

IN TOUCH

WITH COMMUNITY

November/December 2010

Theme: O Come Let Us Adore Him

Psalm 9:1-2: I will praise you, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all your marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

Music and Worship

-Jon Purdy

How does music help you worship? To answer this question, I like to think how music influences almost everything we experience. Who would Darth Vader be without the Imperial March or Indiana Jones without his theme song? Music has a way of altering your mood and making you feel emotions and lyrics rather than just understanding and knowing them. A song like Lord of Every Man can be played many different ways, each one delivering the same words and the same notes, but with different tempos and different types of instrumentation. Much of the power of music is in its ability to change how you feel with only minor changes to the way it's played. Lord of Every Man, when played as a rock song, alternates between verses with simple up-tempo drum beats and build up to a chorus of driving electric guitar. This style of music creates an ebb and flow of energy and emotion. The same song, when played as an acoustic set has a feel of intimacy, as if you are singing the song to God as he sits in a coffee shop. The way in which rhythm and tempo gives so much more passion and excitement to worship is a major draw of music for me. When playing a worship song, I feel like notes I'm playing are like words; the music is a subtext that talks to you like the lyrics do but in a way that your heart understands, not your head. This is important because as believers we know that God resides in our hearts, and He is not something we can explain with our minds. It is in these ways that music helps me to worship. It brings focus to the words I'm singing and is a channel which helps me to feel the power of God moving in my heart.

Children's responses to a few ideas about "Music and Worship."

Why do we sing songs at church?

Answers: "To praise God"- Abby
"To help understand"- Maya
"To praise the Lord"- Elise
"So He can hear us"- Thomas

"He's overjoyed when he hears us praise Him!"-Ana

How would church be without music?

Answer

"BORING!!!!"- An enthusiastic group response

Does our singing make God happy?

Answers: YES!!!- All the kids

Page 2 In Touch

I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED

-Cindy Mansen

Hundreds, maybe even thousands, of songs have spun around in my head and out of my mouth over the years, but when I was asked the question—"What is your favorite praise and worship song?"—the hymn I Know Whom I Have Believed immediately came to mind. However, the second part of the question—"What does it mean to you beyond the lyrics?"—is a bit tougher to put into words.

I believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and that my life is to reflect the love of Jesus. The words of this hymn absolutely remind me, to coin a phrase—"It's not what you know, it's who you know"—and that "who" is Jesus Christ.

I know not why God's wondrous grace To me He hath made known Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love Redeemed me for His own.

I know not how this saving faith To me He did impart, Nor how believing in His Word Wrought peace within my heart. I know not how the Spirit moves, Convincing men of sin, Revealing Jesus through the Word, Creating faith in Him.

I know not when my Lord may come, At night or noonday fair, Nor if I'll walk the vale with Him, Or "meet Him in the air."

BUT "I KNOW WHOM I HAVE BELIEVED, AND AM PERSUADED THAT HE IS ABLE TO KEEP THAT WHICH I'VE COMMITTED UNTO HIM AGAINST THAT DAY."

The writer of this hymn, written in the late 1800's, states so clearly that even though there are many, many things he didn't know, he certainly did know Jesus, and it assures me of the same thing.

PLEASE REMEMBER our MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN

Jonathan Boyko-PSC482 Box 2826, FPO, AP 96362 (serving in Okinawa, Japan)

Kelsey Dulaney (U.S. Army)-Ft. Sill, 2409 NW Norman Street, Lawton, OK 73505

Mariah Miller-CMCR Miller, Mariah J. CM"A" School Class NV 1099, 363 Whitehouse Way, Port Huenene, CA 93043-4303





Book Review: THE CROSS GARDENER

Orphan Sunday, November 7, brings to mind an inspiring story of an orphan who experiences the tragedy of loss more than once. *The Cross Gardener* by Jason Wright takes John and the reader on a journey from loss, to joy, through suffering, and, finally, to hope. Relationships provide the framework for a touching portrayal of love between a father and son, among three adopted brothers, and within family.

We follow John's road to healing found in life, love, and family. In one thought-provoking conversation, the Cross Gardener tells John that perhaps "not all suffering has a cross, and not all crosses have suffering." The truth of this paradox reminds us of a greater one: In death there is life.

While the story deals with loss and John's struggle with his faith, it also touches the reader's heart for him as an orphan. Some of us have already adopted a child into our family; others, as individuals or a group, are supporting a child through A Heart for Africa or some other organization. I would challenge everyone to consider giving the gifts of love and generosity by helping support the cause for orphans, to... "defend the cause of the fatherless" (Isaiah 1:17). The Christian Alliance for Orphans provides opportunities to help. Visit their website at www.christian-alliance-for-orphans.org.

Jason Wright is also the author of *Christmas Jars*, a holiday novel that inspires generosity. Do you have a Christmas Jar? Put one in a visible spot, collect your coins, select one needy person, and pass on a gift of love.

--Mary Seaman



The Fall Fiesta of Giving Auction on Sept. 25, 2010 truly was all about giving. All of the people who planned, donated, gathered donations, and set up the Auction gave selflessly of their time and talents putting in countless hours of work. The folks who showed up to support the

Auction came to enjoy the evening, eat wonderful food, but most of all came to say, 'we care about our neighbors who are in need.' Thank You to all of you wonderful people. A special word of thanks to Mike & Claudia Bost for stepping in to coordinate a fun, animated, professional, and productive live auction. The heart of the R.C.W. Board to assist families in need was matched by the generosity of all of those who contributed to the Auction's success. Helping families with gas cards, school clothes, food cards and other needs is one way we hope to live out neighbor helping neighbor, especially in these tough economic times. The spirit of giving permeated the entire evening. Thank You one and all from the Board of Women's Ministries here at C.R.C.

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CRC Schedule: Experience Christmas With Us!

November 21
"Prayer Evangelism"
December 5
December 6
December 11
December 12
December 19
"The Lifeline" Luke 1:67-80
December 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:00, 6:00 & 8:00* p.m.
"The Child", Luke 2:1-20
Nursery is available at all events unless otherwise indicated with *
Sunday Worship Services
Sunday Morning Sermon Topics for the Christmas Season
November 28, Communion service
December 5
December 12
December 19
December 19, 7:00 p.m. Communion Service
December 24
December 26 "Turning Off Our Auto Pilot" Matthew 8-18-27





RCW Annual Christmas Dinner

Ladies, please plan to attend and invite a friend to join you!

Monday, December 6, 2010 Grey Gables

6:00 p.m. Fellowship and Punch
6:30 p.m. Dinner
Entertainment to follow by the Men's Chorale

<u>Menu</u>

Belvedere Avenue Caesar Salad Sautéed Chicken Pomodoro (served with roasted tomato sauce, whipped potatoes, vegetable)

OR

Broiled "John Cross" Whitefish (served with lemon-caper sauce, baked potato, vegetable)

Vanilla Bean Ice Cream with Fruit Sauce

Coffee and Punch

Cost for the evening is \$16.00/person

Please sign up by November 28th on the fellowship hall poster with your entrée choice

and

Place payment in the RCW box—payable to RCW—located next to the poster.

RCW will sponsor anyone who cannot afford to attend.

Please contact Connie Mahoney for arrangements @ 547-0987.

To continue supporting our families in need, we will also be collecting an offering.

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STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING BEGINNING SUNDAY - JANUARY 9, 2011 9:45 - Noon

C-O-S-T

Searching for a new ministry opportunity in our congregation? There will be a cost, you know, but there will also be great rewards. Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one caring ministry. Right now we're looking for members who are willing to pay the

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and become Stephen Ministers, remembering that the blessings will outweigh the costs. To find out more about this ministry, please contact Jan Boss, 547-9482.

Beginning Wednesday, January 12th

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Kerygma – Bible in Depth: a comprehensive exploration of the whole Bible and its meanings for life today. Each theme traces related stories and events through both Testaments. An exciting course of study for adults ready to reflect deeply on the Scriptures, faith and life. There will be homework and classroom discussion. We will be continuing last winter's class and new members are welcome as we are at a natural break and will pick up on Theme 4.

Contents:

Introduction: The Bible Whole

Theme 1: God Saves a People

Theme 2: People Find God Is Faithful

Theme 3: People Reflect About God

Theme 4: People Live in God's World

Theme 5: God's People Have Leaders

Theme 6: God's People Have Rulers But One Sovereign

Theme 7: God Demands a Righteous People

Theme 8: God's People Learn Wisdom

Theme 9: God's People Worship

Theme 10: God's People Have Hope

Conclusion: Last Things

This is a class that will help you to dive deeply into God's Word and have God's Word dive deeply into YOU!

Leader: Jan Boss Cost \$15 for book





Congratulations and Blessings to:

- Gary and Bobbie Geiger on birth of their Granddaughter, Kate, on August
 Joe and Meredith Geiger of North Carolina are the proud parents.
- Todd and Leah Olson on the birth of a son, Greyson, born on September 3. Sharmon Dulaney is the proud grandmother.
- Pastor Chip and Alisa on the adoption of Anna Grace who was born on September 6.
- Tom and Stacey Schultz on the birth of John Michael on September 17.
- Matt and Andrea Coston on the birth of Pilot Bernard Coston on September 18. Proud grandparents are Bruce and Joanne Deckinga.
- Mike and Michelle Johnson on the birth of a daughter, Mia Joy, on September 29.
- Jim and Sandy Malewitz on the birth of a grandson, Charlie, on October 1. Proud parents are Chris and Janelle Schanbeck.
- Kelsey and Wendi Dulaney on the birth of a daughter, Kaileigh, born on November 2. Sharmon Dulaney is the proud grandma.

GIVING OPPORTUNITY: THE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PROJECT

- The Project is in need of 300 packages of store-bought cookies by Sunday, December 12th. Place your cookies in the box located outside the church office, marked "Christmas Project Cookies."
- There will be a SOX BOX in which to donate socks for children of all ages. Tube socks (S-M-L) work well for various sizes.
- If you are interested in "adopting" a child or family for whom you can purchase Christmas gifts, contact Bev Boss at 547-2078. (Small groups might consider this opportunity.)
- Mitten/Glove trees are being placed in area banks and the Credit Union.
- Toys for Tots collections are used by the Project to help provide toys for children. (This is a great
 opportunity for teaching kids about giving.)
- Monetary donations can be make to The Charlevoix Community Christmas Project and dropped off or mailed to Community Reformed Church, c/o John Coolman.

Last year the Community Christmas Project provided gifts and food for 530 children and their parents as well as 40 senior citizens. The Christmas Project Committee appreciates your caring, help and prayers. We pray that God will Bless this program and the people whom we serve.

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Young Adults Leaving the Faith

-Don Trimper

Over the past year, multiple studies have documented the decline of the spirituality of young adults. The Barna group reports that only 20% of students who were highly churched as teens, remain spiritually active by age 29. Thirty five percent of the "baby boomers", who are currently leading the demoralization and secularization of our country, professed to reading the Bible. Today, of the "bridgers", (those born 1984 to now) only 4% claim to read the Bible. In March, a USA TODAY front page feature was titled "Young Adults Less Devoted to Faith".

In response to these and other overwhelming statistics, a small group has been meeting to ascertain how CRC might help our young adults remain grounded in their faith when they face the challenges of the secular world. Our discussions, quite naturally, soon evolved into looking at all aspects of our current students' spiritual life and education.

A few of the goals we have set are as follows:

- 1) Bibles All individuals in our children and youth programs will own an age-appropriate Bible
- 2) Graduation Areas in which we might make baccalaureate and graduation Sundays a more meaningful experience are being formulated.
- 3) A young adult (post high school) small group will soon begin meeting in a coffee house setting (watch for details).
- 4) Acknowledging that the spiritual seed must be planted and nurtured in the home and reinforced at the church, we are planning an event for early next year to help parents in their critical role of planting and encouraging, and how CRC can help in that process.

Space does not permit the details of our goals stated above, or other ideas we have discussed. As we continue our conversations, we need more people to join our group to accommodate a more comprehensive range of views. See Ted Polleys or myself for meeting dates.

Copies of articles documenting the statistics, probable cause, and possible remedies are available in the church office.

Announcements:

- ➤ The Young Adults to Swaziland team will be hosting our **Annual Chili Cook-Off** on Wednesday, November 17th at 5:00 p.m. We need entries so, enter your favorite chili recipe. Be sure to come try them all and vote on your favorite. All proceeds support the team's August 2011 trip.
- ➤ The RCW will be distributing "Blessing Boxes" over the next few Sundays. Remember that every time you receive a blessing, drop some change into the blessing box which will in turn bless local families that struggle throughout the year.
- We are in process of updating Greeter and Coffee Host schedules for the next year. If you would like to change the dates that you are currently scheduled to serve, please contact the office.

My TO-DO-LIST

-By Maggie Dickson

In my life nothing ever gets accomplished without first making a <u>to-do-list</u>. There's one list for every day like clean the house, prune the garden, do laundry or write something for the In Touch. There's also the ever-popular grocery list. This one is just a guide however, because I always seem to get more than what's on the list. Then there's the grand daddy of all lists. These feature what I want to accomplish this summer or winter or somewhere in the near future. I call this my wish list. What ever the list may be it seems to help me remember what my goals are. But, I must confess, my biggest motivation for making a list is the great sense of joy I experience when crossing something off of it. Red markers or gold stars are best for this process, or a rubber stamp that imprints the word <u>DONE</u> in capital letters. Whatever the reason, checking something off the list can be very satisfying. I'm also wonderfully inspired whenever joy is a factor.

Recently the choir introduced a song containing a list that expresses the many reasons why I sing. The title of the song is a question, "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Then it goes on to answer that question by listing reasons.

I can sing in the troubled times. Sing when I win.

I can sing when I lose my step and fall down again.

I can sing 'cause you pick me up. Sing 'cause you're there.

I can sing 'cause you hear me Lord, when I call to you in prayer.

I can sing with my last breath, sing for I know that

I'll sing with the angels, and the saints around the throne.

Then the chorus of the song bursts forth with a question that's more like an affirmation, "How can I keep from singing your praise? How can I ever say enough? How amazing is your love?" This song totally explains why I'm overjoyed to be singing for the Lord.

God knew that we would benefit from singing His praises. He knew that music in general would be a joyful experience for us. I imagine that He has always had our best interests in mind when guiding us toward this joy. He even had David make a list for us.

Here's a few examples.

Psalm 81:1 "Sing for joy to God our strength."

Psalm 89:1 "I will sing of the Lord's great love forever."

Psalm 92:4 "I sing for joy at the works of your hands."

Psalm 95:1 "Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation."

Psalm 100:1 "Make a joyful noise to the Lord all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into His presence with singing."

(Continued on page 11)

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Album review for John Mark McMillan's "The Medicine"

-Ted Polleys

Last July, John Mark McMillan released his album "The Medicine." I, like many others, was introduced to John Mark's music by way of his single "How He Loves." John Mark wrote this song years ago and it wasn't until last year that it was recorded and performed by many CCM (Contemporary Christian Music) artists, most notably David Crowder.

With the popularity of "How He Loves," John Mark's audience grew significantly. When I first got the album on iTunes I was pleasantly surprised. I was expecting an overly produced, clean and clear worship album, and what I got was a rootsy rock and roll album. One of the complaints that have come as a result of the late 90's praise and worship movement is there is no "meat" to the songs. The songs are very repetitive lyrically as well as the instrumental parts. This is not so with "The Medicine."

John Mark's ability to meld great melodies with wonderful imagery in his lyrics is outstanding. Some standouts to the album are "Skeleton bones" where the imagery of Ezekiel 37 is fleshed out. Ezekiel has a vision that God tells him to speak into dead bones and they will rise. John says that he wanted to tell this story but also parallel the bones with humanity today and how we need to allow God to breath in us new life. Another standout is "Death In His Grave" that tells the Easter story in a fresh new way.

John Mark is a story teller with his lyrics and his band does a great job fleshing out those lyrics in the instrumental parts. There are great guitar parts that remind you of Bruce Springsteen and other songs sound similar to U2's bright shimmering guitar parts provided by guitarist the Edge.

If I was to describe John Mark McMillan's style to someone I would say "Think Bruce Springsteen meets the sacred." John's voice has a grainy gravely quality about it and the instruments match John's voice perfectly. The album sounds like it is recorded with lo-fi equipment and gives the album an identity of its own. This is what seems to be missing in the world of CCM artists, a lack of identity.

The Christian music industry has a formula that works for their artists, but it seems that John Mark does not want to be part of that formula. He just recently signed with Integrity Music (a subsidiary of Columbia Records), and it seems that he did not have to change his approach to his music to get the support of a record company.

The album has great story songs like "Death In His Grave" but has others that are straight ahead rock tunes like the title track "The Medicine" and "Belly of the Lion." The depth of the lyrics spiritually feels right at home within the church, but the songs also would not feel out of place in a bar or rock club.

PARENT-TO-PARENT CORNER

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelu, Hallelujah, Praise ye the Lord!

Children love to make noise, right? They love to clap their hands, stomp their feet, raise their arms and dance around. And, they love to sing, right?

Why not focus some of that amazing energy into some praise and worship music? Worship is one of the basic ways in which children are formed in their faith and learn what it is to be a Christian. Children can learn God's kindness, favor, love and forgiveness through song.

Here are some CD's that your children will love to "make a joyful noise" to:

Kids Singing the Lyrics:

Ultimate Collection, Hillsong Kids

Cedarmont Worship for Kids 1, Cedarmont Kids

Walking with the Wise, Sovereign Grace Music

CCM Music:

See the Morning, Chris Tomlin

The Rising, Charlie Hall

The Story of Your Life, Matthew West

Church Music, David Crowder Band



"Faith is "caught," not "taught." What better way for children to know what faith is all about than to be part of a community that laughs together, cries together, struggles and worships together—a community that lives and shares its faith with all of its members."

My TO-DO-LIST (Continued from page 9)

As lists go, the Bible is a great place to find them. They are God's reminders for us...His <u>todo-lists</u>, so to speak. I personally use that same colored marker or a gold star to indicate the things on His list that I've accomplished. But, I never use the <u>DONE</u> stamp because hopefully I will never be finished following God's list.

So...I'll let the last line of the song speak for me as I lift my voice joyfully. "How can I keep from shouting Your name? I know I am loved by the King and it makes my heart want to sing!"

P.S. Refer to my every day list...write something for the In Touch... DONE!

"Oh Joy"

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Children's Ministry Corner

Are we making a lasting investment?

Is the next generation receiving our wisdom, an experiences to grow from?

When we invest in our children, do we give them activities or do we give them the attention they need?

! A famous football coach, Lou Holt, said "When I die, my accomplishments will eventually be forgotten. But what I've invested in my players will continue to live on."

Our legacy should be what we leave in people, not based on what we leave for people. God has entrusted each of us with skills, talents, life experiences and wisdom. God does not want us to keep these to ourselves; we have a responsibility to the next generation. Ask yourself; are you taking the time to invest in your child, in children of the next generation? Take the time to leave a mark that can not be erased.

These words were taken from a message by: Joel Osteen, Pastor of Lakewood Church, Texas

Children's Ministry Schedule for November & December

Sunday School Schedule:

December 26 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday

! January 2 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday

K.O.W. will be available for the 10:45 service

Children's Christmas Musical Practice Schedule

November 17 Last family supper and Friends Club

Wednesday 5:30p dinner 6:00p-7:30p

November 21 Practice during the Sunday School hour + ½ hour

Sunday 9:45a-11:00a KOW Room

December 1 6:00p-7:30p KOW Room

Wednesday

December 4 Dress Rehearsal Sanctuary

Saturday 10:00a-12:00p

December 5 Children's Christmas Musical 6:00p

Sunday "Candles of Christmas"

<u>Kids need to arrive at 5:30 Sharp</u> KOW Room

Christmas dress clothes-NO jeans or T-Shirt



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Women's Ministries: R.C.W.: Reformed Church Women

This fall the R.C.W. began the school calendar by practicing our mission of supporting fellow women and their families through an enormously successful fundraiser, the **Fall Fiesta of GIVING AUCTION!** We have learned to be active disciples of Christ through the "Families in Need" program. Building on the success of the fundraiser, we will continue to assist 10 families in our church and community, as well as be prepared for growth of that number.

In addition to our inspiring support program, We have numerous women centered events scheduled this year. Our ever popular **Christmas Dinner** will be celebrated **Monday December** 6th at the Grey Gables. This year's Entertainment will be the Men's Chorale. Please see additional information in the bulletin and the "ever so necessary" sign up poster in the lobby.

Our officers for the 2010-2011 year are:

President: Connie Mahoney

1st Vice President: Evelyn DeKorte

2nd Vice President: Karen Campbell

Recording Secretary: Kate Chanda
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Ann Cox
Treasurer: Sharon Russell

Communication/Publicity: Cyndie Lieberman

Program Teams:

Fall Fiesta of Giving: Gay Pung, Cyndie Lieberman and Marcia Trimper

Christmas Dinner: Marcia Trimper, Kate Chanda

Lenten Breakfast: Sharon Russell, Mary Ann Cox, Connie Mahoney

Spring Fling: Pam Swenor, Gay Pung

Spiritual Life Team: Joanne Deckinga and Marcia Trimper

Membership and Outreach: Betty Martin
Service Team: All Members

Board Meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Church and are open to anyone who would like to attend.

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Upcoming EVENTS

4th Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 25, 2010 from 12pm – 3pm

This year's location:

First Baptist Church (6781 M-66N)



ALL ARE WELCOME

(meal provided at no charge)

Sponsored by the Charlevoix Ministerial Association

To help with dinner, call Joy at 547-4813

To arrange a ride, call Gay at 547-1344

Christmas Cantata at CRC

"Sing We all Noel" — This year's cantata includes a medley of Christmas carols enhanced by the portions of scripture proclaiming the prophecy of the coming Messiah - the birth - the angels singing to the Shepherds out in the fields - the visit of the Magi.

Mark your calendars: Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

GAME NIGHT

COMING - JANUARY 22

5-7 p.m.

Games for all ages

Nursery provided for those 4 and under



COMMUNITY REFORMED **CHURCH**

Phone: 231-547-9482 Fax: 231-547-9598 Email: crcoffice@communityreformed.net www.communityreformed.net

Join us for Worship: Sunday, 8:30, 10:45 a.m. Nursery: 8:30, 9:45, and 10:45 a.m. Sunday School: Sunday, 9:45 a.m.

Prayer: Sunday, 7:15 a.m. Monday - Friday, 6:15 a.m. Wednesday (2nd floor City Hall), 12 p.m. Wednesday, 5:00 pm Saturday, 7:15 a.m.

Our Mission:

To engage, encourage and equip people to be fully devoted followers of Christ

Non-Profit Org. US Postage

Charlevoix, MI 49720 Permit No. 81 **PAID**

100 Oak St.

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH

Charlevoix, MI 49720

The Power of A Simple Gift - Operation Christmas

Then return your shoe box by November 21.

Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations worldwide through simple, gift-filled shoe boxes and evangelis-Pick up a shoe box at the OCC table and fill with small toys and An instructional brochure is included to make the process easy tic materials that tell the Good News of God's love.

Any questions, call Sandy Malewitz 881-4009

A simple shoe box but with the lasting impact of opening hurting hearts to God's love.

Contacts at CRC:

lan Boss, Director of Spiritual Formation Ted Polleys, Minister of Youth Chip Sauer, Pastor

Mary Lou Smith, Director of Children's Ministries

Lynda Stolt, Office Administrator

Leslie Nitchman, Office Assistant

Theda Williams, Worship Director

Michael Brown, Maintenance Engineer Cindy Mansen, Choir Director

Amy Spegele, DivorceCare Facilitator

Dianne Coolman, Kitchen Manager