

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 21
September 27, 2026



St. Matthew's Episcopal Church
32 N. Front St.
Sunbury, PA 17801
570-286-7002

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Rector*

"We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, and the wonderful works he has done." Psalm 78:4

We are so glad you are here to worship with us! Please know you are always completely welcome at St. Matthew's for everything we do- our fellowship, our mission and outreach activities, our regular Sunday worship at 10am, and our Wednesday services. All our contact information is listed at the back of this bulletin.

Our Worship follows the Episcopal tradition using the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982, both of which you will find in the pews. We create a comprehensive bulletin for each service with the intention of making it easier to follow along and participate; if you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to ask someone near you. At services with music, you will need your Hymnal to sing the hymns and service music- **both are intended to be sung by everyone!**

During the long green season after Pentecost, there are two 'tracks' each week for Old Testament readings and a Psalm chosen to accompany the particular lesson. We're using Track 1 this year, which follows major stories and themes, read mostly continuously from week to week. In Year A we began with Genesis. (lectionarypage.net.)

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Place your hands together to receive the bread and you may take a sip of wine directly from the chalice. We also have individual cups available that contain a small amount of wine and a wafer (the consecrated bread); please put your hands in front of you as if you were praying if you'd like this option. **Intinction (dipping the bread in the chalice) is not permitted.** Grape juice and gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you wish to receive a blessing, please come forward to the altar and cross your arms.

Blessings to you on this holy day and always- Mother Dina

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost- Proper 21

Holy Eucharist, Rite II, 10:00 AM

We ring the sacristy bells ten minutes before each service to signal we are entering into a time of reverent silence, respectful of those gathering and praying around us. This helps us all prepare “to worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (Psalm 96:9) We will greet each other at the Peace!

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude Excerpts from “Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron”
Arr. Patrik Pietschmann

Processional Hymn #690, The Hymnal 1982
“Guide me, O thou great Jehovah”

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The people and Celebrant say together

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria in Excelsis S-280, The Hymnal 1982
“Glory to God in the highest”

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day.

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to

obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons *The people sit.*

A Reading from the Book of Exodus Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 78:1-4, 12-16 Said in unison.

- 1 Hear my teaching, O my people; *
 incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
- 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; *
 I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
- 3 That which we have heard and known,
 and what our forefathers have told us, *
 we will not hide from their children.

- 4 We will recount to generations to come
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
- 12 He worked marvels in the sight of their forefathers, *
in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan.
- 13 He split open the sea and let them pass through; *
he made the waters stand up like walls.
- 14 He led them with a cloud by day, *
and all the night through with a glow of fire.
- 15 He split the hard rocks in the wilderness *
and gave them drink as from the great deep.
- 16 He brought streams out of the cliff, *
and the waters gushed out like rivers.

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Church at Philippi
Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death~
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name

that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn

#343, The Hymnal 1982

“Shepherd of souls, refresh and bless”

Please stand as you are able for the reading of the Gospel.

The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

Mother Dina

A time of silence after the homily is held for reflection.

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

All rise in body and/or spirit and say together

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one

baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People, Form IV

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Today in our Northwestern Region Convocation Cycle of Prayer we pray for Christ Memorial, Danville. For the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for and with The Church of Bangladesh. In our Diocesan/Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Trinity, Pottsville; St. Luke's, Mount Joy. For the Diocese of Kajo Keji, we pray for Lorudung Parish and Liwolo-Helen Wagner Primary School. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President Donald Trump, our Governor Josh Shapiro, our Senator Lynda Schlegel Culver, our State Representative Mike Stender, and our Mayor Josh Broschious; and for the well-being of all people. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray especially for those who have asked for our prayers: Mother Dina and family, Father Fred and family, David and Matthew,

Frances, Mike, the Sterner family, Dawson, Erika, Becky, Amanda and Easton, AmberLynn, Daya, Arabella, Derick, Noelle, Dean, Fred, Barb, Carol, Baby Ruby and family, Miranda, Weston, Dave, Terry, Denise, Chad, Michelle, Peg, Ricky, Jeremy, Carolina, Carmen, Rachael and family, Keith, Suzy, Buck, Diane, Michelle, Dot, Lou, Logan, Stevie, and for those whose needs are known to God alone. Please pray for all healthcare workers, especially Dan, Kara, Melissa, Janice, Patrick, and their co-workers, and for all serving in our military, especially Ann, Jayden, and Nick, and in law enforcement for Brian, Jake, Sarah, and Ryan. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Joey, Gunner, Christopher, Thomas, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *Silence is held.*

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
People **Amen.**

The Peace

BCP 360

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people
The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**
We greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Offertory Hymn

#477, The Hymnal 1982

“All praise to thee, for thou, O King divine”

The Presentation of the Offerings

#380, v.3, The Hymnal 1982

“Praise God from whom all blessings flow”

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367, #120, The Hymnal 1982

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For by water and the Holy Spirit you have made us a new people in Jesus Christ our Lord, to show forth your glory in all the world. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Sanctus “Holy Holy Holy” S-130, The Hymnal 1982

The Celebrant continues We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with **St. Matthew** and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.
AMEN.



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The Lord's Prayer And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say: **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Fraction Anthem

S-164, The Hymnal 1982

"Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us"

The Celebrant says The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in

your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymns #685, #686, The Hymnal 1982

“Rock of ages, cleft for me”

“Come, thou fount of every blessing”

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

The people and Celebrant pray together

Dearest Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we all cannot receive communion in the consecrated bread and wine, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with our hearts, souls, and minds. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

The Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing The Priest blesses the people.

Recessional Hymn

#344, The Hymnal 1982

“Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing”

The Dismissal The Priest dismisses the People

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People Thanks be to God, and all God’s people say, Amen!

Postlude “Come, thou fount of every blessing” arr. J. Tonioli

Serving today's liturgy

The Reverend Dina Carter Ishler, *Celebrant*

Patrick Ishler, *Director of Music Ministry*; St. Matthew's Choir

Fran Zartman, *Flute*; Tina McGee, *Lector*

Dana Kelly, Mary Ann Loftus, Erica Miller-Driscoll,

Eucharistic Ministers

Amber Kuczynski, Danny and Jacob Renn, *Worship Assistants*

Carter Ishler, *Livestream*; Barry Treon, *Greeter and Usher*

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PARISH NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

**COLE ALLEN DIAPER PANTRY:** The next Diaper Pantry will be Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Our needs are: volunteers to distribute diapers; diaper wipes, pull-ups, and sizes 5 and 6 diapers; and monetary donations (please place in envelope labeled "Diaper Pantry.") **We covered 80 baby bottoms in August!**  
**Contact:** Connie Kistler at [kistinpa@ptd.net](mailto:kistinpa@ptd.net).

**HIS DISCIPLES FOOD PANTRY:** The next Food Pantry will be Saturday, Oct. 31, 2026, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. **All donations are greatly appreciated, especially canned fruits and vegetables. We fed 49 families in August!** Contact John Blanchard, 570-286-5415 (leave message) to volunteer.

**CARLA'S OFFICE HOURS:** Office hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 10AM to 2PM, and Thursday, 10AM to Noon.

**MOTHER DINA'S OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays, 11:30am until 5pm or so. Call, text, or email me any time- **I love hearing from you!**

**MINISTRY NEED:** St. Matthew's is looking for new members to join our **Eucharistic Ministers team** and our **Altar Guild**. Please contact Mother Dina about participating in these or any of our other ministries!

**COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are needed each month to sign up for a weekly coffee hour session. Sign-up sheets are posted in the Choir Room. Any questions, please contact Carol Hixson. This month's sign-ups are:

Sept. 27- Stephanie

Oct. 4- Tina M.

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| Oct. 11- Dan & Ric<br>Oct. 25- Kistlers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Oct. 18- <i>Need Volunteer</i> |
| <b>PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:</b> Please notify Elaine Schlegel, or the Parish Administrator, Carla Treon, of anyone who needs prayers so they may be added for next upcoming Sunday.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                |
| <b>CHOIR REHEARSALS:</b> every Thursday at 5:30pm. All are most welcome to join us- whether you've sung all your life or never sung before, we have a place just for you!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                |
| <b>YOGA CLASSES:</b> Yoga classes will be held in the Social Hall every Thursday at 7:00PM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                |
| <b>WEEKDAY SERVICE:</b> Our week-day service of Holy Eucharist will be held on Wednesdays at Noon. All are welcome!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                |
| <b>CHICKEN 'N WAFFLE DINNER:</b> We will be having a Chicken 'N Waffle Dinner "All You Can Eat" on Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup> , 4:00PM - 6:30PM. Take-outs available. Meal includes: homemade waffles, chicken 'n gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, and dessert included. <b>\$15.00 a meal/adults (AYCE); \$8.00 a meal/12yrs &amp; under; under 3yrs/FREE. Take-outs a meal/\$12.00</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                |
| <b>MONTHLY BREAKFAST:</b> Monthly breakfast is Oct. 4, 9:00AM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                |
| <b>VESTRY:</b> Vestry meeting will be Oct. 21, Social Hall at 6:00PM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                |
| <b>UP-COMING MONTHLY EVENTS:</b> Details to follow closer to the time of the events. Please visit our website for more info:<br>Sun., <b>Oct. 4:</b> Monthly Breakfast, 9:00AM, Social<br>Sun., <b>Oct. 4:</b> Pet Blessing, 2:00PM-3:00PM, Cameron Park<br>Tues., <b>Oct. 6:</b> "Episcopal 101", Social Hall, 5:30PM<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 7:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 7:</b> 200 <sup>th</sup> Committee Mtg., 6:00PM, Social Hall<br>Tues., <b>Oct. 13:</b> Polish Dinner, 4:00PM-6:30PM, Social Hall<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 14:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon<br>Thurs., <b>Oct. 15:</b> Takery, 4:00PM, Cameron Park<br>Sun., <b>Oct. 18:</b> Adult Bible Study, 9:00AM<br>Tues., <b>Oct. 20:</b> "Episcopal 101", Social Hall, 5:30PM<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 21:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 21:</b> Vestry, 6:00PM, Social Hall<br>Wed., <b>Oct. 28:</b> Weekday Eucharist, Noon |                                |

## DONATIONS:

All tithes and offerings are most greatly appreciated, as we rely on your prayerful generosity to care lovingly for our physical space and to keep ourselves vital and active in our community through our worship, our witness, our outreach, and our presence. You may now donate to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church "online" at the link listed: <https://diosusquehanna.org/donate/>

Or you may continue to mail your contributions to:

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 32 N. Front St., Sunbury 17801

[stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com](mailto:stmatthewsunbury@gmail.com) (office email)

[reverenddina@gmail.com](mailto:reverenddina@gmail.com) (Mother Dina's email)

Please visit us at [stmatthew-episcopal.org](http://stmatthew-episcopal.org) and follow us on

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To connect with our livestreamed services, please go to our

YouTube channel: @St.MatthewsEpiscopalChurchSunB

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*St. Matthew's is part of the Diocese of the Susquehanna;*

*The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop Diocesan;*

*The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, Assistant Bishop.*

**Vestry Members:** Fran Zartman, *Senior Warden*; Anissa DeCapria-Sanduta, Matthew Strauser, *Junior Wardens*; Mary Ann Loftus, *Clerk of the Vestry*; Nate Blanchard, Ric Haines, Carter Ishler, Dana Kelly, Pete Kistler, Tina McGee.

**Sexton:** Sharon Baney; **Parish Administrator:** Carla Treon

**Director of Music Ministry:** Patrick Ishler

