



The Crown

A Journey Through Lent

March

February 27, 2017
Vol. 41 No. 3

In this Issue:

Message from the
Council President

Council Meeting
Minutes

Andy's Meanderings

Outreach Ministry

Parish Life

Thank You Notes

Birthdays and
Anniversaries

Calendar

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From the Pastor...

Are you feeling a bit out of sorts? Does it feel like life isn't as predictable as it once was? Have you noticed that "tried and true" practices are not yielding the same results as they once did? How did you respond to the temperature in February reaching the upper 60s? Did you notice that trees were budding in February? What is this world coming to?

Well, I think the answer to these questions is that God is doing something new. God is at work in our world in new and amazing ways. Yes, we are experiencing a shift in our climate and whether God is directing that or not, I cannot tell. Over the course of history, God's people thought God brought weather patterns, but I think we need to look at how we use and abuse our natural world too. More importantly, I think God is doing new and exciting things among God's people and with God's church.

Although the government appears to be trying to make changes quickly, I see God's people waking up from a lulled slumber to become active and voice their concerns to our elected officials about what is happening. That's good news! When we start caring that international medical conferences are being canceled because doctors cannot attend due of travel restrictions, it makes us wonder about our future. Or have we not yet realized we do not have all the answers?

The state of affairs is leaving us all in a new and unfamiliar place – a place where we will need to explore different ways of being and working together. This is why the season of Lent was created. Lent is a time to acknowledge that life is not the journey we expected, and - in some cases - we would have wanted it to turn out differently. Come to hear that the good news of this unfamiliar place is that God is with us in it and is directing us into a new and bold future ahead. May we be awake and willing to be part of God's amazing plans!

Rev. Kathryn Kuhn

Senior Pastor

A Journey Through Lent

A Message from the Council President

What does it mean to be a member of Church of the Apostles? I'm just touching on a couple of points in this Crown, but I will talk about other areas in upcoming Crowns.

To me, it starts with worship and our Sanctuary. We have a beautiful and inspiring place to worship. I find my week is not complete without Sunday worship at COA. We have gone to other churches when out of town, but it's not the same. When I look around, I realize that I have a connection with almost everyone sitting in our pews.

I remember worship services that have had jazz music, a brass band, contemporary praise and worship-type music, and even an orchestra. We are blessed to have Cindy Kahler and Nate Sheffer and devoted choirs that carry out our music ministry with professionalism and fun-filled laughter.

I remember Nevin Schellenberger's sermons taking us down the road in ancient Jerusalem, and I remember the most recent sermon from Pastor Heather that resulted in the spirit moving so much that it required the assistance of one of our physical therapists to help another member recover from the moving experience.

Many people work together to provide a meaningful worship experience. I invite everyone to get more

involved. If you have an idea, come to our Worship Design meeting; it meets one to two times per month on Tuesday evenings in the Choir Room. Speak to Pastor Kathy or anyone else on the Worship Design Team; we love new ideas and input. We also have a Worship Commission that meets in the Choir Room on the second Monday of the month to go over other aspects of worship and the Sanctuary; please contact Bernie Fickes if you're interested in joining.

We have sadly lost members of our choirs to the heavenly-realm choir. We have a great group of people here that are filled with joy and full of music. I have found it personally very fulfilling to sing with my choir family, although I just confess that I just hum along until I catch up if I lose my place. Please consider joining our choir; you can speak to Cindy Kahler or another choir member if you are interested.

God has put us on this earth to enjoy his creation and to be involved and engaged, that is how we find true fulfillment. That is how I have found my fulfillment.

Blessings and smiles,

Steve Daniels

Steve Daniels
Council President



Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:15 am and 10:45 am

Dial (717) 392-5718 to listen to the worship information.

The sermon can be watched online at www.apostlesucc.org

Giving Report for January 2017

The month of January 2017 had a cash flow that was negative (\$9,871.91). In January, we transferred \$101,000 from endowment to the general fund to replace prior years' deficits. Operating Expenses for January 2017 were \$44,420.55, Revenue was \$34,548.64. We began the year with \$1,947,407.85 in endowment funds, and the end January balance was \$1,966,171.69.

George Alspach
for the Stewardship Commission



A Journey Through Lent

Council Meeting Minutes —January 23, 2017

Attendance: Andy Appel, Conner Braun, Christa Conrad, Steve Daniels, Chuck Erisman, Bernie Fickes, Herb Forry, Don Freeman, Cathy Kenlin, Clara Kosmela, Linda Lewis, Carol Nielsen, Bob Reiff, Andy Smith, Pastor Giffen, Pastor Kuhn

Excused: Jeannie Clausen

Visitor: Gary Brown

Devotions: Led by Steve and Kathy

Minutes from the Dec. 19, 2016 meeting were approved (Clara/Herb).

Treasurer and Stewardship Report:

A complete annual report will be given to the congregation.

All the bills for the year are paid.

Further financial information will be in the annual report.

Andy will meet with MPC on February 6 and give each commission chair the information on endowments that are related to that commission. He will then try to meet with each commission to answer questions and give any assistance necessary.

Meeting with Gary:

Discussion held on feasibility and procedures.

Question whether we could vote to approve smaller pieces.

The spring in the park came to the surface during the reconstruction of the water retaining areas due to construction at Homestead Village. It now has a pump.

The water could be directed to the pond and/or possible greenhouse.

Gary has had a discussion with Homestead regarding the Plan and letters went to the neighbors.

Next step with the Plan:

A discussion was held on a suggested motion authorizing leadership to obtain permits, oversee the Plan and financing.

Need to send a letter before the congregational meeting at least 10 days ahead.

Beginning funds could come from the Homestead Village Land Transfer Fund and the Wiesman Fund.

Discussion regarding the percentage of approval in voting.

Discussion on the content of the letter to the congregation.

Agreement that the Executive Committee should write the

letter to go out to the congregation.

Appreciation was extended to Linda Lewis for being the Council's secretary last year.

Submitted by
Carol Nielsen
Secretary

Next meeting: February 20th



MEETING
MINUTES

Andy's Meanderings

We ARE Family!



Thinking about this month's "meanderings," it was unavoidable to simply pretend there hasn't been stress and discomfort among our family. Pause..how many times do we hear of, or refer to, our "church family?" When we hear these words, is there an image triggered, or have we heard that phrase so much it's become one of those bland, vanilla thoughts or images?

I took a look at some of the many definitions of "family." Most were variations on the theme of parents and children. Some were broader in that they looked to the uniformity and commonality of a "group."

When I think of Church of the Apostles, "uniformity" and "commonality" doesn't jump out at me. My image of the Apostles family is one of the father, his son, and lots of next of kin. The Father, of course, is God, the Son is Jesus, and then there is us. In some families, there are several generations present: there are brothers, sisters, aunts and uncles, cousins of many degrees, and top it all off with the children. Put them all in one room, mix thoroughly, and stir them up.

One of the reasons I decided to join the Apostles family in 2002 is because it *felt* like family to me—people caring about each other, interested in one's well being, welcoming and warm. Now, this is not Ozzie and Harriet—(sorry to the less seasoned...Google those names.) The value of family is the ability to remain the unit despite issues that arise among its members. Few

A Journey Through Lent

Andy's Meanderings Continued

and far between are the families that, by all appearances, are simply "perfect." How much more distressing it is when one learns of something hidden within the family that strains that "perfection".

Our family is truly blessed because we have members who have dreams. Some dream of being able to provide essentials for those less fortunate; some dream of sharing their faith; some dream of increasing membership; some dream of Rader Park being the best possible park for everyone's use. We all have our dreams. We all want to see our dreams come true—not so much for personal satisfaction, but for others' satisfaction. And, because we ARE family, sometimes our dreams bump into others' dreams. The value of family is the ability to move through those times when family members are not in agreement. The value is in the ability of family members to agree to disagree and to make the effort to move on together as a family.

Since the Apostles family is—thankfully—so diverse, we challenge one another from time to time. Yours truly is example number one. So, as we weather our squabbles, we remain blessed as members of the Apostles because WE ARE FAMILY.

Peace...

Andy Appel

Outreach

Wishing Well

A huge "thank you" to all who participated in the Day of Smiles collection! It was the 11th year for Day of Smiles, and it was definitely the biggest yet! All five well-deserving charities were so grateful to receive all of these donations. Thank you for helping to spread smiles.



We are having a Pajama Party in the Wishing Well through the end of May to collect children's pajamas in memory of Conner Holland.

Conner Holland was a little boy from Lititz who, at the age of five, lost his battle with cancer several years ago. During his chemo treatments, he expressed his wish that every child undergoing cancer treatments should have cozy pajamas to wear. The Holland family began

Outreach Continued

Conner's Comfy PJs, a collection of pajamas for children in local oncology units of hospitals. They are asking for pajamas for boys and girls ages 12 months to 18 years. They especially need pajamas for the teens. Please consider participating in Conner's Comfy PJs by purchasing jammies and putting them in the Wishing Well. They need to be collected by May 24th. Information is posted on two posters: one above the Wishing Well and one on the Outreach bulletin board in the Narthex. Thank you for helping children who need a boost of love and comfort during their illness.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering on March 19 is for sharing resources and changing lives in 138 countries

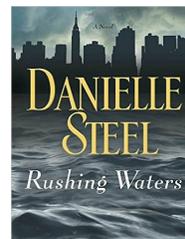


daily. Your support provides clean water, food, shelter, medicines, health care, and education, as well as responding to disasters in both the U.S. and internationally. Sixty-four percent of giving is directed to developments in health, education, and agriculture. Twenty-seven percent is directed toward international and national disaster relief and refugee services.

We read in 2 Corinthians 9:8: "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

Parish Life

Book Club



The COA Book Club meets every second Tuesday of the month at 2 pm in the library. Please join us on Tuesday, March 14 to discuss *Rushing Waters* by Danielle Steele. On April 11, we will discuss *Rose Under Fire* by Elizabeth Wein. This is the One Book, One Community Book for 2017. We are happy to have new people join us! If you have any questions, please contact Clara Kosmela at (717) 569-9960.

Service of Remembrance

Hospice & Community Care is hosting a Service of Remembrance in memory of loved ones who died in 2016 on Sunday, March 19 at 2 pm. The service will be 4

A Journey Through Lent

Parish Life Continued

held at Highland Presbyterian Church (500 E. Roseville Road, Lancaster, PA). Childcare will be available. For more information, please call (717) 391-2413.

Girl Scout Cookies

On Sunday, March 12, Girl Scout Daisy Troop #70435 will be hosting a cookie sale in the lobby from 10-11 am. These Daisies are Girl Scouts in kindergarten and first grade who meet at the church Youth Center. This year marks the 100th year of the cookie sale, and March 12 is the 105th birthday of Girl Scouting in the U.S. Come help us celebrate this huge milestone by supporting our girls between services. Cookies are \$4 or \$5 and can be paid for by cash or check. Please contact Linda Lewis at (717) 392-7437 if you have any questions.

Hershey's® Kisses Collection

The Intergenerational Events Committee is collecting PLAIN Hershey Kisses for stuffing eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. There is a collection box in the office.



Thank you for donating PLAIN Kisses. This helps us to avoid any allergy issues. We draw a huge crowd for the egg hunt, and it is a great way to welcome the community to Church of the Apostles.

Family Game Night

Join us on April 1 from 3-7 pm for a family game night and BBQ dinner. Please bring a game to play and snack, side dish, or dessert to share for five people. Please RSVP to church office at (717) 392-5718 by March 24.

Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt

Come out for breakfast and pictures with the Easter Bunny on April 8. Breakfast will be served from 8:30-10:30 am. Adults \$6, Children ages 2-10 \$3. An egg hunt will follow at 10:30 am in the Church Courtyard.



New Beginnings

Old Man Winter put a damper on February's get together, but April's meeting should flush out the winter blues. On April 13 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, we will have a dessert social and speaker, Terry White, will join us. Mr. White will be discussing "Outhouses"—yes, outhouses. Bingo is going to team up with our end-of-the-year picnic and hymn sing in June.

Thank You

Dear COA Family,

Many thanks to all of you who supported our annual Day of Smiles. It was a huge success thanks to your generous giving. We were able to spread many smiles to many people and animals on February 6th in loving memory of Erin and Max. You are such a warm and giving congregation and that is why I love it here at COA! Thanks!

Sincerely,
The McCartney Family

Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers delivered to me by Sandy and Joe Weidel in memory of my sister. They were very much appreciated. Thank you.

Jean Cunningham

Thank you all for the very beautiful flowers given to me after my unexpected fall on my icy deck. I'm still waiting for the "Golden Years" to start because it takes so much longer to get over injuries. Bless you all.

Lois A. Houck

To Members of Church of the Apostles' Congregation,

Thank you very much for the delivery of a beautiful plant to Peggy. It brightened up her room at Pleasant View in Manheim, PA. As a couple that in the past delivered flowers, we know how much they are appreciated. If you are in the area, Peggy is in room 417.

Once again, thank you!

Walt and Peggy Kreider

Thank
you

A Journey Through Lent

Lent 2017



Lent 2017 at Church of the Apostles

Ash Wednesday Worship: March 1 at 7 pm

"Wherever You Are, We'll Meet You There"

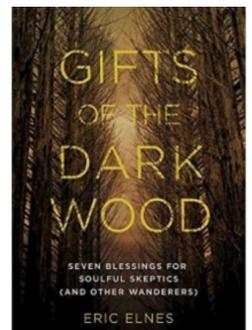
We will explore the reality of life – that life is hard. On this day, we will acknowledge where we are in life, which can be feeling distanced from God. The reality of God, based on experiences, is that when we are feeling most hurt, frustrated, and lost, God is closest and is bringing about growth through our experiences. We will acknowledge our mortality through the distribution of ashes and how we fail to live as Christ did. Join us as we seek to find God in those dark places and learn all there is to be taught through the experience.

Wednesday Evenings: Lenten Services at 7 pm

Based on themes explored in the book *Gifts of the Dark Wood* by Eric Elnes, we will study the proposition that our best help on life's journey often comes from the most unlikely and misunderstood of places: a place known famously, or infamously, as the Dark Wood. On Wednesday nights, we will watch video clips from some famous thinkers and share some of our own experiences of the Dark Wood, those times and places where we felt lost, afraid, tempted, or out of place.

Dates and topics will include:

- March 8: The Gift of Uncertainty with Brian McLaren
- March 15: The Gift of Emptiness with Chuck Marohnic
- March 22: The Gift of Being Thunderstruck with Melvin Bray
- March 29: The Gift of Lostness with Diana Butler Bass
- April 5: The Gift of Temptation with Parker Palmer



Sunday Morning Worship

During worship this Lent, we will explore what it means to be in the Dark Wood moments of our lives. We are not going to talk about just how to get out of it, as if life is good only when we are not there. We are going to explore what it might mean for our lives to recognize the gifts of the Dark Wood. What if times of uncertainty, failure, or emptiness are opportunities for spiritual awakening? On Sunday mornings, we'll be introduced to the topics to be explored the following Wednesday as outlined above.

A Journey Through Lent

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, March 31—6-9 pm
Fellowship Hall
Church of the Apostles

Featuring:

The Secret Life of Pets

6:00 pm - Movie and Snacks/Parents
stuff Easter eggs for Easter egg hunt

Admission—1 bag of PLAIN Hershey Kisses

EVERYONE WELCOME



What's Happening in Children's Sunday School



The Sunday school classes are enjoying visits from Pastor Heather. In addition, the visiting student from Germany, Nina Hortig, will also visit.

On March 26, the classes will participate in a Mission Fest during the Sunday school time. We will be decorating cards for shut-ins and canvas tote bags for donation to the S. June Smith Center.

A Journey Through Lent

Happy Birthday!

Date	Name
2	Patricia Sullenberger
3	Betsy Bischoff
5	Judy Jarvis
7	Rev. David Longenecker
9	Susan Shaak
9	Rev. Heather Giffen
11	Fred Geiger
11	Scott Moore
12	Richard Miller
13	Marty Holmes
14	Dr. Dorothy Hoerner*
14	Marilyn Williams
14	Kathleen Stoyer
15	Kayla Azaroff
16	Helen Bernhardt*
16	Peter Van Buskirk
16	Patricia Shane
17	Jean Cunningham*
17	Kelly Erisman
18	Sharon Schaeffer
19	Alfred Alspach, Jr.
20	Thelora Bliss*
21	Janelle Baker
22	Rev. Milt Gockley
22	Erik Laymon
25	Barbara Butzer
27	Randy Morrison
27	Barbara Bidding
30	Gary Brown
31	Irene Buch*



Happy Anniversary

Date	Name
03/11/2006	Dustin & Melissa Koehler
03/16/1986	Kenneth & Bonnie Medved
03/18/1962	Stephen & Gail Noland**
03/21/1964	Gary & Virginia Brown**
03/22/1997	Chris & Karen Braun
03/25/1961	Richard & Jean Balderston**



* 90+ Birthdays
 ** 50+ Anniversaries

A Journey Through Lent



Our flowers are an integral part of our worship service. Not only providing a physical symbol of beauty during our worship, after the service they are given as a symbol of love and caring to a member of our community who is unable to be with us physically. The cost of our flowers and bulletins averages about \$140 a week. Our suggested contribution for sponsoring flowers and bulletins is \$35; however, any amount is welcomed and appreciated.

If you would like to sponsor flowers, please fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate or send it into the office. A thank-you letter will be sent following your sponsorship with directions for sending in your donation. Thank you for your support in this important ministry.

Worship Commission

I would like to sponsor flowers on the following date:

"In honor of" or "In memory of"

Your name

Phone number

Please place this form in the church office or an offering plate.

**If you have any questions please contact:
Dawn Dougherty (984-2740)
or Bonnie Jolly (872-4053)**

March Flowers for Worship



March 5:

In Loving Memory of:

- Richard H. Kahler by Tom and Cindy Kahler
- Paula Alspach by her parents, Robert and Betty Perry

March 12:

- In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. John Stoe and Mr. & Mrs. Jere Brimmer by Mr. & Mrs. James Dougherty and family
- In honor of Girl Scout Sunday and the 105th birthday of Girl Scouting by Daisy Troop #70435

March 19:

In Loving Memory of:

- Elwood Latscher on his March 23rd birthday by the family
- Our parents, Robert and Catherine Johns and Louis and Anna Gaudioso, Sr. by the Gaudioso family
- Anna and Stephen Lockey by their children
- Lucille Elkins, mother of Donna Lockey, by Stephen and Donna Lockey
- Helen Farrell by her daughter Pat Sullenberger
- Ruth W. Williams by her husband, Barry Williams, and daughter, Cindy Williams
- Arlene Plourde by her husband, Ray Plourde

March 26:

- In loving memory of and in honor of the anniversary of Ken and Evelyn Bernhardt by their children and grandchildren

In Loving Memory of:

- Thomas R. Lewis, Sr. by Tom and Linda Lewis
- Paul N. Shellenberger and Julia Moore by Betty Shellenberger and family



A Journey Through Lent

March Events

**Note: If you have an event that needs to be added, removed, or changed in the church calendar, please contact the church office with this information in a timely manner. Together, we can ensure that everyone who would like to participate always receives the correct information. Thank you!*

March 1 Wednesday

9:15 am Bible Study
5:15 pm Family Pizza Night
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Carol Choir
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service
8:00 pm Apostles Choir—10:45

March 4 Saturday

8:00 am Downtown Breakfast Ministry

March 5 Sunday

8:15 am Apostles Choir—9:15
9:00 am Nursery Care
9:15 am Worship with Children's Sermon
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:00 am Blood Pressure Screening
10:15 am Children's Library
10:45 am Worship Service
2:00 pm Worship Service—Homestead Village

March 6 Monday

8:00 am Meditation Monday
7:00 pm Ministry Planning Committee

March 7 Tuesday

9:30 am Heritage & Horizons
12:30 pm Growth Task Force Meeting
6:45 pm Apostles Bells
7:00 pm Worship Design

March 8 Wednesday

9:15 am Bible Study
5:15 pm Family Pizza Night
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Carol Choir
7:00 pm Lenten Service

March 9 Thursday

7:00 pm Apostles Choir—10:45
7:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

March 12 Sunday

8:15 am Apostles Choir—9:15
9:00 am Nursery Care
9:15 am Worship with Children's Sermon
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:15 am Children's Library
10:45 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Youth Choir
5:30 pm Youth Group

March 13 Monday

8:00 am Meditation Monday
7:00 pm Commission Meetings

March 14 Tuesday

9:30 am Heritage & Horizons
2:00 pm Book Club
6:30 pm Committee on Ministry
6:45 pm Apostles Bells

March 15 Wednesday

9:15 am Bible Study
3:00 pm Widowers Support Group
5:15 pm Family Pizza Night
6:00 pm Education Meeting
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Carol Choir
7:00 pm Lenten Service

March 16 Thursday

7:00 pm Apostles Choir—10:45

March 19 Sunday

8:15 am Apostles Choir—9:15
9:00 am Nursery Care
9:15 am Worship with Children's Sermon
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:15 am Children's Library
10:45 am Worship Service
12:00 pm Sunday Lunch with Pastors

March 20 Monday

8:00 am Meditation Monday
7:00 pm Church Council Meeting

March 21 Tuesday

9:30 am Heritage & Horizons
6:45 pm Apostles Bells
7:00 pm Worship Design

March 22 Wednesday

9:15 am Bible Study
5:15 pm Family Pizza Night
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Carol Choir
7:00 pm Lenten Service

March 23 Thursday

7:00 pm Apostles Choir—10:45

March 26 Sunday

8:15 am Apostles Choir—9:15
9:00 am Nursery Care
9:15 am Worship with Children's Sermon
9:30 am Children's Sunday School
10:15 am Children's Library
10:45 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Youth Choir

March 27 Monday

8:00 am Meditation Monday

March 28 Tuesday

9:30 am Heritage & Horizons
6:45 pm Apostles Bells

March 29 Wednesday

9:15 am Bible Study
9:30 am Widows Support Group
5:15 pm Family Pizza Night
6:00 pm Cherub Choir
6:30 pm Carol Choir
7:00 pm Lenten Service

March 30 Thursday

7:00 pm Apostles Choir—10:45

March 31 Friday

6:00 pm Family Movie Night

A Journey Through Lent

CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES PRAYER CHAIN

If you have a need or concern for yourself or others, please call or email any person on the Prayer Chain and your request will be sent through all the links of the chain and the power of prayer will be a blessing to you and yours.

Link 1:

Betty Holmes	203-1118 or bettyholms@aol.com
Steve/Monica Daniels	299-6007 or monicadaniels54@gmail.com
Lynn Steedle	390-4152 or ccsteedle@gmail.com
Jim/Bonnie Jolly	872-4053 or bjolly@comcast.net



Link 2:

Harriet Latschar	859-1535
Mary Ellen Bachman	393-8922
Susan Shaak	872-2987
Doug Nutt	653-6363

Link 3:

Annette Rohloff	394-0424 or rexthomas@comcast.net
Bev Keller	898-2146 or bek0914@aol.com
Cindy Williams	572-3808 or clwjbwilliams@gmail.com
Nancy Steger	617-2635 or stegs4u@hotmail.com

Link 4:

Kit Gregory	299-6677 or kitpaul@comcast.net
Jean Heidig	394-8733 or geojean6@gmail.com
Donna Carr	397-6305 or ddcarr@lancastringeneral.org

Food Bank

Please plan to continue your generous donations to the food bank.

Food Bank Needs:

Rice (One lb. bags)	Peanut Butter
Canned Fruit	Brown Grocery Bags
Hamburger Helper	Tuna Helper
Macaroni and Cheese	Canned Tomatoes (One lb. or less)





Donations

Thank you stamp savers. Keep saving stamps for the Wounded Veterans. Drop off in the office for Skip Rhodes.

Donations

Pull tabs, Campbell Soup Labels & Box Tops for Education are needed. These benefit the Ronald McDonald House and Hoffman Home.



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www.apostlesucc.org

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Director of Adult Choirs & Instrumental Music

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Bell Choir Director:

Ron Bellamy

Children's Choir Director

Johanna Baker

Technology Specialist

Anthony Strohm

Sexton

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