



CHRIST CHURCH AMONG THE OAKS

The Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025 9:00 a.m.

A second worship site for Christ Church Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Worship: Sundays 9:00 a.m. Vicar: The Rev. Sandy Tull
NSIA Community Center, 120 Meadow Avenue in Vilano Beach
www.ccpvb.org info@ccpvb.org



Understanding the Lectionary: A Guide to the Easter Season

Have you ever wondered how we choose our Sunday lessons for worship? The answer lies in something called The Revised Common Lectionary—a resource that many Christian denominations use to guide worship throughout the year. This ecumenical effort helps churches across the globe remain unified in their reading of scripture, creating a shared rhythm for worship.

The Sunday Lectionary follows a three-year cycle: Years A, B, and C. Each year, we focus on one of the synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke—while the Gospel of John is inserted each year for special occasions and key moments in Jesus' life and ministry.

Typically, the structure of our Sunday lessons includes: An Old Testament reading, A Psalm, An Epistle (a letter from the New Testament), The Gospel reading. But during the Easter season, which stretches from Easter Sunday through to Pentecost, the lectionary takes on a unique form.

The Seven Weeks of Easter and the Lectionary

Easter is a time of celebration, a season focused on the joy and power of Christ's Resurrection. It's a season that invites us to reflect deeply on the Good News that Christ is alive, and the lectionary readings shift to highlight this special message.

Here's how the readings are different during Eastertide:

- No Old Testament readings: Instead, we focus entirely on the New Testament, highlighting the growth and spread of the early Church.
- First Reading: Every week, the first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles. This is because the Church wants us to reflect on the early days of the Church—how the apostles spread the message of Christ's resurrection and the impact of that mission.
- Gospel Reading: Throughout Eastertide, the Gospel reading comes exclusively from the Gospel of John. Each Sunday follows a specific pattern:
 - The first few weeks highlight the appearances of the risen Christ.
 - The fourth Sunday of Easter always focuses on Jesus as the Good Shepherd, offering care and guidance for his flock.
 - In the final weeks, the readings draw us into the deep teachings Jesus shared with his disciples at the Last Supper.

These readings invite us to journey alongside the apostles as they spread the message of hope, renewal, and resurrection in the wake of Jesus' triumph over death.

As we walk through these seven weeks of Easter, we are reminded not only of Christ's resurrection but also of our calling to share in his Victory over death and sin.

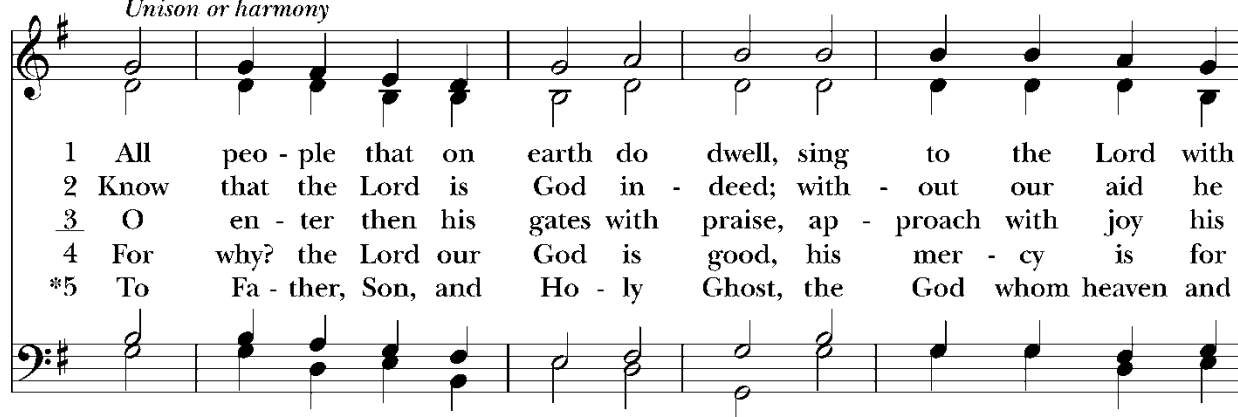
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. Andreis Diaz".

Fr. Andreis Diaz
Vice-Rector

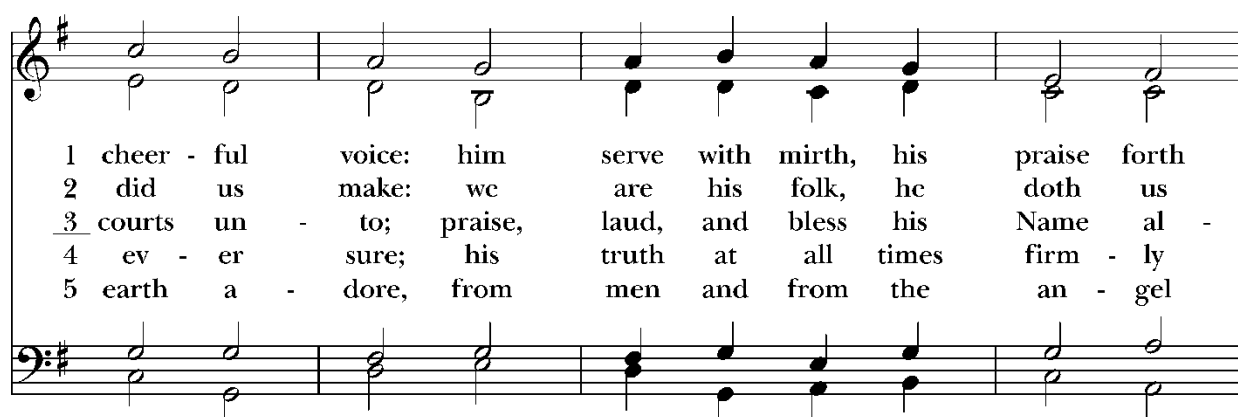
Opening Hymn

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

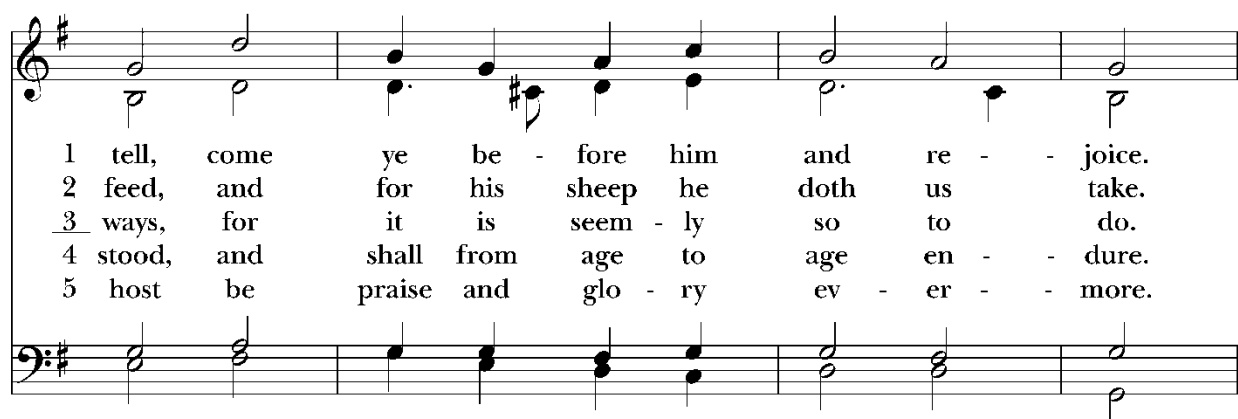
Unison or harmony



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with
 2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with - out our aid he
 3 O en - ter then his gates with praise, ap - proach with joy his
 4 For why? the Lord our God is good, his mer - cy is for
 *5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the God whom heaven and



1 cheer - ful voice: him serve with mirth, his praise forth
 2 did us make: we are his folk, he doth us
 3 courts un - to; praise, laud, and bless his Name al -
 4 ev - er sure; his truth at all times firm - ly
 5 earth a - dore, from men and from the an - gel



1 tell, come ye be - fore him and re - - jice.
 2 feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 3 ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 4 stood, and shall from age to age en - - dure.
 5 host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - - more.

Welcome Guests and Newcomers

Welcome to Christ Church Among the Oaks. This is a multi-denominational congregation, made up of friends, neighbors, people who are new to our area, and those seeking something a little different and a little more meaningful in their spiritual and worship life. We feel called to serve our local community and as you will hear today, we focus on six local outreach agencies that do the hard work that Jesus taught us. A short description of each Outreach Partner is in the back of this bulletin. We welcome the opportunity to meet you and answer any questions you may have about our church and our work in the community! We are incredibly grateful for the support and encouragement we receive from Christ Episcopal Church in Ponte Vedra and thank their leadership for the freedom to be a unique, mission-focused worship community.

Servant Board: Mike Cleary, Steve Harrison, Claire Heusinger, Deborah Pearsall, Stan Sundermeyer, and Jenny Weeks, warden.

Presider: The Rev. Sandy Tull

Musician: Boril Ivanov

Vocalist: Claire Heusinger

We encourage our guests to fill out a welcome card today!

We are glad you are with us and look forward to worshiping with you often.

Prelude

Medley

Welcome and Announcements

Opening Hymn

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

Opening Sentences

Alleluia. Christ is risen.

People **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Song of Praise

Change My Heart, O God

Change my heart, O God, make it ev - er true;

Change my heart, O God, may I be like You.

You are the Pot - ter, I am the clay;

Mold me and make me, this is what I pray.

Fine

D.C. al Fine

The Collect

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, whose Son Jesus is the good shepherd of your people: Grant that when we hear his voice we may know him who calls us each by name, and follow where he leads; who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Mother's Day Prayer

Let us pray for all the mothers among us today; for our own mothers, those living and those who have gone before us; for great-grands, grandmothers, and for the mothers who loved us and for those who fell short of loving us fully; for all who hope to be mothers someday and for those whose hope to have children has been frustrated; for all mothers who have lost children; for all women and men who have mothered others in some ways— for godparents, and all who have been our substitute mothers, both men and women, and have done so for those in need. We pray this all in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

First Reading

Lector A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

Lector The Lord is my shepherd; *

People **I shall not be in want.**

He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.

He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Second Reading

Lector A reading from the Revelation to John

7:9-17

I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

The Gospel

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

10:22-30

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep.

My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

Homily The Rev. Sandy Tull

Meditative Interlude

The Prayers of The People, Form III

Leader Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

We pray for our ministry partners: St. Gerard's Campus, St. Francis House and Port in the Storm, South Woods Elementary, Learn to Read, Pie in the Sky and Council on Aging. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen them, and in all things they do.

That they may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of his Christ.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Prayers for the Hurting World

All God of peace and justice, we pray this day for all peoples around the world who are suffering from war, famine, floods, fires, and from other devastations. We pray for all those who fear tomorrow: that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power: that they may have wisdom and discernment to aid people in distress and that they be guided by compassion in their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children who are at risk and live in fear: that you would hold and protect them. We pray this in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Please stand.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Birthday Prayer

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *his* days increase; bless and guide *him* wherever *he* may be. Strengthen *him* when *he* stands; comfort *him* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *him* up if *he* falls; and in *his* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

*To make an offering online visit ccpvb.org/give
or use the QR code at the back of the bulletin. Thank you for your support.*

Offertory

The Presentation

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

A Celtic Lord's Prayer by Phillip Newell

**All Ground of all being,
Mother of life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings in heart and in action.
May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.
Do not forsake us in our time of conflict but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life,
and the glory of life are yours now and forever. Amen.**

Distribution of Communion

All baptized persons, including children, are invited to receive Communion.

Communion Music *Precious Lord*

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When my way grows drear precious Lord linger near
When my light is almost gone
Hear my cry, hear my call
Hold my hand lest I fall
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

When the darkness appears and the night draws near
And the day is past and gone
At the river I stand Guide my feet, hold my hand
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home.

Precious Lord, take my hand
Lead me on, let me stand
I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm lone
Through the storm, through the night
Lead me on to the light
Take my hand precious Lord, lead me home

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Holy, gracious, God, here at this table your promise of life is made tangible. We have rested in the depth of your love; we have tasted your nourishing, nurturing presence; we accept you into our bodies, into our lives. Together, at this table, you have offered us life. Together, by your grace, we accept the life you offer. And we give you thanks. Amen.

Sending the Eucharistic Visitors

When present, Eucharistic Visitors are commissioned to carry the Consecrated Gifts of Holy Communion to those who are unable, due to illness or impairment, to join us for Sunday services.

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People We who are many, are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn *Praise to the Lord*

Dismissal

Alleluia. Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude *Medley*

Closing Hymn

Praise to the Lord



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -
 2 Praise to the Lord; o - ver all things he glo - rious - ly
 3 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy way and de -
 4 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -

a - tion; O my soul, praise him, for he is thy
 reign - - eth: borne as on ea - gle - wings, safe - ly his
 fend thee; sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall
 dore him! All that hath life and breath come now with

health and sal - va - tion: join the great throng, psal - ter - y,
 saints he sus - tain - eth. Hast thou not seen how all thou
 ev - er at - tend thee; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es be - fore him! Let the a - men sound from his

or - gan, and song, sound - ing in glad ad - o - ra - - - tion.
 need - est hath been grant - ed in what he or - dain - - - eth?
 might - y can do, who with his love doth be - friend thee.
 peo - ple a - gain; glad - ly for ev - er a - dore him.

Announcements

Learn to Read

Will be with us on May 18, to provide a very special worship experience. Three students from LTR programs will be reading the Lessons and Prayers of the People during our usual worship, demonstrating their newly acquired skills and giving us a firsthand look of the value of our partnership with this amazing agency. Thanks to Stan for coordinating this unique experience for us!

The Sacrament of Baptism

Christ Church Among the Oaks will be offering the sacrament of Baptism on June 8- Pentecost Sunday. If you or someone you know- adult or child or infant- wishes to be baptized, please see Mother Sandy before May 26th.

Offerings Online

Forgot to bring cash or write a check??? We now have a QR code in the bulletin for safe, quick, and easy online giving. You will be automatically directed to the Christ Church giving page where you can enter your information one time and it will be saved for future giving.



Our Outreach Partners

So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2:17

Learn to Read

Improving literacy for over 200 individuals each year at no cost to the student. Improved reading skills lead to better paying jobs, higher levels of education, healthier lifestyles, and a better overall community.

Stan Sundermeyer srsundermeyer@msn.com

St. Gerard Campus

A non-profit maternity home and Christian high school for pregnant teenagers, promoting empowerment through education and strong Christian values.

Paula Allmen pallmen@icloud.com

Stan Sundermeyer srsundermeyer@msn.com

St. Francis Housing Crisis Center / Port in the Storm

Engaging those experiencing homelessness to achieve stability, self-sufficiency, and a viable plan for their future by providing a safe, stable environment, access to essential services, and supportive connections.

Cynthia King cyndiking@gmail.com

Jack Tull tulljs@msn.com

Council on Aging

Provides the opportunity for every person in St. Johns County to enjoy wellness, longevity and quality of life choices within a strong, healthy community.

Sharon Carlson xtraice0922@gmail.com

Pie in the Sky Community Alliance of St. John County

Pie in the Sky is a grassroots, volunteer-based organization providing hope by serving with dignity and respect to alleviate hunger and social isolation through the home delivery of healthy fresh produce to low-income senior citizens.

Dale Hatcher dalenhatcher@hotmail.com.

South Woods Elementary

Creating a secure community that will instill in all students a desire for academic excellence, fostering the development of caring, productive citizens.

Margo Cleary margcleary@aol.com