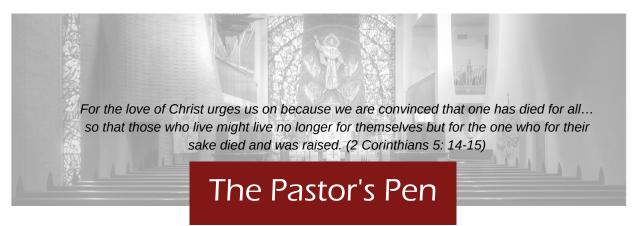


November 2023

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Dear Friends in Christ,

For the love of Christ urges us on! On November 1, All Saints Day, we remember the spiritual union existing between each Christian and Christ, in heaven and on earth. All Saints Day is a celebration that in Holy Baptism we are made one in Christ, possessing a unity that overcomes the divisions and limitations of this world. Unity in Christ extends outward into God's eternal embrace of love for this world.

All Saints Day reminds us that we did not choose Christ, but that Christ has chosen each of us, calling us friends. Our unity in Christ is countercultural to our consumerist and political world in which we choose brands, parties, sides, and even churches. Unity in Christ across time and eternity reminds us of God's love for this entire world, that all nations and peoples are loved by God. All Saints Day celebrates the unity of humanity in its deepest sense, that Christ is always overcoming human sinfulness, creating fellowship here on earth, healing the brokenness of this world.

In the Apostles' Creed, we confess our belief in "the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." As Christians, we live with hope as we lean into a future and promise that we cannot fully see, and yet through faith, already know. To be a member of Christ's church is to already participate in the resurrection and communion of saints, while also hoping that all people might know Christ's resurrection. Through faith we glimpse the mystery that because Christ "died for all," no one lives or dies for themselves alone.

The nature of the church is with and in Christ we have unity with Christ and one another. As modern people tempted to focus on ourselves alone, faith encourages us to see our individuality in relation to God and to one another. The body of Christ is Christ existing as community for others. A church that exists only for itself and not for others is not Christ's church. In our increasingly fractured world, Jesus is the one who exists for others, and his body in this world, the church, exists to live unreservedly for our neighbor, the stranger, and even for our enemies.

Today I give thanks for all the saints who have led me, cared for me, witnessed to me, prayed for me, and inspired me with God's word so that I might know the communion of saints who are my fellow travelers on earth, who have died in the Lord, and who are raised in glory with Christ.

May the love of Christ urge you on as you live for Christ and others! In the fellowship of the gospel, Pastor Tim McKenzie

October Council Highlights

On 10/9/2023, the congregational council held their monthly meeting in the choir room.

From the Pastor's Report:

- 9/18 Call Committee met and voted Meg Fielding the chair of the committee
- 10/5 Pastor Tim completed annual Boundaries Training
- 10/7 Funeral and Committal Service for Charlie Cox
 - o Judy and Benny, Charlie's parents, give their profound thanks for the many prayers for Charlie
- 10/16 10/18 Pastor Tim will attend the Fall NC Synod Convocation at Lutheridge
- 10/18 Pastor Tim will attend and provide invocation at Lifespan 50th Anniversary Event; Evelyn Gerdes and Susan Lakeman will also attend
- 11/7 11/20 Pastor Tim to take time off
- 2/4/2024 Lifespan and St. Mark's are planning a joint Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mark's
- Jay Jacob and Ken Hazen have submitted their drafts of the Ministry Site Profile
- Thank you to Melissa Smith, Chris Stevenson, Jay Jacob, and Sue Wadgymar for helping plan the 2023 Stewardship Appeal

From the Treasurer's Report:

• The church continues to be in a relatively good financial situation.

Other topics during meeting:

- Mission Fund approved loan to pay for roof; awaiting Synod approval
- Finance Committee hopes to finalize 2024 budget in November
- · New council candidates will be approved in October Annual Meeting
 - o Proposed installation date = 11/5

Peace, A.J. Pridgen, Council Secretary

Roof Update

The roof project will commence on or about November 1st and with good weather will be completed within two weeks. The cost of the project is \$146,731.44 and has a 20-year material guarantee. There is a 15% contingency on top of the above amount as one never knows what will be uncovered until the work begins!

The congregation voted to finance this project with a \$170,000 15-year fixed rate loan at 4%. After the roof project is completed, any excess funds, with Council approval, will be used for other maintenance or capital improvements.



Our building will soon be 65 years old, and some areas are still original to 1959. Maintenance and capital projects are ongoing in any building of this age and next year the Congregation will be presented with a maintenance and capital improvement needs list with discussion on how to finance these sorely needed projects. In the meantime, the church has a capital improvements fund and any gift to that fund would be used strictly for paying down the above loan or for future maintenance/capital improvement needs. Your gifts are greatly appreciated.

Cliff Edahl, Treasurer

around St. Mark's

Alice Blackwelder Farewell and Godspeed





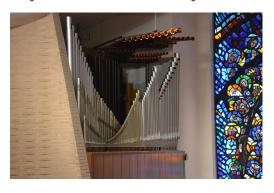


On October 8th, we said "Farewell and Godspeed" to Alice Blackwelder, a member of St. Mark's for 56 years. Alice was a long-time member of the choir and a faithful volunteer in the Soup Kitchen since its beginning nearly 10 years ago. God bless you, Alice!





The Beauty of St. Mark's Sanctuary





These lovely photos taken by John Jacob highlight the unique artistry of the sanctuary organ set against the brick relief wall and stained glass. Shaped like a dove that descended upon Jesus in his baptism, the font is a symbol of the Holy Spirit who is given to all the baptized. The beauty of the font is that it seems to float above the chancel drawing us into the divine presence as we celebrate word and sacrament together.

around St. Mark's

LifeSpan Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Begun in November 1973, Lifespan was known until the year 2000 as "St. Mark's Center," a reminder that it began at St. Mark's led by Phillip Gerdes who cooperated with Leigh Darby and Mecklenburg County. Today Lifespan operates in over twenty counties in North Carolina offering life skills training to young people with significant developmental disabilities. In celebration of this milestone anniversary, St. Mark's and Lifespan are planning a Joint Vespers Service on February 4, 2024.





A 50th anniversary event - "50 Years of Firsts" - was held October 19. (From left) Kenneth Fuquay, Lifespan CEO; State Representative Carla Cunningham; and Christopher White, Lifespan COO, talked about the significance of their work with Lifespan.





Pastor McKenzie gave the Prayer of Invocation, and the event was also attended by St. Mark's members Evelyn Gerdes, Susan, Charles and Michael Lakeman. For nearly ten years, Susan Lakeman, St. Mark's Soup Kitchen Coordinator, has worked weekly with Lifespan coaches and clients who volunteer in our SK ministry.

Synod Fall Convocation





The annual Fall Convocation was held October 16-18; the keynote speaker was Dr. Luke Powery, Dean of the Chapel at Duke Divinity School. Deacon Wendy Roberts, a daughter of St. Mark's (pictured with Bishop Smith), was installed as Assistant to the Bishop, working as Candidacy Coordinator. Pastor Tim attended the Fall Convocation.

around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

Blessing of the Animals, October 7

















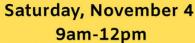




Our annual Blessing of the Animals in commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi was held on the church patio, well attended by cats, dogs, and their human families. It's always a fun event, meeting special pets who are also God's creatures and our beloved companions. Pictured in the church office is a new little one, Giorgi, who visited the church, receiving a blessing from Pastor Tim.

Coming up at St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)





Everyone is welcome to come and help out!



Symbolism Tour 11/6

A tour of St. Mark's symbolism will be given, Monday 11/6 at 1:30 pm, followed by a light reception. All are welcome.





Poinsettias and Wreaths: The cost will be the same as last year at \$12 per plant for honorium/memorial. In addition, someone may sponsor a door wreath with an honorium/memorial as well. The deadline for the Christmas Eve bulletin is Tuesday, 12/19. Flyers will be in the Gathering Place.



Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

Reformation Potluck!





Congregational Life organized an enjoyable Reformation potluck luncheon on October 29th. Thank you to all who brought salads, casseroles and desserts, and all who enjoyed fellowship together. It was a wonderful way to spend time together after worship and the Annual October Meeting.













Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson



LOVE CIRCLE

Drop in to our Love Circle meeting on Wednesday, November 8 at 11:00 in the Large Conference Room. Our members will be glad to welcome you.

SAINT MARK'S MEN'S GROUP

Monthly meetings the second Saturday at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.



Join us November 11!

Our October Street Clean-Up was postponed due to rain. Please stay 11/11 to help us clean the Charlotte streets the Men's Group has adopted.

END STATE

Ethnic Restaurant Group







St Mark's Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Doan's Vietnamese Cuisine on November 21, 2023. Doan's is a family-operated restaurant with attention to each dish presenting a unique flavor that is characteristic of Vietnamese cuisine. The restaurant is located at 5937 South Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28217, in the Archdale Marketplace (the site of the former K-Mart superstore at the corner of Archdale and South Blvd). Come for a pre-Thanksgiving mini-feast and enjoy treats reminiscent of the Indo-Chinese peninsula.

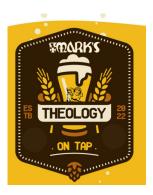
The presentations are beautiful and delicious! RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert by midnight on the Sunday before the dinner. We look forward to sharing a delightful and healthy meal with you at Doan's!



Ethnic Restaurant Group October 17 at Las Americas (Columbian)

Family Ministry

THEOLOGY ON TAP



November's event will be Thursday, 11/9 at 7pm at NoDa Brewing Company, located at 150 W 32nd Street. Everyone is invited!



pictured: THOT 10/19 @ Suffolk Punch

PLEASE DONATE FOR COLLEGE CARE PACKS

WE ARE SENDING OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS CARE PACKAGES FOR FINALS WEEK. HERE ARE SOME TREATS AND SWEETS THAT THEY LOVE AND HELP POWER THEM THROUGH EXAMS:

SUGAR FREE GUM
SINGLE SERVE BAGS OF
CHEEZ-ITS, CHEX MIX, OR
POPCORN
CANDY!
CHOCOLATE
SKITTLES
MOTTS FRUIT SNACKS
POPTARTS



NUTRIGRAIN CEREAL BARS
SLIM JIMS
PRINGLES
GOLDFISH
CHEESE OR PB RITZ CRACKERS
LANCE CHEESE CRACKERS
COOKIES, OREOS, OR CHIPS AHOY
CARDS SHARING YOUR BLESSINGS
& SUPPORT

WE WILL GLADLY TAKE YOUR LEFTOVER HALLOWEEN CANDY!

PLEASE BRING IN YOUR DONATIONS BY NOVEMBER 12!
THANK YOU FOR LOVING AND SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

THANK YOU FOR LOVING AND SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

In addition to your donations, the care packs will include an Advent devotional book to accompany our young people through the Advent season. Thank you for your contributions!

Gifts & Memorials

Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

In Memory of Charlie Cox

Joanne Marz - Music Fund
Millie Cansler - Gifts & Memorials
Linda Carter - Social Ministry Fund
Flora Chance - Property Fund
Gene & Jackie Ellington - Pastor's
Discretionary Fund
Sarah Ingle - Gifts & Memorials
Doug & Carol Milheim - Soup Kitchen Fund
Mike & Shelley Mobley - Gifts & Memorials
Richard Benson - Gifts & Memorials
Richard & Lynn Benson - Gifts & Memorials
Rebecca Wright - Gifts & Memorials
Robert & Linda Benson-Gifts & Memorials
Teddy & Elizabeth Britt - Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of Steve McCurry

Mike & Shelley Mobley - Gifts & Memorials Ann Wylie - Gifts & Memorials Angus Lander - Gifts & Memorials Michael & Kelly Yates - Gifts & Memorials Merle & Sarah Yates - Gifts & Memorials Sarah Ingle - Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of Rev. Dr. Carl McKenzie (Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie's father)

Kevin & Karen Feezor - ELCA Global Mission (Japan)
Alan & Jackie Harms - Gifts & Memorials
Gene & Jackie Ellington - Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Joanne Marz - Music Fund
Joanne Marz - Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Doug & Carol Milheim - Soup Kitchen Fund

In Memory of Takamasa Esashi (Mari McKenzie's father)

Kevin & Karen Feezor - ELCA Global Mission (Japan)
Tom & Judy Tolbert - Gifts & Memorials
Dale & Mary Hopp - Soup Kitchen Fund
Millie Cansler - Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Gene & Jackie Ellington - Pastor's Discretionary Fund
Sarah Ingle - Gifts & Memorials
Doug & Carol Milheim - Soup Kitchen Fund

In Memory of Sam Temple

Scott & Melody Howarth - Music Fund

In Honor of Virginia Joe & Ruth Barrett

Benny & Judy Cox - Music Fund





It is with utmost appreciation that our family thanks you for your care and concern at the sudden and unexpected passing of Pr. Carl. Furthermore, for so many of you to give up a Saturday afternoon, board a bus, or travel by car to Hendersonville for his memorial service is truly heartfelt.

Thank you also for the gorgeous white floral arrangement that was delivered to the church and then retired to our home where it lasted for several weeks. It was a quiet reminder of just how special St. Mark's Church is.

Sincerely,

Juna

Barbara C. McKenzie

Social Ministry

Susan Ginns Committee Chairperson



Fall Drive to Assist Pat's Place

Thank you to all who donated to the drive for Pat's Place. St. Mark's Social Ministry partners with Pat's Place, the only child advocacy center in Mecklenburg County.





Pictured: Susan Ginns delivered 179 pounds of food on October 24. Special shout out to Alice Blackwelder, who donated a box of food items before her move.



Our baker's rack in the Gathering Place is always waiting for your donations of NON-PERISHABLE, NON-BREAKABLE (non-glass) food items.

Thank you for remembering the hungry in our community.



Stewardship

Melissa Smith Committee Chairperson



Sharing our gifts is important to St. Mark's ongoing mission. A pledge is a prayerful commitment to giving in response to God's grace. A pledge may be offered at any time, but pledges help a congregation establish a responsible budget for the coming year.

Please consider making a financial pledge to St. Mark's. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place.

Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries.



Did you know?

You may pledge or give offerings during worship, or online at our website. You may also use the QR code to the left (simply hover your phone camera over the code, connecting to immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page).

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson



Give Thanks with a grateful heart

Join us on November 22nd for a special Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm at St. Mark's and live on Facebook.

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson October Worship Highlights

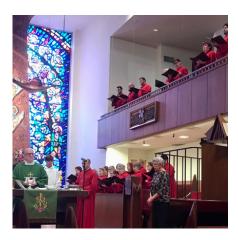


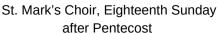




Altar flowers, Charlie Cox Memorial Service, Saturday, October 7, 2023

Les Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry, Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost







Andrew Puky, Acolyte, Sunday, October 8, 2023



Communion Assistants, Sunday, October 8, 2023





Delenn Rumbolo, Christian Souza, Vocal Soloists, Sunday, October 15, 2023

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson



Jack Richardson, Christian Souza, 8:30 am service Song Leaders, Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost



Amy Woodall, Bryan Stoenner, Cantors, Sunday, October 15, 2023



8:30 am Worship Song Leaders, Christian Souza, Delenn Rumbolo, Sunday, October 15, 2023



Instrumental Dress Rehearsal, Reformation Sunday 2023 Charlotte Symphony Brass and Percussion



Elizabeth (Bibba) Whitener, Assisting Organist, Reformation Sunday 2023









Carolina Pro Musica October 20, 2023 (Photos: John Jacob)



Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing Reflections by Lester Ackerman

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803

is from the pen of English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748), this hymn has been labeled by the nineteenth century theologian and literary critic Matthew Arnold as the greatest hymn in the English language. Watt's hymn is based on two sources from the writings of the Apostle Paul, the first, a verse from Galatians--"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world", and the second, a verse from the third chapter of Philippians--"Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ". Isaac Watt's intended this hymn for a communion service he wrote in 1707, with the original title "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ". American composer Lowell Mason (1792-1872) composed the tune HAMBURG in 1824 and takes its name from that city in Germany. He states that he arranged this melody from a Gregorian chant, with only a range of five different pitches: E, F, G, A, B flat.

"Thine the Amen" ELW 826

was first introduced in the summer of 1981 at Holden Village, a retreat center for renewal in the Cascade mountains of Washington state. Two great Lutherans collaborated on this hymn, Herbert Brokering (1926-2009) wrote the text, and the tune THINE was composed by Carl Schalk (1929-2021). The hymn draws its inspiration from the great eucharistic theology in the book of Revelation.

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632

iThe great English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748) published this text is 1719. Based on the first eleven verses of Psalm 90, Watts brought forth in his writing the themes of the greatness of God, the mortality of humanity, and the vastness of time. American Hymnologist Carlton Young writes: "God was present before the hills stood; God has been our shelter and guide, and continues to be our hope for the future." John Wesley (1703-1791) changed the original first word of Watts text from "Our" to "O", feeling that it reached out to everyone and was more inclusive. The tune ST. ANNE was composed by William Croft (1678-1727) and originally wedded to a metrical setting of Psalm 42, but finally found its place with Watts' text in a 1814 publication. The tune name ST. ANNE (Saint Anne was the mother of the Virgin Mary) is named for the church Croft served as organist, Church of St. Anne in Soho, London.

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly" ELW 461

Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993), an ordained minister in the United Church of Canada, wrote this text in 1990 while attending a conference of the Hymn Society in Charleston, SC. She writes "I had the chance to acquaint myself with the tunes of The Southern Harmony (1835). I worked out this text, wandering up and down the beach singing the tune HOLY MANNA." Paul Westermeyer writes of Dunstan's hymn: "The text itself picks up the title of the tune in connection with holy communion and then sets up a series of contrasts between before and after, from wilderness and wandering to truth and being fed, from restlessness and roaming to joy and feast, from loneliness and longing to peace and God's leading."

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing Reflections by Lester Ackerman

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" ELW 834

Scottish Pastor, Walter Chalmers Smith (1824-1908) wrote this hymn in six stanzas and included it in his Hymns of Christ and the Christian Life (London, 1867). The four stanzas included in our hymnal are based on I Timothy 1:17, "To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever". Randy Stevens writes in his book Be Still My Soul, "In this hymn of pure praise, Smith acknowledges that at times, God seems hidden from us--inaccessible--not because of any lack of love on his part but rather because we are not capable of beholding his full glory. It is the splendor of light that hides him". In 1906 British composer Ralph Vaughan Williams was the first to pair this text to the eighteenth-century Welsh tune ST. DENIO. The tune title refers to St. Denis, the patron saint of France. ST. DENIO is based on a traditional Welsh ballad "A Hundred Years from Now" popular in the nineteenth century.

"Take My Life, That I May Be" ELW 685

Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) wrote this hymn in 1874, with publication as a "Consecration hymn" in her Loyal Responses (London, 1878). Her writing appears in twelve couplets under a quotation from the eucharistic prayer at holy communion in the Book of Common Prayer: "Here we offer and present unto Thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee." Havergal's text covers the whole self--body and soul, mind and heart, moments and will. Frances' father William H. Havergal (1793-1870), an Anglican priest and hymnologist, composed the tune PATMOS in 1869, and Frances intended her hymn to be sung to her father's tune.

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" ELW 504

is considered the most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation. This hymn has been translated into practically every language, and close to one hundred English translations are known to exist. Penned by Martin Luther around 1529 and based on Psalm 46, it was his desire to create free metrical versions of the psalms for the congregation to sing. Though we usually view this hymn as a militant battle cry of the Reformation, Luther's original title was "A Hymn of Comfort." In difficulty and danger, Luther would resort to this song, saying to his associate, "Come, Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm." Luther had strong convictions about the use and power of sacred music. "I wish to compose sacred hymns so that the Word of God may dwell among the people also by means of songs." Here is a translation of the first two lines that appeared in a Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book of 1868: "A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon; He helps us free from every need, That hath us now o'ertaken."



St. Mark's Choir, Sunday, October 15, 2023

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson November Serving Schedule

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11/5 C/A: Michael Lakeman

11/12 C/A: Needed 11/19 C/A: Needed

11/26 C: Michael Lakeman

A: Needed

Sound System

11/5 Neil Dixon

11/13 Kevin Feezor

11/19 Alan Harms

11/26 John Brumbaugh

Tabulators

11/5 Karen Feezor

Carol Goodall 11/12 Charles Lakeman

Janice Miller

11/19 Kevin Feezor

Diane Thomas 11/26 Joe Barrett

Alan Harms

Prayer Assistants

11/5 Michael Thompson

11/12 Michael Lakeman

11/19 Youth

11/26 Charles Lakeman

Lectors

11/5 Judy Frye

11/12 Maddie Thompson

11/19 Charles Lakeman

11/26 Michael Lakeman

Communion Helpers

11/5 Kay Finlon

11/12 Catherine Metze

11/19 Sandy Rach

11/26 Karen Covington

Video Streaming

11/5 A. J. Pridgen

11/12 Charles Lakeman

11/19 Charles Lakeman

11/26 A. J. Pridgen

Greeters

11/5 Dale & Mary Lou Hopp

Jay Jacob

11/12 Millie Cansler

Eileen Dunlap

11/19 Neil & Charlotte Dixon

Charles & Susan Lakeman

11/26 Joanne Marz

Ted Seman, David Thomason

Communion Assistants

11/5 Barbara Baker, Lisa Barnette
Janice Miller, Gretchen Payne

A. J. Pridgen

11/12 Charles & Susan Lakeman

Flora Chance, A. J. Pridgen

Chris Stevenson

11/19 Kevin & Karen Feezor

Ken Hazen, Jay Jacob

Gretchen Payne

11/26 Lisa Barnette, Cliff Edahl

Rebecca Huang, Susan Lakeman

Nick Wartner

Ushers

Team A: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Jay Jacob, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson

November Birthdays

11/2	Mary Lou McCurry	11/9	Bradwell Molan	11/18	Larry Lippert
11/3	Garlan Miles	11/10	M. C. Katzel	11/19	Carol Goodall
11/4	Jim Metze	11/10	Elizabeth Conner		Nancy Kutscher
11/4	John Mobley	11/11	Karen Covington	11/24	Burkhardt Otterstadt
11/5	Dave Kutscher	11/11	Pat Fox	11/24	John Iannelli
11/5	Gail Salmon	11/11	Gwen Stone		Amy Jacob
11/7	Laura Foust	11/12	Carol Lippert	11/26	Susan Ginns
11/8	Clayton Payne	11/14	Lowell Engelhard	11/30	Cliff Edahl, Jr.
		11/16	Claire Lippert		