

First Press

A Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor
August 2017 ▪ Volume 65, Number 7



Dear Friends,

I hope you are having a wonderful, restful, restorative summer. For some, the long, sunny days provide an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors, perhaps on one of Michigan's beautiful lakes. Others use the different routine summer often brings to do some extra reading or to spend time with family and friends. Whatever your summer plans, find reason to be grateful for each day.

I spent about ten days in July in Houston caring for my six-year old granddaughter and my just-turned-four-year old grandson while my son and his wife took a trip to celebrate their tenth wedding anniversary. (That alone seems impossible. Time flies!) The children call me "Go Go" and we started most mornings with Go Go's tennis camp at the park next to their house, followed by something special most days, perhaps a trip to the zoo to see the baby elephant, giraffe, and sea lion or to a free outdoor children's theater production or to get beignets, or some other out of the ordinary treat. We also visited their local library and read lots of books that were quite different from what I normally get to read! I taught the children the Lord's Prayer and what it means – and made a couple discoveries along the way: "art" means making something with crayons, construction paper and glue so "who art in heaven" was a new concept and "hallowed" is a mouthful for a four-year old! This was my first time to care for the children without their parents being around and we had a great time, even a holy time. I marvel at God's goodness in creating us to live in relationship and always loving us, and at a child's sense of wonder and awe as they encounter the world around us. If all of us slowed down enough to experience the world and all who dwell in it with a bit more awe and appreciation I suspect we would treat one another more kindly. It's worth a try.

August in Ann Arbor begins with many people vacationing away from town and concludes with the excitement of move-in day for thousands of University of Michigan students. I compare the month with the cooking of a pancake. At first there is a slight bubbling at the edges, then the batter transforms into a grand new being. At First Pres during August we will say farewell to Daniel Ervin and welcome three new Resident Ministers, the first class of Residents to be fully funded by First Pres. With the completion of the truss project (and the promise of slightly cooler temperatures), we also will move back into the sanctuary for our 9:30 a.m. worship services.

Whether you are here or away, pray for your church as we seek to follow God's leading faithfully and gratefully and to provide welcome and caring to all.

Grace and peace,

Fairfax F. Fair

Fairfax F. Fair
Pastor/Head of Staff

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Summer Time(s)

Building Hours

Mondays through Thursdays

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fridays – Saturdays

8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Sundays

7:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Regular open hours resume

September 5.

The Finance Office will be closed

Friday July 28 - Sunday, August 6.

Summer Worship Schedule

August 6 - September 3

8:00 & 11:00 a.m. in Monteith Hall

9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

September 10

Fall worship schedule resumes.

All-Church Ice Cream Social

Sunday, September 3

Circle Terrace at 10:30 a.m.

Triple Chocolate Overload,

Vanilla, and Superman... with toppings if desired!

Want to help serve?

Contact Rev. Rogers at
mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.





Worship & Music

Music Ministries at First Pres



Questions? Contact Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries, at tgranum@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466, ext. 347.

Chancel Choir Resumes August 3 - Chancel Choir begins the 2017-18 choir year with rehearsal on Thursday, August 3, 7:00 p.m. If you're interested in joining the Chancel Choir, please contact Tom Granum so that he will have a folder and chair for you. The Chancel Choir provides worship leadership beginning Sunday, August 6 and will participate in several special programs and services including:

September 24, 3:00 p.m.	Reformation Hymn Festival led by Michael Burkhardt
November 5, 3:00 p.m.	Requiem by John Rutter
December 17, 3:00 p.m.	"Light Dawns on a Weary World": Christmas Hymn Festival
December 24, 5:00 & 7:00 p.m.	Service of Lessons and Carols
December 24, 11:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Communion

Other Music Opportunities - Watch for more opportunities to participate in Music Ministries in the September newsletter.

- Children's Choir - Sundays, 10:30-10:55 am.
- Youth Choir (grades 6-12) – Sundays, 4:30-5:30 p.m.
- Sanctus Ringers Handbell Choir – Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- Recorder Ensemble – scheduled according to players' availability
- Orchestra – Sunday afternoons, rehearsal time varies

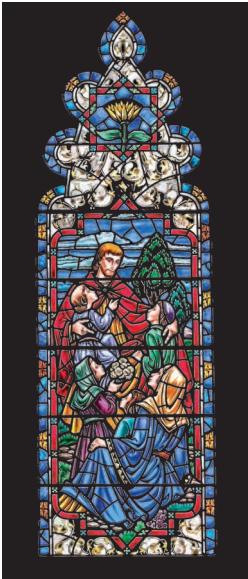


Madrigals, Motets and More

The Aeolian Chorale will present Madrigals, Motets and More: An Evening of A Cappella Choral Music at First Pres on Sunday, August 27 at 4:00 p.m. The concert is free and open to all. A free will offering will be taken. Assuming the sanctuary truss work is completed by then, the concert will be in the sanctuary. Marshall Dicks directs and First Pres member Tom Brandt sings in the ensemble. This group, in its fourth season, is developing a reputation as an a cappella chorus of exceptional quality. The chorus continues to expand its repertoire and increase the number of venues at which it performs. For more information please contact Marshall Dicks, artistic director, at marshall.dicks@gmail.com or go to www.facebook.com/aeolianchorale.



Financial Stewardship



Finance Committee Update

Thank you for your continuing financial commitment to First Presbyterian Church. We are financially self-sustaining, and both the session and staff work diligently to insure our church's expenses match our income. After estimating the allocation of certain common expenses, expenditures in 2017 by our four primary ministries are: Worship - 30%, Christian Education - 27%, Congregational Life - 24%, and Mission 19%.

We are happy to report that the repairs to the trusses in the Sanctuary, made possible by your generous donations in response to the emergency fund appeal this spring, continue and are on track to be completed by July 31.

The following financial information for First Presbyterian Church is through the month of June of the 2017 fiscal year which ends December 31, 2017.

Income and Expenditures	June	Year-to-Date
Income Received	\$118,337	\$937,368
[Shortfall]/Excess	(\$56,039)	(\$108,889)
Actual Expenses	\$222,814	\$961,296
[Shortfall]/Excess	(\$48,438)	\$84,961

Budget for 2017 Year: \$2,092,513



Stewardship 2018 - Letting Love Show

God's Grace, Our Gratitude

Greetings from your 2018 Stewardship work group! As we look ahead to the 2018 annual giving campaign (kickoff 9-24-17, Dedication Sunday 10-22-17), we are in awe of the blessings God has bestowed on all of us - in church, community, and the world. God's grace and gifts are boundless. How will we express our gratitude in return? By intentionally letting love show in all we do, and attempting to follow Jesus' perfect example. Our gifts of time, talent, and treasure are essential for First Pres to respond to God's call through worship, Christian education, congregational life, and mission outreach. You play a vital role at First Pres. Our active engagement and ongoing financial support ensure a vibrant future for the church we love. Thanks be to God!

Smart Phone Giving at First Pres launches this September!

Are you looking for a quicker, easier way to give to First Pres? Try using your smart phone! On September 10 we will launch two new electronic giving options that use your smart phone... Give+Mobile and Give+Text. We've been pilot testing these giving options this summer with the deacons, session, and members of the T2A2 group to make sure we have a successful launch on September 10. The Finance Committee and the Finance Office are excited about these two new, easy, fast, and safe giving options that allow you to give a one-time donation as well as to set-up recurring contributions. At launch there will be certain church funds that you will be able to contribute to using texting and the smartphone app including: General Operating Fund, Resident Minister Endowment, Sacred Music Fund, PC(USA) Special Offerings, and Communion Sunday Food Drive. More information will be coming shortly so check the weekly bulletins and also the brochure which will be in the pews on September 10 along with handy wallet cards.



Congregational Life

WALKING WITH JESUS - MERCY, JUSTICE, HUMILITY



Mercy

Walk with Jesus

The opportunity to participate in one of our four "WALKS" with Jesus continues through August 27. How can you participate? 1) Choose the distance you would like to walk. 2) Keep a log of how far you walk. Remember, walks can be done as a group or family and running, swimming, roller skating, and biking all count. 3) Turn in your miles and receive a gift for participating! Brochures for each walk are available at the Welcome Center or online. The walks include the 1965 Selma Civil Rights March - 54 miles, 1913 Women's Suffrage March - 1 to 234 miles, Trail of Tears - 2,200 miles, and the Salt March - 240 miles. Questions? Contact Sandy Talbott at stalbott@firstpresbyterian.org or 662-4466.



Just i ce

Staying Connected This Summer: Devotions and Groups

Are you traveling this summer? Stay in touch by reading our summer email devotional from wherever you are! Sign up on our website.

Are you in town? Sign up for a small group. Groups meet in the homes of members for about an hour once a week. Those who gather discuss our summer theme, Micah 6:8, "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Enjoy learning something more about the context of this passage and discussing how we can carry out this requirement in our daily lives. Nothing is needed; discussion material is presented when you show up. Please join us! Sign up in the church office or online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/summer-small-groups-2017/>

AUGUST Group: Sundays at 7:00 p.m. - August 6, 13, 20, & 27

Host: Kathy Wirstrom - 706 Third St.

Leader: Alice Holderby



Humi l i ty

First Pres Summer Reading - Be Fair, Be Kind and Walk with God

Adult Selection - August's Summer READS selection is *Reaching Out* by Henri Nouwen. Nouwen, the spiritual master, writes that "I am convinced that I will truly be able to love the world when I fully believe that I am loved far beyond its boundaries." Books may be purchased through the Church Office or online at <https://firstpresbyterian.wufoo.com/forms/first-pres-reads-book-order/>



August's Children's Selections - All of the selected books fall into the picture book category, and will appeal to readers ages four to eleven. All are available at the Ann Arbor Public Library, local bookstores, and on Amazon. Some are poignant, some are humorous, and some remind us of our daily lives. Our August selections are *Is There Room on the Feather Bed?* by Libba Moore Gray, *The Gift of Nothing* by Patrick McDonnell, *Tawny Scrawny Lion* by Kathryn Jackson, and *If You Plant a Seed* by Kadir Nelson.

Mercy, Justice, Humility: An Opportunity to Do All Three

Consider joining a prayer team that serves after 9:30 and 11:00 worship. Choose a Sunday. Show up. On your chosen Sunday, know that other members of the prayer team are seasoned prayer-givers. People who show up at First Pres know the Lord's love, mercy, comfort and care through us. How meaningful to be able to offer this service. Should you sign up, show up, and gather after worship, perhaps someone in great need will come forward. Perhaps someone will come just to share a joy. If nobody comes forward, you can pray for our staff and members and world. To those who have served, or will serve – know that you make a difference! To sign up, please email Rev. Rogers or Marolin Bellefleur, who will send a link for you to add your name for fall or spring. What a small service that means so much. And, we are called to do mercy, and here you go – a wonderful, easy, meaningful way to answer that call.

Stephen Ministry: Here to Help



At First Pres, we fully embrace the Stephen Ministry creed, "Christ is the cure-giver, we are the caregivers." Your ministers know well that "it takes a village" to care for anyone in need. Friends, we are all in need, in ways that are different, meaningful, and real. Dr. Fair once said that "there is a broken heart in every pew." That truth is evident every Sunday. That's why Stephen Ministers are called to serve. They are available to support those who are struggling. All our burdens are significant and worthy of care from a Stephen Minister. When Stephen Ministers are offered to someone who is hurting, the reply is often, "Someone else needs them more." Is that true? What is true is someone else in the congregation and community also needs a Stephen Minister. What is true is that we have many people serving, and Stephen Ministers are available.

What is true is that God has someone special just for you, at this time, to walk with you.

Stephen Ministry is not a program to help those who cannot survive without a Stephen Minister. If you can't get through something without our caregivers, you need more professional help than this program can give. However, if you are dealing with burdens — but you know doing it alone is too much, get in touch with us. If you would bear those burdens more easily, more supported, in better and healthier ways, drawing from your faith and encountering your doubt, finding deeper meaning and closeness to God through those burdens with the care of a Stephen Minister, let's talk! Please call or email Rev. Rogers or Kathy Wirstrom. We are here to help. We have people available, and we trust that you will come to cherish having a spiritual friend when you are lonely, hurting, grieving, struggling, or wondering what is ahead. Stephen Ministers are here to help.

Possible Pilgrimages in 2018

Are you interested in walking the Camino de Santiago in Spain in October of 2018 or the Via Francigena in Italy in May of 2018? It is possible that pilgrimages to these ancient routes will take place if enough interest is generated. The last 100 kilometers of each walk is the goal for our pilgrims. Contact Rev. Rogers to express interest and get more details.

Opportunities to Serve Abound!

Would you be willing to serve as an usher for worship at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m.? Or as a substitute usher? Ushers typically serve on a team that serves three months out of the year. You get the benefit of knowing new people; helping our worship to be decent and in order and full of welcome and support; and ensuring our guests and members are cared for as they come to worship each Sunday. Training is included, and there are no uniforms or secret handshakes! Contact Rev. Rogers if you'd consider serving. Call the church or email mrogers@firstpresbyterian.org.



The Adventures of Flat Jesus

This summer we invited you to take part in the Adventures of Flat Jesus. Our summer travelogue of your adventures with Flat Jesus is growing but there's still time to participate! Pick up or download a copy of our coloring page Flat Jesus, color him in, and take him with you around town or on vacation. Take pictures and send them to dmacvey@firstpresbyterian.org or lhaddrill@firstpresbyterian.org and we'll post them! If you share your pictures on Facebook or Instagram please tag our church account by adding @FirstPresA2 #FlatJesus. Here are more adventures that Flat Jesus has enjoyed this summer!



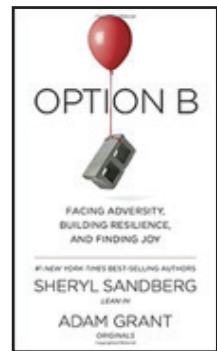
Silence!

You are invited to be a participant in a 24-hour Silent Retreat, led by Rev. Annette Fraser, September 22 - 23. Held at the St. Augustine House in Oxford, Michigan, this retreat is limited to 6 participants. Cost for lodging and food is \$45 per person. Please, no couples. The retreat center, a monastery of six Lutheran monks, includes 16 acres of woods and trails. Embracing total silence, there will be no phones, tapes, or books. There will be you, silence, a Bible, a notebook and God! All meals, a guide, and clear expectations will be provided. Interested? Contact Annette at nnttfraser@gmail.com or call her at 358-9163, or contact Rev. Rogers for more information. There will be a second retreat in May. This retreat is sponsored by the Congregational Life Committee.



Make "Option B" your Best Option!

We're not a book club, but we do discuss books! On Sunday, August 13 and Sunday August 27, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m., join Rev. Rogers and member Mary Smith at Mary's home to discuss *Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy* by Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant. Drinks and snacks are provided! Sign up with Rev. Rogers. Spaces are limited. Purchase the book online or at a local bookstore and start reading!



Blood Drive Saves Lives!

The July 13 Blood Drive at First Pres brought in 29 pints! Thanks to our great team who makes this happen – Paula Doering, Betty Halliday, Barb Brewster, John Yodhes, and many other volunteers. Good work, saints! Our next blood drive is October 19.



Mature Ministries Save the Date:

Tuesday, August 8 - Mature Ministries Boat Trip on the Detroit River and Dinner at Sinbad's.

Very few spaces remain. Travel to Detroit is by chartered bus. Contact Rev. Rogers asap to join.

Sunday, September 10 at 5:00 p.m. - Back to Fall "Trivia Night" at the home of Mary Smith. Bring a salad or dessert, and Mary will provide the main dish.

Tuesday, October 3 - Trip to Goll Woods Nature Preserve and Sauder Village. We depart from First Pres at 9:00 a.m. See big bur oaks and enjoy a nice fall walk. (Rain date is October 10). Lunch at Sauder Village following our walk.



Resident Minister Corner

August is a time of transition for our Resident Ministry Program here in Ann Arbor. Two Residents, Revs. Emily Béghin and Angela Ryo, have departed First Pres for new calls to new churches in new places, Rev. Daniel Ervin is completing his search for a new call, and three new Residents are poised to begin their ministry in Ann Arbor August 15.

Farewell from Rev. Angela Ryo

Dear First Pres, at the point over two years ago when I was applying for a position as a Resident Minister at First Pres, I wrote that: "I love the fact that the church stands erect in the heart of a college campus where theology, academia, curiosity, innovation, passion, justice, creativity, and diversity can flourish and come together for the greater good; it truly seems like a place where one can freely "live the questions" instead of always looking for the right answers..."

Looking back now, I can see how important these words are as I prepare to complete my Residency and take up a new position at the Kirk in the Hills in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. At the time, I wasn't sure if First Pres was truly a place where I could "live the questions." As I look back on my two years of resident ministry, however, I am strongly convinced that this church has allowed me to not only live the questions but to live out quite a few answers, too, even if they may not have been the right ones. In fact, it is only in my departure that I realize that First Pres has never been concerned about finding the "right answers"; instead, it has chosen to nurture the next generation of faithful leaders who can ask the right questions. Upon entering the RM program, the first question we had to wrestle with was, "What are your strengths?" At first, I was baffled by this. I thought the program would develop my weaker ministry areas and focus on what I lacked rather than what I already had. How wrong I was! By allowing me to lead from my strengths rather than my weaknesses, I confidently grew into my pastoral identity guided by the unconditional love of the congregation and unflinching support of the RM Committee.



First Pres, I could not have asked for a better congregation to live out all sorts of (crazy and dangerous!) questions for the past two years. I never thought that a community of believers could pour out so much love and support for novice ministers who didn't have many answers (if any at all!). As I go to Kirk in the Hills as the Assistant Pastor for Christian Formation, may God continue to bless you and convict your hearts to lead from your strengths of loving, welcoming, teaching, and courageously living the questions no matter how difficult it may be!

With much gratitude and love, Angela

First Pres Fully Funds Resident Ministry Program

August 2017 also marks the transition of the Resident Ministry Program fully to First Presbyterian Church. Previously, the Lilly Endowment had generously provided funding for our excellent pastoral leadership development project, but as of mid-August 2017, First Presbyterian Church takes full responsibility for sustaining the financial costs of our Residency. Our Resident Ministry Endowment Fund provides the income source to sustain our Residency program.

Former Resident Publishes

Matt Nickel, a Resident Minister in the 2009 cohort, has recently published a story titled "Catch and Release" in *A Progressive Feast: In Parabolic Story*. This collection of stories is to aid help people of faith have creative conversations around difficult issues in our time, all loosely formed around parable-like stories.

Welcome New Resident Ministers!

- Rev. Dorothy Parks-Piatt, Rev. Eric Reinke-Koenig and Rev. Blair Buckley begin their ministry with us on August 15. Be sure to say hello!



Youth & Campus Connection

MID's Miracle Bible Camp

Monday, August 7-Wednesday, August 9

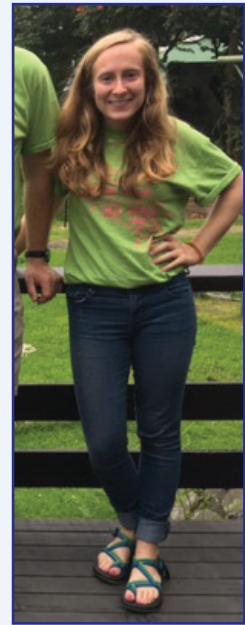
Incoming 6th-8th graders, join us for Miracle Bible Camp! Miracle Bible Camp is three days of fun, bible study, and adventures run by youth interns David Endicott, Sean Tichenor, Claudia Morville, and Abby Wilson. Expect games of sardines, yuck, and a day at Rolling Hills Water Park! Sign up at youthinterns@firstpresbyterian.org

Fond Goodbye to Lex Allum

On July 2, First Pres said a fond "Goodbye" to Lex Allum, who served First Pres with energy and distinction as a Peer Minister from August 2015 to July 2017. A graduate of Michigan State University, Lex came to First Pres to guide our ministries with both high school students and University of Michigan students and excelled in all aspects of ministry. Lex goes from Ann Arbor to Austin, Texas where she will be a student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Lex is now a member of First Pres and is enrolled under the care of our Session as an Inquirer pointed toward ordination and service in the PC(USA).

A Word from Rev. Daniel Ervin, Resident Minister

At the end of June, we said farewell to Peer Minister Lex Allum, who arrived alongside my cohort of Resident Ministers in August of 2015. Lex came to First Pres already having demonstrated tremendous gifts in ministry through her leadership in her campus ministry at MSU. She brought all these gifts with her as she served alongside our youth and First Pres College students—giving them support, helping them to grow in their faith, and advocating for their full participation in the life of the church. Lex and I quickly became friends and colleagues, and I so appreciate her humor, her ambition, and thoughtfulness. I'm grateful that Lex and I will continue as colleagues in ministry as she begins the path to ordination this summer.



A Word from Our High School Youth Interns about Lex

Over the last two years, the high schoolers and college students at First Pres have been blessed to have Lex Allum with us as a Peer Minister. From Dairy Queen excursions in Ann Arbor to working construction in Belize, Indiana, Costa Rica, Florida, and Jamaica, Lex built a huge positive connection with each and every one of us. She would laugh with us, pray with us, cry with us, and play Euchre with us. In her ministry, she has helped us become better thinkers, leaders, and Christians, and we couldn't be more grateful. Though we wish Lex could stay leading our group forever, she must answer another calling and move on to Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. We will all miss her, but we are all very excited for Lex's next big step!

- David Endicott, Claudia Morville, Sean Tichenor and Abby Wilson



Faith in Action



2017 Habitat House of Faith Dedication

After 80 days of renovation and hard work, the 2017 House of Faith at 1156 Parkwood, Ypsilanti, is complete! It will be dedicated Sunday, August 20. Verna, Cory, Allan (11) and Jacob (8) Hinman are very excited to move into their own home which has three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, large family room, full basement and a large two-car garage. As with all Huron Valley H4H projects, this was a total home renovation with significant upgrades for heating and cooling, a new roof, new interior doors and trim and all new appliances. First Pres was a major contributor to this renovation project, providing over fifty volunteers including groups from college ministry and our church staff. Thanks to everyone who worked on construction and/or furnished lunches.



The Delonis Greeting Card Program Needs You!

The Delonis Shelter greeting card program – a First Pres outreach program for over 20 years – allows those with limited resources the opportunity to keep in touch with friends and loved ones. Volunteers set up a table of cards and stamps at the Delonis Center on Wednesday evenings, making them available to Delonis Center guests. They also take time to talk and listen to Delonis Center guests. Amazing stories have emerged from these conversations as well as opportunities to support people struggling with a host of problems. Our card program needs volunteers like YOU! Parking is free and handy and the time commitment is minimal and flexible – 5:30 to 6:45 p.m., only once a month. Could you see serving God in this meaningful ministry? Contact Jeannine Buchanan at 971-6589 for more information.



Property

Sanctuary Truss Work Update

Phase One of the Sanctuary truss repair project is complete! The adjusting mechanism has been installed on the Hillegonds side of the Sanctuary, the trusses have been pushed back to within 1/4" to a 5/8" of their original position and cracks in the wood have been epoxied. Over the next several months small adjustments will be made to the trusses, without placing additional stress on the wood structure. The scaffolding has now been moved and truss repair is underway to on the opposite side of the Sanctuary. The Property Committee thanks everyone for their support of this project.



Transitions

We Celebrate the Birth of:

Annaliese Emira Andren, born March 10, 2017, daughter of Katie & Aaron Kitchen Andren.

Henry Robert DeLand, born May 20, 2017, son of Jessica & Todd DeLand.

Anna Barbara Holden, born February 13, 2017, daughter of Kasia & Steve Holden.

Padgett Vera Hoskins, born February 11, 2017, daughter of Shanna & Sean Hoskins.

Emily Ann Palmer, born June 2, 2016, daughter of Corey Longley Palmer & John Palmer.

Elizabeth Heritage Vercler, born March 23, 2017, daughter of Kate Kraft & Christian Vercler.

We Celebrate the Marriage of:

Nicholas Stevers & Meredith Firehammer, May 13

Scott Elston & Allison Everett, May 27

Jeff "Skip" Colton & Jessica Wong, June 9

Kam Waryas & Mark Delano, June 3

Alexandra Rupp & Blair Hagerman, July 1

Lee Roberts & Sarah Bradley, July 15

We Grieve the Death of:

Roy Oliva, February 11

Dave Krehbiel, February 23

Dan Benedict, February 26

Bill Stegath, March 29

Burton Perry, May 4

Margaret Ingram, May 6

Harold Rex, May 12

Don Faber, May 27

Peter Kaufman, June 19

Rudi Klose, July 10