

THE CHALLENGE

The Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron
811 Wall Street, Port Huron, MI 48060 ♦♦♦ (810) 985-6191

PASTOR'S POINT

*From the desk of:
Pastor Roxie Davis*



Recently, I have been thinking about the “darkness” in this world—division, violence, military buildup; heartbreaking meanness and hate. I am trying to see the cracks in-between the darkness of the clouds, the openings between the planks of destructive insults and words that pull us apart.

As singer, songwriter Leonard Cohen wrote in his song, “Anthem,” there is a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in. It is the light of love and truth—shining through the cracks. Love and truth come to us in the person of Jesus Christ. He tells the truth about God—the One who loves us and forgives us, no matter what.

Often the love of God gets revealed through those who see the cracks in the darkness and who want to reflect the light that Jesus has brought into their lives. On Sunday, March 19, following worship, we ate in the

Fellowship Hall, feasting on good spaghetti, bread, salad, and desserts prepared by Rob Williams and his crew. We enjoyed each other while some among us cleared the tables and washed the “real” dishes that we ate off of (yay for the dishwasher functioning after 3 years of silence). It was the Spaghetti Dinner and Children’s Talent Show. There were lots of loving cracks of light. Many of you, grown-ups, spent your Sunday afternoon, listening and watching the talents that were shared by our children. You were like encouraging parents, doting grandparents, clapping aunts and uncles, cheering on the children in their dances, their artwork, their cheers, their magic tricks, their piano playing, and their momentary gymnastics moves. The light of God—the beam of your love—shone through in all its brilliance.

We ended our time with

the song: “This Little Light of Mine.” It was a pastoral brainstorm minutes before the ending of the show. The song reminded me that we must all, (children, youth and grown-ups) carry the light of Christ wherever we go, shining it through the cracks of a darkened world.

The exciting thing is that every morning, we get to ask God, “Where would you like me to shine Your light today?” So we pray: “O Lord, thank You that You are the light of the world. Thank you that Your love can shine through the cracks of this present darkness. May it shine, in all our hearts, and give us the strength, joy and compassion to love others like You do. There is nothing in this world that changes our world so profoundly as Your love and Your forgiveness. O Lord, give us cracks to shine Your Light through. Amen.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Preaching Series/Adult Classes
- Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus
- New G.I.F.T. and Children's Song/Sign
- Important Information/Events
- Committee Updates

PREACHING SERIES

"The Chosen"

Throughout the month of April, we will continue to explore the call of God, as His Chosen! God has "Chosen" each of us, not by our own merits, but just because we have put our trust in God and are available to God. When we are an empty vessel, God takes that opportunity to pour God's love and forgiveness into us. God calls us as God's "Chosen" to accomplish great things, as the Body of Christ.

March 5	Mary Magdalene (past sermon)
March 19	Tax Collector Matthew—Warts and All (past sermon)
March 26	Nicodemus, A member of the Sanhedrin who chose to follow Jesus.
April 2	Brothers James and John—Chosen
April 9	EASTER, Jesus, the Chosen Son of God
April 16	Thomas, Chosen even with his doubts
April 23	Andrew and Peter, both Chosen Leaders
May 7	The Sacrament of Communion
May 14	MOTHER'S DAY Some are Mothers/ Others are not.
May 21	Father's Day is Coming: Some are Fathers/Others are not
May 28	MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND Recognition of the three D's— The Blessing of Defense, Diplomacy, Development around the world



BLOW OFF THE DUST AND OPEN UP THOSE BIBLES

Pastor Roxie has been talking about how we all need to read our Bibles more, not just hearing the Scriptures on Sunday morning. Why? Because God speaks through His Word. If you want to have help in living life, stick your nose in the Bible. It gives great advice, through people who resemble you! Pastor Roxie knows it takes time (and you don't have a lot of that), and it takes commitment (and you sometimes have to squeeze that into your schedule). There are three enemies of commitment to reading the Bible: The Pillow (Laziness); Shiny Things (Distractions); and The Towel (Giving Up). So figure out which enemy

you are fighting, and start reading that Bible!

Now we have made it relatively easy to get you acquainted with the Bible. Come to the Back Story Class in the Church Parlor on *Thursday mornings 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.* You will get more details about the Scriptures to be used in worship the following Sunday. If you come to the Back Story gathering, every Monday you will be sent an e-mail of the Scriptures. Easy, eh? You do not have to be a Biblical scholar to be in this gathering. In fact, if you don't know the Bible well, that is a plus (you will make Pastor Roxie feel like she uniquely knows something!)

Or if you like watching movies/TV better, come on *Wednesday nights, 7:00 p.m.* to watch "The Chosen" based on the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John). It will get you thinking!! You and your friends, (you will want to bring them), will have plenty to talk about, framed by some good questions.

So, make a decision! Shake off those enemies of laziness, shiny distractions, and throwing in the towel. We can help you with your Bible adventure. Try it, you'll like it—and besides, life is Better with your Bible under your Belt!!

PRAYER GATHERING

During the 40 Days of Prayer in the Season of Lent, there were churches who hosted a Prayer Gathering in their church every day for the 40 days of Lent. Each Prayer Gathering had a specific segment of the community/nation/world for which they prayed. We hosted two of those Prayer Gatherings, and at one of the gatherings we were to pray for business people. But it was very apparent to Pastor Roxie that we needed to find out what the business people wanted us to pray for them. She visited 20 businesses and brought back their prayer requests.

That has sparked the idea to have a Prayer Gathering in this church every month, the last day of each month. The time of the gathering will be determined as it gets closer. For the month of April, we will be praying for musicians, especially since the Justified Quartet comes to us on April 16th, 4:00 p.m.; we have our own organist/pianist Knight Vernon, and we are blessed with those who will sing on Easter and the bell choir that will play on Palm Sunday. Throughout the month, we will be very intentional about asking musicians and music businesses what their prayer needs are. We will carry those concerns to the Prayer Gathering. Mark your calendar for *April 30th* and start collecting music prayer requests.

IN NEED OF PRAYER

Tom Andison, medical

Vic Parker and her family

Linda LaFrance, medical

Miah Kallapure, medical

Andrew, Randy and Pam Goode, medical

Rick Whitford, medical

Howard Owen and others in his family, medical

David, Sue Murvich's brother, medical

***All who are serving overseas, first responders,
medical personnel, and our elected officials.***

Victims of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

The people of Ukraine and Russia.

***The people of California following
the damaging rains.***

Our relationships with China and Russia.

***Anyone you may know that we are not aware of,
please lift them up in prayer.***

Be kind to one another.

CONGRATULATIONS

TYLER JAMISON 2023



**MICHIGAN MR.
BASKETBALL!**

Tyler Jamison, a senior at Port Huron Northern and whose family attends the church, is now the 43rd recipient of the Hal Schram Mr. Basketball award. This prestigious award recognizes the top boys basketball player in Michigan.

Tyler has signed with intent to play basketball next year at Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey. We would like to congratulate Tyler on all his hard work and dedication!

We are asking for well-wishing and congratulatory cards from the church family to send to Tyler. Please drop them off at the church office.

► BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS ◀

Contact the office or see the sign up sheets on the counter if you would like to use your God-given talents in any of these areas.

FUNERAL TEAM:

Your Funeral Luncheon team is putting out a request for assistance. We are looking for members who would be able to occasionally be a greeter to assist/direct the family as they arrive for the service. If you are able to help us, please give us a call so we can add you to our list and call when we need your help. Occasionally, the team may also need help to prepare the tables for the luncheon (tables will already be set up they will need tablecloths and a vase of flowers). Our team no longer prepares the food for the luncheon. The family works directly with a caterer who supplies everything they will need. Your Funeral Luncheon team is honored to assist our church families during their time of need. However, with all of our busy schedules, vacations, illnesses and family commitments, we sometimes run short of helping hands. You would always be working with one of our team members. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

Helen Weston (810-984-2406), Pat Schattler (810-841-7485), Jacquie Green,
Paula Cameron, Debbie Deaner, Carolyn Ahlquist

SANCTUARY FLOWERS:

Why do we have fresh flowers on Sunday morning on the Communion Table? Because aesthetically it helps us to recognize the beauty of God's creation, assisting us in our worship and praise of the God who blesses us with such beauty. There are always opportunities to give a flower donation on any given Sunday. Many times people will donate flowers in recognition of important people in their lives or in celebration of birthdays, anniversaries, or significant events. If this smells good to you, sign up at the church office in the binder that says:

"Sanctuary Flowers."

LITURGIST/LAY PREACHER:

So your gift really is to stand before people and speak clearly the words of God. Yes, that is an awesome task, but a calling even for Lay People. So if you know someone in the congregation that has this gift, approach them and encourage them to sign up for Liturgist or Lay Preacher Training with Pastor Roxie. Or if you are feeling the nudging of the Holy Spirit to venture out and try this, do it! Test it out. You don't have to do both, or either. Just take the class and see what happens. If you are interested in being a liturgist, please talk with Jan Hansen who lines up all the Liturgists. If you're interested in training for being a lay preacher, please come to the training in the church Parlor on Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:00p.m. or Tuesday, May 9th at 7:00p.m.

PRAYER:

Daily, weekly or any spontaneous prayer for the Elders, Deacons, staff and congregation is a powerful way to be a part of the body of Christ. A once a month prayer gathering is also a good way to pray for people in our community. During the prayer gathering we will be praying for specific segments of our community each month. It will be the last day of the month. We will begin on April 30th, time to be determined. If you would like to be informed of specific prayer requests, please contact the office or be part of the prayer chain by contacting Carolyn Ahlquist.

► BE THE HANDS AND FEET OF JESUS ◀

Contact the office or see the sign up sheets on the counter if you would like to use your God-given talents in any of these areas.

OFFERTORY USHERS:

A long time ago, we had a rotating list of ushers who collected the offering during morning worship. It is an easy job, passing the plate, but a necessary job—it demonstratively shows our commitment to the work of the church during worship. We particularly need couples. If you are interested, please sign up at the church office.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEACHERS

Christian Education is growing. Next fall we will be in need of more teachers to teach the older age children during the G.I.F.T. (Growing In Faith Together) program. If you are interested please talk to Michelle Fisher or Laura Nurnberg for more information.

OFFICE ASSISTANCE:

If you would like to assist in the office on days when Laura is on vacation or on sick days, please talk to Laura. The tasks would include answering the phone, taking messages and answering the door. Bring a good book!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS HIRING!

The Nursery Attendant Job is a paid position of considerable importance. In many cases, the Nursery Attendant is the first contact a new family has with this church. Please consider if you know of someone who would be interested in this position. The schedule runs September-May with hours being 9:30-11:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. The Nursery Attendant needs to have childcare experience and be physically and emotionally capable of attending to the needs of babies and young children. Training and certification in infant C.P.R. and First Aid are required. The church would provide for the expense of these classes to become certified, if needed. Please contact Michelle Fisher with any questions or to apply.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with neighbors in need around the world. The three programs supported by OGHS are Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self Development of People. For many years the OGHS has provided "Fish Offering Boxes" to be used as a way to help children focus on the mission of OGHS and teach them the joy of giving. The Fish Offering Boxes will be collected on Palm Sunday, April 2. On that Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes will be provided to the adults in the congregation so they too can serve this mission.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

NURSERY DURING SERVICES

Birth-4 years

A cry-room is available with a screen to watch the worship service in the Nursery. It is a which is a comfortable, warm place to hold and rock your child.

G.I.F.T. (GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER)

5 years-5th grade

Please meet us in the Christian Education wing for fun, faith, and friends.

Bible Point: "We celebrate Jesus."

- Sunday, April 16 - Jesus Dies and Comes Back to Life

Bible Point: "God guides us."

- Sunday, April 23 - God sends Manna and Quail from Heaven
- Sunday, April 30 - God Gives the Ten Commandments
- Sunday, May 7 - God's People Worship a Golden Calf
- Sunday, May 14 - No G.I.F.T. / Mother's Day Song
- Sunday, May 21 - God tells His People How to Build the Tabernacle
- Sunday, May 28 - No G.I.F.T. / Memorial Day



CHILDREN SIGNING AND SINGING

- March 26:
 - Practice "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" song *after* worship
- April 2:
 - Practice "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" at 9:30 a.m.
 - Present Song during worship
- April 30:
 - Practice Mother's Day song "You Raise Me Up" *after* worship
- May 7:
 - Practice Mother's Day song "You Raise Me Up" *after* worship
- May 14:
 - Practice Mother's Day song at 9:30 a.m.
 - Present Mother's Day song during worship



► IMPORTANT INFORMATION ◀

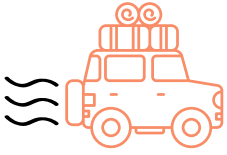
VACATION FOR PASTOR ROXIE

Pastor Roxie will be taking vacation time from:

April 10-April 14th

Please pray for their safe travels!

If there is an emergency or a need for pastoral care and counsel, Randy Bennett will be attentive to your needs. The office has his phone number.



► DATES TO REMEMBER ◀

April

- April 2: Palm Sunday and One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes and Fish Boxes due, Children practice song at 9:30 a.m., Children present song during worship, Birthday/Anniversary Celebration
- April 6: Maundy Thursday, Communion at 7:00 p.m., Drama presentation "The Last Supper"
- April 7: Good Friday Community worship 1:00 p.m. at Colonial Woods Missionary Church. Good Friday Potluck Dinner and Movie at 6:00 p.m. - "Jesus Christ Superstar" at FPC
- April 9: Easter Sunrise Service at 8:00 a.m., Easter breakfast 8:45 a.m., Easter Sunday Worship at 10:00 a.m., Choir sings
- April 16: W.I.N. (Wonderful Introduction for Newcomers) Class 11:15 a.m. Southern Gospel Concert "Justified Quartet" at 4:00 p.m. with fellowship
- April 18: P.A.C.E. Fieldtrip at 10:00 a.m. (make-up date)
- April 30: Prayer Gathering, praying for Musicians, Children practice Mother's Day song after worship

May

- May 2: Lay Preacher training at 7:00 p.m.
- May 7: Children practice Mother's Day song after worship
- May 9: Lay Preacher training at 7:00 p.m.
- May 14: Mother's Day, Children practice song 9:30 a.m., Children present song during worship
- May 21: Last G.I.F.T. Sunday until Fall 2023, Neighborhood Clean-Up, Soup Potluck, Sunday School Celebration at 3:00 p.m. at Jim and Michelle Fisher's home
- May 28: Pentecost Offering given

June

- June 10: Detroit Tiger "Home Plate" family event: Program, On-Field Baseball Clinic, and Baseball Game
- June 19: Children's Detroit Zoo Field Trip



► UPCOMING EVENTS ◄

GOOD FRIDAY MOVIE

Friday, April 7th at 6:00 p.m.

"Jesus Christ Superstar"

Faith In Film returns with this special movie musical. Totally reimagined for the 21st Century, this filmed version of the 2012 Arena Tour is a fresh take of the 1970's classic rock opera by Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Weber.

This will be presented on our big screen in the Fellowship Hall.

We will also be having a potluck dinner and dessert together.

Please sign up at the church office (call or stop by)!

WONDERFUL INTRODUCTION FOR NEWCOMERS

If you are interested in knowing more about the Presbyterian Church, please come to the W.I.N. class (Wonderful Introduction for Newcomers). Or if you know of someone who is not a member and wants to be a member this is a great opportunity. The W.I.N. class will happen on Sunday, April 16th, following worship at 11:15 a.m. Anyone desiring to join the church will be able to talk with the Elders on Monday April 17th, 7:00 p.m.

EASTER BREAKFAST

On Easter Sunday between the 8 a.m. sunrise service and 10 a.m. worship there will be an Easter breakfast at 8:45 a.m. Please stop by the office desk to sign up if you plan on attending so we have an idea of how much food to have prepared.

PENTECOST OFFERING

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop and support its young people, and also the needs of children at-risk. 40% of the Pentecost Offering is retained by FPC so we can make an impact on the lives of young people in our community. This portion will be utilized for the

"Ready, Set, Move!" Summer Camp (Vacation Bible School).

The Pentecost Offering will be taken on Sunday, May 28, 2023.

GARAGE SALE

The Mission Committee will be having their annual garage sale on Fri.-Sat., August 4-5. Please start saving items that you could donate to this sale. There will be set dates for bringing them into the church.

FREE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Spring cleaning? The church's free community library welcomes any and all donations of children's books, young adult books, and adult fiction in good condition. If you would like to donate, please drop them off at the church office.

Questions? Just ask Judith McLean.

JUSTIFIED|QUARTET



**Sharing Jesus thru
Southern Gospel
Music**

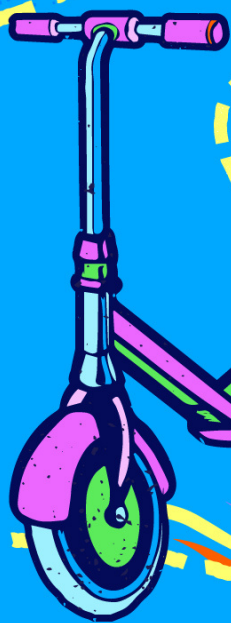
Free Admission!

**SUNDAY, APRIL 16TH
4:00 P.M.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF PORT HURON
811 WALL ST.
PORT HURON, MICHIGAN**

www.justifiedqt.net

**LIVE
CONCERT**



READY, SET, **MOVE!**



SUMMER CAMP (V.B.S.)

MONDAY AUGUST 21- THURSDAY 24TH

**Dinner each night- 5:00-5:30 p.m.
Program- 5:30- 7:30 p.m.**

**In the evening of Friday, August 25th
there will be the end of summer camp
celebration with food, games, and an
outdoor movie on the big screen.**

Volunteers Needed.



**To Register: scan the QR code above or go to
<https://forms.gle/VcN9KGxZcGBgtGuN6>**



► COMMITTEE UPDATES ◀

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE:



As noted in the last Challenge, we have decided to broaden our search as we work to find the best possible pastor to lead our church. In addition to meeting weekly to review resumes, watching online sermons and discussing candidates, we are networking directly to various seminaries and other regional presbyteries. Our search also is not limited to PCUSA matches or even Presbyterian pastors. So, if you are aware of a good candidate, please feel free to pass their contact information to us. Above all, please know that your prayers and words of encouragement are the fuel that is keeping us going on this journey.

Thank you,

Steve Ahlquist, Rick Cameron, Jennie Carolan,
Jacquie Green, Linda Hall, and Judith McLean

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

*Shelley Kamer,
Clerk of Session*



FEBRUARY

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on February 13, 2023:

- Approved Kristie Lamb as Financial Assistant for FPC.
- Approved an Endowment request for curriculum for Vacation Bible School.
- Approved an Endowment request for Worship & Music to fund a Jazz Concert in April.
- Approved the addition of Anne Wilton and Gail MacBeth as check signers.

MARCH

The following actions were taken at the Regular Session meeting on March 13, 2023:

- Approved Gail MacBeth as Church Treasurer.
- Approved vacation time for Pastor Roxie from April 10 through April 14, 2023.
- Approved a Jazz Concert for April 16, 2023 in the Sanctuary at 4:00 p. m.
- Approved a Neighborhood Clean-up day for May 21st
- Approved a field trip to the Detroit Zoo for the Youth on June 19, 2023.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The CE Committee and Membership/Outreach Committee would like to extend A HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who attended the Spaghetti Dinner/ Talent Show, there were approximately 70 people who attended. Your AMAZING generosity has provided for our children and families to go to the Detroit Zoo in June.

"SMART" SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE AT HOME VIEWING



Did you know that you can view our Sunday service (either live stream or recorded) using your "smart" TV? I recently watched our service from home and instead of using my laptop computer, tried using my large screen smart TV. Carolyn and I both found it much easier to enjoy the service, both hearing and visually. Anyone with a smart TV and internet service capable of video streaming (like Netflix or Prime) is able to do this. You will need to install the YouTube application (no fee required) and then in the search field type in

"1stpresbyterianchurchporthuron". You should then be able to select current live streaming as well as past services.

If you would like help with this, please feel free to contact me, Steve Ahlquist, or Jim Fisher, our Social Media expert.

ADVENTURES FOR JIM AND MICHELLE FISHER

It was at the Spaghetti Luncheon/Children's Talent Show on Sunday, March 19th, that Jim and Michelle Fisher announced through a video presentation that they will be retiring (sort of) by traveling throughout the United States, sharing their photography and commentary on their website and social media. On the first Sunday of September Jim and Michelle will be leaving our staff as our Social Media and Marketing Technician (Jim) and our Christian Education Director (Michelle). Both Jim and Michelle have goals and things they want to accomplish before they leave us in September. Each of us needs to be intentional about pursuing people who might be able to apply for these critical staff positions. Please let Shelley Kamer or Pastor Roxie know, if you have any leads on people who would be competent and faithful in either position. We will soon have available the updated job descriptions of these two church staff positions.

Just as the song says: "This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine," Jim and Michelle will carry the light of Christ throughout this wonderful land, as we stay here and spread our light near and far in this community which we call Port Huron, St. Clair County, Michigan, the USA.

If you would like to follow their adventures and/or sign up for their mailing list go to:



Website: <https://airstreamer.life>

Repairs and renovations continue in the Fellowship Hall! So please excuse the work you might see being done to improve our church building!

Happy Birthday

April



Sally Tuttle	04/03
Robert Herber	04/05
Andrew Carolan	04/06
Ross Green	04/06
Claire Roe	04/07
Alex Ruthven	04/09
Mark Schian	04/10
Ollie Carolan	04/11
Gail Rosales	04/12
Benjamin Nurnberg	04/13
Laura Gaffney	04/13
Scott Beerbower	04/17
Mary Gaffney-LaVere	04/18
Robert Smith	04/19
Tia Flether	04/22
Elizabeth Matthews	04/22
Evelyn Tinsley	04/23
Bruce Morrison	04/24
Marilyn Dunn	04/25
Linda Holekamp	04/25
Andrew Rosales	04/25
Cameron Cronic	04/28
Jeffrey Kiger	04/28
Barbara Seymore	04/28



May

Dane Peyerk	05/01
Sid LaFrance	05/03
Kim Matthews	05/04
Kelly Kerhoulas	05/06
Peggy Ruthven	05/06
Lindy Carolan	05/09
Jane McCandless	05/09
Anna Kerhoulas	05/11
James McCandless	05/13
Maxwell Moore	05/13
Robert Cronic	05/14
Grant Moore	05/14
Gary Rhody	05/15
Meredith Mills	05/19
Dylan Kiger	05/20
Bradley Seymore	05/21
Michelle Fisher	05/22
Sue Hinton	05/22
Sara Barr	05/24
Dorothy Letzgus	05/25
Kelly Remick	05/25
Lily Falk	05/26
Janet Dent	05/28
Paige Cronic	05/29
Mark Neal	05/29
Danielle Darczy	05/30
Carla Lovett	05/30
Donna Whitford	05/30



Happy Anniversary

April

Louis & Judaline Darczy 04/17

May

Marshall & Shelley Kamer 05/20



COME WORSHIP WITH US



*Sunday Worship – 10:00 a.m.
Coffee Hour immediately
following worship.*



OUR MISSION:
*KNOW the love of God,
GROW in the Christian
faith,
GO share our faith in Jesus
Christ.*

Connect with us!

Facebook: @FirstPresbyterianChurch
Port Huron

YouTube: @FirstPresbyterianChurch

Website: www.fpcporthuron.org

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Laura Gaffney
Office Administrator
portpresby@gmail.com
(M-TH: 9am-2pm)

◆
Bill Briscoe
Custodian/Maintenance Director
(M & TH: 9am-3pm)