

ST. JOHN'S SPIRIT

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APRIL, 2021

979-289-2485

979-255-0256

Yours to Keep

Last week one of my confirmation students asked me, “why do we call this season leading up to Easter, Lent?” Before I could answer the question, one of the other students answered it for me. He said, “It’s called Lent because now is the time to remember that God ‘lent’ us His Son.” I honestly could not have answered that question any better than that. It is during this Lenten Season that we are to become more intentionally focused and appreciative of the fact that Jesus has come to us and that God loved us enough to “lend” us His Son in order for us to be reconciled to Him.

In the Book of Isaiah 55:8-9, God’s Word tells us;

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts,
Nor are your ways My ways,” says the LORD.
9 “For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.*

I don’t know about you, but I for one, am grateful that God’s thoughts and His ways are higher than my thoughts and actions. If I lend someone something, I expect to get it back at some point. And the same is true if I were to borrow something from you. If you were to lend me something, I’d be sure to return it to you. If I took a loan out at a bank, I guarantee you they’d expect me to make regular payments on that loan. The only exception that I can think of is chewing gum. If you were to ask me to lend you a piece of gum, trust me ... I wouldn’t want it back after you chewed it. Of course, that would never happen because I hate chewing gum and never have any to lend. Anyway, the point is; loans are meant to be paid back. God’s way is higher than our way because God doesn’t want us to simply experience Jesus, perhaps only to “use” Him when we’re in trouble or in desperate need of Divine intervention, etc. and then simply say, “thanks Lord, I appreciate all of Your help, now go back to where You came from.” Unfortunately, that’s the kind of relationship that a lot of people have with Christ. They simply want to borrow Him for a little while and then give Him back, so to speak.

Jesus has come to us and as we once again prepare ourselves to honor His ultimate sacrifice of love for us during Holy Week, and as we make plans to celebrate His glorious resurrection on Easter Sunday ... let us always remember that although He has ascended to back to the Father in Heaven, He is also right here with us today. His Spirit is among us. Jesus is here and He will never leave us. He lives in our hearts and in our soul, and His presence can still be felt each time we call upon Him ... and even when we don’t.

God did not simply lend us His Son, He is ours to keep, now and forever. And so long as we honor Him and serve Him and commit ourselves to being His followers ... He will keep us as well.

*The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve you from all evil. He shall preserve your soul.
Psalm 121:5-7.*

Stay close to the Lord and He will stay close to you.

God bless you and have a blessed Holy Week and Resurrection Sunday!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Darrin

2:36 PM

03/03/21

Cash Basis

St John's United Church of Christ

Profit & Loss

February 2021

	Feb 21	Feb 20	Jan - Feb 21
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Cemetery Plots	500.00	0.00	500.00
Contributions	14,905.75	19,020.85	31,365.55
Rental-Church/FLC	0.00	225.00	0.00
Sunday School	48.00	140.06	144.27
Thrivent Choice Funds	140.00	792.00	140.00
Total Income	<u>15,593.75</u>	<u>20,177.91</u>	<u>32,149.82</u>
Gross Profit	15,593.75	20,177.91	32,149.82
Expense			
Audio/Video/WebHosting	520.00	236.28	960.00
Burton Bridge Ministry	100.00	100.00	200.00
Custodian-FLC	900.00	877.50	1,998.75
Custodian - Church	780.00	780.00	1,560.00
Insurance Expense	0.00	0.00	15,548.65
Maintenance - Cemetery	0.00	0.00	375.00
Nursery Attendants	100.00	80.00	100.00
OCWM	666.67	1,083.33	1,333.34
Office Secretary	1,083.33	1,083.34	2,166.66
Office Supplies	801.63	977.81	2,204.21
Organists	225.00	120.00	600.00
Pastor's Annuity	819.00	0.00	1,638.00
Pastor's Car Allowance	0.00	499.10	110.32
Pastor's Health Insurance	517.71	517.71	1,035.42
Pastor's Salary	4,666.66	4,500.00	9,333.32
Payroll Expenses	208.71	159.18	437.99
Promotion	914.16	1,037.95	1,254.64
Repairs and Maintenance	202.04	586.14	765.19
Sunday School Expense	0.00	132.26	244.13
Supplies - FLC	0.00	350.00	225.27
Utilities	2,595.33	2,237.57	4,593.05
Total Expense	<u>15,100.24</u>	<u>15,358.17</u>	<u>46,683.94</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>493.51</u>	<u>4,819.74</u>	<u>-14,534.12</u>
Net Income	<u><u>493.51</u></u>	<u><u>4,819.74</u></u>	<u><u>-14,534.12</u></u>

What's Happening in our neighborhood.....

Maundy Thursday service will be on April 1 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the sanctuary.

April 4 Easter services will be at the cemetery at 6:45 a.m. Communion will be served at 8 and at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. There will also be Baptisms at the 8a.m. service. The Children's Sunday school will decorate the Easter Cross during 9 a.m. Sunday school, and they will also have an egg hunt at 9:15 on the church grounds. The children will present the cross at 10.

The Sarah Circle will have **Easter Breakfast from 7:30-9:00 in the FLC**. Mike Clyde will be cooking pancakes and the original Sarah Circle breakfast casseroles will be served along with coffee, juice, and fruit.

There will be a **blood drive on April 11** in the FLC. Please contact Karen Harmel to sign up at 979-203-1470.

The **food pantry** will be at St. John's on April 16 from 10-12 or until the food runs out.

Church council will meet on **April 14 at 6p.m.**

Sarah Circle will meet on April 21 in the outdoor covered pavilion area at 6:30-8:00. Subway sandwiches and chips in individual bags will be served. Bottled water will be available. Please RSVP to Mickie Angerame. Please wear your mask.

The **Men's Group** will meet at James Press' house on April 21.

Thank You

Thank you, friends and members, for your prayers, cards, food and phone calls after my fall and hip surgery. I appreciate and will remember the kindness each of you showed through the love of Jesus Christ. **Laurell Smith**

Charity Reserve Grants

We are pleased to announce that St. John's UCC in Burton will be making grants to local charities. This year our distribution is planned with the maximum distribution to any one charity being \$7,000.

We encourage all interested 501©(3) nonprofit qualified charities in Washington and surrounding counties to complete our application which can be found on our website www.stjohnsburton.org.

We ask all St. John's members who have a favorite local charity to contact them and encourage them to complete an application. The Charity Reserve committee will review it and be in contact with them. Organizations that have applied in the past will be contacted by the committee.

UCC Charity Reserve Appeal for New Members

The Charity Reserve Committee is looking for new members to fill vacancies. We meet 4 to 5 times a year to make selections concerning the distribution of funds. Applications are reviewed, then visits are made to the applicants to improve our knowledge prior to making selections. This is important and rewarding work for St John's outreach program. Interested individuals please contact Clyde Engelbrecht at 832-452-6198.

Prayers:

We continue to pray for Diane Boehnemann, Brian Chenault, Tim Culliver, Ranell Knipstein Dacus, Sue Easton, London Gaskins, Clay Goehring, Ricky Hall, Ron Hall, Linda, Ron's daughter, Rhett Livingston, Nancy Maass, Jack Millett, Pam Ptaesel, Collin Smith, Sue Smith and Connie Watson. We pray that all goes well with Barbara Bosse and her knee surgery on April 6. We pray for Your guidance of the surgeons and nurses and we pray that Barbara will recuperate quickly. We extend our sympathy to the families of Kyra Lynn Deats, Erwin Meier and Jim Jankowiak. We pray that You watch over them as they grieve the loss of their loved one. Remember Gerdine and Lee Dell in our care facilities. Thank You for watching over them. Thank You for all the wonderful blessings You have given us today and every day. **Amen**

BE A HERO

BURTON COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

ST. JOHN'S UCC



Sunday, April 11, 2021

9:00 - 1:30

**PLEASE CONSIDER SAVING LIVES
THROUGH A BLOOD DONATION!!**

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE,

KAREN HARMEL

979-203-1470

From Liz Nash

I share with you the sad news for those who do not know that Douglas Anders, our former Conference Minister, died on Monday, March 22nd at his home in Bel-Nor (in St. Louis), Missouri. He fought a courageous battle with cancer for several years, always expressing in his email updates his faith in God no matter what the outcome. For me, Douglas was a trusted and valued colleague and friend. I had a close understanding of how hard he worked, of how engaged he was in the stewardship of our Conference's resources, of his dedicated work with leadership and committees, and of his care for the South Central Conference and all of our churches. Many people experienced his kindness and also his engagement and help when a church or a minister was in need. After he retired and moved home to St. Louis, he gave his time and gifts, even over the years of his illness, in many, many ways: as an Interim Conference Minister, as an interim and supply minister in churches, as a volunteer doing substantial work for the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and as an elected Alderperson for the City of Bel-Nor. As a measure of who he was, the city of Bel-Nor posted this on its website: "We lost a good friend, neighbor, and colleague with Douglas's death. He was a consummate gentleman who fought a courageous battle with illness but worked hard for the city and other causes as long as he was able. He will be sorely missed." Douglas will be missed indeed. Let us commend him to God and give thanks for his life with us, with those he served, and now for his life surrounded by God's love without measure.

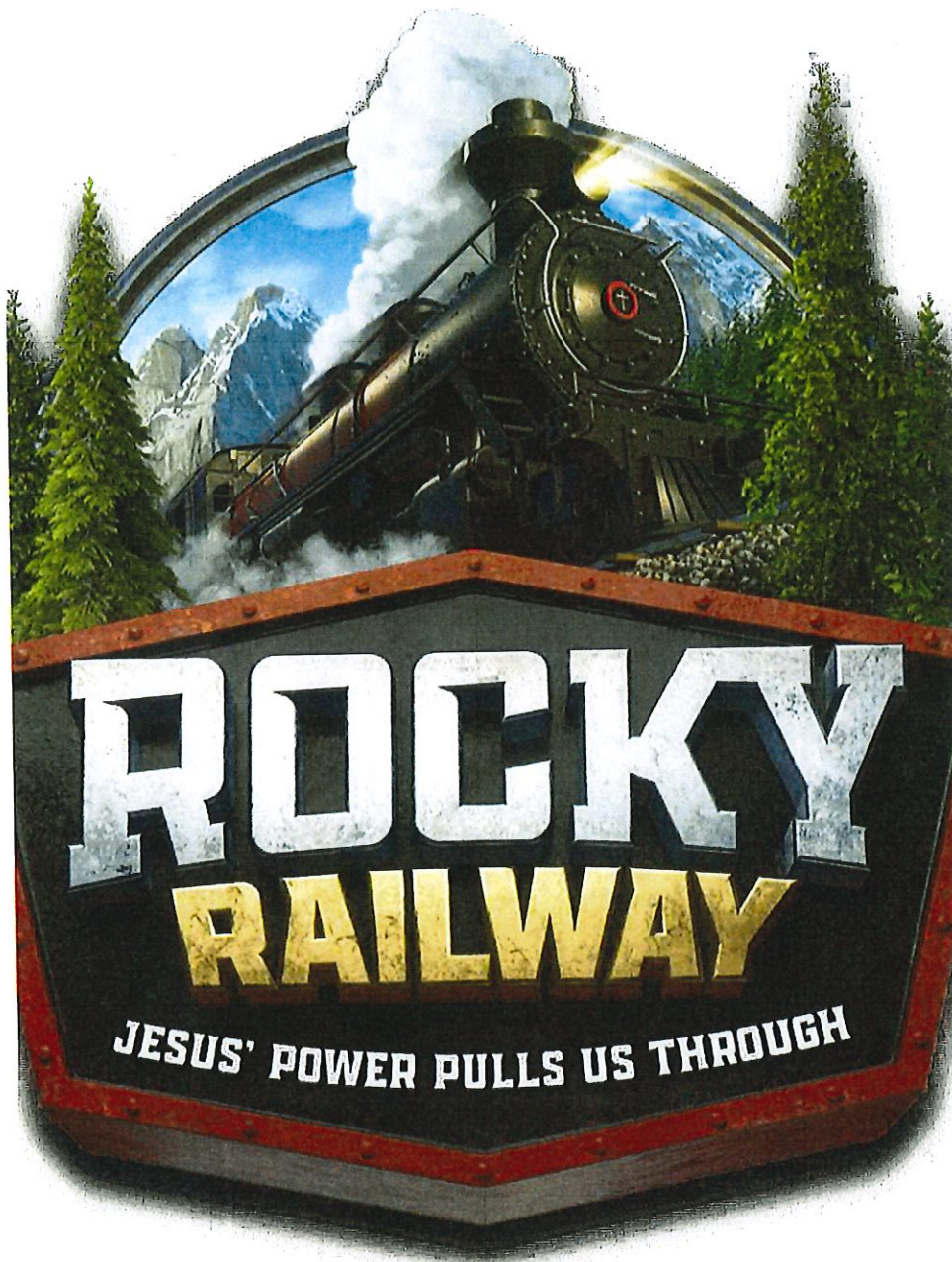
Installation of Pastor Darrin and Council

Pastor Darrin and wife Kim enjoyed cake after the installation on Palm Sunday. They were installed by Council President Dean Fuchs.



New Council members were also installed. Council members are Jeff Krolczyk, Tracy Matthies, Jodell Hodde, Sue Schwartz, Sam Hodde and Mark Klaus. Back Row: Dean Fuchs, Blake Emmett, Christy Moran, Barbara Saunders and Pastor Darrin. Not pictured is Mike Clyde.





SAVE THE DATE

FOR Vacation Bible School 2021 at St. John's

Evenings: Sunday, July 25 through Wednesday, July 28

**Contact Tracy Matthies or Joan Goebel for questions or to
share ideas.**

tracymatthies@gmail.com (979) 451-9744

St. John's United Church of Christ
Council Meeting
January 19, 2021

The meeting was called to order by President Dean Fuchs at 6:00 p.m. and prayer was given by Pastor Darrin Holub.

Interim Council Member:

After recognizing our late Carol Montgomery's faithful service as Council member, Dean Fuchs asked for the attending Council members to accept Blake Emmett as an interim Council member, replacing Carol for her one remaining year term. All unanimously agreed.

Individuals Present:

Council Members –Dean Fuchs, Clyde Engelbrecht, Tracy Matthies, Nikki Harmel, Blake Emmett, Jodell Hodde, James Press, Jeff Krolczyk and Bill Comiskey

Individuals – Pastor Darrin Holub and Larry Winkelmann

Minutes from Previous Meeting:

James Press asked for any concerns with the December, 2020 minutes previously distributed for review. A few minor comments via email prior to the meeting were incorporated. Bill Comiskey made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Clyde Engelbrecht; the motion passed unanimously.

Treasurers' Reports

Treasurer's Report (Operational):

Ann Pape had provided the report previously via email. Bill Comiskey noted that we finished the year \$748.52 surplus over budget—a commendable achievement for this trying year. All financial reports will be approved together at the bottom of the Investment Report.

Treasurer's Report (Non-Operational):

Larry Winkelmann provided a copy of the September investment report to all council members. As of December 31st, 2020, the Investments report shows the current CD balance is \$117,400.17, unchanged from last month's report. The Savings balance is \$133,643.43 and the additional church funds remain at \$18,041.78. The Charity Reserve fund remains \$15,648.40 as reported last month. A motion was made by Jeff Krolczyk to approve all the above financials as submitted; the motion was seconded by Tracy Matthies. The motion was approved unanimously.

Reports Previously Submitted:

Charity Reserve – Clyde Engelbrecht: The stock market continued to do well this period, so our Moderate Balanced Funds' market value has increased from \$1.11M to \$1.15M. Our Fixed Income Fund increased from \$355.5k to \$356.7k. We have an account balance in Burton State Bank of \$40.95k. The Charity Reserve Committee moved that the Church Council approve withdrawing \$75k from the Moderate Balanced Fund and deposit same into a new Burton State Bank CD to assure that funds are available to our 2021 charity distributions. The motion was seconded by Nikki Harmel; the motion was unanimously approved.

Christian Education – Christy Moran submitted her report to all council members prior to the meeting: There were no questions or comments to her report; therefore, no action was required by Church Council.

Pastor – Darrin Holub: We will have our customary Lenten and Easter services with one exception—will have our Ash Wednesday service, but we will forgo the putting on of the ashes this year to avoid the personal touching and proximity.

Committee on Ministry—Pastor Darrin has volunteered to serve three more years on the Committee on Ministry, an oversight committee for all our churches in our association. This exposure will give our pastor insight into happenings and procedures in the wider Church.

Internet Service—We will be replacing our Rise Broadband wifi internet access with Zoch Net—a free service which only requires us to purchase two wireless routers and installation fee totaling \$183. We will have a baptismal service on February 14th.

Worship Attendance—All are encouraged to work on improving our worship attendance as we progress toward “normalcy” from the pandemic.

Break Bread—The Council decided to reinstate Break Bread on 5th Sundays beginning Sunday, January 31st.

Congregation Annual Meeting—The congregational Annual Meeting will be held just after the 10:00 AM worship service on January 24, 2021

Old Business:

Church Insurance—Dean Fuchs has initiated a new insurance policy for the church through Wellmann Insurance, per last month’s Council approval. The cost is about the same as our past Church Mutual policy, with some additions in coverages included.

Financial Audit—Our financial books were audited, with no discrepancies noted.

New Business:

Scholarship Committee—The Glen and Dottie Schoeneberg Scholarship Committee has worked extremely hard to develop revised and improved mission statement, guidelines and scholarship application form. These documents define in much more detail and clarity what this Scholarship program is, its objective, how it is funded and why it was so important to Glen and Dottie. This program is something this church can be proud to sponsor.

Texas Sanitizing Pro’s—This business does free sanitizing service for churches and schools. They have volunteered to service our church. Dean will look into the details of their services.

Memorial Tree Planting—Along with Bootsie Huebner’s substantial gift to the church, he had a request to plant a pecan tree on the church property. The Council would like to replace the large redbud tree in Bootsie’s honor. This redbud tree recently collapsed and had to be removed. Dean will see if this redbud tree would be an acceptable substitution for Bootsie’s pecan tree request.

Ongoing Church Activities—As we gradually recover from the pandemic, a few church activities may be appropriate to re-start in the near future, e.g., September Homecoming fundraiser and Family Day in May. Discussions were started to get committees organized in the very near future.

Church Council Annual Meal—This year’s meal will be held at JW’s Steakhouse on February 9th at 6:00 PM.

Spiritual Time:

Pastor Darrin—Philippians 4:4-7. These verses tell us to look for simple answers to everyday problems. Life can be a very complex journey unless you share your burden with the Lord. With His help the simple answers can become clear to us.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Comiskey and seconded by Tracy Matthies; the motion passed unanimously. The meeting closed by reciting The Lord’s Prayer.

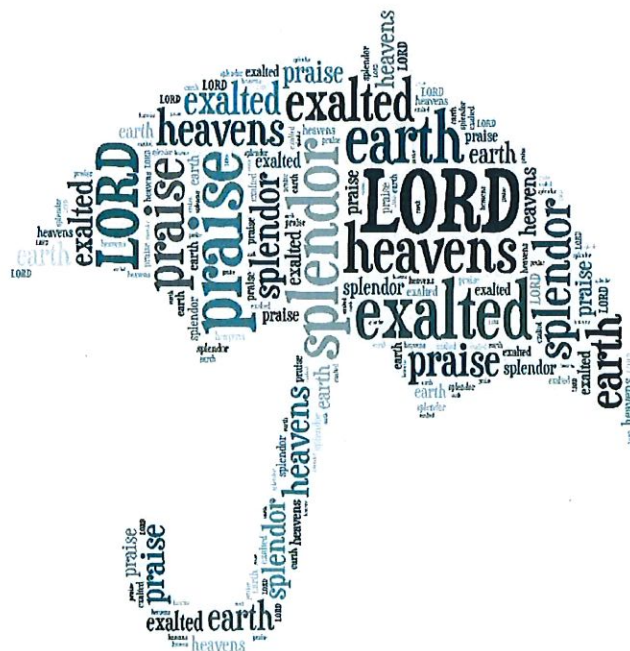
Respectfully submitted,
James Press

Council Duty April 2021

4/4/21	8 AM	#	Already Scheduled		
	10 AM	1			
4/11/21	8 AM	#	Jeff Krolczyk	#	Mike Clyde
	10 AM	1	Tracy Matthies	2	Blake Emmett
4/18/21	8 AM	#	Barbara Saunders	#	Nicole Harmel
	10 AM	1	Sam Hodde	2	Christy Moran
4/25/21	8 AM	#	Mark Klaus	#	Sue Schwartz
	10 AM	1	Tracy Matthies	2	Christy Moran

Flower Calendar March 2021

- April 4 Altar: In memory of Alwina & Ed Fuchs and Paul Kessler by the family.
- April 11 Altar: In memory of Carol Montgomery's birthday by her friends.
- April 18 Altar: In memory of Greg Felder's birthday by his family.
- April 25 Altar: In memory of Louis & Lorena Stolz by the James Stolz family and the Johnnie Schroeder family.



April

2021

Happy Easter! He is risen!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Yoga, 4:30 M M,5-6 Maundy Thursday service, 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.	2 Good Friday No Sr. Meal	3 Holy Saturday FLC & kitchen occupied all day
4 Sunrise,6:45 @ cemetery Communion, 8 & 10; Baptisms, 8 Children's Sunday School & egg hunt, 9- 9:45 Breakfast in FLC, 7:30-9:00	5	6 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	7 Yoga, 7:30-8:30 Confirmation, 6 FCA, 6	8 Mary Martha Sewing Circle, 1-5 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	9 Sr. Day, 12:30 Food Pantry, 10-12	10
11 Praise, 8 Traditional, 10 Children's Choir, 10 Blood Drive, 9- 3	12 4H, 6	13 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	14 Yoga, 7:30-8:30 Council, 6 Confirmation, 6 FCA, 6	15 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	16 Sr. Day, 12:30 Food Pantry, 10-12	17 Cotton Gin Festival
18 Services 8 & 10	19 FLC is occupied all day	20 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	21 Yoga, 7:30-8:30 Confirmation, 6 FCA, 6 Sarah Circle, 6:30-8:00 in the garden Men's Group @ James Press' house	22 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	23 Sr. Day, 12:30	24
25 Praise, 8 Traditional, 10	26	27 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	28 Yoga, 7:30-8:30 BBM, 12-1 in FLC Confirmation, 6 FCA, 6	29 Mary Martha Sewing Circle, 1-5 Yoga, 4:30 Motivated Movers,5-6	30 Sr. Day, 12:30	



- 28 Vicki Tiedt
- 29 Myrt Meinkowsky
- 30 Lane Fritsch



April Birthdays

- 2 Peggy Kunkel
Cullen Wagner
Tyler Fuchs
Beth Berardinelli
- 5 Kelsey Guelker
- 6 Glen Schoeneberg
Dale Schwartz
- 7 Nick Goldberg
Jordan Prigge
- 9 Charley Chenault
Kenton Prigge
Mark Conley
Savannah Kinser
Brinley Swonke
Larry Dunford
- 10 Wanda Whitener
Denton Shippey
- 14 Vance Winkelmann
John Crotchett
Reese Michalak
- 12 Brian Jaeger
- 16 Cody Fuchs
Collin Morrison
- 17 Lindsay Henry
Nikki Harmel
- 18 Jane Herzog
Billy Jasinski
- 19 William Wendler
- 21 Wade Friedrich
- 23 Ryan Serman
- 25 Justin Fuchs
Sue Johnston
- 26 Wes Davenport
- 27 Linda Wegner

April Anniversaries

- 7 Allie & T R Fuchs
- 8 Pam & Johnny Langston
- 10 Vicki & Lorenz Tiedt
Sharon & James Stolz
- 11 Gladys & Tommy Avis
Mickie & Tom Angerame
- 12 Michelle & Jon Hodde
- 23 Sharon & Kenton Prigge



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