



In the "In-Between" Times

I'm writing this for the April newsletter. It is too late in Lent to share thoughts about Lent and Easter is still several weeks away! Hmmm. So, what is there to say?

As I say that to myself, I realized that we spend a lot of our time "in between" things. I think of a couple of folks who heard recently that they were going to be grandparents and were so very happy – but the 6-9 months of "in-between" is their current reality. We all know the sense of being "in-between" during the pandemic – socializing or isolating, waiting to go out and feeling the need to stay in until....

The "in-between" times are always a reality. I think we are always waiting for what is next before we are even finished with what is now.

Recently, I've spoken with members and council about ways we might envision together the future of St. Mark's – growth, reaching more people, using technology, etc., etc. Then again, we walk into an "in between" time. The process of visioning, discerning requires brainstorming, talking with others who are on the same path, praying – a lot – and creating a plan before the "doing" can begin. We take time to consider who will be our "focus audience?" What is it that we have to offer them? How do we connect with them – whoever we determine "them" to be?

During our Lenten Series "Signs," we have heard Jesus tell us to "merge" our lives with his, to "yield" to God's way and surrender our own way. We've heard Jesus say "stop" and look at the big picture. And, that insisting on our own way is often a "dead end." Awww, come on Jesus! This stopping, waiting and trusting is hard! We want to just move full speed ahead now! We see the trees are budding and flowers blooming and COVID is (presumably) on the decline now is the time to move! Right?

Many of us are "movers and shakers" by nature. We see a need and we want to fix it right now. Sometimes this is a good thing. Many times, however, we move and shake and the results aren't what we had hoped for. We didn't take the time to trust the process to God and listen to what God is saying about the venture. God's way is always good – God sees the big picture. And, we have the promise of God in Jeremiah 29:11 that God knows the plans God has for us – plans to give us hope and a future.

So, we spend time "in-between." In between Good Friday and Easter, in between ideas and answers. The "in-between" time is such an important time – time to "be still and know that [God] is God."

As we enter spring with a renewed sense of hope that the pandemic is behind us (for the most part) and we feel a little freer to move forward, we need to remember that even the seeds we plant in our gardens today will have an "in-between" time to germinate, sprout and grow before the fruits appear. May God bless in the "in-between" times.

Karen Stetind, Pastor



In Our Thoughts and Prayers...

Our members

Lew Broschard, Richard Ehman, Lynn Hallahan, Jim Hanser and family, Eva Lipke, Karen Mullin, Gerda Reid,

Josephine Lord-Traughber and Jerry Zaier.

Our homebound members

Sylvia Buringrud, Judith Eckhart, Bob Evans, Alice Freeman, Larry Nelson, Barbara Patterson, Shirley Quinn, Barbara Tenorio.

Our friends and loved ones

Alex, Bree Assaker, Bruce Atkinson, Alec Barrett, Makita Bond, Michael Boyle, Alyssa Buch, Bernadette Carter, Deanna Cantrell, Carmen Chow, David Corr, Karen Digman, Tom Eckhart, Barbara Emery, Doris and Frank Mariano, Pastor Lynne Morrow, Annette Murphy, Martha Peña, Kim Poulsen, Wayne Poulsen, Helen Powell, Wendy Ramirez, Arlette Sciortino, Dennis Sweeney, Weldon Tunnel, Ann Turek, Mary Vigliezone, Aidan Volk, Ida Volk, Mickey Volk, Lorna Walter, and Laurie Ziegler.

Those who are mourning

The family of Deanna and Stanley Gardener (cousins of Janelle Jolley) who died on March 7.



Celebration of Life – Fred MacMillan

Karin MacMillan invites members and friend to celebrate Fred's life with her and her family. The celebration will take place on Sunday, May 22 at the Rancho Solano Club House from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thank you

Karin MacMillan

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Especially the friends list. If a someone is doing well, please let us know. If you would like to add someone, please call the office (707) 422-4741 or email office@stmarksfairfield.org.



We wish you a Happy Birthday!!!

Tammy Bojorquez 04/17

Mike Chernock 04/06

Rose Hanser 04/05

Linda Lindauer 04/11

Arrianne Maneja 04/28

Nelson Scarrott 04/25

Lincoln Stetins 04/25

Aharon Sweatt 04/22

Elyse Sweatt 04/18

Ruth Sweatt 04/29

We wish you a Happy Anniversary!!

Colleen & Napoleon Rivers 04/03

Jared & Alyssa Jolley 04/03



Midweek Lent Services

Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

This year's Midweek Service will, once again, be a Zoom gathering. Each week we will experience the beautiful music of Holden Evening prayer and focus on *Practice Gratitude, Ritual of Promise, Open Invitation, Welcome Grace, and Gracious Ministries*. The Zoom Link will be the same each week: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83180388194>



Remember our Homebound Members

Sylvia Buringrud
631 Whitehall Circle
Fairfield, CA 94533

Bonnie DeMuth
Legacy of Bear Creek
200 Keller-Smithfield Rd. South Unit 210
Keller, Texas 76248
(Note: this is a corrected address)

Judith Eckhart
2113 Alturas Court
Fairfield CA 94534

Bob Evans
1113 Quail Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

Alice Freeman
1073 Flicker Lane
Fairfield, CA 94533

Larry Nelson
770 Pinehurst Drive
Tio Vista, CA 94571

Barbara Patterson
1078 Meadowlark Drive
Fairfield, CA 94533

Barbara Tenorio
266 DeSoto Drive
Fairfield, 94533
(Note: this is a corrected address)

Shirley Quinn
11 Lemon Tree Circle
Vacaville CA 95687



A journey
to the
cross...
*The Way of
the Cross*
(also known
as Stations of

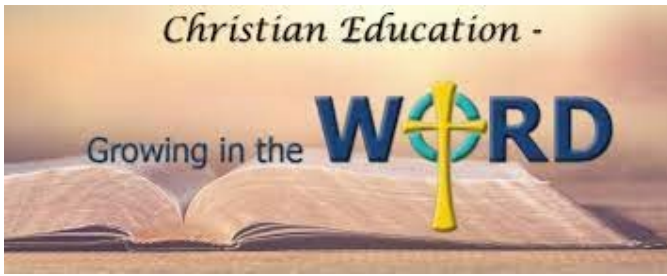
the Cross) will be offered this year.

The Way of the Cross will take participants on a journey with Jesus in his final hours. With visual art, readings, music, and thought-provoking reflections and prayers, we will put ourselves on that road to Golgotha. This opportunity for prayer and meditation will be available in several ways:

- A YouTube version: There will be a link on our website (stmarksfairfield.org) and our YouTube station <https://www.youtube.com/c/smlcfairfield>. This version allows the participant to take the journey at their own pace. Perhaps you want to do just one station at a time – you can pause and resume whenever it is convenient for you. You may wish to visit all 8 stations in one sitting. It is up to you.
- Good Friday journey - The Worship Center will be open from noon – 2:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (just before Good Friday worship) for participants to experience the art, music and devotions. Each station will be set up with a chair and images. The devotional book will be available onsite.
- By appointment – If these times do not work for you and you would like to experience the journey, contact Pastor Karen to set up a time – she will be glad to open the Worship Center for you and lock it up after you are finished.

There is no specific amount of time for this experience. If you wish to go slowly through each station, stop at any time and come back, you are welcome to experience it in your own way. We pray that it will be a poignant time for anyone who wishes to check it out.

I pray that you join us for this very special time in the church year to experience anew Jesus' amazing love for us.



Christian Ed Opportunities

Wednesday Bible Study

During Lent (04/06/2022) we will meet from 6:00-6:50, as the Lenten service (with Holden Prayer) will be streaming at 7:00. **Beginning Wednesday, April 13** we will return to our regularly scheduled time of 6:30 p.m. See you then. Please email Jim Hanser at hanserjames@comcast.net if you would like the Zoom link



Seeker's Circle

The following link is for this group through June. Reminders will be sent (God willing) each month. Dates are listed below if you want to add to your calendars.

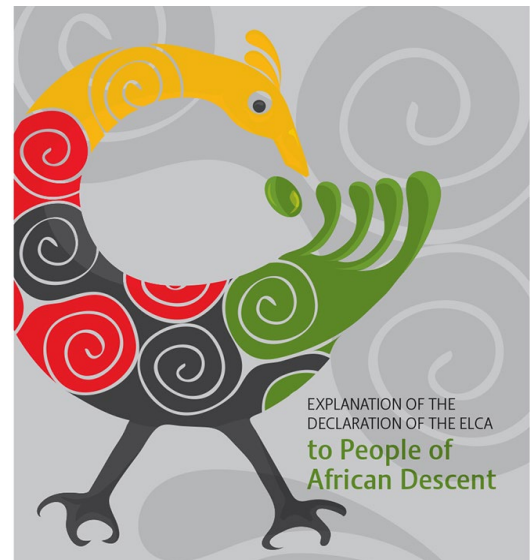
If you have questions about 'how' to get on, call Diane Metz at (707) 208-7228. If you want to invite someone, please let her know. Here's the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88688857937>

Upcoming dates:

Thursday, April 14

Thursday, May 12



Adult Education Hour ~ April 2022

Sundays ~ 11:00 a.m.

In April and early May we will continue our discussion of the ELCA's Declaration to People of African Descent. We will meet in the Digerud Room and on Zoom

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81948315531>). We will start the Zoom a few minutes earlier so we can chat and say "hello" to one another. The study will begin at 11:00 a.m.

- April 3 – "Bread for the World" Guest David Gist
- April 10 – Now is the Time, Part 2
- April 17 - (Easter) – no class
- April 24 - Now is the Time, Part 3
- May 1 - Now is the Time, Part 4
- May 8 - (Mother's Day) – no class
- May 15 – Now is the Time, Part 5
- May 22 – Reception for Sharon & Abraham
- May 29 - (Memorial Day weekend) – no class
- June 5 – Making Sense of the Bible
- June 12 – Making Sense of the Bible
- June 19 – (Father's Day) – no class
- June 26 – Making Sense of the Bible



Thank you card makers!!

Thanks to our card making effort on March 20, we were able to send over 100 cards to Cards for Cubs! What a great day we had making children's days a little brighter.



Your Hands
and Heart Are
Needed for

We all know that many hands make light work.
We need people to help keep the important
ministries on the move.

- **Ushers** – arrive by 9:10 on Sunday morning and greet folks. Count the number of people in the worship center (including A/V tech, pastor, organist, children – everyone) and write that number of the attendance sheet in the hallway with a circle around it. At the end of the service take the offering into the sacristy, put it in an envelope with the date on it and put it into the safe. (Envelopes and pens are the drawer under the safe; to the left of the refrigerator). Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **Reader** – Read the first and second readings for the day and lead the Psalm (responsively with congregation). Readings are sent out early in the week before your Sunday and a large print copy will be on the reading stand. We are working on including our online community as readers. If you are interested in recording the readings for Sunday morning, please let us know. Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **A/V Techs** – We need three A/V techs each week – sound board, slides, and cameras. We are working on a training manual and training is available. Contact Stu Reid (stuktu@yahoo.com)
- **Altar Care** – Set up and clean up communion for Sunday worship (a binder and training are available). Check water in font and other tidying up duties for the month. Contact Toni McCallum (vacamccallums@gmail.com).
- **Memorial Gift Acknowledgements** – Do you like to send notes and cards to others? This ministry involves writing thank you notes to those who contribute to St. Mark's through our memorial fund along with an acknowledgment note to the family. Contact Linda Lindauer for details.

Congratulations Sharon and Abraham

God's blessings and our congratulations to Sharon Swanson-Muñoz, our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries and her fiancé Abraham Hermosillo Magaña! After 2 years of an unbreakable friendship, they will be married in a private ceremony among family on April 30!

We at St. Mark's will have the opportunity to celebrate with them at a reception planned in their honor on **Sunday, May 22, 2022** immediately following worship in the Fireside Room.



The Worship & Music Committee meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Newcomers are always welcome! Contact Stu Reid for details.



Thank you for your support!

Thank you for your generous response to our request for brass musicians for Christmas and Easter! We have been truly blessed – we have sufficient donations to cover both festivals this year!



David Gist – Bread for the World April 3, 2022

The SMLC Council met on March 8. Here are some highlights:

- Guest Speakers: Linda Babcock and Rev. Tita Valeriano from the Sierra Pacific Synod joined us to tell us about the ACTS for Vitality program available to all Sierra Pacific Synod congregations. The program provides coaching and resources for congregations to look to the future of their ministries. Council will do an initial survey and consider participating in the program at their April 2022 meeting.
- Approved the minutes of February 10, 2022.
- The Finance Chair was unable to be present, but council review reports submitted. Approval of the report was tabled until a few questions could be answered.
- It was noted that we had to change bank accounts due to a virus in our computer systems and the names of signers to the account had to be approved again. They are Michael Chernock, June Johnsen, Nancy Huston and Dan DiSano. It was also approved remove Michael Chernock and add James Hanser.
- We considered dates for an event with Bishop Megan Rohrer for beer, hymns, fellowship and food. See article later in this newsletter for details.
- The Youth pancake breakfast fundraiser was approved for Easter Sunday.
- Council also approved a special offering on April 3 for Bread for the World.

Next meeting – Thursday, April 23 – 6:15 p.m.

David will join us for worship and Adult Education Hour (Digerud Room and Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81948315531>) to share with us all the important ministry this organization does for the hungry among us.

Bread for the World is a collective Christian voice, affiliated with the ELCA, urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad.

By changing policies, programs, and conditions that allow hunger and poverty to persist, we provide help and opportunity far beyond the communities where we live.

Bread for the World is practical and effective. Years of persistent letter writing to Congress has helped triple measures that end hunger.

Did you know

- 270 Million+ are facing extreme hunger - up from 135 million before the pandemic.
- **1 in 6** kids are at risk of hunger in the U.S.
- **26%** Black and Latino families struggle feeding children.

After worship we will share bread as a symbol of our sharing with the Bread of Life with a world in need. Thanks to bakers in our congregation, we will also drop off small bits of bread to those who worship online and/or are homebound.

We will receive a special offering on that day (or you can mail a check to the church). Please make checks payable to "Bread for the World."



A big thank you to Michael Chernock

Thank you, Michael Chernock for making the cross and the signs for our Lenten journey this year! You are a wonderful artist.



Update March 2022

- The group discussed developing a consolidated list of services available in Fairfield. Pastor Mulvey (City Church) will send out his list for as a starting point.
- We discussed the possibility of establishing a 501(c)(3) organization for the group.
- There will be a breakfast for all CAN members at Travis Air Force Base on Saturday, May 13 at 9:00 a.m.
- We discussed planning a community-wide Juneteenth event.
- We were encouraged to invite congregation members to the Special Council Meeting on Homelessness on Tuesday, March 29 at 5:00 p.m.
- Our next meeting is April 19 at 3:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers



Remember to support St. Mark's Lutheran Church every time you order from Amazon! Sign up for

Amazon Smile at: smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2635284. Let them know that you want .5% of qualifying purchases to be given to St. Mark's. This is a great way to support our ministry and doesn't cost you a cent! From October 1 through December 31, 2021 St. Mark's received \$45.60! Let's keep up the good work!



Eagle Scout Project

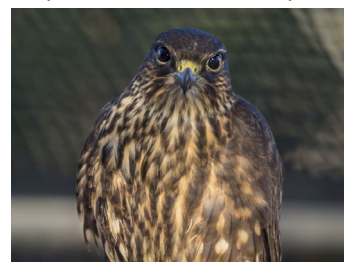
A message from Trevor deRosier

I am working on my Eagle Scout Project, which will

benefit the California Raptor Center (californiaraptor.org) on the UC Davis campus. The center rescues injured raptors and rehabilitates them, with the goal of releasing them to the wild. My project has two parts. I will be constructing wooden cut-outs of raptor silhouettes to hang on a barn wall, which will help visitors learn more about the resident raptors. I am also displaying QR codes on the birds' cages to raise awareness of their 'Adopt a Raptor' program. I am hoping to be able to raise enough money beyond the construction costs to provide care for at least four raptors.

If you would like to donate toward this project, you can send a check made out to Troop 482. This donation is tax-deductible (FEIN # 941647025).

Thank you!
Trevor deRosier
2856 Shelter Hill Dr,
Fairfield, CA 94534





Jesus Teaches Patience

In the month of April, Pastor Karen and Miss Sharon will be sharing the parables of Jesus, where he teaches us about patience.

Find us on YouTube at SMLC Genesis Studios!



Wednesdays

6:30 p.m.

Join Miss Sharon for fun, fellowship, bible lessons and more.

Genesis Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTTNSNDqbBYHKwNZuqDm1HQ>



God takes care of God's people,
even in the wilderness!

At St. Mark's Vacation Bible Camp for 2022, students will join the Israelites as they escape Egypt and follow God into the wilderness. To get through, they'll learn trust, faith, strength, salvation and guidance from the one true God!

Dates: M-F June 27- July 1

Time: 9 AM - 12 PM, drop-off is 8:30

Registration Opens in May

Registration Fee: \$60

Sharon Munoz, Youth Director

St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool



Get to know our preschoolers!

- Summer camp registration has begun! Registration packets are available on the table in the narthex, but calling the church office (707-422-4741) or the Preschool office (707-422-4742). We will be offering two 3-week sessions (one in June and one in July). The sessions will run Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday each week. There will be 24 spaces available for each camp.
 - June 7 – 23: "Science/Cooking"
 - July 12 – 28: "Adventure/Beach"
- The kids will enjoy Easter Egg Hunts on Thursday, April 7th and Friday, April 8th.
- Friday, April 22nd is Earth Day. The children will do art that week with recyclable materials. Remember: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!!!
- P.S. Don't forget we take all empty ink cartridges to recycle so don't throw them in the trash.
- Spring Break is from April 11 until April 15, during which time the school campus will be closed.



The Manna Food Pantry is a ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church and Preschool. Food pantry hours are every Tuesday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. There are no requirements for receiving food. All are welcome!

In March we served over 2,000 people and were blessed with over 200 hours of volunteer commitment.

We were delighted to receive a grant of \$6,000 to be used from April 1, 2022 – February 28, 2023 for the food we purchase from the Contra Costa Solano Food Bank!

Thanks to your generosity, the Food Pantry has enough bags and egg cartons to last for a while. Your donations of non-perishable food items are always welcome.



Solano Food Bank Programs

Schedule for 2022

at St. Mark's, Fairfield

Seniors Program

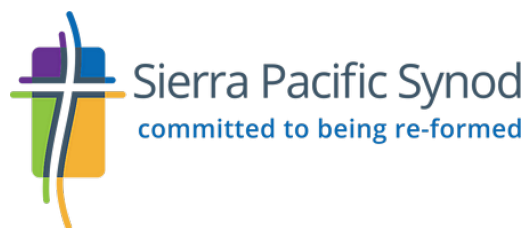
1st & 3rd Wednesday

9:30 a.m. -10:30 a.m.



Free Tax Service Hosted at SMLC

Thanks to Fairfield Vita and the "EARN it KEEP it Save it" program, we are once again able to host free tax services for our neighbors. The VITA volunteers will be working out of the Bethel Room every Saturday throughout this tax season. Records indicated that we have been hosting the service for 15 years! If you know of anyone who could use the service, please have them contact fairfieldvita@gmail.com or call 707-689-9960 for an appointment.



Sierra Pacific Synod Mission Partners

Every month, our Synod partners with a different nonprofit organization that embodies the spirit of Christ and cares for community members in diverse ways. Below you'll find a list of our current mission partners and when we encourage you to support them.

[Stanford University](#)

[University of California, Berkeley](#)

[California State University, Monterey](#)

[California State University, Fresno](#)

[University of California, Davis](#)

[University of California, Santa Cruz](#)

Donate here:

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=CFFP9AN3VBM9S&source=url

What's Happening at St. Mark's

April 2022 – Calendar of Events

Weekly Events

Sunday

- 9:30 a.m. SMLC Worship (Worship Center/Live Streaming)
- 10:30 a.m. SMLC Fellowship (Worship Center/Zoom)
- 11:00 a.m. SMLC Education (See page 4)
- 11:00 a.m. Pentecost Temple (Community Center)
- 2:30 p.m. Ministerios Ebenezer (Community Center)

Monday

- 12:00 p.m. Al-Anon Meeting (Digerud Room)

Tuesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
- 11:00 a.m. Soup and Devotions (Zoom and in-person) (Pastor's Office)
- 3:30 p.m. Manna Food Pantry Distribution

Wednesday

- 9:15 a.m. Preschool Chapel (Preschool Bldg)
- 9:30 a.m. Solano Food Bank Program (Food Pantry 1st & 3rd Wednesday)
- 1:00 p.m. Al-Anon (Digerud Room)
- 6:00 p.m. Bible Study (Zoom) (6:30 p.m. starting April 13)
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group (Youth Room)
- 7:00 p.m. Mid-Week Lent Worship (Zoom) (ends April 6)

Thursday

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meetings (1st & 3rd) (Pastor's Office)

Friday

- 7:00 p.m. Ebenezer Mission (Community Center)

Saturday

- 5:00 p.m. Holy Family (Community Center)

Additional Events

Saturday, April 2

- 9:00 a.m. Free Tax Service (Bethel Room)

Tuesday, April 5

- 11:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- 5:30 p.m. Worship and Music

Saturday, April 9

- 9:00 a.m. Free Tax Service (Bethel Room)

April 11 – April 15 Preschool Closed

Monday, April 11

- 11:00 a.m. Solano Symphony Audition

Tuesday, April 12

- 11:00 a.m. Choir Practice

Wednesday, April 13

- 7:00 p.m. Solano Symphony Board (Digerud Room)

Thursday, April 14

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, April 15

- 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. The Way of the Cross
- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 17 - Easter

- 8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast

Thursday, April 21

- 6:15 p.m. Council Meeting

Friday, April 22

- 3:00 p.m. Fairfield CAN

Friday, April 29

- 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Courtyard reserved

Join us for worship every Sunday
9:30 a.m. for in person & live streaming service
on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SMLCFairfield (or click [HERE](#)) and on YouTube at
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-E3cZfy_c-Y (or click [HERE](#))

St. Mark's Mission: To Nurture Discipleship, Communicate the Gospel and Serve the Community.

St. Mark's Vision: To transform each church member into Christ-led disciples, nurtured and equipped by God's Word, whose purpose is to build up the Body of Christ in Solano County and the world.

St. Mark's Welcoming Statement: Adopted January 19, 2020

"We are St. Mark's Lutheran Church where everyone is welcomed and everyone is loved. We invite all into the grace, love and acceptance we have from God. We welcome YOU: who you are, as you are."



- All who are single, married, partnered, divorced, with or without children
- All sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions
- All racial, ethnic, and social backgrounds
- All who are homed or homeless
- All who are struggling with addictions or other personal hardships
- All ages and levels of physical and mental health and abilities
- All faith backgrounds, those questioning their faith and those new to faith

We invite you to fully participate in the life and ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church where we seek to share God's love and grace through word and action."

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

1600 Union Avenue, Fairfield, CA 94533

707-422-4741

office@stmarksfairfield.org; www.stmarksfairfield.org

Rev. Karen Stetins, Senior Pastor

Sharon Munoz, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries

Gregori (GiGi) Merriweather, Office Administrator

Semyon Lohss, Accompanist, Choral Director

Lucille Bowers, Preschool Director

Michelle Aas, SMLC's bookkeeper

Council Members

June Johnsen (President), Jim Hanser (Vice President), Ann Hefner Gravink (Secretary),
Nancy Huston (Finance Chair), Marilyn Kilian & Tom Lingel (Members at Large).

Elected Leaders

Pam Lyons (Financial Secretary), Dan DiSano (Treasurer)

V-Anne Chernock, Personnel Committee Chairperson, Les Johnsen, Property Committee Chairperson