits that in you grow, let them his glory also show."

Both of these remind me of what we are all about at St. Andrew's: creating an environment that celebrates the natural curiosity in each child, as well as holding their emerging heart with patience and love while they explore and learn. I treasure this microcosm of the world at St. Andrew's where a child's heart and mind are held in a soft, gentle way that allows the gifts of each child to bloom.

It Was a Fun Run!

Clergy and volunteers provided blessings of soles, refreshment and encouragement at the Heights Fun Run on June 4.



Join St. Andrew's through Confirmation

In anticipation of Bishop Duncan's visit October 23, an Inquirer's Class series for adults is scheduled for Sunday mornings beginning September 4 and running through October 16. Each class will meet from 9:30 - 10:20 am in St. Andrew's House. To register, please contact Trish Mehrkam, Parish Administrator, at 713-861-5596 or at trish.mehrkam@saecheights.org. The class will cover the topics listed below, and is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church or being confirmed or received by the Bishop.

September 4	The Hebrew Bible
September 18	The New Testament
September 25	Church History
October 2	The Book of Common Prayer
October 16	Q & A about the Episcopal Church, Confirmation, Reception

Book Club to Discuss *Living Into Community* July 11

The Spiritual Book Club will continue our conversations of *Living into Community*, by Christine Pohl on Monday, July 11, focusing on Making and Keeping Promises (p 61 - 108). We will meet from 6:30-8 pm at St. Andrew's House.

In this book, Christine Pohl explores four specific Christian practices—gratitude, promise-keeping, truth-telling and hospitality—that can strengthen a church and help build and sustain vibrant communities. Pohl writes of the Biblical dimensions of these practices and the complications involved with practicing them in contemporary western cultures. She also discusses the destructive forces that can erode these principles: envy, grumbling, betrayal, deception and exclusion. This is a definite must-read for all who want to broaden their understanding of the dynamics of being a church and deepen their commitment to making that faith come alive. If you cannot attend monthly meetings, you can join our online discussion on Facebook with the SAEC Spiritual Reading Group.

On Church, State and Music

by John Kirk, Organist and Choirmaster

My college organ professor once ended a lesson early when I declined to learn her setting of the hymn "America, the Beautiful" on the grounds that it violated separation of church and state. She felt it was appropriate to honor veterans and our nation by singing national hymns in church, and while I completely agreed with her about the need to honor veterans and our nation's ideals, a national hymn in church seemed somehow inappropriate to me. As such, choosing music for the Sundays close to July 4 has always been challenging to me.

On one hand, I firmly believe in the separation of church and state: history has shown all too well what atrocities can result when the church is used to justify the state. On the other hand, my grandfather and his brothers all served in World War II, my stepdad was in the armed forces, and both of my sisters and my brother-in-law work in civil services. We can worship freely in part because of both our veterans' service and our nation's institutions. Like it or not, there is a relationship between church and state: but it is neither straightforward nor easy.

In *The Four Loves*, C.S. Lewis writes extensively on the idea of patriotism, distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy patriotism: while the latter justifies the state in all its actions and places it above all others, the former questions the state and holds it to a high standard, unafraid to call out injustice and demand justice. To me, this is the relationship between the church and the state: it is not one of unwavering validation and support but of questioning, criticism, and hope.

So after much thought and discussion with the rest of the staff, I've chosen "America the Beautiful" to be our closing processional hymn on July 3. The text by Katharine Lee Bates holds up the paradox of Lewis's healthy patriotism and well defines the relationship the church has with the nation: "America! America! God mend thine every flaw, confirm thy soul with self-control, thy liberty in law."

Donation Depot

Drop the following in our Oak Table Lobby:

Sack Lunch Supplies

Sign up to contribute needed items on the bulletin board in the rear entry hall

Clothing & Eyeglasses

Clean, gently used clothing for men, women and children and used eyeglasses benefit Lord of the Streets church in Midtown

Food

Non-perishable staples are delivered to Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry

Egg Cartons

Empty cartons are taken to Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry

Personal Hygiene Items

Travel size toiletries are given to Heights Christian Church to assist our neighbors on the streets

Used Batteries

Collected and taken for appropriate recycling

Join the Meal Train

In times of illness, injury and family need, the gift of a prepared meal can satisfy both physical and emotional hunger. Our Meal Train Ministry is a simple way to lend a hand with take-out or home cooking. Contact Martha Gallagher at mgg0413@gmail.com or 281-501-2294 if you'd like to get on board.

Get the Latest

- Let us know if your information has changed.
- Share your email address to receive schedule reminders and changes.
- Contact the church office with updates.

Introduce Yourself...

Please wear your name tag when attending St. Andrew's. Putting a name with a face helps build our community. For a new or replacement name tag, contact the church office.

Got News?

If you have information of interest to St. Andrew's, contact the church office.



Fall Gatherings Planned

Join St. Andrew's for a series of fall gatherings where we will reflect on where we have been, what we are doing now, and where we feel God is calling us to go next. Your input will be very helpful! Watch for more information in the weeks to come.

From the Associate Rector

by The Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis

Worship is the shared expression of faith, heart and purpose. Comprised of dynamic elements, worship changes over time. In this global historical moment we have access to a diverse array of words, musical arrangements and prayers with which to praise and give thanks to God.

Permanent change to ways of worship can feel as threatening to a congregation as any major change is to a family; a new marriage, a new child, the death of a loved one. Occasional deviations from standard worship forms, however, can feel refreshing in a way that is similar to eating at a new restaurant or seeing a play that you might not typically choose to see. We eat somewhere new or spectate a drama without any guarantee of the experience. We go because we are curious or in a rut or feeling adventurous.

Worshipping in alternative ways from time to time can help us to see with fresh eyes that to which we have become so accustomed. In this way it actually enhances our experience of standard worship forms.

On July 10 at the 10:30 am service only, St. Andrew's will share a moment of liturgical refreshment. We will look to the Anglican Church in New Zealand to worship in their words and prayer forms. This will be a Eucharistic service, and it will be familiar to some. Last year St. Andrew's offered Eucharist from the New Zealand Book of Common Prayer every Wednesday night of Lent, and some of you have commented that you have experienced it in other places along your faith journey.

The staff and members of the Liturgy Committee invite you to come with open hearts and minds on July 10. Invite your friends and neighbors. Tell them we are trying something new!



Serve at Heights Food Pantry July

The Heights Interfaith Ministries (HIM) Food Pantry, located at 3523 Beuchamp, serves an average of 100 families each week who reside in ZIP codes 77007, 77008, 77009 and 77022. The Food Pantry is 100% volunteer-operated and administered. St. Andrew's provides a volunteer team on the fourth Saturday of each month from 10 am to noon. There's no need to sign up in advance. Just show up and lend a hand. We also collect non-perishable items to help stock the shelves at the pantry. Donations may be placed in the cart located in the Oak Table Room.

Adorn Our Altar

The gift of weekly altar flowers is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or special occasion. A contribution of \$80 purchases two arrangements for Sunday services, and donations in any amount are appreciated and acknowledged. See the bulletin board in the rear entry hallway for the Altar Flower Calendar and sign up for any Sunday. Drop your check in the collection plate or mail to the church office—please specify "Altar Flowers" on your check. Contact Elizabeth McCormick at eamack@sbcglobal.net or 832-661-7300 for more details.

Sing with Summer Choir

On Sundays, July 3 and August 7, everyone is welcome to join the summer choir! Organist/Choirmaster John Kirk will hold an open rehearsal at 9:30 am in the choir room and those attending will sing as the choir at the 10:30 am service. The summer choir is open to everyone from age 8 and up, and no musical or singing experience or knowledge is required. Consider this opportunity to see the service from a different perspective and learn about singing! Contact John Kirk at jkirk@sacheights.org if you have any questions.

Volunteer for White Linen Night August 6

The 10th annual White Linen Night In the Heights will be held Saturday, August 6 and much of the fun will take place right on 19th Street. St. Andrew's will once again provide parking for event attendees to raise funds for the Church and School. This is easy volunteer duty – simply bring a lawn chair and a cool beverage and donate an hour or two of your time. Volunteers are needed to staff the lot from 4-8 pm. This is a great way to raise funds for our ministries and get to know your fellow parishioners. If you would like to help, please contact Lisa Mustacchia at Lisa.Mustacchia@ihs.com or the church office at 713-861-5596.

Grow with Adult Education Programs

Questioning the Answers – 9:30 am, Parish Hall

In a season of intensive political activity, we will explore issues of religion in the public square, led by Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis and Jimmy Grace.

July 3 – Abundance Sunday - This particular Sunday is set aside to celebrate our bounty. Jimmy Grace will introduce the theologies of scarcity and abundance, and his teaching will be followed by personal stories from community members.

July 10 – Second Sunday Breakfast

July 17 - We will highlight the imperative for civility in public discourse as it relates to the spiritual good of Christian friendship.

July 24 - We will discuss the book titled *The Bible in the Public Square*, authored and edited by The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Briggs Kittredge, Dean of the Seminary of the Southwest.

July 31 - Parishioners are invited to identify examples of political rhetoric with religious themes or overtones. Together we will discuss the examples in relation to the philosophies of scarcity and abundance.

Adult Forum – 9:30 am, Library

This small discussion group focuses on the weekly Gospel lesson or other current topics. The group uses resources prepared by Biblical scholars for lay people to learn and discuss while growing in understanding God's word.

Iona School Expands Lay Training

Extensive training for lay leaders who wish to become more active in the mission of the Church is now available through the Diocese of Texas' Iona School for Ministry. Three different tracks from one to three years are designed to provide spiritual formation and prepare candidates to preach, lead worship or help to establish missional communities. Courses of study for lay leaders include an immersion track (three years) that prepares graduates for ministry in missional communities, or to assist in local parishes through preaching, teaching and ministry formation. The three-year track provides a significant theological foundation for persons called to work as lay professionals in the church. Upon approval of the bishop, graduates may be licensed as lay preacher, worship leader, lay evangelist and catechist. The lay preacher track is a three-semester course to assure a strong theological background to preach and the worship leader track offers the opportunity to gain a deeper spiritual and theological grounding in order to lead worship. To learn more, contact Julie Heath, Iona School administrator, at jheath@epicenter.org or 713-353-2125. Programs begin in September 2016 and the application deadline is July 15, 2016.

Financial Snapshot • As of May 31, 2016

Category	May		Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	%YTD Budget
Pledge Payments	\$33,365	\$36,850	\$158,878	\$184,250	86%
Non-Pledge Payments	3,561	2,083	23,276	10,415	224%
Loose Currency	988	833	4,559	4,165	133%
Rythms of Grace	118	167	1,284	831	155%
Total Plate	\$38,032	\$39,993	\$151,053	\$159,728	95%
Other Income	3,878	4,654	35,423	25,408	139%
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$41,910	\$44,647	\$186,476	\$185,136	99%
EXPENDITURES	32,102	42,330	165,682	181,906	91%

Review of Actual to Budget:

- YTD Operating Income is approximately \$1,300 (1%) over budget
- YTD Operating Expenses are approximately \$24,000 (11%) under budget

We are a caring community of Christ that, by God's grace, nurtures faithful relationships & spiritual growth.



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
1819 Heights Blvd
Houston, Texas 77008

Non-Profit
Organ. U.S.
**Postage
Paid**
Houston, Texas
Permit 2382

Electronic Service Requested

The Rev. James M. L. Grace
Rector

The Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis
Associate Rector

Worship Services at St. Andrew's

SUNDAY	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	9:15 am	Nursery Open
	9:30 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	2 pm	Rhythms of Grace
WEDNESDAY	6:30 pm	Evening Prayer
THURSDAY	9:30 am	Healing Eucharist
	10:15 am	Bible Study
FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH	6:30 pm	Taize Service

CHURCH

1819 Heights Blvd
Houston, Texas 77008
713-861-5596
trish.mehrkam@saecheights.org
saecheights.org
Office Hours:
M - F, 9 am to 2 pm

SCHOOL

1819 Heights Blvd
Houston, Texas 77008
713-861-2954
standrewsschool@saecintheheights.org
saecintheheights.org

Trish Mehrkam
Parish Administrator

Deidre Grawl
Membership Secretary

Lisa Puccio
Coordinator for Special Needs and
Family Formation

John Kirk
Organist & Choirmaster

Nancy Simpson
Head of School

Bill Gilbert
Organist Emeritus