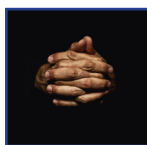


August 2025



*Senior Pastor Colson reflects on the power of stillness as he recuperates from his surgery. See Page 2*



*The Women's Ministry invites the women of the church to two upcoming events. See Page 3*

*Are we done with Jubilee Enhancements? Yes, but we have more to do. John Gingrich, Chairman, Board of Elders explains.*



*See Page 4*



*Get an update from our mission team in Navajo see page 8*



*Our Mission Partner of the month is INIM- which works in India. See page 10*



## TEEN MISSIONARIES IN ACTION

This summer, a group of fifteen missionaries from our church—four adults and eleven teens—took a nine-day trip to Camp Good News Maine, a Christian camp. After a multi-mode journey, we joined over eighty staff members to serve more than one hundred campers from various northeastern states.

Life at camp was rustic, with our team staying in simple cabins alongside counselors who managed eight to ten campers each. Days were packed with activities like swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, and chapel sessions—providing opportunities to share the gospel and grow in faith.

One teen, June Mahnel, expressed, "Maine was a good experience because we learned how to teach kids the gospel while learning the gospel and growing closer to each other and God." This summed up the experience, where we not only impacted the campers' lives but also deepened our own faith.

Philippians 4:8 became our guiding verse, urging us to focus on what is true, noble, and praiseworthy as we embraced the joy of service and community at camp.

# From our Senior Pastor

## Seasons of Stillness and Vision



Rev. Adam Colson

Dear Church Family,

As many of you know, I am currently in a six-week recovery period following spine surgery, complete with a brace and lots of “doctor-ordered stillness.” While I have not been able to be physically present at the church, I have experienced a different kind of presence—God’s presence in a profound and refreshing way.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us, “Be still, and know that I am God.” This season of stillness has become a sacred space for prayer, reflection, and deep Bible study. When life slows down, the noise of busyness fades, and suddenly, you can hear the gentle whisper of God (1 Kings 19:12). He has been speaking to my heart about our church’s future—about upcoming sermon series, new ways to reach our community, and how we can continue to grow as disciples who make disciples.

C.S. Lewis once said, “The trouble is that we are so busy doing things for Christ that we forget to sit at His feet and learn of Him.” These past weeks have been a beautiful reminder of the power of simply sitting with Jesus—listening, dreaming, and allowing Him to renew my spirit.

Though I long to be back with you, God is using this time to prepare the way for an exciting season ahead. I believe the Lord is positioning our church to step boldly into new opportunities to share the Gospel, serve our neighbors, and grow in faith together.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and love during this time. As Paul wrote in Philippians 1:3-6, “I thank my God every time I remember you... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Get ready, church family—God is on the move, and I can’t wait to join you again soon, stronger than ever, to see what He will do next!

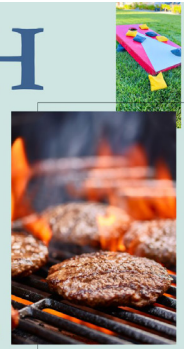
In His love,  
Pastor Colson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read “A. Colson”.

## CHURCH PICNIC

12PM - 4PM  
AUGUST 31, 2025

Park in the lower lot.  
Food and drinks provided.  
Games and activities for the whole family!



*CrossCurrents is a publication of*  
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Locust Grove, VA 22508  
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*Unsolicited content is welcome.*  
Send to: [elder.comm@lowchurch.org](mailto:elder.comm@lowchurch.org)  
View online at [www.lowchurch.org](http://www.lowchurch.org)



# Women Ministries

We had such a fantastic time at our spring event, **“Bloom Where You Are Planted!”** Scarlett from Deep Roots Garden Center shared her wisdom about creating a vibrant container garden—she introduced us to the key elements: the thriller, the spiller, and the filler! **Over 100 wonderful women** joined us to hear Scarlett and Pat Ericksen, who inspired us with a message from Ephesians 2:10, reminding us that each of us has a special place and purpose in God’s garden, our church. We also had the joy of hearing three of our ladies share how God is using them in various ministries.

To top it all off, we enjoyed a delicious lunch thanks to Bob Harbick and his amazing team!

The event was interactive, too! After the presentations, everyone had the chance to jot down their interests and ideas for Women’s Ministry on sticky notes and stick them on posters around the room. We had a ton of notes filled with great ideas!

Ladies, don’t forget to **save the dates** for our upcoming events! On **August 23rd**, we’ll gather to **Connect and Refresh** in the Founder’s Room over coffee and muffins. Then, on **October 4**, we’re hosting a brunch called **“Seasons of our Lives,”** where we’ll explore how to turn our great ideas into action! Registration starts on September 7, and we’d love to see you there!



## LADIES CONNECT & REFRESH

August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
Charter/Founders Room  
Sip coffee, share stories,  
and connect with other  
women from LOW Church!



## From our Board of Elders

### **\*\*Jubilee Enhancements: Building a More Welcoming, Accessible, and Safe Church Community\*\***

Our mission is both straightforward and impactful: to transform our church into a place that is welcoming, accessible, and safe for everyone who comes through our doors.

First, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the extraordinary generosity of our congregation. From the outset, we have pledged to pursue only those initiatives that align with the resources God provides, and we have been steadfast in this commitment every step of the way. Thank you for your faithfulness.

One common question that arises is, “Have we completed the Jubilee Enhancements?” The short answer is partially. We have made significant progress in enhancing accessibility. The elevator and ramp are now fully operational, the entry doors are equipped with power operation, and we have four accessible restrooms—two near the Gathering Place and two in the Discovery Zone. However, a few important tasks remain: installing grab bars where necessary, adding motion-sensor lighting in all restrooms, and assessing interior doors for improved ease of use.

In terms of safety, we are thrilled with the strides made but recognize there is more work ahead. We have applied for a FEMA grant aimed at expanding and upgrading our security system. Our vision includes an increased number and quality of cameras, a revamped control room, integration of monitoring and door systems, connection of all exterior cameras to a central network, enhanced access for LOW Association security viewing, improved exterior lighting, and fortified internal computer security. Should the grant be denied, we remain dedicated to pursuing this mission as resources allow—ensuring safety continues to be our utmost priority. We will provide more updates in the September issue.

We’ve also made significant strides in hospitality. We now offer additional handicap parking spaces with improved signage. Our congregation has united for two successful church-wide cleanup days, and the Youth area has been revitalized with fresh paint in the hallways. The

Board of Elders is currently prioritizing further projects to be completed in the coming year, which we plan to discuss in the October CrossCurrents.

As we work diligently to enhance our church facility to better serve everyone who enters, your continued support and prayers empower us in this endeavor. Thank you for being an integral part of **this journey**.



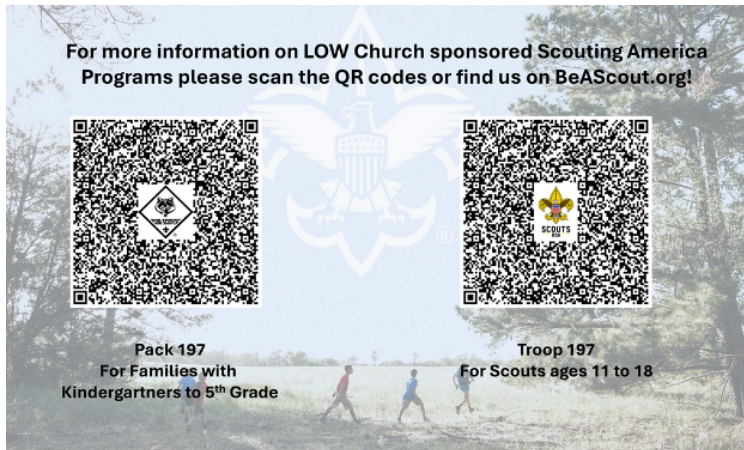


# Scouting

Lake of the Woods Church is pleased to present a new Scouting America display case in the Welcome Center area outside the Founders Room. The display highlights the names of Troop 197 Eagle Scouts and the 2024 Lake of the Woods Association Community Service Award given to Cub Scout Pack 197. LOW Church is proud to sponsor both Scout units and encourages youth to become part of either the Troop or the Pack.

Volunteers of the LOW Woodworkers Club crafted the display case. Hal Wood contributed the design drawings. Joe Snyder served as the project lead. He and David Valentine did most of the construction. Club President Dave Lyon provided coordination, did the stain and finish, and mounted the fabric. Eldon Doubet guided the assembly of the components and mounting of the case on the slat board. Church members Warren Hamblet and Jack Simons aided. Church member Mike Neeley donated marketing signage with expertise from his Signs4Less team, and glass was secured from Mike's Glass in Orange. The whole team is very proud of the final display case.

Scouting America is an Adventure program designed for families. Pack 197 has twenty-nine (29) active Cub Scouts, boys and girls, enjoying Pinewood Derby, Aviation Day at Gordonsville, Rain Gutter Regatta, Den and Pack activities. Troop 197 just completed a fun-filled week at Camp Shenandoah, with Scouts earning merit badges, doing water sports, archery, rifle, and shotgun shooting. The troop is planning an exciting year with a boy-led, adult-coached program.





# *Stuff the Bus*

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible volunteers and supporters of our 2025 Stuff the Bus campaign. Your hard work and dedication made it possible for us to distribute 250 backpacks filled with essentials to middle and elementary school students in need. A special thank you to Marianne Brancato, our wonderful STB coordinator this year, for her leadership and passion. Your kindness has truly made a difference in the lives of these children. Thank you for being a part of this meaningful effort!



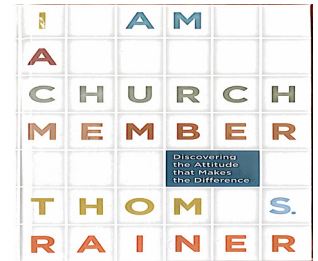


# “Church Membership Is a Gift to Be Treasured”

CHAPTER 6 - Rev. Jordan Medas, Sr. Associate Pastor

*Editor’s Note: Each month one of the Church’s Pastors will write a commentary on a chapter from I AM a Church Member by Thom S. Rainer.*

When I reflect on what it means to be a member of the body of Christ, both from Scripture and from *I Am a Church Member*, I am reminded how often we treat church membership like a club we join, a duty we must fulfill, or even wonder why it matters. After all, I’m a Christian, I’m a part of the universal church, why do I need to be a “member” of a local church?



Scripture paints a far more beautiful picture. Church membership is not a checklist of responsibilities, a transactional relationship, or a burden. It is a gift. A gift of grace, flowing from the same heart that gave us salvation.

In Chapter Six of *I Am a Church Member*, Thom Rainer reminds us that we are to treasure our church membership as a privilege, not take it for granted as an obligation. He explains that many Christians slip into the mindset that membership is a legalistic requirement. But biblically, it’s a commitment to each other within the local body of Christ and it’s an opportunity to serve and to give, not a demand to do so. When we see church through this lens, our hearts shift from consumer to contributor, from obligation to a desire to serve.

Much like salvation itself, church membership is undeserved. None of us earns our place in the family of God. We are welcomed in by grace. And just as we live out our faith with gratitude for salvation, we are also called to live out our membership in the church, both local and universal, as God’s chosen people.

In other words, as Rainer says, church is something to be treasured, not just attended. Membership isn’t about privileges; it’s about purpose. When we gather, serve, give, pray, and worship together, we are embodying what it means to belong to something eternal, the people of God, called by His name, set apart for His mission.

This truth affects not just our Sunday mornings, but our whole lives. We model this for our families, our children, and the community. We teach them that the church is not something we attend, but something we are, a family to which we belong. As we celebrate and serve in our local church, we are participating in the much larger work of the universal Church across time and place.

So I invite you to reflect: Do you treasure your church membership as a gift? Are you living into that gift with gratitude, joy, and sacrificial love?

Let’s not take membership for granted. Let’s celebrate it and live it out.

## **\*\*Good News Camp – Navajo Nation\*\***

*“And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’” — Romans 10:15 (NIV)*

As I write this from New Mexico, my heart is full as our team engages in outreach with the Navajo children at the Southwest Indian Ministries camp, nestled 15 miles west of Gallup, NM. Our group of 25 arrived on Sunday, July 27, and we’re set to return on Sunday, August 3.

Throughout our week here, we’re excited to provide a range of activities that engage and uplift the children—sports, Bible studies, crafts, and shared meals, along with evening chapel services to foster spiritual growth. Additionally, four dedicated members of our team are contributing to the camp’s infrastructure by installing metal siding on one end of the chapel and constructing a shed for our equipment storage.

*“Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” — Matthew 9:38 (NRSV)*

In the months leading up to this mission, we prepared with hopeful anticipation, albeit with some uncertainty about whether any children would join us. We placed our faith in God, understanding that our responsibility was to step forward in obedience while trusting Him with the outcomes. The joy we felt on Monday morning when eight children arrived was indescribable. Though that number may seem modest, it was a tangible response to our prayers. We earnestly sought God to bring the children, and He did. With hearts full of gratitude, we recognize this as a testament to our faith in the Lord of the harvest.

As we look ahead, our church has been committed to serving the Navajo people since 2017, and this camp offers the best facilities we’ve ever experienced. It’s clear that God is blessing this important work. We are fervently praying for a long-term relationship with the local Navajo churches and this camp, hoping to deepen our connection in meaningful ways. We invite you to join us in prayer as we seek God’s guidance for what the future holds.





## Tables of 8

### “Gather with old and new friends”

Once upon a time, before COVID, Tables of 8 was an exciting ministry in our church. Some of you may remember Tables of 8. You may have hosted and participated in this ministry, which provided a wonderful, fun way to get to know more folks in our church.

What are Tables of 8? Tables of 8 is a proven way to bring church members together. It helps provide a context to form and build relationships within our church by sharing meals together at a host member's home once every three months. This exciting ministry is for our church family to build greater unity and improve member recognition.

Here's how it works: Once you sign up, you will receive an email confirming that you have agreed to be a participant. Next, our Tables of 8 Committee will form table hosts and groups of 8. They will provide all the information necessary for the table hosts and their group for that meal. Dates for the meetings will be published for the upcoming year - for your planning purposes.

How to Sign up – Go to the Church's website [www.lowchurch.org](http://www.lowchurch.org) or look for sign up table in the **Gathering Place**.

**Questions – Call Mike Green at 703-850-0936 or Alison Merrill at 443-417-0822**

**Calendar for church activities for the next 90 days...See [lowchurch.org](http://lowchurch.org) for latest information**

August		September		October	
/27-3	Navajo Mission Trip	1	Labor Day Church Office Closed	4	Women's Ministry Luncheon
9	Mechaic's Ministry 9am LWOC	3	Weds. Family Night Dinners & Worship Resume 5:30pm	11	Mechanics' Ministry 9am LWOC
15-16	Men's Retreat	4	Life Line Screening 7:30 am	13	OFFICE CLOSED
17	Baptism Sunday	13	Mechanics Ministry 9 am LWOC	19	Sout's Pancake Breakfast
23	Women's Mistry Connect and Refresh Founder's Rm	15	Youth Fall Golf Classic Fawn Lake CC	31	Trunk or Treat
24	Youth Leader's Training 12:30pm				
31	Church Picnic	19-20	Father Son Grandson Camp Out		

## Mission Partner of the Month: India National Inland Mission (INIM)

**“Bringing souls to Christ, Teaching souls in Christ, Sending souls for Christ” since 1964**

(INIM), is headquartered in New Delhi, India, with outreach concentrated in the largely unevangelized northern states of India. INIM includes Grace Bible College to train native evangelists who go out into North India and establish churches. The organization also maintains a children's home for orphans.

I first met the Pillai family when Paul and Annie came to our church in Fairfax in mid-1980. After that visit, a small group formed an India Prayer group, which met monthly for 10 years to pray for INIM and India. Several years after meeting the Pillais, I stayed with them in New Delhi and met AJ, our representative here in VA, when he was a young boy. Sadly, both his parents have gone home to be with Jesus, but the ministry has continued. All AJ's siblings are in ministry, spreading the word of God internationally. INIM is a powerful ministry that serves over 1000 orphans and a large number of students attending Grace Bible College, teaching them how to evangelize and establish home churches. INIM continues to grow in the face of Muslim and Hindu opposition. INIM seeks prayers for safety, continued success of Grace Bible, a large harvest of souls, and success with home churches. Additionally, prayer is needed for the 1000 + orphans with housing and schooling. I am proud to say that 60% of the orphans after high school want to attend Grace Bible and establish their own home church.

Anne Tower, Mission Team Member

### Prayer for Navajo

Almighty God, we give thanks for the faithful witness of India National Inland Mission and their commitment to equipping, teaching, and reaching souls for Christ throughout India and South Asia. Strengthen their efforts in evangelism, church planting, orphan care, and leadership development, and bless the work of Grace Bible College as they equip local pastors and evangelists. May their ministry bear lasting fruit for Your Kingdom and shine the light of Christ among the unreached. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.



**LOWC**

**Mechanics Ministry**

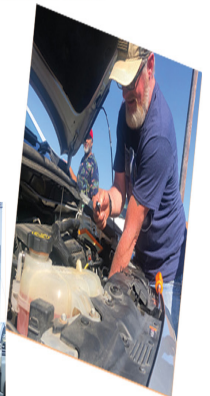
Providing affordable car-care solutions for those in need.

Saturday Mar. 8th, Apr. 12th, May 10th, Jun 14th,  
Jul. 12th, Aug. 9th., Sept. 13th, Oct. 11th,  
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Living Water Outreach Center

#### Services Offered:

Lube, oil and filter change  
Rotate Tires  
Air and cabin filter change  
Replace brake pads & rotors  
Diagnostics "check codes"



Sign up today  
@lowchurch.org!



## CHOIR CANTATA INVITATION:

Every year at **The Lake of the Woods Church**, one of the most prominent events is the **Christmas Cantata**. In fact, the choir will soon begin rehearsing the music and story they will share with the church and community this December. While each year's cantata may have a different theme, they all share a unifying truth that defines the Advent and Christmas seasons: "The Son of God became a man, so that men and women might become sons and daughters of God."

Singing in a group—especially in worship—is a wonderful way to express devotion to God. It's also a great opportunity to meet new people and work together toward a common goal. That's why we're excited to invite everyone to be part of the choir for this year's cantata.

Rehearsals will begin **September 2 at 6:30 p.m.** and will last approximately 45 minutes each week. Joining the choir for the cantata is not a commitment to becoming a permanent member of the choir, but we hope you'll consider that possibility after being part of this experience.

To learn more and sign up, email Minister Paxton at [kevin.paxton@lowchurch.org](mailto:kevin.paxton@lowchurch.org). You can also call the church office at (540) 972-9060, and they will pass your message along.

We look forward to singing and worshipping together as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!



## JESUS IS CALLING

*"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* — Mark 10:45 (NIV)

We rejoice in the incredible response from our church family:

- Over **100 volunteers** for Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- **40 volunteers** for Good News Across Sports
- **25 mission-minded servants** who participated in Good News Camp – Navajo Nation

The call to serve isn't reserved for a select few—it's for all who are in Christ. One of the clearest signs that we are His disciples is our love for one another.

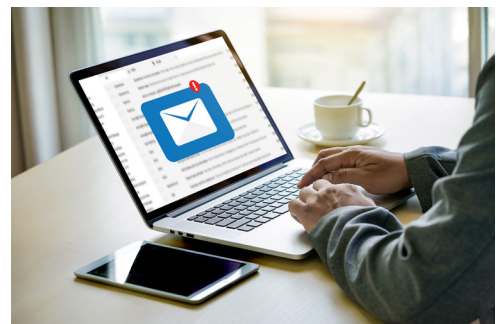
*"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."*  
— Galatians 5:13 (ESV)

Are you waiting for a purpose? Wait no more—because we are being called to serve.

If you're waiting to be asked—**we're asking.**

If you're wondering where to serve—**God will show you.**

**Take the first step** by sending an email to: [elder.chair@lowchurch.org](mailto:elder.chair@lowchurch.org) saying, "I'm available." We'll reach out and help you find your place.



## August Birthdays

	15	Vijay Paul
2	Luanne Coffee	16 Mark Blattert
	Michael Neely	Lee Frame
3	Antoinette Ruther	17 Celine Baker
	Rachel Schneider	Jeffrey Flynn
	Bobbie Stone	Jordan Stephan
	Judith Thompson	Pat Watterworth
4	Jeff Grimstead	18 John Boheim
	Zavier Wright	Zebedee Bowers
5	Charlene Fines	Audrey Lawrence
	Rebecca Schneider	19 Michael Bowers
	Judy Schofield	Terry Butt
	Tonia Woodard	Lorrie Flores
	Barbara Young	20 Carrie DeSalvo
6	Ben Critzer	Danny Dorton
	Hope Hall	Diana Duffy
	Ann Nadwodny	21 Louis Brigandi
	Aileen Richards	Carol Johnson
	Michael Suche	22 Aino Leedom
7	James Fulton	Brent McDonald
8	Jeff Davis	Kathryn Van Leer
	DJ Day	23 Matthew Robinson
	Raymond Farmer	24 Arielle Milen
	Vicki O'Hara	Brenda Rogers
9	Megan Brancato	Annaleah Schatzer
	Brandon Crowder	Greg Williamson
	Vera Moody	25 Anne Boyd
10	Shalini Paul	Christian Jones
	Andrew Walls	Laird Knights
	Marshall Wile	Mark Randall
11	Abigail Capra	Ali Stewart
	J.D. Higginbotham	26 Valerie Benito
	Susan Mahnel	Anna Rodriguez
	Vicki Wachendorf	27 Anne Tower
12	Easter Bowman	28 Tracy Jillard
	John Edmiston	Glen Lee
	Janet Loeffler	William Meldrum
	Jim Nellis	Robert Shope
	John Simons	29 Nancy Bowles
13	Perry Day	30 Summer Flanders
	Avery Ehlers	Susanne Kurz
	Sherri Gaskill	Sandra Loeffler
	Laura Moore	Jim Meador
14	Matt Fox	John Vogler
	Michael Green	31 Eileen McFarland
	Nathaniel Horbett	Neil J. Pedersen
15	Jacob Richard	Alejandra Solis

## August Anniversaries

	25 Eric & Jenny Chinault
	Michael & Linda Green
1	Russell & Ellen Ambroziak
	Hugh & Debbie Risseuw
	Paul & Tracey Workman
2	Warren & Leslie Gage
	Gary & Janet Loeffler
3	William & Janet Glidden
4	John & Minda Edmiston
7	Bruce & Sharon Killian
10	Emerson & Ruth Watson
12	John & Jan Simons
13	Spike & Beth Richards
15	Olin & Liz Greene
16	William & Maria Meldrum
17	Jason & Rhonda Richard
18	Dan & Jeanne Porter
19	Harold & Lora Wood
23	John & Patty Bell
	Charles & Laura Handy
	Stone & Dawn Leighty
24	Glen & Deborah Lee



**“Please pray for members of our church family who are grieving, ill, hospitalized, or undergoing treatment:**

<b>Heather Austin</b>	<b>Silvana Babikow</b>
<b>Janet Bocook</b>	<b>Laurel Buongiavanni</b>
<b>George Chapin</b>	<b>Luanne Coffee</b>
<b>Lindsay Cole</b>	<b>Carl Cornwell</b>
<b>Millie Davis</b>	<b>Danny DeLongis</b>
<b>Jim Divelbiss</b>	<b>Nancy Doseff</b>
<b>Susan Dyer</b>	<b>Sandi Foutz</b>
<b>Warren Gage</b>	<b>Steve Gaines</b>
<b>John Hines</b>	<b>Andres Idrovo</b>
<b>Olivia Knights</b>	<b>Carol Lee</b>
<b>Greg Leitz</b>	<b>Bud Lewis</b>
<b>David McCune</b>	<b>Herbert McKittrick</b>
<b>Lee &amp; Nancy Moore</b>	<b>Ann Nadwodny</b>
<b>Rick Nelson</b>	<b>Normajean Solebello</b>
<b>Tom &amp; Lois Northam</b>	<b>Mary &amp; Lonnie Paxton Noah &amp;</b>
<b>Barbara Rakes</b>	<b>Selena Rave</b>
<b>John &amp; Ann Sawyer</b>	<b>Bob &amp; Ellen Schwartz</b>
<b>Shelly Seymour</b>	<b>Martha Somerville</b>
<b>Beth Sundberg</b>	<b>Henrick Thode</b>
<b>Pat Watterworth”</b>	