

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

God writes His Word on our Lives, Building us into a Family engaged in Spirit-filled Service.

Our Church Newsletter March 2023

Pastor Steven Hayden

revshayden@gmail.com

Secretary Sonya Plunkett

officelolc@gmail.com

Instrumentalist Dr. Lev Rybanin

Choir Director Dr. Youngmi Kim

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sundays Morning Worship

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.

Children's Sunday School 10am

1089 Lake Oconee Parkway Eatonton, Georgia 31024 Church Office 706-485-4600

Visit our web site: www.lakeoconeelutheran.org

Dear Friends in Christ,

Most people would like to be successful in life. We work hard to succeed. But how do you define success? How do you know when you have achieved it?

Many people live as if success is measured by what we possess. They believe that success is achieved through getting. The more we own, the more successful we are. The bigger the office, the more expensive the car, the better the cell phone; all show others our success. This definition of success can even bleed over into our churches. Is a larger church, more members, or a larger budget a real indicator of a successful ministry? Should a larger number of youth at youth group or a more committees be viewed as proof of a successful program?

But what if true success were measured differently? What if true success was based on some completely different criteria? For many people in Jesus' day, he wasn't considered successful. His suffering and death on the cross seemed a sure sign of failure. Even Jesus' own disciples deserted Him, disappointed that He had not brought about the material success they expected by restoring Jewish rule to the land.

Yet, in the life and death of Jesus, we learn the perfect definition of success: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). He died so that we might live and now He enables us to live with Him and for Him. As we gather for worship on Wednesdays during Lent this year, we can begin to understand that true success is not a product of numbers or activities or even budgets. True success is given to us by our Savior. By His grace, we can all be successful as we serve those around us through Him.

Lent is a season when we look at our lives, not with our own measures of success, but in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed. Jesus helps us to see success in the richness of God's mercy in his life, death and resurrection.

Join us on Wednesdays during this month for supper (or lunch) and for worship. We will alternate weeks between evening and afternoon services so that all may participate. And remember, join us for worship on Maundy Thursday, April 6th, and Good Friday, April 7th. Most of all, join us on Easter Sunday, April 9th as we celebrate the resurrected (and successful) Jesus, our Savior.

Upcoming Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 1st Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Wednesday, March 8th Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, March 15th Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Wednesday, March 22[™] Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm

Wednesday, March 29th Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

Maundy Thursday, April 6th Worship with Communion 7 pm

Good Friday, April 7th Worship at 7pm

following the service.

Easter Sunday, April 9th Worship at 10:30am with special Easter fellowship

Pastor Steve

LOLC offers Bible Study



Sunday Morning Bible class

The Good Samaritan. The Prodigal Son. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector. These stories from Jesus—recorded exclusively by St. Luke—are some of the most beloved in Holy Scripture. But despite the popularity of these passages, many students of Scripture would find it hard to describe what's unique about Luke's account of Jesus' life. They could not tell you what concerns drove Luke to take up his pen and write.

Luke's Gospel is a careful history of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension. But Luke's history, and Jesus' story, does not end with Jesus rising above the clouds. Prior to ascending into heaven, Jesus opened the minds of the apostles so that they could understand the Scriptures. He then commissioned them to preach the Good News about Him to all the nations (Luke 24:45-47). Thus, Christ's work continues today as He applies the benefits of His life, death, and resurrection—through His Word and Sacraments—personally and individually through the ministry of His Church. Luke is indeed a narrative about Christ, but it is even more. Through His means of grace Christ includes our story into His own.

Join us on Sunday mornings @9am for The Gospel of Luke in person at church or live streamed on Facebook

Mid Week Bible Class

The Lord is a promise maker and a promise keeper. The Bible records God's first promise in Genesis in which He promises to crush the head of the serpent-deceiver (Genesis 3:15). It also records His last promise in Revelation, in which the crucified, risen, and reigning Christ promises, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). The Bible is the written record of God's promise making and promise keeping.

The true life of faith is lived trusting in God's promises, which all find their "yes" and "amen" in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). Faith clings to God's promises and calls upon them in every facet of life.

Join us every **Wednesday mornings at 10:30 online** on Zoom for **Promise – God Is for Us.**

Women's Bible class

The Women's Bible Study will be taking an in-depth look at what Jesus was trying to communicate to us when we spoke the Lord's Prayer. This eight-week study is designed to help us look carefully at the Lord's Prayer studying it line by line not just to know more about the prayer, but so we can begin to pray as Jesus instructed us to pray and cultivating in us a passion to pray. This study will **begin on Tuesday, February 21**. We meet each week **at 10:00 am in the Choir Room**. We'd love to have you join us.

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

February 12, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Mathson followed by a prayer.

Pastor Hayden and Don Menke were not in attendance.

The minutes from the January 8th council meeting were approved.

Council Committee Reports:

VP/Personnel: Mike Joost- A rough estimate was provided to move the Church sign for \$6K- \$10K. This did not include the pouring a pad, removing trees or connecting it to power. The sign will need to be stored for 12-18 months. It was discussed that a new sign would be \$30K-\$70K if decided to consider a new sign.

Dave Ringer has agreed to represent the church council with GDOT on the negotiation on the Hwy 44 expansion.

A motion was made by Mike and seconded by Walter. "I move that we authorize Dave Ringer to negotiate with GDOT and bring the proposal back to council and the congregation for approval." The motion passed.

Treasurer: Kathie Kueven- The January reports were distributed and discussed. LOLC is \$12K in the black for

January. The Operating

fund, Anderson fund, Community Center Fund and Mortensen fund have over \$400K combined. It was suggested that we look for ways to earn more interest on those funds. Kathie will report back. Also, Kathie will report back on the current mortgage interest rate on the Community Center and the amount of interest being earned in the LCEF fund.

Financial Secretary: Walter Krause- The January report was distributed and reviewed. We are over in donations by \$35K compared to last year. This is due primarily to a member who gave a \$30K lump sum, and \$5K received from Hope Lutheran in January.

Congregational Secretary: Larry Davis- no report

Church Properties: Barney Ross – New Emergency lights have been installed. They will be operational shortly.

Lay Ministry: Don Menke- no report

Christian Education: Bob Elkins- The room for Childrens Sunday School is ready. A meeting will be held following the February 26th service for volunteers. There will need to be 2 volunteers in a room for each Sunday School Class. Details of the Sunday School timing will be discussed with the volunteers at the 2/26 meeting. It was noted that the last time we held Sunday School that it was from 10:00 AM to 10:20 AM. The first Sunday School is tentatively scheduled for March 4th.

Christian Service/Outreach: Margaret Pedersen- The Blood Drive on February was very successful with the next drive scheduled for March

9th. The Easter basket ministry baskets or gift cards are due on March 12th. Sandwiches for the Sandwich ministry are due on February 19th. We still need volunteers for the Lenten Soup lunch/suppers, and for the special Easter Sunday fellowship.

Pastor's Report: Steve Hayden- no report

Old Business:

- 1. Hope Lutheran Church Committee- A committee is being formed to discuss Hope Lutheran options.
- 2. GDOT Offer to purchase property (Discussion/Decision about moving forward)— The council will consider the proposal that Dave Ringer brings to the March 12th council meeting and vote to recommend it to the congregation or reject it. The Voters meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 26th. A letter to GDOT will be crafted by Kathie and forwarded to Tom and Mike, authorizing Dave Ringer to negotiate on the council's behalf.
- 3. Sanctuary Lighting/Emergency Lighting- Discussed in Barney's report.

New Business:

- 1. Schedule Congregational Meeting to Consider GDOT Proposal-A motion was made Mike and seconded by Margaret. "I move that we hold a Voters Meeting following the service on March 26th." The motion passed.
- 2. Annual LOLC audit- Tom discussed the need for an annual financial audit as per the by-laws. Tom will form a committee of 2 members to perform the audit.

The meeting was adjourned followed by the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Larry Davis

Congregational Secretary

LAKE OCONEE LUTHERAN CHURCH

	Treasurer's Report - January 2023						
	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity		
INCOME					:		
General Fund	30,000	64,542	-34,542	30,000	64,542		
Debt Reduction	3,685	1,825	1,860	3,685	1,825		
Memorial Fund	0	0	0	0	0		
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0		
Special Fund Income	40	5,716	-5,676	40	5,716		
TOTAL OFFERINGS	\$33,725	\$72,083	-\$38,358	\$33,725	\$72,083		
EXPENSES							
Pastor Expense	14,785	17,692	-2,907	14,785	17,692		
Worship Expense	2,265	2,597	-332	2,265	2,597		
Property Expense	6,130	4,246	1,884	6,130	4,246		
Bus. & Admin. Expense	2,600	2,604	-4	2,600	2,604		
Education Expense	158	27	131	158	27		
Evangelism/Outreach Exp.	775	441	334	775	441		
Stewardship Expense	0	0	0	0	0		
Fellowship Expense	217	0	217	217	0		
Mission Expense (District)	0	0	0	0	0		
Other Expenses	4,147	29,884	-25,737	4.147	29,884		
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,077	\$57,491	-\$26,414	\$31,077	\$57,491		
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$2,648	\$14,592	-\$11,944	\$2,648	\$14,592		
Notes: Income includes some	yearly donat	tions. Other E	xpenses includes :	1 time payment of	\$25,000 on		
mortgage principle.	ł						
					1		
	1				1		

LOLC - COMMUNITY CENTER

\$0.00

Accounts Payable

	Treasurer's	Report	January	2023		
	Monthly Budget	Period Activity	Difference	Y-T-D Budget	Y-T-D Activity	Difference
INCOME						
Rental Income	\$1,000.00	\$1,791.19	-\$791.19	\$1,000.00	\$1,791.19	-\$791.19
Donations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,000.00	\$1,791.19	-\$791.19	\$1,000.00	\$1,791.19	-\$791.19
EXPENSES						
Rental Refunds	\$0.00	\$72.37	-\$72.37	\$0.00	\$72.37	-\$2,425.16
Utilities	250.00	282.00	-32.00	250.00	282.00	-32.00
Pest Control	59.00	0.00	59.00	59.00	0.00	59.00
Yard Maintenance	150.00	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	150.00
Janitorial	250.00	360.00	-110.00	250.00	360.00	-110.00
Supplies	30.00	0.00	30.00	30.00	0.00	30.00
Repairs & Mtce.	186.00	0.00	186.00	186.00	0.00	186.00
Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	611.95	-611.95
Other Expenses	<u>75.00</u>	100.00	-25.00	75.00	100.00	-25.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	\$814.37	\$185.63	\$1,000.00	\$814.37	\$185.63
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$976.82	-\$976.82	\$0.00	\$976.82	-\$976.82
Bank Balance	\$15,176.60					

TREASURER'S REPORT - LOLC ANDERSON FUND

December 31, 2022

	Period <u>Activity</u>	Period Budget	Difference	Year-to-Date <u>Activity</u>	Year-to-Date Budget	Difference
Income						
Interest Income	66.20	0.00	66.20	390.77	0.00	390.77
Total Income:	\$66.20	\$0.00	\$51.19	\$324.57	\$0.00	\$390.77
Expenses						
DCE Salary	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCE Rent & Utilities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
DCE Internet	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Evangelism Supplies	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Expenses:	\$0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00
Total Income Less Expenses:	66.20	0.00	\$51.19	324.57	0.00	\$390.77

Bank Balance: \$124,785.17

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Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

2023 Lake Area Easter Basket Project

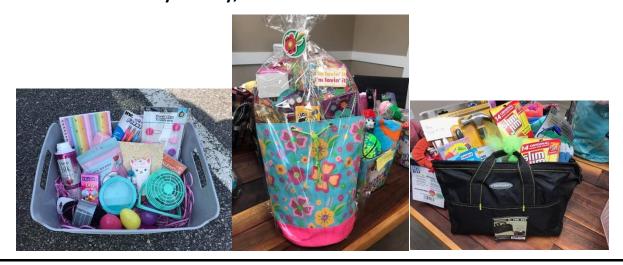
The Lake Area Easter Basket Project brings great joy through the power of a simple gift to a **child in foster care**. Last year more than 741 baskets were delivered to children in out-of-home placements in Baldwin, Greene, Putnam, Jasper, Jones, newton, Rockdale, Monroe, Hancock, Oconee, Washington and Baldwin counties. The goal is to serve and bless those children who are in out-of-home placements or are economically disadvantaged.

Easter represents a season of rejuvenation, rebirth, and a renewed sense of purpose and faith. With more children living in uncertain and often difficult circumstances, we hope you will consider filling and donating a basket to ensure the foster children in our own lake area get to experience the joy of Easter. Together, let us rejoice in knowing that Christ has risen!

Sign up for a particular age group (boy or girl) on the sign-up sheet on the "blue table". There will be a sheet of basket filler ideas available for each age/sex of child to help get you started. Be creative! Consider making baskets with your grandchildren, coworkers, tennis/pickle ball team, card/craft group. Use gift bags, plastic totes, or reusable grocery bags or traditional Easter baskets. Tag your basket to indicate Age and Sex of the child. We will have plastic cellophane available at church to wrap your basket, if needed.

For those who are **unable to shop but want to help support the project**, gift cards to Walmart, Dollar General, Dollar Tree, or Hobby Lobby are great options. Students help shop and there is always a need for additional supplies- baskets, ribbon, bags. Place gift cards in the offering box.

LOLC's goal is to provide 25 baskets for children in foster care. Return your completed Easter basket to church by Sunday, March 12.



Isaiah 6:8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church

2023 Lake Area Easter Basket Project - Basket Filler Ideas

GIRL AGE 5-9

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, doll, stuffed animal, bubbles, sticker book, markers, sidewalk chalk, playdough, jump rope, bubble bath, puzzles...

BOY AGE 5-9

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, toy cars, stuffed animal, ball - soccer/football/kickball, bubbles, sticker book, markers, sidewalk chalk, playdough, jump rope, bubble bath, puzzles...

GIRL AGE 10-14

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, fun socks, lotions/lip balm/bath bombs, art supplies, school supplies, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

BOY AGE 10-14

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, ball cap, mechanical pencils/pens, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

GIRL AGE 15-18

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, fun socks, lotions/lip balm/bath bombs, art supplies, school supplies, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

BOY AGE 15-18

Basket Filler Ideas: Easter candy, book, journal, toothbrush, hairbrush, deodorant, ball cap, mechanical pencils/pens, water bottle, earbuds, wallet, note of encouragement...

Operation Christmas Child - 2023

Join in praising God for **10.6 million shoebox gifts** packed and donated worldwide in 2022. The US donated 9.3 million shoeboxes. Each of these shoebox gifts represent a child and Gospel opportunity made possible through your partnership with OCC. The 150 shoeboxes from Lake Oconee Lutheran Church were delivered to children in **Cote d'Ivoire** (West Africa), **Senegal** (northwest coast of Africa) and **Burkina Faso** (West Africa).

This year our Operation Christmas Child (OCC) Ministry will look a little different. We will have shoeboxes with instructions for you to **pack your own boxes** available after Easter. This way you can personalize your shoeboxes and encourage family and friends to participate with you. Include your neighbors, pickleball or tennis team, craft group, or coworkers. Pack a box with your grandchildren. Celebrate your birthday, anniversary, or other special event by packing a shoebox with your family or friends. Feel free to pack multiple boxes. Remember, school supplies go on sale in July! Drop off your filled shoebox gifts throughout the year at the church before **November 10**.

Another option that you may find more convenient is to **build a shoebox online.** Shoebox gifts built online go to the ends of the earth to children in some of the hardest-to-reach places. Online boxes are carefully prepared, abiding by strict customs regulations to safeguard partners who will deliver the gifts, as well as the boys and girls who receive them. The suggested donation is \$25 per shoebox. The link and instructions are available at:

(Ctrl+ click to follow the link)

https://build-a-shoebox.samaritanspurse.org/view/fc231373-e88f-419b-94d9-5b8845433e26

You can also scan this QR code below with your cell phone camera:



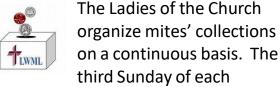
Select "BUILD A SHOEBOX ONLINE NOW" and follow instructions. By using this link, we will be able to track our church's progress toward our shoebox goal.

Our "faith goal" this year is **200 boxes**. Let us **pray and rejoice** as God works through us to reach children with the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Mites

The Widow's mite of Mark 12: 41-44 is the inspiration for the LWML mite boxes.



month is the official Mites Sunday after which the monies gathered go to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League to support various ministries around the world. Detailed information is available at www.lwml.org and on Facebook. The third Sunday of the month is designated Mite Sunday, but donations are always welcome.

We express heartfelt thanks for your charitable generosity. ()

Susan Larson

Coffee & Fellowship

The coffee fellowship that follows the Sunday church service gives us an opportunity to welcome visitors, meet new members and visit with each other. We have missed it, But now it has returned. You may still leave after church if you do not feel comfortable yet with the in-person gathering. We want you to feel free to make the best decisions for your own care. We do want to continue to enjoy the coffee fellowship, so we are making a few temporary adjustments for the time being.

*We are asking you to give each other lots of room and keep in mind the need for social distancing. We can still talk with one another, just standing further apart.

*We are also need volunteers signing up for snacks and serving. Look for the signup sheet in the narthex on the table if you'd like to volunteer. We are thankful for one small step back into the familiar friendliness of our church family.



CHOR!

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Choir Meets Sunday Morning at 9 am for rehearsal.

Opportunities to Serve

Little Free Pantry

Lake Oconee Lutheran has an opportunity to serve our community on a daily basis. We now have our own Little Free Pantry where members of the community can come and take groceries at any time that they need and leave anything that they do not need. Our mission is to stock up on items so that we can have a supply of Groceries to share!

Items to purchase

- *Please make sure they are not expired and in good condition*
- pasta products/rice/Ramen noodles
- peanut butter/jelly
- canned vegetables/fruit
- pasta sauce
- canned meat

Volunteers

Altar Care there is a signup sheet in the narthex on the front table.

Sunday service camera operator. It will be controlled with an iPad and we will provide training on how to manage it.

signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office.

Ushers' signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table, or you can call/email the church office

Coffee Fellowship signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Little Free Pantry signup sheets are in the narthex on the front table.

Blood Drive

The next blood drives are scheduled for, Mar 9, Apr 6, & May 11. If you are interested in volunteering email Pam Kunz at Kunzpd3@outlook.com. To sign up to donate blood got to redcrossblood.org and use code LOLC.

^{*}Please NO glass containers*

Worship Update -- Live streaming

Remember, we are now live streaming our Sunday Bible Class and Worship. This means both services will be broadcast live as they happen on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am and 10:30 am on Facebook. Join us as we all come together in worship. If you are unable to be online while they are live, do not worry. The recorded services will remain available for you to watch later as well. You may find it on the @lakeoconeelutheranchurch page on Facebook. God's blessings to each of you!

Sunday School for our Children

Sunday School will begin next month. We are planning an all-teacher meeting after coffee fellowship on Sunday, February 25th and classes will begin on Sunday, March 5th. There is still room if you would like to volunteer and join us. Talk to Pastor Steve or Marcia Elkins if you have any questions.

The Church Council

Council has voted to form a Milledgeville Ministry Task Force to research the possibilities and recommend action in expanding our ministry to Milledgeville in light of the closing of Hope Lutheran Church. Will you be, as Jesus called, "the light of the world...letting your light shine before others" (Mt 5:14, 16) and be a part of this group? We need you!! Talk to Pastor Steve.

Lenten Wednesday Services for this year is:

Ash Wednesday 2/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

3/1 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm,

3/8 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

3/15 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm.

3/22 Supper at 6pm and Worship at 7pm,

3/29 Lunch at 12pm and Worship at 1 pm

March 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion	27	28 10 am Women's Bible Class	1 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm	2	3 Happy Birthday Grace Raetz	5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
5 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	6	7 9am Quilt Guild Meeting 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Mike Joost	8 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 6pm Lent service 7pm	9 Blood Drive 12:30- 5:30 Happy Birthday Marcia Elkins	10 Happy Birthday Suzanne Sponsler	5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
12 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Council Meeting Non-communion Daylight savings time starts Happy Birthday Roger Andersen	13	14 10 am Women's Bible Class 2pm Community Center Meeting	15 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm Happy Birthday Marlene Matson	16	17 St Patrick's Day Happy Birthday Sandy Mathson	18 5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service
19 9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Communion	20	21 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Linda Andersen Pastor Steve Hayden	22 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 6pm Lent service 7pm Happy Anniversary Roger & Elizabeth Fleming	23 Happy Birthday Jack Carson	24	5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service Happy Birthday Robert Dukes Rev. David Raetz
9:00 AM Adult Bible School 9:00 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 AM Worship Service Non-communion Happy Birthday Dorothy Johnson Happy Anniversary Don & Pam Menke	27	28 10 am Women's Bible Class Happy Birthday Si-Si Petrea	29 10:30 ZOOM Bible Class Soup Supper 12pm Lent service 1pm	30 Happy Birthday Barney Ross	31	5:00 PM Episcopal Church Service