

*The First Presbyterian Church  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
December 20, 2009  
Fourth Sunday of Advent*

**WELCOME TO ALL**, especially visitors and newcomers to Ann Arbor. Let us know of your presence by completing the pew card. Please know you are invited to share in all activities of the church. A full description of church events may be found online at [www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org).

THE CHURCH AT WORSHIP 8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

**GATHERING**

(9:30/11:00) VOLUNTARY

Earth Shall Ring

*Personent Hodie, arr. Margaret Tucker*

He is Born

*French Carol, arr. Arnold B. Sherman*

Sanctus Ringers

Kyrie

*François Couperin*

**LIFE IN THE CHURCH**

*Please sign the Friendship Book in each pew near the center aisle and pass it along your pew or to others sitting nearby. As it returns, note with whom you worship so that you may greet each other after the service.*

MINUTE FOR MINISTRY Congregational Self Study

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE**

*At 8:00 a.m., the candles will be lit by Harris and Margaret McClamroch. At 9:30 a.m., the candles will be lit by Leah Dalley, Jan and Gerry Leckrone, and Marilyn Meeker. At 11:00 a.m., the candles will be lit by Sarah Stitt Cogswell and Jim, David and Katherine Cogswell.*

One: We have lit three candles—for hope, for peace, and for joy. Today we light the fourth candle—the candle of love. With this flame we signify the love of God that surrounds and fills us at all times, but that we recognize in a special way in the Christmas story. There is no greater power than love. It is stronger than rulers and empires, stronger than grief or despair, stronger even than death. We love, because God loves us.

**All: Loving God, we open ourselves to you this Christmas season. As these candles are lit, light our lives with your imagination. Show us the creative power of hope. Teach us the peace that comes from justice. Fill us with the kind of joy that cannot be contained, but must be shared. Magnify your love within us. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you, that we may walk in the light of Christ. Amen.**

*As the candles are lit, please sing verse two of hymn 309, Of the Father's Love Begotten:*

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,  
Evermore and evermore!

One: Depart in peace, and take with you the certain knowledge that God is always coming into the world.

**All: We will seek God, not in a long-ago stable or ancient manger, but in the people we meet and the depths of our own hearts.**

One: May the blessing of Christmas make you a blessing to others;  
may the peace of the season pervade all that you do.

All: We will welcome the challenge of discipleship. We will offer ourselves as God's ministers. We will go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

\*HYMN 12 People, Look East

Besançon

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

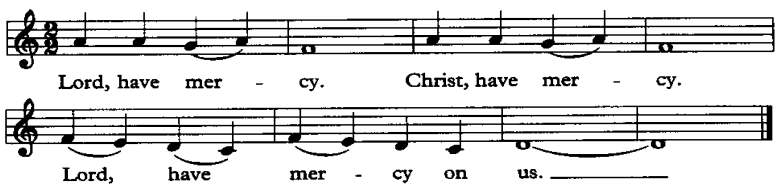
Generous and Gracious God, you shower gifts upon us and forgive us our faults, yet we are cautious in giving our whole selves to you. You send us the Prince of Peace, and yet we are short with one another, and criticism comes all too quickly to our lips. You come to us as the Holy Child, and yet we are hesitant to respond to gifts with the child-like joy that would set us free. You are to us the very Bread of Life, and we spend our resources on baubles and extravagances that do not satisfy. Forgive and free us that we may celebrate Jesus' birth with love and laughter, with welcome and praise. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

KYRIE

(8:00) #572 in the Hymnal Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us  
*Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.*

(9:30/11:00) Lord, Have Mercy



ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: Hear the good news! God sent Jesus to dispel our darkness. In the gift of Christ, God gives light and life to all who turn to God. In mercy, God restores us to the Light that we may love God and one another. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel!

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

\*PASSING THE PEACE

*You are invited to share signs with one another of the peace we experience as forgiven people. As we enter flu season, we encourage you to participate in "touch free" passing of the peace. As you greet one another, rather than shaking hands, place your hands together in an attitude of prayer.*

One to another: The peace of Christ be with you.

Response: And also with you.

\*GLORIA Refrain from Hymn 23 Angels We Have Heard on High  
*Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

PROCLAIMING

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5 (O.T., p. 1)

ANTHEM What Sweeter Music

John Rutter

*What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day that sees December turned to*

*May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn?  
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the  
cause, why things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quickening birth  
gives life and luster, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him  
come, and know him ours, who with his sunshine and his showers, turns the  
patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we  
find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart,  
which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him  
honor, who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling. What sweeter music can  
we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King.*

(Robert Herrick , 1591-1674)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

John 1:1-9 (N.T., p. 91)

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*The children through grade five may be seated at the foot of the chancel steps to  
meet with one of the pastors.*

**\*HYMN 5 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence**

*Picardy*

SERMON (9:30/11:00) Lighten Our Darkness

RESPONDING

**\*A CHRISTMAS AFFIRMATION**

*written by John Killinger*

I believe that Christmas is more than a time for parties and ornaments; it is a time for remembering Christ and the incarnation of God's love in human flesh. I believe there are gifts more important than the ones under the Christmas tree, such as the things we teach our children, the way we share ourselves with friends, and the industry with which we set about reshaping the world in our time. I believe that the finest carols are often sung by the poorest voices, from hearts made warm by the wonder of the season. I believe in the angel's message that we should not be afraid – that the Child of Bethlehem is able to overcome all anxieties and insecurities. I believe in prayer and quietness as ways of appropriating Christmas – that if I wait in silence I will experience the presence of the One born in the stable, for Jesus lives today as surely as he lived then. I believe in going away from Christmas as the Magi went – another way. I want to be different when these days are past – more centered, more thoughtful, more caring. And I believe God will help me. Amen.

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

In Dulci Jubilo

*Paul Koch*

**\*DOXOLOGY (#592 in the Hymnal)**

*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. Amen.*

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

SENDING

**\*HYMN 56 The First Nowell**

*The First Nowell*

## \*BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE Rejoice! *Plainchant*  
*Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

(9:30/11:00) VOLUNTARY Noel *Louis-Claude Daquin*

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*The Prayer Team is available, for those desiring prayer, in the Hillegonds Chapel, to the right of the piano, following the 9:30 worship service.*

**THE PREACHER** at the 8:00 a.m. worship service is the Reverend Matthew Nickel. The preacher at the 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship services is the Reverend Lawrence W. Farris. The preacher at the 5:45 p.m. worship service is the Reverend Melissa Anne Rogers.

**PARTICIPATING** in the worship services are the Reverend Julie Marks at 8:00 a.m., the Reverends Julie Marks and Sarah Wiles at 9:30 a.m., the Reverends Jenny McDevitt and Jim Monnett at 11:00 a.m., and the Reverends Lawrence W. Farris and Jenny McDevitt at 5:45 p.m.

**THE PIANIST** at the 8:00 a.m. service is Ilya Blinov.

**THE ORGANISTS** are Carol Muehlig, Susan Boggs, and Dr. Daniel Forger.

**THE CHANCEL CHOIR CONDUCTOR** is Susan Boggs.

**THE SANCTUS RINGERS CONDUCTOR** is Carol Muehlig.

**THE FLUTIST** is Patricia Farris.

**THE READERS** are Linda Strodtman at 8:00 a.m.; Carol Fletcher at 9:30 a.m.; and Ed Koster at 11:00 a.m.

**THE GREETERS** at 9:30 a.m. are Bill and Susan Chandler and Dave Larrouy. The greeters at 11:00 a.m. are Bill and Pam Wood and Diane Hoff.

**THE PRAYER TEAM MEMBERS** are Lois and Fernando Colón.

## *Today's Events*

**WORSHIP** is at 8:00 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. in Monteith Hall, and at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

**CHURCH SCHOOL** meets today at 9:30 a.m. for crib-12th grade and at 11:00 a.m. for crib-5th grade. Youth "Munch and Mingle" and Sunday school for sixth through twelfth graders meet at 9:20 a.m. in Monteith Hall.

### **ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES:**

**At 9:30 a.m. in the French Room/Library**, Ed Koster continues his in-depth discussion of the Bible. The class is currently studying the book of Matthew. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**FIRST SINGLES** meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Curtis Room and will display creches on a table in the Founders Room. members of the congregation are invited to come and view the creches from 10:30 a.m. until noon.

**PICK UP YOUR 2010 OFFERING ENVELOPES TODAY.** They are labeled by name and available on the table outside the Church Office.

**RADIO WORSHIP** service is at 11:00 a.m., on WAAM (1600 AM) and on WAAM's website, waamannarbor.com.

## *Announcements*

**YOU CAN NOW MAKE YOUR PLEDGE ONLINE!** To do so, visit the First Presbyterian Church website ([www.firstpresbyterian.org](http://www.firstpresbyterian.org)) and click on the "Growing Deeper and Wider" heading at the top right of the page. On the "Growing Deeper and Wider" page, look at the bulleted headings on the left side. Click on "Pledge Form 2010." Complete the online form and click "submit." It's that easy!

**AMERICAN EXPRESS IS ACCEPTED:** You can now pay your pledge using your American Express card. Questions? Contact John Sampselle, Finance Manager, at 662-4466, ext. 18.

**YOUTH NEWS:** All youth Sunday School students gather in Monteith Hall at 9:20 a.m. for Munch and Mingle. **MIDS** will return January 6. **High School Christmas Party** is Monday, December 21, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m., at the King home, 3151 Honeysuckle Drive. Bring a wrapped DVD or CD in its original jewel box for the gift exchange, and a dessert to pass. RSVP to Cindy King at 995-1346. **Keystones** returns January 3. **The Norfolk Mission Trip**, June 19-27, closes December 31, or when it sells out. Cost is \$400, with \$210 fundraising.

**THE SURVEY IS UP!** The Self Study Committee has completed and posted online the congregational survey for members and friends of the congregation to complete. An email with the link to the survey is included in the congregational email everyone should have received this week. The link will also be on the church website. Those members who receive First Press by regular mail will receive a printed copy of the survey shortly. The committee hopes as many folks as possible will take the 30 minutes needed to complete the survey between now and January 15. Your input is crucial! Thanks.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP:** The Christmas Eve Family Service and Children's Pageant will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The Candlelight Communion Service will be held at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**CONSIDERATE PARKING CHOICES:** Christmas Eve is a time when many visitors come to First Pres for worship. We recommend coming to worship services early to ensure that parking and finding a seat is not a problem. Please leave as many parking spaces as possible open near the church for people with small children or those who might have difficulty walking. To make these spaces available, all who are able are asked to use one of the following alternative parking sites: **The Forest Street Structure** – a short block from the church, with free parking on Christmas Eve. **Washtenaw and Hill Streets** – parking is permitted on these streets for Christmas Eve. **Nearby fraternity and sorority houses:** **Chi Phi Fraternity**, next door at 1530 Washtenaw, **Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority**, next door at 1414 Washtenaw, **Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority**, next door to Chi Phi at 1550 Washtenaw, and **Sigma Delta Tau Sorority**, behind the church at 1405 Hill, will allow parking in their lots. Thanks to the house directors and officers of our neighboring fraternities and sororities for this annual gift to our church.

**CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDCARE:** We offer childcare **by reservation only** on Christmas Eve for the 3:00, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m. services. There is no childcare at the 11:00 p.m. service. If you would like to make a childcare reservation, please contact Deborah MacVey at 662-4466, ext. 15, or [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).

**WE NEED CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDCARE VOLUNTEERS!** Grandparents, aunts and uncles, and entire families with teenage children have helped in the past. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Deborah MacVey at 662-4466, ext. 15, or [dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org](mailto:dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org).

**THE CHILDREN'S PAGEANT DRESS REHEARSAL** will be **Tuesday, December 22**, at 3:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**A CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S OFFERING** of underwear or socks will be accepted at the Christmas Pageant Family Service at 3:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The gifts should be simply wrapped in tissue paper. During the pageant, the children in the congregation are invited to bring their gifts to the manger. The underwear and socks are given to the House by the Side of the Road.

**THE RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** will be the Friends In Deed capital campaign for its new building on Ecorse Road in Ypsilanti. Friends In Deed is an interfaith volunteer organization that responds to the needs of Washtenaw County residents that other service agencies do not meet. It also provides services such as information, referrals, and screening, to congregations and agencies, as well as resources to people in need.

**FOURTH SUNDAY POTLUCK IS GOING OUT!** Out to eat, that is. Instead of having the usual potluck for the month of December, we would like to invite everyone to go out to lunch on the 27th instead. For those interested, please meet in the Welcome Center following the 11:00 service to decide on a local restaurant.

**THE NEXT STEPHEN MINISTRY CONTINUING EDUCATION** offering will be held January 4. Lois Jelneck will discuss "Caring for the elderly who have to make difficult decisions." All sessions are Mondays, from 7:00 to 7:45 p.m. in the Youth Room. Refreshments will be served.

**THE ROTATING SHELTER, OUR NEW LOCAL MISSION:** In the last year, homelessness in Ann Arbor has increased by 30 percent. In response, the city has asked the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to expand their Rotating Shelter program to help the overflow of homeless that cannot fit in the current shelter system in the Delonis Center.

From January 6 through 20, a set group of 25 homeless men, identified by the Shelter Association as good candidates for the program, will sleep on mats in our Social Hall. They will arrive at 8:00 p.m. each evening, after having dinner, showers, and a breathalyzer test at the Delonis Center, and leave at 7:00 a.m. the next morning for the St. Andrews Church breakfast program.

Our church will provide two to three volunteers per night for conversation with the men before bedtime and for safety (volunteers take turns staying awake so that everyone gets some sleep); transportation from the Delonis Center to First Pres; evening snacks, hot water, cocoa, coffee and transportation to St. Andrews in the morning. Please help by signing up to stay at church for one night during this time period, providing an evening snack one evening, or volunteering as an evening or morning driver. Questions? Contact Sue Chandler (suechandler@comcast.net, 996-2673), Jame Hayes (hayesdf@comcast.net, 827-0146), or Brian Williams (bwms@umich.edu, 669-0045), Rotating Shelter co-chairs, or the Reverends Matthew Nickel or Jenny McDevitt.

## *Calendar for December 21 - 26*

### **MONDAY:**

Body and Soul, 9:30 a.m., Curtis Room  
Advent Study, noon, Founders Room  
Rotating Shelter Steering Committee, 4:00 p.m., Vance Room  
KEYS Christmas Party, 5:00 p.m., King home, 3151 Honeysuckle Dr.

### **TUESDAY:**

Prayer Group, 7:30 a.m., Founders Room  
Advent Study, 7:45 a.m., Vance Room  
Advent Study, 10:00 a.m., Glacier Hills  
ESL, 1:00 p.m., Rooms 101, 102, 104, Youth Room  
Christmas Pageant Rehearsal, 3:45 p.m., Sanctuary, 400 Level  
Congregational Self-study Group, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library

### **WEDNESDAY:**

PW Coordinating Meeting, 9:30 a.m., Vance Room  
Wednesday Night Meal, 3:00-7:15 p.m. (volunteers),  
5:30 (meal), Delonis Center  
Delonis Greeting Card Program, 5:00 p.m., Delonis Center  
Advent Study, 7:00 p.m., French Room/Library

### **THURSDAY - Christmas Eve:**

Christmas Pageant, 3:00 p.m., Sanctuary  
Lessons and Carols Worship Service, 5:00 and 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary  
Communion Candlelight Worship Service, 11:00 p.m., Sanctuary

### **FRIDAY - Christmas Day:**

Building Closed

### **SATURDAY:**

No Events Scheduled



*A Stephen Ministry  
Congregation*

# The Poinsettias

*that decorate the chancel are given in memory or in honor of a loved one or family member. Following worship, the poinsettias will be delivered by the deacons to our shut-ins, those who are ill, and those who are grieving.*



## In Memory of:

Barbara Alexander	Hugh Donofrio
George Alexander	Patrick Dorn
Lois Alexander	Thomas Dorn
Paul Alexander	Helen (Kay) Dornbush
Elmer Apley	Nancy LaMoreaux Doyle
Pauline Apley	David G. Endicott
David A. Austin	Leonel M. Esch
Marty Austin	David Emmons
William E. Austin, Sr.	Richard (Dick) Emmons
Dorothy Ball	Cheri DeHaan Erben
Leroy Ball	Margaret Ference
Joan Banfield	Michael Ference
Ralph Banfield	Mary Jane Fisher
Claude Barnard	Olga Fortino
Lyle Barnard	Mary Friskey
Marion Barnard	Edmund Galant
Fred L. Bartman	Marjorie Galant
Carl Bartscht	Lisa Ann Gallagher
Jo Bartscht	Robert Gardner
Jeane Bartels	Lloyd Gauntlett
Audrey T. Baseman	Brewster Gere
Signe Bates	Margaret Chamberlain Gere
Kelly Binkley	Elizabeth N. Glinka
Catherine Brenkert	Lourdes Guerra
Cornelius Brenkert	Nell Funderburk Hambrick
Rev. Charles F. Brewer	Marion Hanley
George R. Brewer	Jeff Hardenbrook
John J. Bryant	Weldon Hare
Edna Carlisle	Bonnie Urquhart Heald
Richard Carlisle	Edwin Henry
Arnold Clausen	Myra Henry
Clara Clausen	Griffith Herold
Guernsey Collins	Mary Herold
Reina Collins	Katherine Stovall Hibbs
Blanche Cordes	Alan Hobart
James Wesley Cordes	Mady Hobart
Ken Croft	Vernon Hobart
Mary Croft	John H. Holmes, Sr.
Ilene DeHaan	Ernest Horngren
James Dewar	Katherine Horngren
Alma Dickinson	Phyllis Howard
Anson Dickinson	Don Howe
David Dickinson	Sybil Howe
Eleanor Dickinson	Frances Humphreys
Angela S. Dobson	Delia S. Hunter
Peter M. Dobson	John C. Hunter
Russell T. Dobson, Jr.	Milton V. Hunter
William T. Dobson	John C. Hunter, Jr.
Anne Kaminsky Donofrio	Kathryn Inglis
	Pek S. Jo
	Fran Johnson

Johnny Johnson  
 Helen Kaser  
 Robert Kaser  
 Gertrude Keegan  
 Robert Keegan  
 Donald Kerr  
 June Kerr  
 Laura E. Kingery  
 Richard M. Kingery  
 Brian Konefke  
 Ken Kooyers  
 Alma Kruger  
 Betty Kuizenga  
 Henry Kuizenga  
 Elizabeth Kunkel  
 Pamela LaMoreaux  
 Douglas Lane  
 Thomas W. Leabo  
 Kenneth Lindley  
 Harris McClamroch,  
 Jr.  
 Ruth S. McCracken  
 Patrick McDevitt  
 Barbara McKinley  
 Jan Mack  
 Norma V. Meyers  
 George Milroy  
 Ellen C. Molin  
 John C. Molin  
 John H. Molin  
 Peg Molin  
 James Mortensen  
 Marie Mortensen  
 Stephen Patton Moss  
 Robert E. Mueller  
 Elizabeth Najpaver  
 Joseph Najpaver  
 Merle Nash  
 Vina Nash  
 Anne Niedzielski  
 Delia Ouimet  
 Edward Ouimet  
 Lawrence Ouimet  
 Magdaline Ouimet  
 Clare M. Palmer  
 Harry H. Palmer  
 Robert Patton  
 Sook Chung Park  
 Dorothy Parker  
 William M. Perrett III  
 Maynard Phelps  
 Mildred Phelps  
 Fred Pickard  
 Vernon J. Piers  
 Philip K. Pierson  
 Richard Platt, Sr.  
 Frank Polkowski  
 Beatrice Prescott

Gerald Prescott  
 Herman Primas  
 Margaret Primas  
 Vivian Reese  
 Walt Reese  
 Robert C. Ressler  
 Henry Rezmierski  
 Olga Rezmierski  
 Hillary Dobson Ripmaster  
 Charlie Roberts  
 Lena Roberts  
 Margaret Ruggles  
 Sumner Ruggles  
 Marcia Schmidt  
 Henry Schneider  
 Hilda Schneider  
 Sylvia Schwartz  
 Pearl Servais  
 Philip Servais  
 Douglas Smith  
 Donald Sorter  
 Gene Stefanski  
 Gideon Stegath  
 Mellicent Stegath  
 Virginia Stegath  
 Jean Stem  
 Russell Stem  
 Christine Officer Stephens  
 Duel Stephens  
 James E. Stephenson  
 Ruth Wood Stephenson  
 Sean Patrick Stephenson  
 Marian Strodman  
 Ruth Sutton  
 James Talbott  
 David K. Tanner  
 Glen K. Tanner  
 Maxwell E. Tanner  
 Barbara Ternes  
 Richard (Dick) Trytten  
 Charles D. Urquhart  
 Dorothy Waggoner  
 Ralph Waggoner  
 Ruth Waggoner  
 Perry Walker  
 Viola Walker  
 Maxine Walter  
 Almira White  
 Hubert White  
 Lucille Winger  
 William Winger  
 Carol B. Wood  
 Elsie M. Wood  
 William M. Wood  
 Wilder W. Woods, Sr.  
 Agnes Yarmain  
 Harry Yarmain



### *In Honor of:*

David Arnsdorf  
 Jill Crabtree  
 Marti Dalley  
 Phil Dalley  
 Peggy L. Dry  
 Anne Duclos  
 Bernard Duclos  
 David Glinka-Endicott  
 Mark Glinka-Endicott  
 Matthew Glinka  
 Russell Glinka-Endicott  
 Sarah Glinka-Endicott  
 Blanche S. Erdman  
 Debbie Evett  
 Berether Hill  
 Mary Hunter  
 Mary Jones  
 Anna Oliva  
 Roy Oliva  
 Howard Parker  
 Jennifer Sansbury  
 Lynn Sutton