

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS GOD?

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In today's world our minds, emotions and bodies can be overwhelmed by challenges, pressing opportunities, unyielding demands and tempting diversions. As a result, our walk with Jesus Christ often becomes an after-thought, confused or empty, making our spiritual growth difficult.

This year we will offer a Lenten study guide by Evangelical Lutheran Pastor Stephen Carter. His devotional has been written to help us face the impact of the 21st century world squarely by taking us on a journey of four questions: Where in the world is God? Where is God in my world? Where am I in God's world? Where is God in his world?

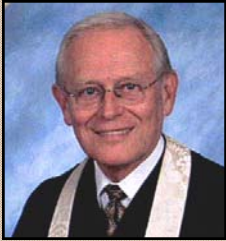
Throughout these devotions, current issues in a high-tech world meet the scrutiny of a Scripture passage which draws us to the God of our salvation through Jesus Christ.

In the end, we see that the cross of Jesus Christ ultimately serves as our compass through our many mazes of confusion and fears that we face today. His whole focus is to help us remember that our God truly does have the whole world in his hands.

Handwritten signature of Howard Bussell in brown ink.

Pastor Bussell

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



**Thank you for
being a
praying
congregation.**

I would like to express my deep gratitude to all of you for your prayers, support, and cards you sent during my recovery from knee replacement surgery. I never realized before how much a card sent from someone reminding you that they are praying for you can be such an encouragement and source of strength spiritually. I now know why our shut-ins are so encouraged by the card ministry that so many of you have taken on as a ministry of encouragement and prayer. This has been a great lesson for me personally in embracing what so many of you have gone through during times of illness.

I am looking forward to being back to worship with you, as I have missed being able to worship together with God's people more than anything these days. Beginning January 31st and on through the Lenten Season I will be doing a series on the great "I AM" statements of Jesus in John's gospel. The focus I want to take is both evangelistic and also looking at how each of these statements relate to us as believers as we live out the

Christian life. We continue to live in a world that continues to invade us with broken dreams and sorrows we never planned on facing. I want to look at how these statements of Jesus apply to us in these difficult situations we face daily.

I would encourage each of you to take time each week to read through John chapters one through fifteen. Before you study the texts, ask the Holy Spirit to make these words of Jesus take on new meaning and give you new insights regarding your walk with Jesus Christ. Join me in praying for the many visitors who will be with us in worship and for all of us that this Lenten Season will be a time of personal growth in our walk with Jesus Christ.

Thank you for being a praying congregation.

Pastor Harold Bussell

SO YOU KNOW...

Financial Picture - As of December 31, 2009

	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Bgt/Act
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 571,610.40	\$ 524,542.12	\$ (47,068.28)
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 533,381.46	\$ 494,082.56	\$ (39,298.90)
NET TOTAL	\$ 38,228.94	\$ 30,459.56	\$ (7,769.38)

Sometimes a picture isn't worth a thousand words!

One quick look at the chart above depicting our contributions and expenses for the six month period ending on December 31, 2009 and one would rightfully conclude that things are looking pretty good financially.

We are truly blest to be above the line – to have received more than we have spent to keep the various ministries of El Montecito functioning and serving our church family. Half-way through the fiscal year and we have a positive cash flow and we are thankful for that.

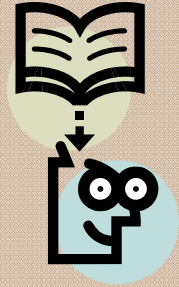
The numbers in the chart that raise our concern are the “Budget to Actual” figures. The approved budget for 2009/2010 called for total revenue to have exceeded \$571 thousand, when in actuality \$524 thousand was realized. The positive cash flow was accomplished by limiting spending \$39 thousand less than

had been projected. This means that some programs were under-funded, and other expenditures were temporarily delayed but will soon need to be released.

Historically, the church receives over twenty percent of the entire year's contributions in the month of December. That is typically comprised of gifts of appreciated stock and end-of-the-year donations. An excess is accumulated that helps the elders and staff members know they can maintain program levels through the end of the fiscal year – June 30.

Therefore, the true picture looks more like this: things are tight and are liable to get tighter. The surplus will dissipate quickly. Elders and staff members will have to remain vigilant and find ways to keep the level of services offered at our desired high level, but do so with less funding.

(Continued on Page 15)



FROM THE DESK OF REBECCA MILLER



**Check out
www.elmopres.org
/Youth Ministries
for more info!**

This January our congregation was incredibly blessed when the junior and senior high students participated in the church's youth led worship service. The youth led the service through scriptural readings, prayer, the children's sermon, ushering, and greeting. As well, three of our students wrote and delivered powerful messages about the hope we have in Christ. We are so proud of our students, the accomplishments they have made, and for the ways in which Christ is working within their lives. Many of you expressed your support of our students and their participation in the service, and suggested that we incorporate youth led services throughout the year. Pastor Jay and I agree this was a wonderful opportunity for the youth to take a leadership role within the church, and will work together to schedule future youth Sundays.

February and March are filled with exciting activities and events. This month the junior high students will have fun playing laser tag on February 11th. Then on February 14th, the senior high students will get together to enjoy Valentine's Day with a movie and dessert. On March 5th through the 7th, the

youth will be packing up their snow gear and heading out to Ponderosa Pines for a weekend ski and camping trip. During this weekend trip, the students will have the opportunity to listen to speakers discuss ways youth engage with God, worship with a band, and enjoy the beauty of God's creation on the ski slopes. Finally, on March 19th and 20th, the youth will be participating in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. In an effort to feel what it is like for many children around the world who live in poverty and go without food for days at a time, the students will also go without food for thirty hours. During this time the students raise money to support World Vision and it's mission to eliminate child malnutrition. Please consider sponsoring one of our students financially and/or in prayer as they give of themselves to help others in need.

NEW BEGINNINGS!

When I think of February I think of Valentine's Day and I am reminded of the importance of love, not just romantic love but all types of love. Children's ministry is all about love... the love of children, the love of a family, the love of a mother and father, the love of a teacher, and most of all the love of Christ. Christ's love for us is really something that I try to weave throughout all aspects of children's ministry. I also believe that it is important to foster a child's love for others, including the less fortunate. One way in which the children's ministry would like to do that this month is by having the children make valentine's day cards and chocolate for the women in the residential program at the Rescue Mission. The Rescue Mission has a wonderful program for women recovering from addiction. All of these women have gone through a lot in their lives and some do not have family, or their families refuse to keep in contact with them, and many of them have lost custody of their children so they are not able to be with them. I believe that the simple act of making a Valentine's Day card and some chocolate can show a great deal of love to these women.

³⁶"Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind."³⁸This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."
" (Matthew 22:36-40)

Children's Ministry Events in February

February 14th -Valentine's Day Cards and Chocolate

During the first service Sunday School, the children will be making Valentine's day cards for the women in the one year residential program at the Rescue Mission. Then during second service the "SENSE-ational bible travelers" and anyone who would like to join will be making valentine's chocolate for the women.

February 26th - Family Game Night

Starting at 5pm all families are invited to a pizza dinner and family game night in the youth room. We will have fun games like foosball, air-hockey, ping-pong, twister, jenga and bible trivia.



Becca Foster

Please consider becoming part of the great work God is doing in the Children's Ministry at ELMO

EARLY SCHOOL UPDATE- SUZY



**February
is coin drive
month!**

Happy Valentine's Day and Gung Hay Fat Choy!

The children have been very busy since they have been back from Christmas vacation! We've had many birthdays to celebrate, projects to keep us busy, and some new students to get to know! The children are busy getting ready for yet another holiday! They love to make cards and special gifts for their parents, friends and others in the community who may need a little Valentine cheer! We have been talking about what it is to be a good friend and how others should be treated, so Valentine's Day is a good way to show others how much we care.

February is also Coin Drive month for Storyteller Preschool! Families are encouraged to bring in coins for the children to inspect, sort, roll and save. The oldest preschool students are learning about the presidents as well. We will travel to Santa Barbara Bank and Trust to visit the vault as we turn in our coins for cash to give to Storyteller Preschool. (Storyteller is our

sister preschool; they serve low income and homeless children in SB).

The children also have been learning about China as we learn about and celebrate Chinese New Year! A dragon parade will culminate our learning and festivity! Gung Hay Fat Choy! The Lions Eye and Ear specialists will be coming to campus to check the hearing and eye sight of every student as well!

January Happenings:

Papas, PJ's and Pancakes: The children had their Fathers in the classrooms to make pancakes and read stories while clad in pajama's! What fun!

We love our dads, what a huge job you have dads, we applaud you!

The Friendship Group: we are proud to join efforts with UCSB and their graduate program. In January the children were privileged to have the beginning of a 6 week program specifically designed for them. Empathy training is so fitting at this age as the children are very aware of their friends.

(Continued page 15)

ONE ON ONE WITH BOB BENSON

THE NAME BADGE

I go to several conventions a year and they all have at least two things in common. The first is the name badge. Generally about a week before going, I begin to train my right eye to look straight ahead at another person's face as I greet them warmly. The trick is to train the left eye to wander nonchalantly down to the lapel to find out who in the world it is I am talking to while my right eye keeps them engaged. I generally find that their left eye is doing a little homework also. All the time we are talking to each other like long lost friends and calling one another "brother" to cover up the fact that we don't even remember each other's name.

The second thing begins to evolve out of the natural question, "How are you?" You hear a couple of words over and over:

"How are you?" "GR-R-EAT!" "And how are you?" "FAN-N-N-TAS-TIC!"

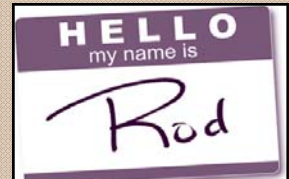
"How's the work going?" "GR-R-EAT!" "How about yours?" "FAN-N-N-TAS-TIC!"

It's just great if you're doing great, and it's fantastic if you're really doing fantastic, but often these are just words that shield

and hide because it's not easy to say you're doing lousy when everybody else is doing so great.

We do about the same thing when we see each other at church on Sunday. We all are quick to say, "How're you feeling?" but it bugs us when somebody thinks we mean it and proceed to tell us how they're feeling— from their left ankle all the way up. It's really a lonely, impersonal world because we are afraid to admit our true feelings, needs, burdens, and setbacks. And I wonder, too, how the world would be changed if we didn't think it was a mark of strength to keep from showing our feelings. And how far-reaching the results would be, if we would have the courage to say: "I'm not great, I'm not fantastic, I'm so discouraged, I'm about to die, and I need your prayers and love."

From *See You At the House*, by Bob Benson, Generoux publishers, Nashville, TN. Edited and Condensed by Roy Irving.



“How are you?”

**“Great - - er, ah
- - not Really!”**

FEBRUARY 2010

9:00 am
WORSHIP SERVICE
Sanctuary
 Child Care Provided ~ Nursery

Adult Bible Study
Library



Children Sunday School
 3yrs - 5th Grade Classrooms

First Sunday Sing
 Sunday School Rooms

Youth Sunday School
 Youth Room
 Senior High & Junior High
 Students

10:30 am
WORSHIP SERVICE

Sanctuary
 Child Care Provided ~ Nursery
The Children's Hour

SENSE-ational Bible Travelers

3 years– 6th grade
 In the children's library

WEEKDAYS

TUESDAY

7:00am Men's Bible Study Cody's
7:00pm Outreach Committee UL Conf. Rm
 (1st Tuesday of Each Month)
7:00pm Worship Committee
 (Last Tuesday of Each Month)

WEDNESDAY

6:45am Women's Bible Study IHOP
 (Valerio & State)
8:30am Retired Men's Prayer Time Fireside Rm
6:00pm Adult Ed Meeting Pastor's Office
7:00pm Trustees Meeting UL Conf. Rm.
 (1st Wednesday of Each Month)
7:00pm Session Meeting Library
 (3rd Wednesday of Each Month)

THURSDAY

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Group Fire Side Rm
 (3rd Thursday of Each Month)
7:00pm Sanctuary Choir Practice
 Music Room/Sanctuary

FRIDAY

11:30am Daytimers' Covenant Group Library
 (2nd Friday of Each Month)
7:00 pm Jr. High Youth Group Youth Rm
7:30pm AA Meeting -Closed Library

SATURDAY

9:00am Trustees' Workday On Campus
 (1st Saturday after TRUSTEES meets)
8:00pm AA Meeting LL Conf Rm
 Big Book Study

FEBRUARY

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SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Youth Com- mittee Meeting 6:00pm	2	3 RMPG 8:30am Deacons 6:30pm Trustees 7:00 pm	4 Choir Practice 7:00pm	5 Jr. High Youth Group 7:00pm	6 Trustee's Work Day
7 Senior High Youth Group 7:00pm	8	9	10 RMPG 8:30am	11 Choir Practice 7:00pm	12 Jr. High Youth Group 7:00pm	13
14 Senior High Youth Group 7:00pm	15	16	17 RMPG 8:30am Session 7:00pm (Lib) Adult Ed 6:00pm UL Conf. Rm.	18 Prayer Shawl 1:30pm Fireside Choir Practice 7:00pm	19 Jr. High Youth Group 7:00pm	20
21 Senior High Youth Group 7:00pm	22	23 Worship Comm. 7:00pm Upstairs Conf. Rm.	24 RMPG 8:30am Women's Luncheon 12:30 -2 pm Parish Hall	25 Choir Practice 7:00pm	26 Jr. High Youth Group 7:00pm	27
28 Senior High Youth Group 7:00pm						

~~ PREACHING IN FEBRUARY ~~

February 7th	John 8:12 I Am the Light of the World	Bussell
February 14th	John 10:7 I Am the Door	Bussell
February 21st	John 10:11-14 I Am the Good Shepherd	Bussell
February 28th	John 11:25-26 I Am the Resurrection	Bussell

Happy
Birthday!!!

FEBRUARY

- 01 Ricky Lee Green
- 02 Ruth Satterberg
- 02 Chelsie Clemens
- 03 Julie Banks
- 03 Peggy Montgomery
- 03 William Warner
- 04 Barbara Northart
- 04 Landon Peace
- 05 Maryann Spradley
- 05 Marilyn Vandever
- 06 Don Hedden
- 07 Betty Ekstrand
- 08 Caitlin Gainey

- 09 Kerri Hedden
- 09 Stephan Kempenaar
- 09 Kristen Pope
- 11 R. J. Hutchings
- 12 Tony Johnson
- 13 Art Henzell
- 13 Nancy Power
- 14 Justin Crawford
- 14 Carol Ohman
- 15 Patty Watts
- 15 Miji Working
- 16 Marilyn Hayes
- 16 Susan Scott
- 17 Joyce Hutchinson

- 18 Kaelyn Schlegel
- 19 Elke Lintukorpi
- 20 Ray Cockel
- 20 Karen Crawford
- 20 Jason Masho
- 21 Renee Krieger
- 22 Sheri Dirksen
- 23 Bernie Nichols
- 24 Megan Grieshaber
- 24 Mary McRobbie
- 26 Evelyn Zoetewey
- 27 David Stanford
- 27 Jan Handtmann
- 28 Lauren Jared

If we've missed your birthday, call Karla in the
Church Office: 969-5041 x225!

**BECOMING A
WOMAN OF HOPE
2009-2010**

*Our hope in Christ is an anchor of the soul,
sure and steadfast." - Hebrews 6:19*

**Wednesday February 24, 2009
12:30-2 p.m.**

"Safe in an Unsafe World"

Featuring: Karen Crawford

**Register on the church patio on Sunday morning.
Cost is \$13.00**

**DON'T MISS
THIS SPECIAL
OPPORTUNITY!**

PRAYERS

Recovery

Harold Bussell - knee surgery
Eva Cruishank
Donna Shirley
Shirley Lincoln - back surgery
Jan Williams – wrist surgery

Cancer Treatment

Richie Nolan
Richard Atamian

Long Term Illness

Sue Ostby
Fran Stockin
Ken Swanson

Caregivers

Dave Lopez- his Wife
Pat Merrill- her Sister
Dana Ostby- his Wife
Ralph Northart-his Wife
Bruce Stockin- his Wife

Other needs

Betty & Bill Alexander
Gordon Balfour-Ritchie
Peggy Cochran
Bill Gowler
Reba Green
Shirley Jardine
Jewel Lopez
Barbara Northart
Bill Perry
Joan Smith
Doodie Taylor
Elinor Van Oosten
Steve Zoldos

At Home

Vi Arnold
Reba Green
Tom Hamilton
Lyle McAfee
Margaret Voskuyl

Bereavement

June Blakeley
Catherine Compere
Anne Denig
The Aigian Family
The Eckstrand Family-Betty
The Espig Family– Grandson
Roy Jensen and Family
The Heavner Family-Bob
Ardis Higgins Family
The Moffett Family– Howard
The Smith Family – Father
The Svoboda Family-Bob
Marilyn Vandever and Family
Jan & Dave Williams

PRAISES

- ✦ For the new families coming to church
- ✦ For the new Sunday School Volunteers
- ✦ For the Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ✦ For the beauty & talent of our sanctuary choir lead by Dr. Michael Eglin
- ✦ For the success of our Ministry Fair

Prayer

Chain

**If you need
prayer, please
Email:**

**Doug Crawford
Doug @
DougCrawford.com**

or call

**Karla
Armendariz
969-5041 x225**

**Continue to pray for those in
active service overseas**

CARE NOTES ARE IN

FEBRUARY CARE NOTES ARE IN

Each Month the Deacons provide “Care Notes” free to members and visitors. Care Notes offer a Christian perspective on issues we all wrestle with. This month the topic is “Prayer”. Pick up your copies of “Praying When You Feel

Spiritually Empty”, “Teaching Children Simple Ways to Pray”, “Squeezing Prayer Into a Busy Life”, and much more, at the Information Cart on the patio after church every Sunday!

ADULT EDUCATION/FEBRUARY

Adult Education is on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am in the Library.

We just finished a wonderful series on Biblical Peacemaking with Attorney Carls Gans.

In February Dr. Ron Enroth will discuss the Apocalypse and False Religion. We look forward to this thought provoking and informative series designed to keep us focused on the truth!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Each Third Thursday you’ll find the Prayer Shawl Committee busy at work in the Fireside Room crocheting and knitting away.

It’s not just about knitting or crocheting. It’s really about praying. These faithful women come together to pray for those in our congregation that will be receiving these prayer shawls. They pray over each shawl, knowing that our caring God goes with them.

If you would like to be part of this ‘prayerful’ group, or if you have any questions or requests for a shawl, please feel free to contact Marge Emerson at 969-5797 or Anita Allmon at 969-5241.



TOP 20 REASONS WHY...

EI MONTECITO EARLY SCHOOL IS SUCH A SPECIAL PLACE ~

1. Low teacher/child ratio
2. Outdoor classroom environment
3. Christian values teaching
4. “Education Through Celebration” curriculum integrated into the learning times so that the children can learn the “why” behind each holiday including history, art, geography and Bible lessons
5. Coordination with specialists from the SB County Office of Education for Behavioral, Speech, and Occupational Therapy in addition to many connections with other specialists in our community
6. Professional portfolios on each child marking their development complete with anecdotal notes
7. Parent Teacher Fellowship: an opportunity for parents to be involved in assisting with the school special events while developing the very important relationships with other parents
8. Coin drive for Story Teller preschool serving homeless and low income families, our sister preschool
9. Food drive-Food Bank of SB
10. Christmas gifts to 2 children in hospital-Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation
11. Christmas cards to soldiers serving overseas-Naval League
12. Christmas cards to elderly and homebound —El Montecito Presbyterian Church
13. Book Faire with Tecelote Book Store
14. Numerous Parent Education evenings for our families as well as all community events
15. Independent School Faire
16. Spring Sing concert to local retirement homes
17. Preschool Empathy Training coordination with UCSB
18. ECE Credentialed teachers with ongoing training throughout school year
19. Opportunities for families to be involved with local outreach, for example “Walk for Water”
20. Exhibits from Natural History Museum in classrooms

**WHAT A
WONDEFUL
PLACE
TO BE!**

**Meet
Karen
Crawford
at the next
Women's
Ministry
Luncheon
February 24th
12:30-2:00**

KAREN CRAWFORD

“SAFE IN AN UNSAFE WORLD”

Karen was raised in Dallas, Texas and graduated from the University of Texas at Austin in math and computer science. This led to a 10-year career in the computer industry, from programmer, systems analyst, support rep to sales. She married husband Doug in 1980 and moved from Dallas to Sunset Beach, California. Their family moved six times across the country following Doug's career until they moved to Carpinteria in 1988.

Karen began her non-profit work with the Sunset Beach Women's Guild and the Orange County Diabetes Foundation. After moving to Santa Barbara County she became the treasurer for a number of school PTOs and fundraisers. In 2003 she was a member of six boards: Finance Advisor for Delta Gamma Fraternity, El Montecito Deacons, President of Hospice Santa Barbara Auxiliary, Hospice of Santa Barbara board member, Coral Casino Member Committee, and the Santa Barbara Navy League. After a sudden illness in 2003 and 2004, Karen limited her service to the

El Montecito Deacons and Coral Casino committee. In 2006 she was asked to be president of the Santa Barbara Navy League. She accepted and again joined the SBNL Board, feeling that this was the path God wanted her to take.

Daughter Jacquelyn Smith is married to Stephen Smith and they live in Connecticut. Son Justin Crawford is posted at Ft. Hood, Texas. Grandson Spencer Smith is the newest addition to the family.

**February 24, 2010
“Becoming Women of Hope”
Women's Luncheon
12:30 pm – 2 pm
Parish Hall**

EARLY SCHOOL**(Continued from page 6)**

Through the use of puppets, games and bright visual aids, these gifted ladies are tenderly molding hearts.

Future Happenings:***Parent Education Evenings:***

A First Aid and CPR refresher course is being presented by the Montecito Fire Department for the families and community. This is not certification, just a refresher course! **Tuesday, February 9th, 6:30pm, Library.**

A Positive Parenting Panel has been formed to discuss issues that exist for families of young and school aged children. The school's philosophy of discipline will be shared and then the panel will answer questions. **Tuesday, April 13th, 6:30pm, Parish Hall** Childcare provided, please RSVP ASAP.

SO YOU KNOW**(Continued from page 3)****The other side of the coin yields a more positive picture.**

The Stewardship campaign that culminated in December produced some very positive results. Out of all of the cards that were returned, less than five percent of our congregants reported that would probably have to decrease their giving during 2010 due to the financial circumstances. The highest percentile (95%) estimate that they will at least be able to maintain their 2009 level of giving in 2010, and several hope to be able to increase.

In the meantime, we ask for your prayer for God's provision to enable El Montecito to continue to be a very special place, with a range of programs and services to meet the needs of our congregation and beyond. Please pray for our leadership that God would grant clear insight and discernment to properly manage the contributions with which we are entrusted.

PRAISE**PRAY****PRAY**

**EL MONTECITO
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Our Website:
www.elmopres.org**

**EL MONTECITO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
1455 EAST VALLEY
ROAD
SANTA BARBARA, CA**

COME, WORSHIP AT EL MONTECITO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**EL MONTECITO
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1455 EAST VALLEY ROAD
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93108**

**NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
SANTA BARBARA, CA
PERMIT NO. 240**

The Staff at El Montecito Presbyterian Church - 969-5041

Senior Pastor	Dr. Harold Bussell	x226	
Designate Assoc. Pastor	Rev. Jay Shirley	x232	
Director of Parish Care	Carol Bussell	x241	P/T
Children's Director	Becca Foster	x237	P/T
Director of Youth	Rebecca Miller	x243	P/T
Director of Music Pianist / Children's	Dr. Michael Eglin	x231	
Choir Director	Sarah Eglin	x231	P/T
Executive Director	Bill Randolph	x222	
Treasurer (Volunteer)	Barbara Mendelson	x227	P/T
Director of Accounting	Michele Sullivan	x232	
Church Secretary	Karla Armendariz	x225	
Sexton	Shawn Monroe	x239	
Early School Director	Suzy Dobreski	x240	
Early School Office Mgr.	Amy Macfarlane	x238	