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October, 2020

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The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.

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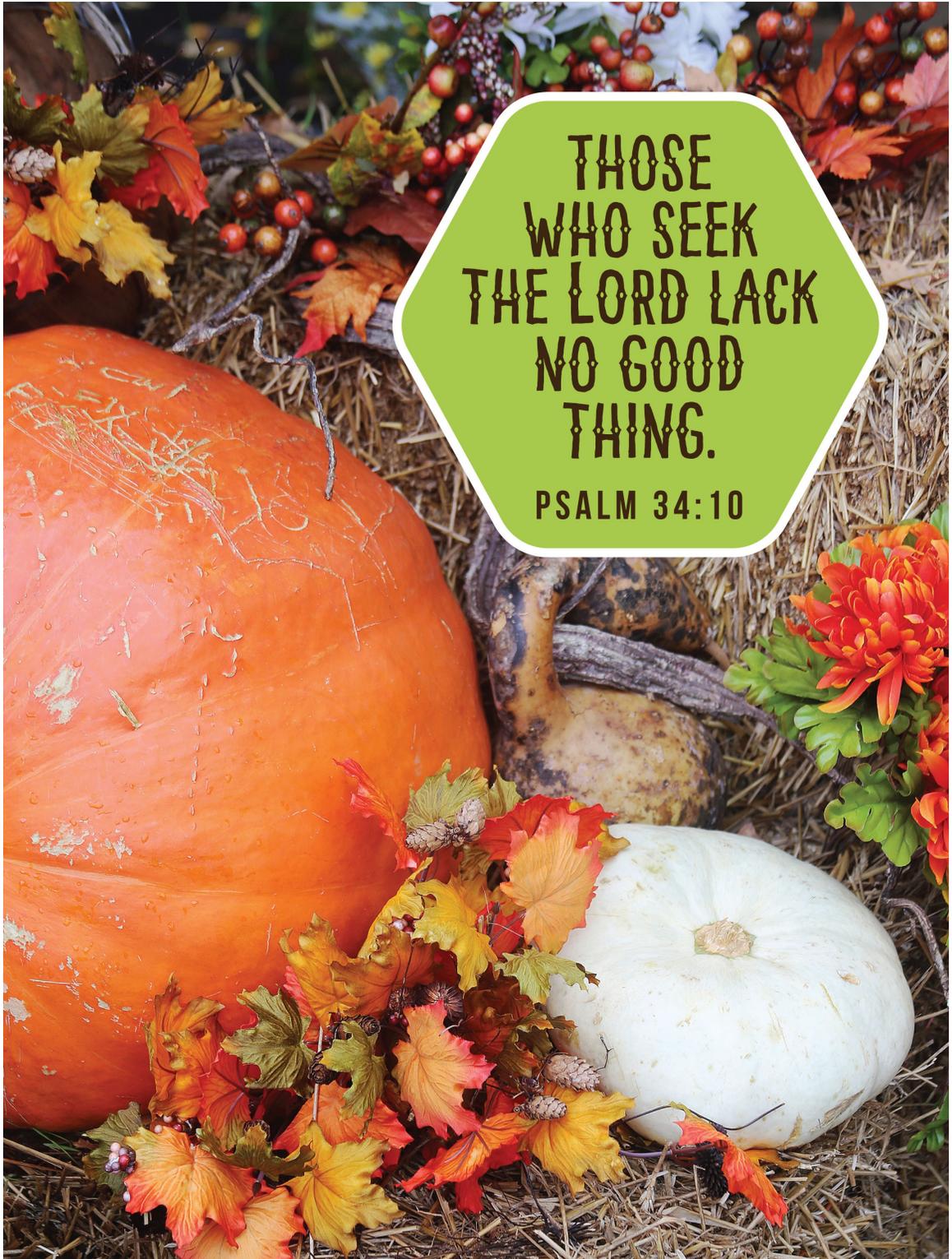
Youth Director

Ms. Rachel Johnson

Nursery Attendant

Ms. Ava Chambers

Consistory President



THOSE
WHO SEEK
THE LORD LACK
NO GOOD
THING.
PSALM 34:10

Pastor's Perspective

By the time you read this I will be “back in the saddle” after a refreshing and stimulating sabbatical. I am grateful to all of you for allowing me this time and to those who kept things going in my absence.

While I've been gone, I have worked on a couple of things. First, I have for the past three months run an average of 20 miles a week and, in the process, lost 12 pounds. My doctor has been encouraging me to get my cholesterol levels down through increased exercise and healthier eating habits. Strangely enough, healthier eating habits are the bigger challenge for me. I was also able to get in a few rounds of golf!

In early September our Appalachian Trail group knocked out 85 more miles of the trail, and we are now very close to crossing over into Virginia. In total, we have hiked about 400 miles of the trail.

On August 18th I began teaching again at GTCC. I am teaching three sections of *Introduction to Sociology*, which all meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Strangely, last week there was a “cyber incident” that shut down all the online technology of the school and classes were cancelled. Yes, 2020 keeps wreaking havoc!

Along with all of the above-mentioned activities, I have worked my way through 7 books related to the biblical exile of Israel and the current situation of the mainline Protestant church in America. The titles of these books include: “A Biblical Theology of Exile,” “The Church in Exile: Living in Hope After Christendom,” “Lamentations and the Tears of the World,” “Cadences of Home: Preaching Among Exiles,” “The Religion of the Landless: The Social Context of the Babylonian Exile,” “Exile: A Conversation with N. T. Wright,” and “Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony.” The good news is that there is much work being done on the topic of exile; the bad news is that there is much work being done on the topic of exile. In other words, more and more people are recognizing that “exile” is where we live.

I must admit that reading these books, while at the same time watching and reading about what is going on in our nation, has left me a bit rattled. There is much going wrong in our nation and in our world. There has been a shift in our land which may have devastating consequences. In Israel, social chaos, idolatry, injustice, and impending decline was repeatedly pointed out by the prophets until in 587 BCE it all came crashing down. The Israelites were exiled and banished from the land. God had turned his back on the chosen people.

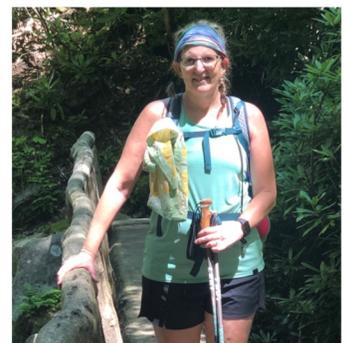
The Canadian theologian John Douglas Hall argues that we in North America live under a deadening blanket of “covert despair,” knowing in our bones that something is terribly wrong, yet living in denial about the depths of our national pain. Uncovering and embracing this despair is key to the healing of both our nation and our church; but it will take some time.

I am glad to be back and yet humbled with the challenges before us. I look forward to sharing more of the insights I have gleaned during my time away. I am grateful for the letters, cards, and prayers I received, feeling the support of our faith family and the spiritual strength of our Christian hope in this extraordinary time.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Tom

Scenes from the Appalachian Trail

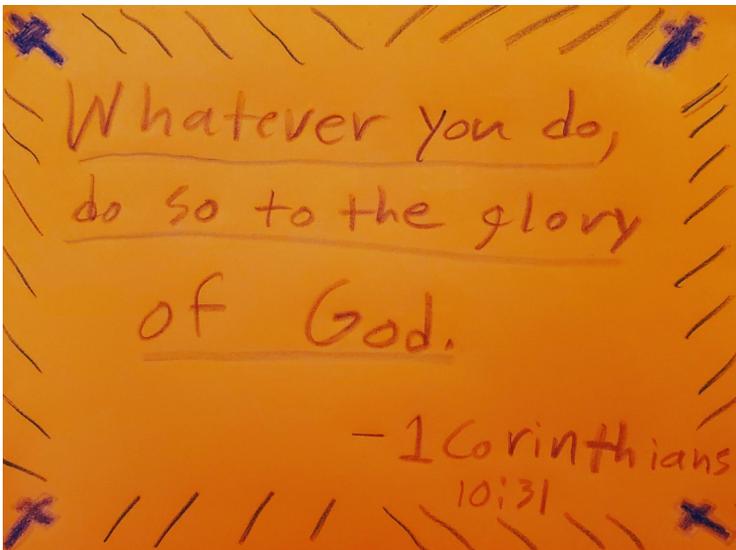


Peace Church Worship Service
streaming live on Facebook

Sundays at 10:45 a.m.

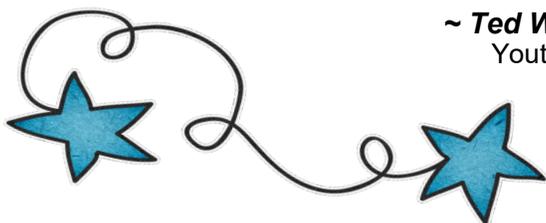


Hey Peace Family! I hope everyone reading this is staying safe and healthy. It's been a busy month for the youth of Peace, both at the church and with going back to school! For our lessons this month we learned three lessons about King David. We read about his defeat of Goliath (God is always with us), his mourning the death of Saul (Forgiveness is important), and his dancing into Jerusalem (People like to worship God in different ways). For David's dance we made posters for ourselves of a quote from 1st Corinthians to remind us that whatever we do, just as David did that day, we should do so to the glory of God. Just last week had a lesson on Deborah, the prophet and Judge in the Old Testament who taught us that God is with us even in the most chaotic of times.



As you may have heard from the letter Ava Chambers sent out to the congregation, I have accepted a call to be the pastor at Bethany UCC, Winston Salem. Peace has been my home for the past five years, it is where I joined the UCC, began my work in congregational ministry, and even where I got married. You have been so wonderful and supportive, I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you have done for me and I thank God who led me here to be with you. I will miss you all immensely, but I know we will continue to be connected in spirit forever. God bless you all.

~ **Ted Wilkinson**
Youth Director

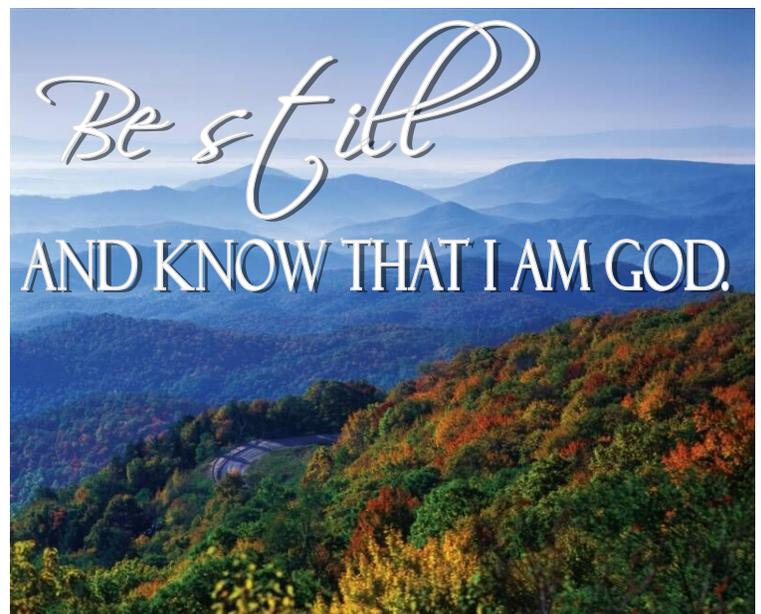


As we come to October (and only 1/4 of 2020 left!), we also come to World Communion Sunday which I find to be an extremely meaningful and spiritual day. It is celebrated each year on the first Sunday of October, and this year it is October 4th. It is so awesome to think that on that Sunday, people all around the world and at all times of the day are joined in Christ through remembering His sacrifice. As we share in the bread and wine/juice that morning, let's experience our connection and sense of community with the world. So many things are different right now, but Christ remains the same. In our hymnal the Lord's Supper hymns are listed as being on pp. 384 – 430 and then a list of other hymns that would also be appropriate to use. I do play during Communion while on the livestream and hope that it is prayerful and meaningful as you partake of the elements. I have also tried to choose familiar music each week for the Preludes and Postludes in hopes that you are singing with them and/or meditating on the words.

A
Note
from
Elisabeth

One of the verses I have highlighted in my Bible is Psalm 46:10: *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.* (NIV) The choir has an anthem based on this Psalm entitled *Be Still and Know* by Steven Curtis Chapman arranged by Tom Fettke. It was already in the file when I came to Peace, and we have sung it several times since I've been here. As we share the Lord's Supper on October 4th, let's be still and feel His presence. Let's hear His message for us and our Nation and the world during this continuing pandemic and be part of praising and exalting Him throughout the earth.

~ *Elisabeth Penry*



Bless and Be Blessed!

On Sunday, September 20th, we were first blessed with beautiful weather. We were also blessed with over 30 people attending and participating, and about 20 staying for lunch. And, we were thrice blessed with a particularly meaningful service.

You probably remember the Cross of Flowers that we used at Easter. Well, we "resurrected" the cross and used it to insert notes about our fears. This was a symbolic move of acknowledging our concerns and giving those apprehensions over to God. The children facilitated by picking up notes and inserting them for some of the adults. We all shared in this meaningful moment, and virtual watchers were encouraged to make notes at home.

Another participatory part of the service was a self-anointing where we received hand-sanitizer which each person used to anoint his or her forehead. This provided a sterile "blessing" during this time of COVID-19.

The "Bless and Be Blessed" service was rounded out by a wonderful message from the Rev. Dr. John Syster, focusing on how adversity can lead us to blessings. The life and trials of Judge Ruth Bader Ginsburg helped to supplement the biblical framework of his message.

It was indeed a very special day at Peace UCC. Yes, we were BLESSED!!!





Peace United Church of Christ
MISSION OF THE MONTH



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

The 2020 Neighbors In Need offering is our October Mission of the Month. Please give generously to this important mission any time throughout the month of October.



Visit www.peaceucc.com to contribute online through VANCO.

HANDS-ON IS STILL ON THE MOVE!

Hands-On has been hard at work these last few months even through this time of the pandemic. Here is what we distributed in August and September:

AUGUST

Cone Palliative Care	29
Wesley Long	39
Total	<u>68</u>

SEPTEMBER

Cone Palliative Care	26
Cone Pediatrics	26
Total	<u>52</u>



Great job, Hands-On! Keep up the good work.



This lady here just celebrated a pretty substantial birthday! **Doris Yeattes** celebrated her **96th** birthday on September 22nd! Doris was **BORN** into this church back in 1924 and has many wonderful stories of the history of this church. One little fun story about her... Doris became a school teacher and was the 5th grade teacher of current Peace

Church member, **Una Lee Fentriss Myers** and former member, **Jimmy Shoffner!** Una Lee's mother and Jimmy's mother were the "grade mothers" for Doris's class that year. She is quite special to us here and we celebrate her always, but especially on this special birthday.



Also celebrating special birthdays recently were **Marcy Neal**, who celebrated on September 24th, and **Carol MacDonald**, who celebrated on October 1st. Happy Birthday Marcy and Carol!



CONSISTORY CORNER

Your Consistory welcomed two new members: **Jean Jones** is filling the unexpired term of Sherri Kluttz and **David Murray** is filling Mary Lillie's term ending in 2021.

Sadly, we accepted the resignation of **Ted Wilkinson** as he has accepted the call to become pastor of Bethany United Church of Christ in Winston-Salem. We are very excited for Ted and wish him many blessings.

Because of the pandemic and we are having to replace current Consistory members, Vice President, Jane Ford and I are serving as the Nominating Committee.

As you know, Peace Church received the Payroll Protection Loan which covered our staff salaries for the months of June, July, and August. This provided us time to save money and now we are using our own money to cover all of our expenses. Of course, our utility costs are higher as NAI continues to rent the Educational Building. We have had a few repairs this summer such as an air conditioning leak in the Narthex. We encourage all members to continue to support the ministries of our Church. We thank all of you who have mailed in your gifts or used VANCO (our on-line mode of giving). Our Stewardship team is planning our Fall Campaign and I ask you to give prayerful consideration to your gifts for the remainder of this year and for 2021.

On behalf of the Consistory, I would like to give a very special thank you to the Sabbatical Team members - **Rev. Dr. John Syster** and **Ted Wilkinson** who planned and led us in worship every Sunday; **Theo Scott** and **Jeanne Bryan** who led our PeaceCare contacts and visits to our members in need; also to **Rev. Jimmy Norred** and **Rev. David Hirano** who filled our pulpit. We are so blessed to have members who have shared their gifts with us during Pastor Tom's sabbatical.

We welcome Pastor Tom back on October 1!

Blessings to you,

Ava Chambers
Consistory President



Set your clock
back on
November 1st!



Peace Church Recipe Corner

Spicy White Bean & Chicken Stew

4 tablespoons oil, any type
1 onion, chopped
4 cloves garlic, minced
2 Tbs tomato paste
1/2 tsp to 1 Tbs red pepper flakes, depending on how spicy you want it
1 can cannellini beans
1 can butter beans
1 can great white northern beans
4 to 6 cups chicken stock (4 cups if you want a true "stew", 6 cups if you want a soup)
3 cups kale, de-stemmed and chopped
2 to 3 large chicken breasts
Salt & pepper to taste



Instructions:

Add 4 tablespoons oil to a large, heavy-bottomed pot on medium heat. Add chopped onion and cook until very soft/translucent, about 6-8 minutes. Stir often. Mince garlic & add to the pot. Cook until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Add tomato paste & cook about 2 minutes. If using red pepper flakes, add them now. Rinse and drain all 3 cans of beans in colander, then add to the pot. Stir in beans until they are coated with tomato paste mixture. Add salt & pepper to taste. Add in chicken broth. Place chicken breasts in pot until submerged in the broth. Cover with lid & simmer until chicken is cooked through, about 10 minutes. Remove chicken breasts once cooked, shred with 2 forks and place back into pot. Add kale & cover again until kale is just wilted, about 8-10 minutes.

Serve & enjoy! At our house, we serve it with cornbread and a dollop of sour cream to cool the red pepper flakes down. ☺ Keeps well in the refrigerator for about 3 days.



I would like to thank the Peace Church Congregation for your prayers, cards, and calls regarding my health. Your kindness and caring are greatly appreciated.

~ Jim Spillers



Peace United Church of Christ
2714 W. Market St.
Greensboro, NC 27403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



We are sad to say “goodbye” to our friends, **John and Kathy Syster**, who moved to Huntsville, Alabama the first weekend in October, to be closer to their children and grandchildren. John has put on so many different “hats” and helped in many different aspects here at Peace Church. He has been a very welcome and essential provider of pastoral care in times when Pastor Tom has been away. John, along with Jeanne Bryan, Ava Chambers, Jimmy Norred, and Amy Williams, was an important member of our Sabbatical Team this summer and carried out duties to provide guidance and help with our worship services, which have been meaningful and insightful. Thank you to John for all you have meant to us here at Peace! We will miss you all, and wish you God’s very best in the years to come with your family.

If you would like to send a card or contact John and Kathy, here is their new address: 6429 Lincoln Park Place NW, Huntsville, AL 35806-5000. John’s phone number is unchanged... 941-374-4417.



All Saints' Day

On Sunday, November 1st, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday. Typically, this is a day when we remember and celebrate the "saints" of the church who have passed away in the previous year.



If you have family members or friends who have died in the last year that you would like to be honored during the November 1st worship service, please send their name and date of death to Sherri in the church office no later than October 27th.

Michael Erin Gurley, was married on Saturday, September 26, 2020, in Raleigh to Matthew Beaudry. Michael is the granddaughter of **Bill Kluttz** (and the late **Lola Kluttz**) and the niece of **Sherri Kluttz**. In this bizarre year to plan a wedding, this wedding had all the beautiful elements that we love, and we extend our congratulations and best wishes to the new bride and groom.



Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:

Lois Bell; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Karen Brittain; Nan Buchanan; David Fesperman; Lucille Hege; Glen Hutchinson; Buddy Lippard; Sylvia Lippard; Carol MacDonald; Sally McGrogan; Sharon Mitchell; Jean Morgan; Marcy Neal; Jimmy Norred; Debbie Shiner; Jim Spillers; Dale Starr; Don Wheeling; Doris Yeattes.

Remember these wider church family and friends:

Chris Barnes (nephew of Harold Poffenbaugh); Katie Bowen (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); Cindy Brown (sister of Sherri Vestal); Eric Chapman (nephew of Jane Ford); Rob Fountain (son-in-law of Jimmy & Nora Norred); Ron Hindson (father-in-law of Amanda Hindson); David Kaynor (nephew of Debbie Kaynor); Kerry & Irene King (parents of Sherri Vestal); Betty Larimer (aunt of Trish Larimer); Ronald Long, Sr.; Michael Pauli (son of Dorothy Pauli); Lisa Pemberton (niece of Abbie Wheeling); Beatrice Rosenthal (mother of David Dole); Annette Sarty (sister of Yvonne Poffenbaugh); Amy Wells (niece of David & Linda Fesperman).

PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY
(Through August 31, 2020)

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends (including rental receipts)	10,165	108,894	110,520	(1,626)
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	5,460	(Budget numbers are not valid due to monies being made available from PPP loan and UCC Covid Grant to cover salaries & other expenses.)		
Other Receipts (Special Funds, Missions/Designated Gifts, Memorials)	2,496	8,081	N/A	N/A



October Birthdays



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Carol MacDonald	2 Linda Fesperman Mary Lillie	3
4	5 Dominic Hittepole David Murray	6 Yvonne Poffenbaugh	7	8	9 Holly Williams	10
11 Kelly York	12 Chris Summers	13 Sherri Kluttz	14	15 Bill Kluttz	16 Jean Scott	17
18	19	20	21 Koltyn Wyrick	22 John Dilworth	23 Ken Cressman	24
25	26	27	28 Marty Morgan	29	30	31