

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Thanks be to God for our Men's Retreat a couple of weeks ago with thirty nine men. Thanks to Andy and all the men who planned, spoke, led worship and games. We had a blessed time!

Advent begins November 27th, and is a season of joyful expectation of the two "comings" of the Messiah, as an infant through the retelling of the Christmas story, and as King of Kings who will return to establish God's kingdom on Earth.

On Sunday, December 4th, at 8:30 a.m., we will be having a "Lessons and Carols" service with readings for the story of our salvation, and various forms of music, from congregational and choral singing to instrumentalists.

Christmas Eve Services

Our Christmas Eve services will be held on Saturday, December 24th as follows:

- 5:00 p.m. – Family Service with Pageant and music with the Praise Band
- 7:30 and 10 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion with Organ, Choir and El Paso Brass

Christmas Day Service

This year, because Christmas is on Sunday, we will also be having Christmas Day services at 10 a.m. in both the sanctuary and in Mckee Chapel for Iglesia de Rey de Paz.

The church office will be closed the week of December 25th through January 1st. Please call one of the clergy directly in case of emergency. There will not be a Saturday service on the 31st.

More on Islam

Recently, John Walker led a six week class on Islam on Tuesday evenings. We are now offering three weeks of forums at 10a.m on Sundays in Whyburn Rodrick Hall. On December 27th, we will watch a video featuring Na-beel Qureshi, a very powerful preacher. On December 4th, Sami Dipaquale is going to speak, and then we will have a panel discussion on December 11th.

Christmas Tree

Each year after Thanksgiving, we put up a Christmas Tree in the Welcome Center with little cards on it that represent an underprivileged child in Cd. Juarez or El Paso. The ministries that we are supporting again this year are Onemi, Life Challenge and Ciudad Nueva. Thank you for making Christmas special for one of these children.

Giving in the Holiday Season

Like most churches, we operate at a deficit most of the year, and makes it up the end. We appreciate special Thanksgiving or Christmas gifts to help us finish the year. Here is our position through Oct. :

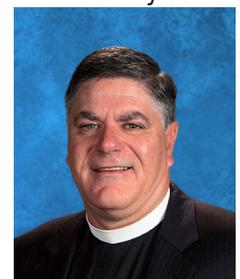
	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
Income	\$1,356,417	\$1,506,673	(\$150,256)
Expenses	\$1,435,785	\$1,506,673	\$70,888
Net	(\$79,368)	-	(\$79,368)

You may give by check, or online with a credit or debit card, or by ACH withdrawal from your bank account. All gifts that are postmarked or received through Dec. 31st are deductible in 2016 for IRS purposes. Thank you!

In our Lord Jesus Christ,



The Rev. William C. Cobb, D. Min.



CHILDREN'S CORNER

Rachel Degenhart, Children's Ministry Director

Christmas! The magical time of year when time slows down (or at least it is supposed to) and we focus on something other than the rat race; we focus on God's gift to man; that brilliant plan of God to redeem an orphaned planet. But... what did this feel like from the other side? To paint what I feel it may have felt like, I am taking a section out of the book, *Daring Greatly*, by Brene Brown (pp 5,32,34.) Her introduction begins with this story. "I looked right at her and said, 'I frickin' hate vulnerability. ...I can't stand opening myself to getting hurt or being disappointed. It's excruciating. Vulnerability is complicated. And it's excruciating.' ... Yes, we are totally exposed when we are vulnerable. Yes, we are in the torture-chamber that we call uncertainty. And, yes, we're taking huge emotional risks when we allow ourselves to be vulnerable. But there's no equation where taking risks, braving uncertainty, and opening ourselves up to emotional exposure equals weakness. ... Love is uncertain. It's incredibly risky. And loving someone leaves us emotionally exposed. Yes, it's scary and yes, we're open to being hurt, but can you imagine your life without loving or being loved?"

What does this have to do with Christmas? Everything! The Apostle John tells us in John 1:9-12, "There it was—the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens everyone. 10 He (Christ) was in the world, and though the world was

made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. 11 He came to that which was His own [that which belonged to Him—His world, His creation, His possession], and those who were His own [people—the Jewish nation] did not receive and welcome Him. 12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the right [the authority, the privilege] to become children of God." See, vulnerability is what makes Christmas what it is. God, the King of all Kings, allowed His only Son to come to earth in the most vulnerable way, as a baby, and then to grow up among people who don't know and aren't able to care for him as "he should." Then after he became a man, he went around, "doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38). He was rejected by his own people, those he came to save, and was crucified on a cross. Through all of this it is said of Him in Hebrews 12:10, "for the joy set before him, he endured the cross." My take on all this is that Jesus became vulnerable in every way because the hope of being reinstated in a love relationship with those He came to redeem and this joy was worth the fear and shame that vulnerability creates. This Christmas, I hope you will spend time allowing the Spirit of God to show you how you bring joy to Jesus so you can bask in His love for you. Also, the path to love and connection for us here on earth is through the same path Jesus took, vulnerability. Merry Christmas!



SPECIAL THANK YOU!

Thank you all who participated in Operation Christmas Child. St. Clements' generous participants turned in a total of 94 shoeboxes!!

Please contact Geneva Williams for a Chick-Fil-A giftcard as a gift for your participation



Greetings – Christmas Season is one of the most special seasons of the year for Christians, and equally so for children. I am sure you can only imagine the excitement of students at this time of the school year!

Last month, I wrote of the time of Thanksgiving and Remembrance during November, and indeed it was captured in our most wonderful Veteran's Day Chapel. A parade of patriotic floats, led by a bagpiper, a moving and poignant homily by John Dixon, several performances from students, and, of course, the active and retired military men and women in uniform. It was a very moving and special service.

Our Outdoor Education programs continue with both the 1st grade trip to La Cueva and the 2nd grade trip to Hueco Tanks! This truly is a hallmark of the St. Clement's Parish School experience!

December brings many events, performances and celebrations. Not the least of which is the student Lessons and Carols Service! I invite you to attend on Dec 21 @10:20. It will give you a great launch into the Christmas Week.

Merry Christmas to all of you!

Rick Betts
Head of School



The St. Clement's School 8th Grade Speech and Theatre class presents its annual Dinner Theater production, "**Eighth Grade Musical**," written and directed by Ms. Robyn Pelking.

Catered dinner and performance on
Friday, December 9th at 6:00 pm.

\$20.00 per person (\$10 for children under ten years of age)

Catered hors d'oeuvres and performance on
Saturday, December 10th & Sunday, December 11th at
2:00 in the afternoon.

\$15.00 per person (\$10 for children under ten years of age)

All performances will be held in the Center for Excellence Theatre. Seating is limited, so reservations must be made to attend. Reservations forms can be found in the CFE or buy tickets online at www.stclements.org by Wednesday, December 7 in the CFE to Ms. Robyn Pelking or Ms. Jessica Arriola.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Hello St. Clement's!

I want to talk to you about the conference that we will be going to at the end of this month. We will be attending OneThing, which is a conference put on by International House of Prayer (IHOP) from December 27th-January 1st and is in Kansas City, MO. Attendance will be open for sophomores in high school and up, if anyone younger than that wants to come, they need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We go every year and it is always such an incredible opportunity for the Lord to move in the lives of those who attend. Personally, I enjoy taking the time during the conference to reflect on the past year and pray about the future. It has been an awesome blessing in my life.

One of my favorite parts of attending this conference (I've been going since I was 16 years old) is transitioning from a student myself and becoming a leader. This is exciting because I get to watch our students go through similar things that I did when I was their age. This conference kick started my relationship with the Lord and I have gotten to see that reality in multiple student's lives since then. Last year, I got to go up with a student as she received the Lord, two of our students got to watch God heal someone with a tumor through them and another student realized that he had spiritual gifts

and started using them.

As for logistical information, the conference will cost \$85 which will cover the ticket itself as well as breakfast contribution. However, this money does not cover your personal food budget. You will need to bring money for lunch and dinner, Kansas is a little more expensive so I usually budget about \$15 per meal. There is also a really cool bookstore during the conference, so I would bring a little extra money if you are interested in that. We will be driving to Kansas City, this sounds awful I know, however, it is so worth it. This conference is one of my favorite parts of the end of the year and I hope that you can come.



Blessings,
Kristina Shinn
Youth Ministry Admin & Intern

COMING UP:



CLEM'S & CLEMENTINE'S

December 19th, program begins at 10:30
with communion by Rev Thomson
11 Cheryl's Lecture on
Christmas Art in the Renaissance
and the evolution in European Art of the
image and character of Christ in painting.
Followed by lunch at 11:45
All are invited, so, please bring a friend!

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

1st & 3rd Sundays (in between services):
December 4th last drawing meeting of 2016. December
18th Tour V of Christmas art in the mostly Renaissance
Kress Collection at the El Paso Museum of Art with
Cheryl Bower at 1:30 PM. The change from symbols of
the Eucharist in the very early church to the centrality of
the new-born King and the Cross as symbol.

Bring friends after lunch!
Thank the Larry & Marilyn Francis family!

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

The traditional service of Advent Lessons and Carols will be presented by the St. Clement's choir on

December 4th at the 8:30 service.

This service, originally from England, foretells the coming of the Savior through scripture, anthems, and carols.

There will also be special instrumental music as part of the service.

Please come and enjoy the ushering in of the Advent Season in preparation for the Birth of our Lord Jesus.



THE BRUCE NEHRING CONSORT

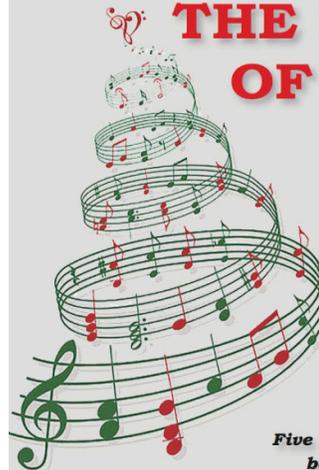
El Paso's Professional Singers and Chamber Players

THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT

ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

2800 PERSHING DRIVE
EL PASO

Dec. 2 - 3 - 4
7:30 p.m. Friday
5 p.m. Saturday
2:30 p.m. Sunday



Five For Brass will play 30 minutes before each performance

Our annual musical celebration ushers in the Advent Season in El Paso with classical choral masterpieces and holiday favorites, featuring The Consort Singers, with Bruce Nehring, Conductor and Organ, along with Five for Brass and Instrumentalists.

We invite the audience to join us in singing familiar carols.

SPECIAL PRICES for The Church of St. Clement
Discounted tickets through Kathie Beeman only. \$10.00 per ticket or \$5.00 per ticket for groups of four or more when purchased by November 30th. Contact Kathie Beeman at 915-276-7344 (text) 915-833-3069 (h) for more info.



CHRISTMAS EVE POINSETTIAS

Are a great opportunity to honor the memory of a lost one or to give thanks for the blessings currently in your life!

If you would like to submit a donation please fill in all the required information on the poinsettia envelope as legible as you are able.
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ENVELOPES: DECEMBER 14, 2016

THANK YOU AND BE BLESSED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

NEW WEDNESDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Beginning January 11, 2017
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Mayfield Room
Priscilla Shirer's

GIDEON - Your weakness. God's STRENGTH.

Do you feel overwhelmed? Inexperienced? Intimidated? Insufficient? Too old? Too young? Gideon's story involves far more than a wet fleece and a battle won with 300 soldiers. His epic victory actually tells of one man's struggle with his own weakness - and the One God who transformed it into triumph.

Please let us know if you plan on joining us so we can order the correct amount of workbooks.

CHILD CARE IS PROVIDED

Mary Gaddy marybgaddy@gmail.com 915-630-5550 (cell) 915-760-5115 (hm)
Sallie Broaddus Goldsskip@aol.com 915-203-8624 (cell) 915-581-5771 (hm)
Martini DeGroat mddmartini@aol.com 915-204-9250 (cell) 915-581-6000 (hm)

TAX WISE PLANNING (A word from our Senior Warden)

...they gave of their own accord, 1 Cor. 8:3

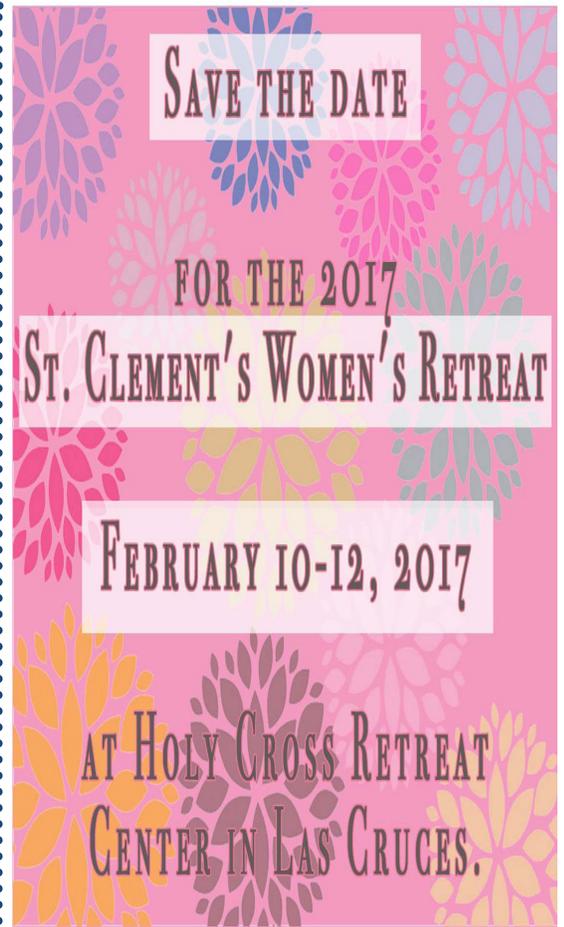
As we approach the end of the year, some may be engaged in year-end tax planning or even evaluating plans for next year. Those age 70 ½ or more with qualified retirement accounts such IRAs and 401Ks, also have to consider their annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). This is the minimum amount the government requires a person to withdraw each year as income. In 2015, Congress enacted a permanent extension of the IRA charitable rollover. As a result, individuals age 70½ or older can make gifts directly from their IRA to charity in 2015, 2016 and beyond.

You may be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals, while still directly supporting God's work and ministry through the Church of St. Clement. Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover:

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our qualified organization
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year (all or part of your RMD can be given in either a lump sum or set up as quarterly or monthly donations)
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of our Church

How an IRA charitable rollover gift works:

1. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to St. Clement's.
2. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to our church to help continue our important work.
3. Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction. (You will not deduct this gift on your tax return; however, excluding that income from being taxed as income to you may have an even greater benefit by keeping you in a lower tax bracket or by you not having to be taxed on the distribution).
4. Please contact us if you wish for your gift to be used for a specific purpose.
5. Contact your tax advisor if you have questions on how this will affect you.



GriefShare 3.0 continues on
Wednesdays at 1:30 to 3:00pm.

There will be no break for the Christmas/New Year weeks. Being available during this holiday period could be helpful for anyone walking the journey of grief. It is possible to start these sessions at any level, so come join us.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

Nominations are being accepted to replace four retiring vestry members at the February 2017 Annual Meeting. Choosing vestry members is meant to be a process of mutual spiritual discernment. Vestry members must be prayerful, knowledgeable of scripture, have a personal relationship with Christ, and a desire to serve Him through this parish. Nominees will be asked to answer questions approved by the vestry.

The vestry has adopted the following requirements for serving on the vestry. A person must be:

1. At least eighteen years of age
2. A voting member of the church
3. A committed Christian, who maintains disciplines of Bible Study and Prayer
4. Believing the Bible to be the inspired Word of God and the Creeds of the Church to be authoritative in defining biblical Christian faith.
5. Regular in worship and active in the life of the congregation
6. A giver of record for at least a year who is committed to tithing or working toward a tithe
7. Able to attend as many as two meetings a month, vestry retreats, etc.





November was a bust month. We had lock-ins with our middle school students, field trips with mentors, camping trips, many fun filled days of program and we know December will be just as fun and busy!

As Christmas is approaching we invite you to participate in our annual Christmas Store. We collect gifts that we then put out and allow parents to come at a special time for pick out the gifts that are just right for their kids.

Some helpful items would include:

- Board games
- Legos, action figures, dolls, craft kits, craft supplies
- Earbuds
- Lotions, perfumes, make up, jewelry, clothes
- Sports equipment - soccer balls, basketballs, footballs, etc
- craft kits

Household items: crockpots, coffee makers, sheets, plates, etc.

Please see the Christmas tree or the CN bulletin board in the church for more ideas. All items can be dropped off at the church or at 528 Yandell at Ciudad Nueva. If you have any questions please call Jen at 847-323-5140 or jen@ciudadnueva.org

We appreciate your support and prayers all year long, but as the year comes to a close we are always in need of some year end giving. Please visit ciudadnueva.org to donate online or checks may be mailed to the church. Your donations help to empower youth, support families, equip leaders and strengthen the community in the Rio Grande District. You help make a difference in our community. Thank you!!

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!!

Jen Kaufmann
Launch Pad Coordinator



LIBRARY

Your library has several brand new, hot-off-the-presses books waiting for you! Come in and check them out

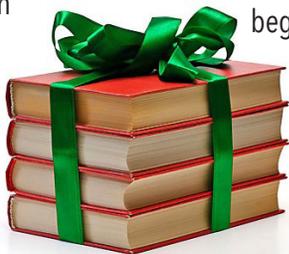
For Children:

- God Bless My Friends board book, by Hannah C. Hall
- Christmas in the Barn, by Margaret Wise Brown
- Goodnight, Manger, by Laura Sassi

For Adults:

- Because of Bethlehem, by Max Lucado
- The Broken Way, by Ann Voskamp
- The Undoing of Saint Silvanus, a novel by Beth Moore
- The Magnolia Story, by Chip and Joanna Gaines

We are excited! We'll be even more excited when these fly off the shelf and into your home We have an excellent library, and an excellent team of volunteers. We add new books, movies, and/or study kits every week. Praise God. Your library team, Geneva Williams, Pat Garven, Margaret Meyer, Moni Ward, and Anne Walker.



SPOTLIGHT

"Biography of the Reverend Uncle Bert, by Bernice Dittmer. B.M.G. Williams, lovingly known as Uncle Bert, lived a full and fascinating life. Born in England, he first arrived in El Paso in 1894 from England. From humble beginnings, he held a variety of jobs, and eventually became a successful businessman. However, closely bound to the Anglican church as a boy, his one real goal was to be a minister - seemingly unattainable. The story of his remarkable achievement in reaching his heart's desire and finally becoming full rector of St. Clement's Episcopal Church in 1954, at the age of 78, makes fascinating reading. Bernice Dittmer herself was a captivating and accomplished woman, who also made St. Clement's her church home. A limited number of these excellent, hard-bound biographies have been discovered in our library closet. Considered collector's items, we are offering them for a minimum donation of \$10. They make excellent gifts."

HELPING THE TARAHUMARAS

There is still time to purchase the meticulously hand made nativity scenes from the tarahumara community! Be a blessing to the tarahumara people this Winter Season! Each set is \$20, which will be used to keep the ladies employed and to purchase much needed food. This is the only source of income for the women. For more information please contact Elizabeth Feuille at 203-1883. Thank you!



DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 12 Praise Band 12- Bill's Bible Study 6:00 YOUNGISH ADULTS 7:30 Choir Practice	2 9:00 Border Fellows Bruce Nehering Consort	3 Bruce Nehering Consort 5:00- Worship Service
4 8:30 am- Traditional Lessons and Carols Fine Arts Ministry Event 10:30 MS Youth Group 10:45- Rey de Paz Spanish Service -McKee Chapel 10:45 am- Contemporary w/ Nursery & Children 12:15 pm Youth Lunch Bruce Nehering Consort	5 ESC 12 Missionary Luncheon 5:30-Women's Bible Study	6 9:00-Staff Meeting 11:00- Prayer & Fasting 12- Al Anon 12 Invisible Church 6:00- Praise Band	7 ESC Christmas party 8:30-Women's Bible Study 1:30- GriefShare 6:00 Changes that Heal 6:00- Youth Group	8 12 Praise Band 6:00 YOUNGISH ADULTS 7:30 Choir Practice	9 9:00 Border Fellows Parish School Dinner Theater Performance	10 5:00- Worship Service Parish School Dinner Theater Performance
11 8:30 am- Traditional w/ Nursery & Children 10:30 MS Youth Group 10:45- Rey de Paz Spanish Service -McKee Chapel 10:45 am- Contemporary w/ Nursery & Children 12:15 pm Youth Lunch Dinner Theater Performance	12 5:30-Women's Bible Study	13 9:00-Staff Meeting 11:00- Prayer & Fasting 12- Al Anon 12 Staff luncheon 6:00- Praise Band 7 Stamp Club	14 1:30- GriefShare 6:00 Changes that Heal 6:00- Youth Group POINSETTIA DEADLINE	15 12 Praise Band 12 Bill's Bible Study 6:00 YOUNGISH ADULTS 7:30-Choir	16 9:00 Border Fellows	17 5:00- Worship Service
18 8:30 am- Traditional w/ Nursery & Children Fine Arts Ministry Event 10:30 MS Youth Group 10:45- Rey de Paz Spanish Service -McKee Chapel 10:45 am- Contemporary w/ Nursery & Children 12:15 pm Youth Lunch	19 ANCHOR DEADLINE 10 am Clement's and Clementines event 5:30-Women's Bible Study	20 9:00-Staff Meeting 11:00- Prayer & Fasting 12- Al Anon 12- Finance Meeting 6:00- Praise Band 5:30- Vestry Meeting	21 1:30- GriefShare 6:00- Youth Group	22 12 Praise Band 6:00 YOUNGISH ADULTS 7:30-Choir	23	24 5:00 p.m. – Family Service with Pageant and Praise Band 7:30 and 10 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion with Organ, Choir and El Paso Brass
25 10 am- Traditional and Contemporary together 10 am Rey de Paz Spanish Service -McKee Chapel MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26 OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED 	27	28	29	30	31 OFFICE AND CHURCH CLOSED NO EVENING SERVICE



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

5:00 p.m. – Family Service with Pageant and music with the Praise Band
7:30 and 10 p.m. – Traditional Christmas Eve Holy Communion with Organ, Choir and El Paso Brass



ST C CHURCH OF CLEMENT

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
EL PASO, TEXAS

Mission Statement: The church of St. Clement, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, by the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, intentionally pursues *Real Worship, Real Relationships, and Real Difference.*

810 N. Campbell
El Paso, Texas 79902-5203
P:915-533-4915 -F:915-533-1958
Website: www.stclements.com
Email: office@stclements.com
Prayer requests: wecare@stclements.com

If you have a change of address or no longer want to receive The Anchor, please let us know.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev'd. William C. Cobb, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Rick Milliorn, Associate & Contemporary Music Director
The Rev. Travis W. King, Associate
The Rev. Ken Hanna, Rey de Paz, Spanish Congregation Leader
Rick Garven, Organist and Adult Choir Director
Rachel Degenhart, Children's Ministry Director
Rebecca Guerin, Children's Ministry Assistant
Eddie Endlich, English Speaking Center Director and Parish Administrator
Lupe Mendoza, Director of Preschool/Daycare
Karen Miller, Financial Secretary
Marilyn Jay, Bookkeeper
Anne Walker, Librarian
Ericka Garcia, Receptionist
Irene Taylor, Assistant to the Rector
Brenda Luna Bravo, Communications
Jesus Ortiz Torres, Maintenance Supervisor

VESTRY

George Wayne, Sr. Warden - Rob Hoover, Jr. Warden -
Courtney Brown - Greg Carameros - Leslie Jones
David Kaufmann - Lyn McKinley - Anthony Safi
John Skidmore - Stuart Sliva - Ken Morrow - Riley Stephen -
Lin Banks, Treasurer - cbanks@elp.rr.com
Edward A. Endlich, Clerk - eaendlich@sbcglobal.net

ASSOCIATED CLERGY

The Rev. Ron Thomson, Rector Emeritus
The Rev. Don Morrill, Deacon
The Rev. Steven Tighe, La Frontera
The Rev. John H. Dixon Jr.

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