



The Shepherd's Staff

Volume 14 Issue 1

February 2010

Special points of

Interest:

- **Fr Ladd's Recognition Dinner—Feb 7**
- **Alpha is Coming!!!—Feb 21**
- **Light Shine—Feb 21**
- **In Transition Meeting coming soon...**

Mission Statement

Our mission is to be a beacon of faith known for engaging all persons in the love and truth of Jesus Christ

Inside this issue:

Deacon's Corner	2
Ministry Notices	3-6
Liturgical Notes	7
Church Directory Updates	7
February Birthdays and Anniversaries	8
February Schedules	8
February Calendar	9

A TIME OF TRANSITION . . .

February 14 is my last Sunday as Priest in Charge. There will be only one service that day at 9:30 am so that we may come together as a congregation to celebrate our life together these past five plus years. The Rev. Marnie Silk-Wright will serve as supply liturgist from Ash Wednesday until March 7. The weekend of March 14 Bishop Jim will commence his ministry as your Vicar.

I began my ministry as your Priest in Charge the second weekend of October 2004. At this time Shepherd of the Hills had suffered a breakup with the Vicar and roughly a fourth of the congregation leaving to form their own mission. My purpose was to bring healing, clarity of mission and vision, and to establish a solid and growing membership - spiritually, ministry-wise, and financially. Together I believe we have accomplish this. The county widening Route 486 has challenged us to stretch our resources and commitments even further, and we have risen to this challenge.

The diocese has a policy that a retiring rector/vicar/priest in charge vacate the congregation for a minimum of six months. For some this may seem harsh, but it is a well thought-out policy. Bishop Jim needs time and space to establish himself as your Vicar, and for Stacy to feel at home in this new setting. Judy and I have no intentions of leaving Shepherd of the Hills, only to be, shall we say, on a sabbatical for six months. Our time away we give over to the Lord as we discover new adventures. I firmly believe when a door closes another door(s) open.

My hope and prayer is that you will see this time of transition as holy time, allowing the Spirit to direct all of us. Give Bishop Jim and Stacey the loving support and confidence you have given Judy and me. You have truly blessed us in so many ways and these blessings we shall always cherish.

Bishop Jim and his wife Stacey will bring new gifts and insights to Shepherd of the Hills. Jim has had a fruitful ministry as priest and bishop. His desire to return to parish ministry will not only energize him but you as well.

Your new ministry with Bishop Jim will begin during the season of Lent. Lent is a time of spiritual reflection for us as individuals and as a congregation. Taking stock of one's life in the context of one's baptism has the potential to enrich our faith journey. What we need, what we want, and what we can do without always challenge our priorities. To seek first the Kingdom of God and to be a bearer of God's Good News in Jesus are a gospel mandate.

My custom at times is to allow certain hymn texts to speak to the occasion at hand. I close with these lines of Hymn 647. *I know not where the road will lead I follow day by day, or where it ends: I only know I walk the King's highway. I know not if the way is long, and no one else can say; but rough or smooth, up hill or down, I walk the King's highway.*

Thank you for being who you are. You are truly a blessing.

Faithfully in Christ,
Ladd



Deacon's Corner

HEARTS AND FLOWERS MONTH

February's a season for gratefully recalling
 Those we've especially revered and loved
 Who served their time, laid down their lives
 But fortunately we've a host of folks still here
 Who make our lives remarkably unstable
 And this month's a chance to let them know
 How much we treasure their lively presence
 With cards and gifts, bouquets of flowers
 Appreciating those living at a distance
 Scheduling time with those nearby
 Repeating cycles, endings and beginnings
 As prayers prepare us for inevitable changes

— Joan Bonnell Clark



ONE SERVICE

FEBRUARY 14 AT 9:30 AM

This is Fr. Ladd's last service in the official capacity as Priest in Charge. This is a time for us to gather as members of SOTH to celebrate our common ministry these past five plus years.

Note – There will be no Saturday service.

In Transition ...

When Ladd shared his desire to step down as priest-in-charge of SOTH several months ago we experienced happiness for him and sadness for us. Certainly Ladd deserves to enjoy retirement after giving so much for so long. Yet to think of SOTH without him seems almost unbearable.

A search committee was formed with the arduous task of finding a replacement for Ladd. Little progress was made during the first several months. As more time passed it seemed Ladd's pending departure simply was a bad dream and that we'd awaken one day to find him standing in front of us officiating at our services just as he had for the past five years. Our sadness dissipated as we laughed at Ladd's jokes and felt a return to the security of Ladd's presence.

With Linda and Peter's announcement that a call had been extended and accepted all of this changed. Suddenly Ladd's departure became real again and feelings of sadness re-emerged. How would we live without Ladd's presence?

Other questions arose. Could this new person---a bishop no less---be a good as Ladd? Would he change the things that have become dear to us? Would he care for us deeply as a pastor when times are challenging? Would he have a sense of humor, draw us in to worship, preach the word in down-to-earth ways?

Chances are at times you've answered some of these questions in the negative. While you've momentarily admitted to yourself that the bishop might just bring to SOTH some admirable qualities, he simply would not be Ladd!

Psychology has a name for the process in which we are engaged. It's called anticipatory grief. Think of times when an ending was about to occur in your life. Say the end of school or moving from a community in which you've been engaged or the pending loss of a loved one. It doesn't matter whether you've chosen the ending or it's been thrust upon you; the feelings of grief which occur before the actual end are nearly identical. Anticipating an ending, we grieve the loss before it actually occurs.

You may remember our discussion on grief last winter in Christian formation class. Denial, depression, anger, bargaining and acceptance in various forms are central to grief. So is anxiety. This is true whether the end has arrived or, as in our case, termination is about to occur. Similar feelings emerge and quite frequently these feelings cause considerable discomfort. The disciples themselves experienced profound anticipatory grief. Mathew, Mark and Luke report that Jesus led Peter, James and John up a mountain where an incredible thing happened: Mathew says the face of Jesus shown like the sun;

(Continued on page 6)

Ministry Notices

Ministry of the Month

Liturgical Ministry

Our purpose and mission is to serve as Lectors (Readers) and Chancel Servers (Eucharistic/Torch Bearers).



We serve on Saturday 5PM, Sunday 8AM and Sunday 10AM. Some of our licensed Eucharistic Ministers will take Reserve Sacrament to hospitals and nursing homes.

Our Current Lectors are:

Sat. 5PM – J. DeMerchant, Sr. A. Rose, L. Graybiel, F. Cater, J & S Carvajal F. P.Klug
 Sun 8AM – M. Wright, B. Bickle, P. Cass, R. Sewall, L. Papke,
 Sun 10AM – M. Johnson, J. Hagen, B. Billingham, A. Clingan, S. Giffune, M. Gustina R. Skipper, P. James, A. & R. Harlow, J. Kalix, S. Keene, D. Maasch, L. Hooper, B. Patz, S. Payne, S. Pratt, N. Warrick, S. Asekun, G. Medvigy, C. Bickford

Our Current Chancel Servers are:

Sat. 5PM – D. Maasch, L. Graybiel
 Sun 8AM – P. Cass, R. Sewall, G. Krueger
 Sun 10AM - R & M French, S. Giffune, J. Hombergen, S. Keene, A. Medvigy, M. Reed C. Wilson, N. Warrick, B. Palmer, M. Johnson, B. Patz, K. Murfin, K. Eddy

Sun 10AM – (Acolyte/Torch Bearer) P. Khan, L. Khan

Our new members both Lectors and Chancel Servers are included above.

We thank all for their time, interest and devotion to this ministry.

For those who will be away for the summer months, please let myself or the office know by early April and I will take you off the summer schedule.

For those who will be away part of the summer (days, weeks or weekends) Please note that in May I will include the June, July, August and September Schedule in advance. Those concerned will then have time to secure a substitute if and when necessary.

IMPORTANT: You are responsible for getting your own substitute if you are unable to serve or read. You still need to notify the office of any change. (352-527-0052)

Bob French

ECW News



At our January meeting we enjoyed a very informative presentation from Carla Bickford on risk factors for falls and prevention strategies. Several people participated in fall risk screening. Thank-you Carla for sharing your knowledge and experience with us. Our next meeting will be Feb. 13 at 10:30 a.m. at the Black Diamond Club House. Bill Kinley is presenting a program “Visions of the Afterlife in Past Civilizations – Travels with Bill. Please plan on joining us.

Leah Foshay, President

Fellowship

Recognition Dinner for Fr Ladd & Judy

Sunday, February 7, 2010

**Beverly Hill Recreation Center
(Note change in location)**

**5:30 pm Reception — BYOB
6:00 pm Dinner**

**Please call the office to make reservations
527-0052**

SOS Ministry

OVERVIEW: In 2009 SOS Ministry supplied food each Thursday from 9 AM until noon to 2,480 families compared to 2,095 in 2008. We averaged about 32 more families per month compared to 2008. A total of 98,414 pounds was distributed in 2009. We served 5,442 people or 18 pounds of food per person. At Thanksgiving we distributed 150 turkeys, with dressing and cranberry sauce. At Christmas we gave out 156 hams. The Citrus economy has deteriorated further with unemployment now over 12%. We think 2010 will be just as busy.

We completed our move to the Key Center in June. This has worked out wonderfully. The Key people are extremely nice to us. We now have four other churches working with us: Unity Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran, House of Power and House of Peace. We have a total of 46 volunteers. These churches have pledged \$ 1,600.00 for this year. This is less than hoped for, but SOS is a new ministry for them. Their volunteers are reliable and enthusiastic. The surprising and beautiful thing is in November and December we received \$5,600 from non church people and in January Black Diamond Foundation donated \$4,000. We start the year with over \$11,000 in the bank. Our budget for the year is \$31,000. Our overhead is \$ 100.00. Last year we spent \$ 27,500.

FOOD SOURCES: We procure food from your donations, Suncoast Harvest, USDA, Operation Blessing, Homosassa Civic Club and purchases from Save a Lot.

The food is picked up by volunteers and we use the Salvation Army truck once a month.

John Bourdeaux for the SOS Team



Come Explore The Meaning of Life at our next Alpha Course A Free 10 Week Course on Basic Christianity.

*Starts Sunday, February 21, 5:30pm at
Beverly Hills First Baptist Church.
Contact Paul & Patty James, Bette Patz,
Bob Palmer or Deacons Linda & Mike
for information or to register*



Faith Walk



The Mitford Series Books

You will love the characters in Jan Karon's town of Mitford. Not only are they true to life, they are also funny. This series centers around an Episcopalian priest serving his parish with humor and spiritual insight. Throughout the series we are introduced to his bishop, the church secretary, the sexton, a young boy from a dysfunctional family, the townspeople, parishioners, and even a dog who can obey scriptural commands from his master. This series even captures romance in a real-life manner. Check out At Home in Mitford as a start. It is in our library at the church office.

Happy Reading!
Roberta Graybiel



PRESENTS
LIGHT SHINE

February 21, 2009
 4:00pm

Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church

Cracker History: Legends and Stories

Presented by Judge Nelson Bailey, Celebrated American Storyteller, Noted Florida Historian and County Court Judge, Palm Beach County

Nelson has a deep fascination with his state's history, especially with its agricultural heritage. He also has a passion for storytelling. For several years he was the only person listed in the National Storytelling Directory as a celebrated teller of exclusively Florida tales. In hundreds of performances throughout the state he has appeared as a "Florida Cracker Storyteller" who sharew with mature audiences his knowledge of Florida's uniquely intertwined agricultural history and multicultural heritage

Funding from the Florida Humanities Council

Brought to you by
 Shepherd of the Hills Episcopal Church
 2540 W Norvell Bryant Highway
 Lecanto, Florida



Admission is free to all scheduled events and everyone is welcome.

MARY REED STEPS DOWN AS CLERK OF THE VESTRY . . .

After serving as Clerk for ten years, Mary decided the time had come to resign this position. Mary has been a fixture as Clerk and she will be surely missed. Her competent minutes and delivering these on time are indeed noteworthy. Mary was honored at the 10 am service, January 17, 2010.

CARLA BICKFORD STEPS UP AS OUR NEW CLERK OF THE VESTRY . . .

We thank Carla for accepting this position. She will be commissioned at the Annual Meeting, January 31, 2010.

EPISCOPAL RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT SUNDAY DURING LENT . . .

At the 2009 General Convention, Lent was officially designated as a time to encourage dioceses, congregations and individuals to remember and support the life-saving work of Episcopal Relief & Development. We invite all Episcopalians to join together on February 21, the First Sunday in Lent, and throughout the Lenten season to pray for those living in need and to dedicate a special offering in support of the agency's mission to assist people impacted by poverty and disease worldwide.

Hospitality Ministry

The Hospitality Ministry and congregation welcome our new members:

Pat and Melody Buckley

Jackie Jessup



In Transition...

(Continued from page 2)

Mark comments that the clothing of Jesus became intensely white and Luke speaks of the altering of his countenance. Moses and Elijah appear following the transfiguration whereupon Luke includes a crucial sentence: "and they spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish in Jerusalem." (9:30) The disciple's response? Let's build three booths, says Peter, one for Moses, Elijah and Jesus. This may sound strange but it is truly human. In the face of pending loss, Peter wants to hold on both to the transfiguration experience and to his beloved Lord. Making a permanent structure would accomplish this, if only in his dreams.

Scripture records several incidences in which Jesus speaks of his departure. Six days before the Passover, for example, after experiencing the affection of Martha as she bathed his feet in precious ointment and dried his feet with her hair, and Judas complains of the extravagant act, Jesus says poignantly, "The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." (Jn 12:8)

Clearly the disciples resisted talk of this kind. Sometimes this resulted in a strong response both on the part of the disciples and Jesus. Mathew (16:21-23) tells of Peter actually rebuking Jesus as he spoke of his pending suffering and death. Jesus response was equally severe: "Get behind me Satan! You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men."

Other times we hear hurt as Jesus deals with the lack of acceptance of his disciples. "If you loved me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father." (Jn 14:28)

Still other times Jesus expresses understanding as to how hard it is for his companions. "Let not your hearts be troubled," he says, "neither let them be afraid." (Jn 14:27)

The disciple's obsession with the Father as stated in John 14:8 ("Lord show us the Father and we shall be satisfied.") can be seen in the light of grief. If Jesus is about to depart, they want the Father to be a clear substitute and as real as Jesus was to them.

As Jesus comes closer to the end of his earthly ministry talk turns the future. "I will pray the Father," Jesus says, "and he will send you another Counselor, to be with you forever." (Jn 14:16) Moreover, Jesus suggests that in the days ahead the disciples will extend the ministry of Jesus and go beyond it. Greater works are promised precisely because Jesus will leave and go to the Father. (Jn 14:12) Hence, in the midst of anxiety and near despair Jesus sounds an optimistic note: Life will be better in the future.

What can we learn from psychology and more importantly

from Holy Scripture as we at SOTH experience the ending of one ministry and the beginning of another? First, life is about endings as well as beginnings. Like it or not, Jesus earthly ministry came to an end. It could not do otherwise. Endings simply are built into the fabric of life. Second, holding on to the past is not the way of God. Life moves forward and, according to our faith, becomes better. Christians are eternal optimists precisely because the Father will not leave us bereft. Third, to move to a psychological acceptance of this fact in real life involves a process of letting go. The aphorism 'let go, and let God,' applies! Fourth, letting go can be extremely difficult. Our human tendency is to resist change and hold on to what we know. Each of us would like to make a booth for Ladd so he would stay with us permanently! Fifth, grief is a process. It involves ups and downs, times of comfort and times of great discomfort. Feelings emerge and dissipate. Some feelings, like anger, can be out of character as in Peter's rebuke of Jesus. Others like sadness as the end approaches and anxiety over what will become of us are more understandable. Sixth, as we work through our feelings an acceptance of the change at hand begins to emerge. We fret less about the past and begin to look forward to new possibilities. The Counselor, we become convinced, will indeed lead us into all truth. Seventh, our feelings turn to gratitude to Ladd for his marvelous ministry and a heartfelt goodbye is expressed. We trust that he, like us, is in God's hands and that Ladd's life will continue to be blessed as he moves into retirement. Eight, we welcome our new vicar with open arms and hearts fully ready to embrace him. After all, he has been sent by God to be our spiritual leader. We are convinced that Bishop Jim will lead us into the truth of the gospel and new possibilities for SOTH. The future is bright, praise be to God.

Dr. Earl Pratt

In Transition Meeting...

Saturday, March 6 at 9:00 am

At Shepherd of the Hills

All members are encouraged to attend!!

Dr. Earle W. Pratt's career included consulting with not-for-profit organizations, leading programs for teenagers and adults dealing with grief and life-threatening illnesses, and providing psychotherapy for adults focusing on transitional life experiences. A frequent retreat and Christian formation presenter, Dr. Pratt has been interested for years in the interface of psychology and religion. His doctoral dissertation was on the psychological and spiritual effects of an increased awareness of one's mortality. Earle conducted the ECW retreat last winter on various forms of Christian meditation and has led SOTH Christian formation programs on dealing with loss via exploring the grief of Jesus.

THE SEASON OF LENT . . .

Central to Lent is the shadow of the Cross. Scripture, liturgy, music set the tone that we are journeying with Jesus, step by step, as he makes his way eventually to Jerusalem. Here is Jesus, born to be Son of God and a light to the nations and the savior of humankind, whose unconditional and never-ending love compels him to go the depths of love, even if it means enduring the shame and pain of crucifixion. I do not believe Jesus at his birth and childhood imagined he was born to die in this fashion and at such an early age. But as he moved into his ministry following his baptism by John in the River Jordan, it became clearer and clearer that in the end a radical, surrendering act on his part and the part of God would be necessary to awaken us to our sinful lifestyle (that is separating ourselves from our true selves, one another, the entire creation and Creator.) When the centurion at the foot of the cross exclaimed at the death of Jesus that "truly this was the Son of God," this was a conviction of the power of Divine love.

As we move into Lent there are many practices persons observe – fasting on certain foods, taking on a new activity, meditating using different approaches, reading a devotional book, journaling to name a few. Whatever practice we observe it is important to focus on journeying with Jesus as a disciple, letting him speak to us in word and actions. Such a companion relationship will involve some deaths in our lives, but more importantly some resurrections. To put it another way, walking with Jesus will give us some new births as we let go of the things that are strangling us.

2010 LENTEN MEDITATIONS . . .

Episcopal Relief & Development once again is providing us with Lenten meditations. This year the meditations come from Sister Claire Joy and the Community of the Holy Spirit.

Episcopal Relief & Development agency of the Episcopal Church takes its mandate from Jesus' words found in Matthew 25:37-40. Its programs work towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals focusing on the following areas: Alleviating Hunger and Improving Food Supply, Creating Economic Opportunities and Strengthening Communities, Promoting Health and Fighting Disease, Responding to Disasters and Rebuilding Communities.

Sister Claire Joy writes: "When the staff and I met to discuss the parameters and the theme for this year, we were guided both by their mandate from Matthew's Gospel and by their tagline 'to heal a hurting world.' The world is hurting. But we, as individuals, are also hurting. Economic woes, illness, personal scars from childhood traumas, and the simple weariness of constant daily challenges have all taken their toll. It's important to bring ourselves into some kind of balance so we are capable of helping others. We can work to raise our conscious awareness that we need healing, need forgiveness, need God. I hope these meditations help with that."

Liturgical Notes...

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17. During Lent the liturgy is more penitential, but not to be confused with being somber. The liturgical color is Purple. Crosses are partially draped. Flags, banners, paschal candle are removed. Wooden candlesticks replace the ornamental ones. Simplicity and a more prayerful stance allow us to take a fresh approach to our lives and what is happening in the world. Each Sunday the liturgy will begin with the Penitential Rite, with the first Sunday to include the Decalogue. Eucharistic Prayer C will be used to remind us of our responsibilities as co-creators with the Creator and why we need to come to the Lord's Table. The liturgy will conclude with a Solemn Prayer rather than a Blessing. Liturgical music will include the *Kyrie*, a different setting of the *Sanctus* and *Great Amen*, and the *Agnus Dei* as the Fraction Anthem. Many of the hymns will be in the minor key but very strong with beat and text.

Ash Wednesday, February 17: Ash Wednesday Liturgy with Imposition of Ashes with Holy Communion at 10:00 am and 6:30 pm.



Church Directory Updates

Add: Bart and Jackie Jessup
3949 N Blazing Star
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
352-527-3755

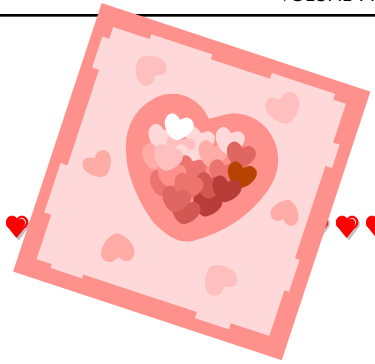
Canadian Address:
776 Roxanne Blvd
Gabriola BC V0r1X3
250-247-8303

Pat and Melody Buckley
372 N Grandview Ave
Hernando, FL 34442
352-527-7856

Change: Gennaro Noble
2875 N Page, Ave
Hernando, FL 34442

Newt and Peggy Wilford
4589 N Grass Terr.
Hernando, FL 34442

February 2010



Birthdays

- Feb 1: John J O'Bday, Ted Gustina
 Feb 3: Anthony McFayden
 Feb 6: Bob Palmer, Marg Schmid
 Feb 9: Lucy Petsching
 Feb 13: Chester Segers, Mary Brown
 Feb 14: Doris Huether
 Feb 19: Marshall Echols
 Feb 21: Martha Wharton
 Feb 22: Peggy Seward
 Feb 23: Maria Schroeder
 Barbara Shepherd
 Feb 25: Stephanie Hopper

Anniversaries

- Feb 1: Cal & Alice Clingan
 Feb 5: Ray & Lee Cable
 Feb 11: George & Betty Harnig
 Feb 15: Arthur & Beverly Swanson



Feb 17, 2010

Services:
 10:00 am
 6:30 pm

Greeters

Saturday 5pm

- Feb 6: N & J DeMerchant
 Feb 20: Lee & Ray Cable
 Feb 27: The Rafferty Family

Sunday 8am

- Feb 7: W Simpers & C Segers
 Feb 14: **No 8 am Service**
 Feb 21: M & P Cass
 Feb 28: K & J Wasey

Sunday 10am

- G & A Medvigy
 J & B Hombergen (9:30 am)
 P & D Howard
 S & J Payne

Ash Wednesday—Feb 17

- 10:00 am J & B Hombergen 6:30 pm B Harnig

Chancel Servers

Saturday 5pm

- Feb 6: D Maasch
 Feb 20: D Maasch
 Feb 27: D Maasch

Sunday 8am

- Feb 7: B Sewell
 Feb 14: **No 8 am Service**
 Feb 21: B Sewell
 Feb 28: G Krueger

Sunday 10am

- N Warrick/J Hombergen
 R French/M French
 J Hombergen/C Wilson
 S Giffune/A Medvigy

Torch Bearers

- P & L Khan
 S Keene/M Reed

Ash Wednesday—Feb 17

- 10:00 am R French 6:30 pm N Warrick

Lectors

Saturday 5pm

- Feb 6: J DeMerchant
 Feb 20: F Klug
 Feb 27: J & S Carajal

Sunday 8am

- Feb 7: M Wright
 Feb 14: **No 8 am Service**
 Feb 20: B Sewall
 Feb 28: B Bickle

Sunday 10am

- J Hagen/M Johnson
 A Clingan/N Warrick (9:30 am)
 P James/S Pratt
 S Keene/D Maasch

Ash Wednesday—Feb 17

- 10:00 am — S Payne 6:30 pm — R Skipper

NOTE: If you cannot come as scheduled, please call for a replacement and notify the office at 527-0052 to be sure the master list is corrected.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
(352) 527-0052 FAX (352) 746-6336
EMAIL: SOTHEC@EMBARQMAIL.COM

2540 W Norvell Bryant Hwy
Lecanto, Florida, 34461

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 69
Lecanto, Florida

We are a Mission Church of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida

***It is the mission of Shepherd of the Hills Church to be a beacon of faith
known for engaging all persons in the love and truth of Jesus Christ.***

The Rt. Rev. John W. Howe, Bishop
The Rev. Ladd K Harris, Priest in Charge
(Phone 746-2812)
The Revs. Joan Clark, Mike Hall and Linda Liebert-Hall, Deacons

We're on the Web!!
www.sothec.org

Vestry Committee

***Peter Cass Sr. Warden, George Krueger, Jr. Warden,
Allen Harlow, Marlene Harrison, Margie Johnson, Sonna Keene,
Bette Patz, Howard Papke, Natalie Warrick***

Clerk of the Vestry