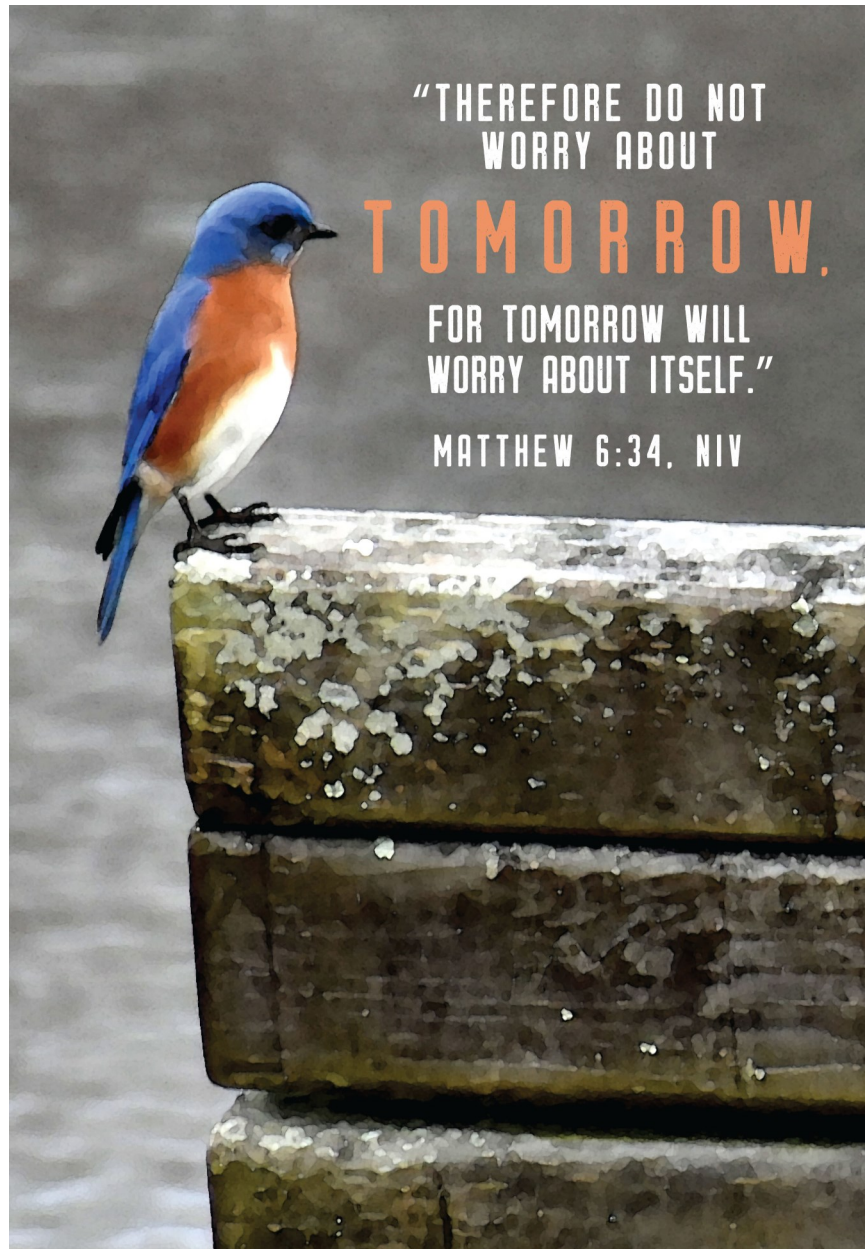


# THE VOICE

January 2018



*Eastminster Presbyterian Church*  
*1315 Abbot Road*  
*East Lansing, MI 48823 (517) 337-0893*  
*[www.eastminsterchurch.org](http://www.eastminsterchurch.org)*



## Pastor's Keynotes

There's something about the end of a year that prompts reflection. News outlets are full of best-of-the-year lists. Organizations' newsletters recap accomplishments of the past months. Family gatherings at Christmastime become summit conferences for sharing memories.

At the same time, the beginning of a new year prompts anticipation. We make resolutions for the months ahead, even as we lament the fact that we did the same thing last year, and look what happened with them. No matter. January may be an artificial starting line, but the Roman god Janus (arguably, the god who gave his name to the month) wasn't two-faced for nothing! He was the god of gates and doorways, of time and transitions, of beginnings and of endings.

So, on your marks, get set, go!

On second thought, wait a moment. No sense charging off in all directions at once. As Nobel laureate Elias Canetti wrote of someone, "His head is made of stars, but not yet arranged in constellations." "He would like to start from scratch," Canetti said of another, "But where is scratch?"

Eastminster well knows its beginning and ending, its foundation and its calling. *Scratch* does not have to be discovered anew. And yet, a new constellation of hopes and dreams, intentions and actions will begin to form with the arrival of Kristin Stroble as Pastor. As the prophet Isaiah proclaimed in assuming the voice of God, "Behold, I am doing a new thing. Do you not perceive it?" Great question! Our ability to perceive will lie in the strength of our faith, the clarity of our hopes, and the consistency of our love. These are the virtues that will bring the future into focus and sharpen our vision of who we are and what we are called to.

Perhaps a first step in *perceiving* God's new thing unfolding in the months ahead, however, is to take seriously the metaphor of the doorway that Janus mythically guards. We need to move beyond the room we have found so comfortable and familiar. Eastminster is about to occupy new space, in a new time. Grasp the knob, twist it, open the door. Step across the threshold and welcome the newness God brings.



There's a tale of a traveling priest who was confronted by a soldier in pre-revolutionary Russia. Rifle in hand, the soldier barked, "Who are you? Where are you going? Why are you going there?" Instead of answering, the priest asked how much the soldier was paid — and offered double if the soldier would challenge him with those three questions each day as he passed by.

Those three important questions can guide us on our journey through the brand-new year ahead. For Christians, thankfully, the answers are clear:

- Who are you? "I'm a child of God!"
- Where are you going? "I'm going out into the world!"
- Why are you going there? "I'm going out of love for Jesus, who died for me!"

Place these questions and answers in a spot where you can see them each day. Then go forward confidently, knowing "whose" you are and what your purpose is.

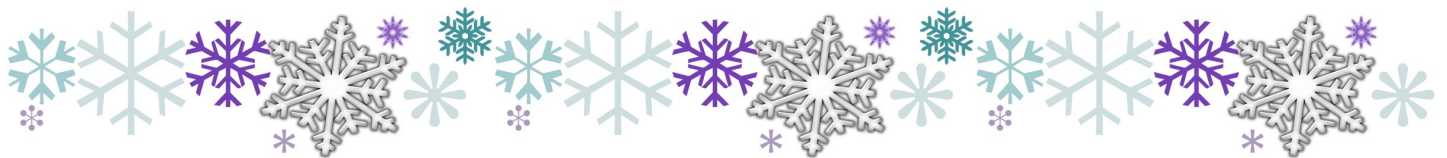


## Introducing Eastminster's New Pastor The Rev. Kristin Stroble

The last day of 2017 served as an effective and celebrative threshold to 2018 and beyond upon the congregation's action to extend a call to the Rev. Kristin Stroble to become Eastminster's pastor. Ms. Stroble preached her candidating sermon in morning worship on December 31. Immediately following worship, a congregational meeting was convened. Mary Lou Clifton, chairperson of the Pastor Nominating Committee, moved that the call be extended, and briefly reported on the work of the committee and what motivated their nomination of the Rev. Stroble. On a unanimous voice vote, the motion was affirmed by the congregation. A motion of commendation and appreciation for the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee was also affirmed. Members of the PNC were Sulin Campbell, Mary Lou Clifton, Rick Johnston, Estelle McGroarty, Heather Myer, Irv Nichols, and Emmanuel Yewah.

Ms. Stroble currently serves Heritage Presbyterian Church in Youngstown, Ohio. She was graduated from the College of Wooster and earned her Masters of Divinity degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. She has been active in leadership roles within her presbytery and is the author of articles published in *The Presbyterian Outlook*, a periodical.

Over the weekend of December 29-31 Eastminster members had opportunities to meet and greet Kristin. These opportunities will multiply in the days following February 20, 2018, her first official day as Eastminster's pastor. That is when the process of relationship-building will truly begin. Welcome her as preacher and teacher, advocate and counselor, colleague in Christ's service and friend, and joyfully enter the covenant of faith that makes all ministry possible.



## The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Congregation/Corporation of Eastminster Presbyterian Church

A Meeting of the Congregation is called for Sunday, January 28, for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report of the Congregation/Corporation, the 2018 Budget, and the election of members to the Nominating Committee. All members are encouraged to attend.

***Per capita for 2018: \$30/member***

**Sunday School**  
**Sunday Mornings - 9:30 - 10:20 a.m.**  
**Children and Youth—Lower Level**



**Ages 4-Grade 2**

*Holy Moly* is designed to ignite a biblical imagination that lasts a lifetime for young children. Each week participants see a video and use their gifts of observation to become theologians in their own right. It is amazing to get their insight!

**Jan 7** John the Baptist

**Jan 14** Calling Disciples

**Jan 21** Teach Us to Pray

**Jan 28** Calming the Storm



**Ages 4 - 2nd Grade (during worship)**

*Children's Worship* (following the time for children) will be on Jan 14, 21, and 28. Linda Hardenbergh will be the storyteller and Heather Heitman will be the greeter. Young children and worship is for kids age 4-grade 2.



**THE OPEN DOOR**

**Grade 3 through Adult**

The Open Door will begin January 7 by "**Following the Star**" and getting star words for 2018. A star word is a word that you are given and invited to put into practice in your life of faith during the upcoming year. The Open Door meets downstairs Sunday mornings starting at 9:30am. Consider joining us for this intergenerational time of faith formation!

**ADULT**  
**EDUCATION**



**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. - Green Room**

Join us in January as we focus our attention on refugee resettlement in the Lansing area. We will have presenters from local organizations that address the needs of refugees from the

perspective of education, orientation, and the physical needs of leaving homelands and beginning again in the United States.

**Jan 7** TED Talk video: "**The Refugee Crisis is a Test of Our Character**" with David Miliband. "As president of the International Rescue Committee, David Miliband enlists his expert statesmanship in the fight against the greatest global refugee crisis since World War II."

**Jan 14 St. Vincent Catholic Charities** Veronika Parsamova, community outreach and housing coordinator for St. Vincent Catholic Charities will be with us to speak on the work that STVCC does in helping to resettle refugees.

**Jan 21 Refugee Development Center** Erika Brown Binion was with us last January and will present an update on the refugee situation and ways we can participate.

**Jan 28 Input v. Output** What is our response to the refugee crisis? Join us as we "download" what we've learned and express our thoughts as to where we go from here. Led by Jeff O'Neill



Many thanks to all those who provided a basket of food for the Salvation Army's Christmas event. Eastminster member and friends donated 20 baskets of food and enough money to pay for all the hams.



We are also grateful for those families and individuals who provided Christmas gifts for two families at Haven House. Gifts were purchased for seven family members, including 4 children.

*We might never see Jesus in the shining brilliance that some disciples witnessed (Mark 9:2-9).*



### Advent Workshop Recap

Thank you for making the Advent Workshop on December 3<sup>rd</sup> such a success! A special thank you to those who brought the beautiful nativity scenes, helped with refreshments, food, crafts, games, mission projects, clean-up, or any other activities that made the workshop so much fun.

-Christian Education Team



It's a cold, snowy winter. Heating bills are high, gas prices are on the rise and many area families can't stretch their income to cover all their costs. We invite Eastminster members and friends to help us collect personal needs items during January. These are important personal hygiene and care items that cannot be purchased with food stamps. Please leave your donations in the baskets on the top of the ledge.

We are specifically collecting these regular-sized items:

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Toilet paper | Toothpaste |
| Laundry soap | Shampoo    |
| Bleach       | Tampons    |
| Dish soap    | Pads       |
| Bar soap     | Deodorant  |
| Paper towels | Tissues    |

If you think for a moment what your life would be like if you did not have money to purchase these items, you'll realize how important this collection is. Please give generously.

# NOVEMBER 2017 MONTHLY FINANCIALS



RECEIPTS	\$ 24,123.00	ANTICIPATED PLEDGED INCOME	\$ 23,666.67
EXPENSES	\$ 24,897.48	PLEDGED GIVING RECEIVED	\$ 21,666.00
		DIFFERENCE +/-(-)	\$ -2,000.67
ENDING BALANCE	\$ - 774.48	PLATE OFFERING	\$ 1,692.00

**ELEVATOR LOAN BALANCE AS OF 12/20/2017 \$ 117,997.96**

**GIFTS TO ELEVATOR LOAN FUND AS OF 12/19/2017 \$ 9,760.00**

## SESSION DIGEST— DECEMBER 2017

- A motion to schedule a Congregational Meeting, following the Worship Service on Sunday, December 31, 2017, for the purpose of voting the selection of the Pastor Nominating Committee [PNC] was made. Motion carried.
- A motion scheduling the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, January 28, 2018 to review the Church financials and to elect the Nominating Committee. Also, a Representative of the East Lansing Police Department will make a presentation on Building Security. Motion carried.



**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**  
**Community Prayer Breakfast**  
**Saturday, February 3, 2018**  
**9:00 a.m. All are Welcome**

**Keynote Speakers:**  
 Minister Caliph Muab-El  
 Gretchen Whitmer

Tickets will be available in the Eastminster Church Office.  
 Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. The event should end by 11:00 a.m.

United Missionary Baptist Church  
 500 South MLK Jr. Blvd.  
 Lansing, MI 48915.

Questions? Please contact us:  
 Action office: (517) 816-8665  
[oscar@actionofgreaterlansing.org](mailto:oscar@actionofgreaterlansing.org)  
[lashawnerby.agl@gmail.com](mailto:lashawnerby.agl@gmail.com)

**ACTION**  
**of Greater Lansing**



**Many thanks to...**

...the following people who gave so generously of their time and effort on behalf of Eastminster for the monthly meal at Advent

House on December 9:

**Cooks:**

- Sherri & Gary Blanchard
- Judy Dunn
- Elizabeth Evangelista
- Mary Harvey
- Jeff Lapinski
- Mary Ann Merchant
- Cindy Nixon
- Susan Smalley
- John & Trena Thornburg

**Servers:** Abby, Cindy, Matt & Sam Nixon



- 1/1 Aaron Doig
- 1/1 Tom Hazlett
- 1/3 Jack Ritchie
- 1/4 Bill Ritchie
- 1/5 Bob Banghart
- 1/5 Andrew Campbell
- 1/6 Lawson Temples
- 1/9 Ashley Rosser
- 1/15 Emaline Lapinski
- 1/18 Bill McKay
- 1/19 Mary Jo Shankland
- 1/25 Mim Bethards
- 1/27 Ace Barclay
- 1/30 Bruce Doig



**Supper Club**

Supper Club will not meet in January. **Friday, February 2nd** will be our next gathering. Hostesses will be **Barb Dalzell,**

**Jean Grimm, and Elizabeth Evangelista.** We had a wonderful gathering of 22 in December! Shirley Paxton played the piano for Christmas caroling.

Come join us! If you wish to be called for Supper Club call Mim Bethards (351-5172) to be added to the list.



- 1/1 Jon & Mary Lou Clifton
- 1/4 Matt & Heidi Phillips
- 1/8 Phil & Mary Dean
- 1/14 David & Kathy Duryea (40<sup>th</sup>)



**Flicks with Friends**

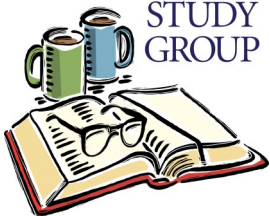
**Wed., January 17**

Our movie and lunch group meets on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month. **All persons are invited.** The movie is picked the weekend before and by what is playing the afternoon of that day. An email list has been formed to notify persons who are interested. Let Barb Stowitts (barbstow@yahoo.com) know if you would like to be included on the movie email list.

**MEN'S Bible Study**

**Wednesdays @ 7:00 a.m.**

This study group meets every Wednesday at 7:00 a.m. in the Green Room. Continental breakfast is always available.



Follow Eastminster on **Facebook.** We are under Eastminster Presbyterian Church East Lansing. Updates, reminders, and other information is posted regularly. Stay informed! Please "like", comment or share our posts to ensure they show up regularly in your timeline. When you share our post, it is also a great way to reach out to your family and friends who may be looking for a church home. If the church is closed due to weather or lack of heat, it will be listed on our Facebook page and website.

**Eastminster  
Page Turners**



**Book Club**

**Next Meeting:**

**January 6**

All are welcome to join EPC's book club that meets once a month in the Green Room to discuss a book that members have read prior to the meeting. The selections are varied and interesting! We hope you'll join us!

**Saturday, January 6, 2018 10 a.m.** "Evicted - Poverty and Profit in the American City" by Matthew Desmond. Winner of the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for general non-fiction, the author writes about the cycle of poverty in America, focused on 8 families in Milwaukee struggling to keep a roof over their heads. Recognized by the New York Times as one of the "10 Best Books" in 2017, it exposes the difficulty low income people face to finding and living in affordable housing and their economic exploitation. The book also proposes solutions to this crisis.

**Saturday, February 3, 2018** - "On Gold Mountain: The 100 Year Odyssey of My Chinese-American Family" by Lisa See.



FAITH &  
FILM

**Faith & Film**

**Monday, January 22 (note date change) 6:00 p.m.**

Join us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> this month for a light meal, fellowship, and lively discussion on films. Please watch the film on your own, then join us and bring \$5 to pitch in for the meal.

**This month:** *An Unfinished Life (2005)* stars Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez and Morgan Freeman. "To escape an abusive boyfriend, without announcing her plans in advance, Jean Gilkyson takes her young daughter Griff to the Wyoming ranch of her father-in-law, Einar. Jean and Einar are disaffected, as he blames her for the death of his son in a car accident. Einar is taking care of his friend Mitch, who was attacked by a bear, and Einar does not know that he has a granddaughter" (IMDb).



The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family and friends of **Lois Lett**, who died and entered the Church Triumphant on December 2. A memorial service will be held at the church on Saturday, January 20 at 11:00 a.m.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

**Presbyterian Women  
Bible Study**

**Tuesday, January 16  
1:15 p.m.**

The EPC PW Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 1:15 PM in the Green Room. Our hostess will be Nancy Robertson and our lesson leader will be Suzi Moss. We will study Lesson 5 of *Cloud of Witnesses*. Please pre-read the lesson and the associated Bible Scriptures.

**NOTE:** If the East Lansing School District is closed due to inclement weather, **we will not meet!**

**2018 Calendar of PW meetings**

Please remember to mark your new 2018 calendars with the following dates:

February 20

March 20

April 17

May 15 Annual Meeting

**PW Thank Offering for 2017: \$160.00.  
Many thanks to all who participated.**



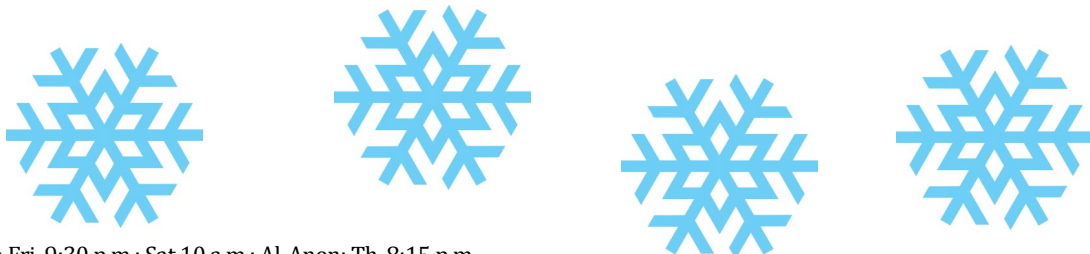
**Church Women United  
of Greater Lansing**

CWU will not be meeting in January.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>  Offices Closed	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. Hope Closet 10:30 a.m. Worship & Music	<b>4</b> 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7 COMMUNION</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	<b>8</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting	<b>9</b> 7:00 p.m. Bells	<b>10</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Session 7:00 p.m. UKirk@MSU	<b>11</b> 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 9:30 a.m. Finance/Admin 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 9:45 a.m. Advent House
<b>14</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Cents-ability Offering</b> <b>Children's Worship</b> 11:30 a.m. Fellowship 11:45 a.m. Deacons	<b>15 Offices Closed</b>  <b>MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY</b>	<b>16</b> 1:15 p.m. Presbyterian Women 7:00 p.m. Bells	<b>17</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. UKirk@MSU	<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 11:00 a.m. Lett Memorial Service & Luncheon
<b>21</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Children's Worship</b> 11:30 a.m. Fellowship	<b>22</b> 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Faith & Film	<b>23</b> 7:00 p.m. Bells	<b>24</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. UKirk@MSU	<b>25</b> 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28 Annual Meeting</b> 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Children's Worship</b> 11:30 a.m. Annual Meeting 11:45 a.m. Fellowship	<b>29 Records Day</b> <b>Offices closed</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 p.m. Bells	<b>31</b> 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. UKirk@MSU	<b>1</b> 9:00 a.m. Cultured Purls Knitting 7:00 p.m. Choir	<b>2</b> 6:00 p.m. Supper Club	<b>3</b> Action of Greater Lansing's MLK Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Union Missionary Baptist Church



**EASTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1315 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI 48823**  
**Phone: (517) 337-0893**

**Church Office Hours**  
**Monday – Thursday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Friday**

Interim Pastor.....	Rev. Dr. Jeffrey S. O’Neill	revoneill@eastminsterchurch.org
Director of Discipleship.....	Neil Myer	neil@eastminsterchurch.org
Adult Choir Director.....	Chelsea Berner	berner.chelseann@gmail.com
Bell Choir Director.....	Heather Myer	heather.c.myer@gmail.com
Organist.....	Tamar Mikeladze	mikeladz@msu.edu
Office Administrator.....	Sam O’Neill	office@eastminsterchurch.org
Parish Advisor.....	Dr. Fred Graham	
Parish Advisor.....	Rev. Shirley Paxton	
Nursery Attendant.....	Audri Bello	

<b>CHURCH OFFICERS</b>				
<b>ELDERS</b>		<b>Class</b>	<b>DEACONS</b>	
<b>Administration &amp; Finance</b>			<b>Moderator</b>	
David Duryea	339-1404	2020	Heather Myer	2019
Barbara Stowitts	256-3316	2019	<b>Secretary</b>	
<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>			Barbara Moss	2018
Mike Foster		2020	Sherri Blanchard	2019
Norm Mackay	604-6003	2019	Judy Dunn	2018
<b>Christian Education</b>			Heather Heitman	2020
Beverly Bonning	290-8674	2020	Sue Kalvonjian	2019
Brian Heitman	897-0490	2019	Sue Miller	2018
<b>Mission</b>			Tom Moss	2018
Robin Bell	489-1468	2020	John Temples	2019
Sam O’Neill	243-2669	2018		
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>				
Terry Graham	332-3418	2018		
Brenda Ramsby	281-2718	2019		
<b>Communications</b>				
Ruth Foster	881-9713	2018		
Susan Smalley	402-1057	2018		