



Life Together

**St Paul's Episcopal Church
16457 Old Frederick Road,
Mt. Airy, MD 21771**

410-489-4411

April 2015



What is a “vital small congregation?”

*By Bob Honeychurch, part of the Vestry Papers issue on [Small Church Ministry](#)
(September 2009)*

They gather every week, just as they have done for over seventy-five years now. Different generations have come and gone, although the city in which they find themselves looks different than when their church was founded. What started as a church comprised almost exclusively of families whose backgrounds were from England and northern Europe has changed.

Now they are more diverse; they look a lot like the people they are called to serve. In those seventy-five years, although they have never grown larger than about forty people on a typical Sunday morning, they have remained a strong and visible presence in their community.

Everybody in town knows about them — knows about the ways they have responded to the needs of the town — knows that the church has always served as a clear voice and a beacon of hope, even as other churches went silent, dark.

This congregation's story is not all that different from the stories of many Episcopal churches across the land, for there are thousands of small, prospering Episcopal congregations that respond to their communities as a vibrant and driving force. Still, some small congregations thrive while others close their doors. Some congregations are vital and alive; others are not. Why?

A vital congregation is a community of faith which:
Invites people to become passionate followers of Jesus Christ
Creates opportunities for personal and corporate transformation
Equips and empowers people for gospel mission in the world

This definition says nothing about a congregation's mission, size or budget, whether it is rural or urban, whether it can afford the services of full-time clergy, or where it is located — yet all congregations have the potential to be “vital” congregations. How can that vitality be best understood? “Invites people to become passionate followers of Jesus Christ.”

Mark Your Calendars

March 29, **8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.** Palm Sunday

April 2, **7:00 p.m.** Maundy Thursday with foot washing

April 3, **Noon & 7:00 p.m.** Good Friday Service

April 5, **8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.** Easter Sunday Services

April 19, **9:00 a.m.** Service **ONLY** Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

Much is proclaimed about “forming Christian leaders” in the Church today. One of the great challenges we face, however, is that before we can form leaders, we must first form Christians. Christian formation is a lifelong process. This invitation contains three necessary dimensions: teaching people how to pray; teaching people how to engage the Scriptures; and teaching people how to live in community.

Congregations which are intentional and strategic about forming Christians — at every step along that life path — create a culture where the deepening of every member’s faith experience lies at the heart of the life of the community.

If our lives aren’t changed by being a part of a faith community, then what’s the point of being there? Communities of faith are places where my life can be changed, but they’re also places where our life can be changed as well as the holy People of God.

Transformation is that process of being made new; it’s about believing that the person that I am, and the community of which I am a part, is constantly being invited into a new relationship with God. Transformation is about believing that every time the Church gathers — whether it be for a worship service, a bishop’s committee or vestry meeting, a Bible study, an evening at the local soup kitchen, or a summer softball game — every time the Church gathers, we do so with the belief that we will leave that encounter as different people than we were when we entered.

At the end of the day, it isn’t about “me,” and it isn’t even about “us.” It’s about fulfilling the Great Commission to go out into the world. Vital congregations are those which give people the necessary tools — spiritual, technical, social, emotional, etc. — to “be the heart and hands of Jesus in the world,” for in the world where the church is ultimately called to be. We are not a cloistered community of prayer, defending ourselves from the assaults of the world around us. We are only the Church when we are fully integrated into the lives, the culture, and the daily experience of our wider community. It does, however, provide an opportunity to explore some real-life, incarnated examples of congregational vitality.

Considering the three characteristics named above, where are your own congregational strengths? Where might you continue to deepen and enrich your common life together? How might you even more fully live into the community which God is calling you to become? Seize the moment. Seize the day. With God, seize the opportunity to change the world.

Formerly the rector and vicar for several small congregations, the Rev. Bob Honeychurch is now the Program Officer for Congregational Vitality for the Episcopal Church.

Grace and Peace to You
Rev. Susan S. Keller +

Easter Message 2015 from The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori



It’s still dark when Mary ventures out to find the tomb. The graveyards around Jerusalem don’t have much greenery today. The earth is mostly rock and stone, and it is far from easy to make a place to secure a body. Jesus’ body was put in a cave-like space, with a stone rolled across the opening to close it up. Mary has made the journey from wherever she’s sheltered over the last day, through darkened streets, perhaps hearing cocks begin to crow and townspeople start to stir.

She nears the place, but somehow it seems different than they left it – this can’t be it, can it? Who moved the stone? A trip begun in tears and grief now has added burden– confusion, anger, shock, chaos, abandonment. His very body has been stolen.

She runs to tell the others. The three tear back to the tomb – no, the body is not there, though some of the burial cloths remain. Who has torn away the shroud and stolen him away? Why must the

cruel torture continue, sacrilege and insult even after death? Who has done this awful thing? The men run away again, leaving her to weep at even greater loss.

She peers in once more – who are these, so bold appearing? “Fear not, woman... why do you weep?” She turns away and meets another, who says the same – why do you weep, who are you looking for? This gardener has himself been planted and now springs up green and vibrant, still rising into greater life. He challenges her to go and share that rising, great news of green and life, with those who have fled.

Still rising, still seeking union with Creator, making tender offering to beloved friends – briefly I am with you, I am on my way. Go and you will find me if you look.

The risen one still offers life to those who will look for evidence of his gardening – hope, friendship, healing, reunion, restoration – to all who have been uprooted, cut off, to those who are parched and withered, to those who lie wasting in the desert. Why do we weep or run away when that promise abides?

We can find that green one, still rising, if we will go stand with the grieving Marys of this world, if we will draw out the terrified who have retreated to their holes, if we will walk the Emmaus road with the lost and confused, if we will search out the hungry in the neighborhood called Galilee. We will find him already there before us, bringing new and verdant life. The only place we will not find him is in the tomb.

The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori
Presiding Bishop and Primate ~ The Episcopal Church

The Chapman Dialogues ~ Conversations on Faith ~ “Making All Things New”

The Suffragan Bishop of Los Angeles, The Rt. Rev. Mary Glasspool, formerly our Cannon to Ordinary will be the speaker and presenter at a workshop at the Claggett Center, on April 13-16. This is a wonderful learning experience.



The first Conversation on Faith will explore the intersection and divergence of the world’s faiths through education, relationships and practice. Participants will be inspired by plenary sessions, stimulating group discussions and workshops, an opportunity to delve deeper into spiritual practices and being in conversation with the presenters. For more info see www.episcopalmaryland.org

Servant Leader

One of the things we can all appreciate at St. Paul’s is the many - actually all of us – workers in the vineyard. We want to especially acknowledge work that involves sweaty physical duty that doesn’t make headlines. But without this work, we would face a dilemma. Thanks to our servant leaders who dug us into church after the snowflakes had fallen and yes, even while they were tumbling from the sky. **Thank you, thank you very much,** Kathy Audia, Jim and Irene Hillen, Jamie McIntosh, Pete McIntosh, Al Yeater, Lynda Sheckels, Jeff Spaulding, and Dick Wilcher. And if we missed someone... thank you too.

God, there are so many ways we can serve you and your Church; in our thoughts, our prayers, our crafts, our worship, our play, our challenges, our hopes, and in our actions that call us into community and selfless love. Amen.

Are We Up to the Challenge??? Yes! June is the anniversary month of St. Paul’s Endowment Fund. Between now and June you will have done your income taxes (you will survive)

and have a good overall view of your finances. St. Paul's sincerely hopes you will find that you can make a contribution to ensure the growth of the Endowment Fund and help stabilize St. Paul's future. One parishioner has pledged to match contributions up to \$5000. Wow! Now this is the challenge! No contribution will be too large or too small. Every dollar will help to meet this goal - \$5000 will become \$10,000, just like the feeding of the five thousand. A one-time payment or a series of payments over the next three months, as you are able, would be greatly appreciated. On our Church Calendar, June 29th is the designated day of St. Peter and St. Paul. This year, the last Sunday in June is the 28th. So, let's celebrate St. Paul's Endowment Fund then. Are we up to the challenge? Yes!

Pastoral Care Ministries

On **Sunday, April 19th at 9:00 a.m.**, we will officially welcome our **Stephen Ministers**. The institution of this unique lay ministry will be a cause of celebration for all of us because it recognizes the individuals who will become Stephen Ministers and **St. Paul's as a Stephen Ministry Church**. We now have four Pastoral Care Ministries: **Prayer Shawl Ministry, Prayer Ministry, Lay Eucharist Visitors** and **Stephen Ministry**. To refresh our memories---After Congregational and Vestry approval, on June 24, 2014, St. Paul's was officially enrolled and accepted into the world-wide Stephen Ministry Organization. Stephen Ministry is a system of caring ministry that enables specially trained congregation members to provide one-to-one Christian care to persons who are experiencing a life challenge or crisis. In August, 2014, Rev. Susan Keller+ and Lee Hajek were students in the seven-day Stephen Ministry Leadership Training held in Pittsburgh, PA. The recruitment process began in the fall and the training commenced in January and by doubling the training modules, four hours each week, ended March 28, 2015. St. Paul's first class is ready to embark on this ministry.

The commissioning of our Stephen Ministers will be on **Sunday, April 19th at a combined service at 9 A.M.** This is a way for our whole congregation to recognize that we are sending out these **trained caregivers to provide Christian care on behalf of St. Paul's** to people in need. By commissioning our Stephen Ministers during worship, we are all recognizing that Stephen Ministry belongs to all of us--- everyone at St. Paul's. It is our ministry and a way we as a congregation care for the needs of people in our congregation and in our community.

How it will work--- Rev. Susan + or Lee Hajek (St. Paul's Stephen Leader) will pair up each Stephen Minister with a member (once request is made by that person or another who has that person's permission to do so) of the congregation or community who needs care. One may want care if he or she is experiencing divorce, the death of a loved one, hospitalization, loss of a job, a terminal illness, a relocation, loneliness, etc. **It is a confidential ministry**. The only people who know the identity of a care receiver is the care receiver, his or her Stephen Minister, and the Rector or Stephen Leader who linked the two together. No one else knows. This way care receivers can feel assured that anything they tell their Stephen Minister will remain confidential. If you have any questions, please direct them to Rev. Susan+ or Lee Hajek.

If you would like to join any or all of the Pastoral Ministries, call the church office, 410-489-4411. We'd be glad to have you.

The Pastoral Care Team

Come and See

Postcards promoting St. Paul's and highlighting Holy Week activities were mailed to every residence in the Woodbine (21797) zip code on Tuesday, March 24. In addition, all of the residences in the Mt. Airy (21771) zip code with routes closest to St. Paul's Church should have received one as well. I would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone on those routes who did **NOT** receive one.

A total of 5,941 cards were mailed at a non-profit authorized rate of \$0.079 per card (10 cents per card cheaper than our previous mailing in October).

We could not have produced this card without the design work of Mandy German, a member and treasurer of Jennings Chapel United Methodist Church. Lynda Sheckels was instrumental in locating artwork and organizing the text on the card.

It is more important than ever for everyone to make a concerted effort to invite as many people as possible to “**Come and See**” **St. Paul's**. Pete McIntosh, Chair, Come & Se

Property Report ~ Water damage at the PLC...

I thought it was important that everyone stay informed about what's been happening this winter at St. Paul's in addition to the snow and ice issues.

The freezing temperatures caught up to us in the Parish Life Center's "laundry room", which is next to the garage. Both the hot and cold pipes burst sometime before March 4th when 3"- 4" deep water was discovered in the laundry room.

This resulted in the need to remove and replace 256 sq. ft. of drywall and insulation to prevent mold from growing in the walls. The initial cost for materials is approximately \$175.

Obviously, it was necessary to repair the pipes but it was felt that we needed to make some long-overdue improvements in order to avoid similar problems in the future.

In addition, some other plumbing work, which had been postponed since last summer, was completed at this time. Plumbing materials cost around \$300 and labor was \$325.

A side note: As unusual as it is to have the pipes mounted on the surface of the wall, it was a blessing in this case. Had the pipes been in the wall when they burst, we would have had to remove over half of the kitchen cabinets, all of the counter top and sink, as well as carpeting and drywall in the basement. Pete McIntosh, Jr. Warden

Holy Week Services

March 29, Sunday of the Passion ~ Palm Sunday

8:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms

Coffee Hour following

10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist and Liturgy of the Palms

Coffee Hour following

April 2, ~ Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. ~ Holy Eucharist with foot washing and stripping of the altar.

Altar of Repose will be in the parish hall following the service

April 3, ~ Good Friday

12:00 Noon ~ Good Friday Liturgy

7:00 p.m. ~ Good Friday Liturgy

April 5, ~ Easter Day ~ Sunday of the Resurrection

8:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist ~ Lite reception following

10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist ~ Lite luncheon reception following

Mission & Outreach Update

Just a reminder we are Shakira, a few times this year. A-Child, learn more about lives in Kampala, Uganda. Christmas money and gifts we please read it! Shakira's birthday is in June. On June 3 she will be turning 13. Please fill her mailbox with Birthday cards. Due to the slow mail processing I would like to get her Birthday Cards in the mail by April 20. Thank you.



asking everyone to write our sponsored child, We have sponsored Shakira through Empower-them at; www.empower-a-child.org . Shakira did write us to thank us for her sent her, the letter is posted in the Parish Hall,

Mount Airy Net

Thank you so much to everyone who donated items to Mount Airy Net in March to keep their shelves stocked! We did a great job filling the table and the shelves!!!



From Team Geared for Good

Hello! It is getting to be that time of year again when we start fundraising for the MS Society. The Bike MS is coming up on June 5 & 6, and the Challenge Walk MS will be on September 12 & 13. We have two fundraisers coming up where all you have to do is eat and have fun, and a portion of what you spend will go to the MS Society! Please mark your calendars:

Saturday, May 9,

Brew Fest for MS at the Jailbreak Brewing Company in Laurel, MD

We hope you can join us for food, fun, and to raise money for

Relax. Let Mamma Take Care of Dinner. Have A Great Meal. Support A Great Cause.

WHEN: WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 @ 4PM to CLOSE

WHERE: MAMMA LUCIA RESTAURANT
1700 Kingfisher Drive, Suite 13 Frederick, MD

**** 1/2 Price Bottled Wine Night, 5-10 PM (Dine-in Only) ****

A PERCENTAGE OF YOUR
DINE-IN or CARRY OUT
PURCHASE GOES DIRECTLY TO FIGHT MS.

Help *Team Geared for Good*
Reach Our Goals In Our

8th Annual Bike MS: Chesapeake Challenge
Support the Maryland Chapter



a great cause!!
Thank you, Celeste Humphreys

Wednesday, April 15

4pm to Close at the Frederick location of Mama Lucia's located at 1700 Kingfisher Drive, Suite 13, Frederick MD.

Good for Dine-In or Carry-Out. 1/2 priced bottled wine 5 – 10pm!! Please see the attached flier; you must have the flier with you for your dining to count towards our fundraiser.

Additional fliers available in the Parish Hall.



Stephen Ministry

A caring and nurturing lay ministry providing healing and growth through the power of God.

We are very proud to let you know we are completing the training of our Stephen Ministers. We have been very fortunate to not miss any class time because of bad weather. - I hope I didn't just jinx us. - We've covered the following subjects such as the art of listening, feelings-yours, mine, and ours, distinctively Christian caregiving, gentle and firm assertiveness, boundaries, crisis theory, and confidentiality. WOW!! I didn't realize how many topics we've covered. I hope everyone is still praying for us. We need your prayers and support.

*Father,
Your love is as wide
as the oceans
As deep as the sea
And as tall as the heavens.
May your spirit rise like a
mighty wave
and come and restore those
who are ill.
You are the water of life,
You are a fresh spring,
You are healing rain
To all those who are in need.
Come Lord!*

Congratulations and Best Wishes

Go to Kristen and Matthew Van Osterom on the birth of a little girl, Madison Grace. She was born on January 5th, weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz. Her brother, Connor, will help her over the humps of childhood. Grandparents are George and Denise Van Osterom. Let's see some pictures of the little one. Matthew is a captain in the Air Force at North Las Vegas.

Attention: In your box of St. Paul's offering envelopes, there is an envelope for Sunday, April 5 and an Easter envelope. They are two different offerings. The envelope for April 5, is used for our regular Sunday offering and the envelope that says "Easter" is to hold your offering for Easter Day.



Newsletter deadline for May 2015 newsletter is April 20, 2015.



All you can eat – Sunday Breakfast

April 12 Lisbon Fire Hall

7:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
Adults-\$7.00; Children 6-11 \$4.00; 5 and under free.

April 19, Mt Airy Fire Hall

8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Adults \$8.00

April 26, St. Michaels Church

8:30 – Noon ~ Adults \$8.00

Children \$4.00

Happy Birthday To:

Christina Keller April 05
Kathleen Alexander April 07
Phyllis Heffner April 12



Happy Anniversary To:

George & Kathleen Van Osterom April 16
Celeste & Greg Humphreys April 20
Jeff & Holly Spaulding April 22
Al & Pat Marquis April 28

Prayer List

Paul Bourg
Trudi Lawson
Dave Lawson
Dallas Reeve
Michael Toole
Keith Prentice
Phyllis Heffner

Doris Sharp
Bill Winebrunner
Joannie Lee
Kurt VonHurst
Allene VonHurst
Al Parker
Craig Johnson
Joanne Johnson
Jeffrey Johnson
Lora Hollands
Pam Sherfey
Debbie Gardner



Ann Boyles
 Sandra Napier
 Irene Hordubay
 Cheryl Kibler
 Beth Husted
 Lynn Carr
 Allison Poleger
 Sam Lucas
 John Lucas
 Mary Wales-North
 The Horrigan Family
 Teresa
 Carey, Kathleen McIntosh
 Patsy Mavity
 Donna Shurney
 Kaye Rineer
 Belinda Blizzard
 Janice Esler
 Matt Willingham
 Luke Bourg
 Susie Gibson
 Mildred Stinebaugh
 Eric McIntosh
 Andrew Oberle
 The Huang Family
 Joey
 Herb Grabau
 Mary Jo Grabau
 John Tuel
 Dalphine Koval
 The Ritter Family
 Maija Kropp
 Eric Batlefeld
 Travis Smith
 Stanley Napier
 Amanda Meissner
 Scott Gallagher
 Nancy
 John Belous
 Jerry Savage
 Bill Aaron
 Caroline Hutchison
 Albert Hutchison

*Lord God,
 We dwell in your house,
 Drink in your presence
 And find peace and rest in
 your arms.
 We believe in your name,*

*Ask for your healing and
 believe and trust in your love.
 We thank you for your
 sacrifice, receive all you have
 for us and pray and ask for
 restoration.
 We need your touch. We
 wait on you. You are our
 Savior, our friend, and our
 hope. Amen.*

VISION STATEMENT

Our Vision is: A community of faith ministering to those in need of justice, reconciliation, hospitality, sanctuary, and growth in their spiritual journey

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is: To carry the good news of Jesus Christ into the community by word and deed and to help all people experience God's presence in their daily lives.

PASTORAL

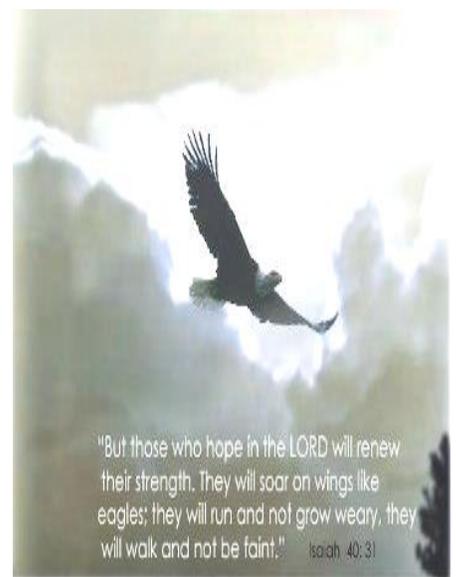
CONCERNS

Pastoral issues and concerns are important to us. You may contact the Parish by phone at 410-489-4411, Monday through Friday, 9-12 noon.

Or contact Rev. Susan S. Keller at 301-785-1687, or revssk@yahoo.com

Parish Email:
stpaulschurch-mtairy@verizon.net

Parish Web Address:
www.stpaulsmtairy.org



April 2015 ~ Church Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Maundy Thurs. 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open	3 Good Friday 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open	4 Holy Sat. 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open
5 Easter 8:00 a.m. Rite I 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Lite Reception following each</i>	6	7	8	9 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open 6:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	10 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open	11 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open
12 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Coffee hour following</i>	13	14	15	16 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open 6:30 P.M. Vestry Meeting	17 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open	18 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open
19 9:00 a.m. Rite II Commissioning of Stephen Ministers <i>Reception following</i>	20	21 <i>Anselm of Canterbury</i>	22	23 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open	24 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open	25 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open <i>St. Mark</i>
26 8:00 a.m. Rite I 9:15 a.m. Adult Ed 10:30 a.m. Rite II <i>Coffee hour following</i>	27	28	29 <i>Catherine of Siena</i>	30 11:30-3 Thrift Shop Open		

April 2015 ~ Service Calendar
if you are unable to work PLEASE find your replacement

	April 5, Easter White		April 12, 2nd Sunday of Easter White		April 19, 3rd Sunday of Easter White	April 26, 4th Sunday of Easter White	
	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>	<u>9:00 A.M.</u>	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>
Greeter/ Usher/Oblationer	Greg and Norma Prentice	Dana Fritzges, Linda Sharp	Michelle Samuel, Al Yeater	Joanne Honsberger, Linda Sharp	Pat & Al Marquis	Kathleen & Ron Alexander	Linda Sharp, Dana Fritzges
Chalicer	Ron Alexander	Linda Barnes	Leo Campion	Pete McIntosh	Jeff Spaulding	Leo Campion	Linda Barnes
Acolyte(s)	Ron Alexander	Linda Barnes	Leo Campion	Pete McIntosh	Carrie Brown	Leo Campion	Linda Barnes
Lector	Kathleen Alexander	Dorothy Kitt	Charles Samuel	Phyllis Heffner	Helen Tuel	Irene Hillen	Pete McIntosh
Psalm	Ron Alexander	Denise Groboski	Charles Samuel	Bill Toole	Jim Harry	Irene Hillen	Nancy McIntosh
Prayers of the People	Carolyn Prentice	Dorothy Kitt	Barb Campion	Bill Toole	John Tuel	Irene Hillen	Nancy McIntosh
Altar Guild	Suzanne Bourg, Linda Barnes		Etta Lee Spaulding, Linda Sharp, Pat Marquis		Dottie Streaker, Dana Fritzges, Kathy Audia	Joanne Honsberger, Barb Campion	
Coffee Hour	Ginny Chandler, Helen Tuel		Suzanne Bourg, Michele Samuel		Dana Fritzges, Irene Hillen	Barb Campion, Doris Wilcher	
Counter	Irene & Jim Hillen		Lynda Sheckels, Dana Fritzges		Nancy & Pete McIntosh	Linda Sharp, Linda Barnes	

April 19th ~ Commissioning of Stephen Ministers

Extras Needed for:

Please sign where you can help with our celebrations

Maundy Thursday	7:00 p.m.	----
Lector (1 st & 2 nd Reading)	Carrie Brown	---
Psalms	Phyllis Heffner	---
Prayers of the People	Bill Toole	---
Chalicer/acolyte		
Good Friday	Noon	7:00 p.m.
Lector (1 st & 2 nd Reading)	Irene Hillen	Denise Groboski
Psalms	Irene Hillen	Bill Toole
Passion of St. John	Rev. Susan	Dorothy Kitt
Passion of St. John	Rev. Susan	Phyllis Heffner
Chalicer/acolyte		

If you can help please let the office know.