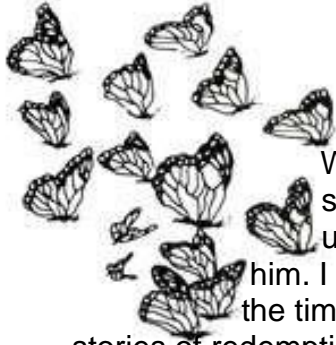


THE ROCK

St. Peter's Episcopal Church – Est. 1954

May 2011

Pastor's Desk



When Mary Magdalene first saw Jesus, the Gospel tells us she didn't realize it was him. I think this happens to us all the time – we are surrounded by stories of redemption and renewal, by stories of new life and hope – and yet we do not always have the eyes to see them, or the ears to hear the story.

I look around at St. Peter's and see lots of wonderful babies and young children. People making music, volunteering to help in new ways, participating in small groups, deepening their commitment to Jesus Christ. These are Easter stories of new life and hope. People being healed, supporting one another through

hard times, prayers being answered and questions being asked. It is an atmosphere of freedom and love that is making possible the movement of the Holy Spirit among us. I give thanks to God for our "yes" to Christ's Spirit.

I pray that we may become more aware of the stories of redemption and renewal in our own lives. I pray that we may have eyes to see the goodness of God all around us. I pray that each and every one of us may venture forth out of the cocoons of isolation that keep us encased in our own little worlds.

One of my favorite poets is entitled *Easter* by e.e. cummings. Let me share it with you:

*I thank you God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes.
(I who have died am alive again today,
and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay
great happenings illimitable earth)
how should tasting touching hearing seeing
breathing any – lifted from the no
of all nothing – human merely being
doubt unimaginable You?
(now the ears of my ears awake and
now the eyes of my eyes are opened)*

And to this ending I add Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Pastor Barbara

My Thoughts

St. Peter's has so many new parishioners so this article will explain to them and review for others the history of our Columbarium, that prayer room in the front of the Church.

To review a bit of its history, perhaps 10 years ago the Vestry considered acquiring a Columbarium. Ideas were bantered about where to place one, inside the church or outside as Calvary Williamsville has. At that time I was on Vestry and opposed a Columbarium which needs to be in place until a certain number of years after the decedents of the niches have died. I could not picture St. Peter's 100 years into the future. Later I found out that even if St. Peter's closed in the future, the Columbarium could be moved.

One day we got a call from the Episcopal Church Home stating the Home was closing, residents would be placed in other facilities. Would we like the Home's Columbarium, free? The price was right and we acquired it. Now where to put it? Until a permanent spot could be found, it was stored in our shed. A former parishioner built a small room where a door to the Sacristy was. Someone had an idea for a window. A design was found and we had it made with a back-light. Another parishioner donated the votive candle rack. Yet another parishioner donated the plaque above the rack and a small light was installed. Modest changes were made a year ago with our remodeling.

The Columbarium came with residents, patients of the Home who passed without any living relatives. They were cremated and ashes placed in niches.

There are 64 niches, 42 are available. The cost per niche is \$350, a huge savings over a cemetery plot. There are no other fees associated with them. I'll be happy to meet with anyone interested to show which are open and explain further.

The votive candle rack has been very popular in our church. We ask at least \$1 donation for each candle. There was a

local shortage of candles so I found a place in Texas from which I have had 3 cases shipped to me. These candles do have a higher incidence of snuff out. Make sure the wick is standing straight up before you light it. If one does snuff out, I make every attempt to relight it. For those less than 50% burned I will light a new one if I can not get it re-lit.

I know the people at the later service never see me, but again, I'll gladly stop by on my Sunday off from work to meet with anyone

Paul Schwartzmyer



Flower Memorials or Thanksgivings

With Lent over, we can now have flowers on the altar. There is a Flower Chart in the back wall of the narthex where you can indicate what Sunday you want to purchase flowers as a memorial or as a thanksgiving. More than one person can share a Sunday and share the expense.

We also ask that you contact Mary Lou Matthews at 835-0528 just to be sure she orders the flowers. You also can arrange for a particular bouquet if you desire. The cost is \$25 but she will let you know if it may be higher for a special arrangement.

After service, the flowers are yours to take home to enjoy during the week.





May To-Do List

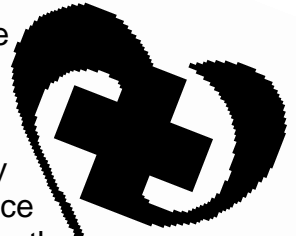
Many thanks to all who helped achieve the short-term goals set forth for March and April.

Here's a list for May –

1. Complete the renovation project:
 - Now that we've selected the color for the carpeting and the kneelers, we are in the process of selecting paint for the walls. Then we'll have a timeline for COMPLETION of PHASE THREE – the FINAL part of the renovation project!
 - Prepare the cushions for the altar rail – Carolyn Bongi
2. Thanks to Betty Peters and Kristie Payne, and all their advisors and helpers for the Narthex refurbishing project. We've tried to make it more "user friendly" for children and newcomers. There are new tract racks on the wall (check it out!) thanks to Ed Hill, Deacon Tom, and Pastor Barbara. When we paint the Nave and get new carpeting, the Narthex will get a face-lift, too.
3. Finish cleaning the closets and shelves throughout the church, including the ambulatory. Thank you to Karen Miller for getting that project started.
4. Get our Capital Campaign finalized and approved by the Vestry; including the "Tree of Life" for the narthex. Merrie Hill, Jane Cushman, Richard Arquette, Kristie Payne and Pastor Barbara are working on this.
5. Thanks to Mike and Bradley Taube, John Lopat and Henry Szczepanski, for getting the pews out of the choir loft and the floor has been leveled. There's more to be done to turn it into usable space, but that will probably be deferred till the Narthex and Nave projects are completed.
6. If YOU see a project that needs doing, suggest it to Pastor Barbara for June's "to-do" list.

Health Care Seminars

Don't forget ! Health Care Proxy Sunday, **May 15, 11:30 am**



Our presenter, Rose Mary Collins comes from Hospice Buffalo. She has served as the facilitator for the Coalition for Health Care Decision Making for the last 12 years and served as a certified instructor of advance care planning.

Sunday, May 22nd -Sally Mitchell, Social Worker from the VA facility in Buffalo will help us complete our HCP forms. Bring your Health Care Proxy names and Phone numbers. We will be able to witness and complete your forms that day.

Take advantage of this important information and Service -

Shalom,
Lois Tripp
Parish Nurse

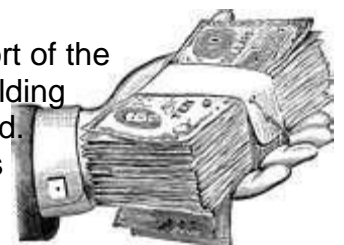
Building Fund Offering

Are you wondering what your **Building Fund/Renovation Fund** is used for?" We had the flashing on the Mission House roof repaired. Now when weather permits, we will have the parking lot resealed. We still have to arrange a time for the replacement of the cove molding that was damaged during the last flood. The linoleum floor upstairs and the undercroft floor needs to be cleaned and given 2 coats of wax. All of this should be done by the end of May

Your Renovation Committee is still working hard to complete Phase III of our renovation project. Phase III is refinishing the pews, painting the walls, new carpeting for the church and narthex.

Your continued support of the Renovation Fund/Building Fund is greatly needed.

We can't do all of this without your support.



J2A Pilgrimage Fund-raising

As you are probably already aware, the J2A group is planning a trip to Washington DC in October 2011. In order to finance this trip, you will notice several fund-raising initiatives. We already had a bake sale in February for Valentine's Day and just completed a Celebrating Home catalog sale. Thank you to all who participated!

Next we are sponsoring a night at **Apple-Bee's**. The Rockettes are doing their monthly dinner there. **On May 4th, at the Niagara Falls Blvd. site, between 11am – 8pm, presents this certificate before ordering.** St. Peter's J2A group will receive 10% of the bill towards their trip to Washington, D.C. However, this form must be presented when before you order. You don't have to be a Rockette to participate. **Everyone from St. Peter's and their friends are invited to eat on May 4th!**

We also are going to have another **baked sale on Sunday May 15th** during coffee hour when the health committee is offering their MOLST (medical order life sustaining treatment) talk (a representative from Hospice will be here to discuss end of life issues). Any donation or purchase of baked goods is most welcomed.

The younger children of our Sunday school are also helping by donating their mite boxes to the group this year. We thank them for this very generous offer.

Keep your eyes open for upcoming fund raisers as we also plan to have a table at St. Peter's yard sale on August 6th.

Finally we know we are asking folks to help us often. Do what you can, don't feel obligated and if a prayer for our success is what you can best offer than we accept with gratitude!

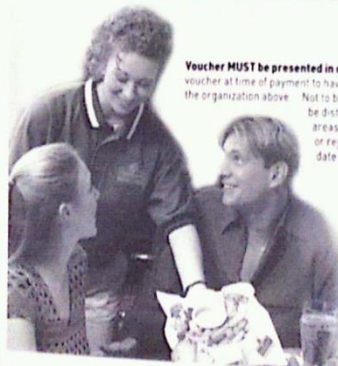
Sue Gunn
J2A leader

Bring this Coupon to Applebee's

Eatin' Here is **Good** for the Neighborhood!

Applebee's® will donate 10% of your check
(excluding tax and tip) to:

St. Peter's Episcopal Church J2A
Wednesday May 4, 2011
11am-closing
1641 Niagara Falls Blvd.
Amherst, NY 14228



Voucher MUST be presented in order for organization to receive credit. Please present this voucher at time of payment to have 10% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other discounts or promotions. Vouchers are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking areas. Subject to availability. Applebee's reserves the right to accept or reject requests from organizations at its own discretion. Valid for date listed above.



Paper Recycle Bin

We just received another check for \$17.54 as a result of our paper recycling efforts.

That brings the total to

\$37.80 we have received in 2011 for our efforts. Keep bringing in the junk mail, newspapers, your shredded paper in plastic bags and magazines. All money earned goes into the Renovation Fund.



Bottle Recycling

Bring your empty pop, beer and water bottles to church. John Frantz collects them and returns them for cash. The money is put into the Memorial Garden Fund.

Thanks to you, we have deposited at least \$50 a month into that fund. Lets try to earn \$60 in May. Your help is needed.



Coffee Hour/Trash Takeout

We have a new signup board next to the kitchen opening, but now we need YOU to do the signing. There are dry-

erase markers available to make yourself and your family available to serve your parish community in a culinary and hygienic manner. We have had some great lunches/brunches in recent months, (some people would say that's an Episcopalian trait), and we would certainly like to continue this tradition heading into the summer months.

Please consider partnering up with another person/family for an upcoming lunch duty, keeping mind that we are beginning to be very health conscious around St. Peter's. You may go it alone, but the burdened is lessened when you share the duty with someone.

There remains the need to empty garbage pails and trash cans every week as well, and take the collection out to the curb.(garbage day in Eggertsville is Monday) There are about seven locations to empty, which only takes about 10 minutes of your time. We also need to recycle the paper waste into the outside dumpster. Many people make light work. We have enough parishioners to insure that these responsibilities need only fall once every three months or so. Help keep our parish community fed, clean, and communicative after service at 10:00! Thank you in advance,

Richard Arquette and Deacon Tom

Easter

Standing in the driveway
As the early morning sun rose
Casting the first streaks of light
Against the darkened sky

Listening as life returned
With bird song filling the air
Greeting the rising sun
And the risen son

I remember another morn
Standing in front of a empty tomb
As the first streaks of light
Broke the night

We stood there together
With the rock rolled away
Peering at an empty room
A place of cold stone

Linens cast aside in the darkened tomb
Was all that was left and hope
We walked many miles
To come to this end

But not an end a beginning
As the sun rose in the sky
Chasing darkness away
As many miles laid before us

The desert journey bringing us here
I realized was just a step
One in many, one in many
Turning, he smiled, we stood

All this time through the desert
Walking side by side
To this end, to this beginning
This day of joy and life

Standing in the driveway
As the early morning sun rose
Casting the first streaks of light
Against the darkened sky
I knew Love.

Damon Piatov





Sunday School News

We have just completed our Lenten studies. All of the rotations taught about the importance of love, prayer and reflection for Lent,

which can be applied throughout the year. Our cooking group was led by Wendy and Missi. They made pretzels, which taught the groups about prayer. All of the church goers enjoyed the pretzels at coffee hour. Lois Tripp joined us for this rotation. She made prayer rugs and created a labyrinth for the kids to experience. Steve and John had a Lenten Bingo game to play, which taught the groups about the important holy days and customs of Lent. Thanks to Steve for creating another great game. Tori and I made love mobiles with the students. The mobiles showed ways we can show our friends, neighbors, families and pets that we love and care for them. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this rotation.

Mite boxes should be turned in by May 8th, if you haven't already done so. We like to teach the Sunday school kids about mission work. They are used to reaching out to the community, but sometimes it is needed within our own parish too. This year the Sunday school decided to give our collections to the J2A for their pilgrimage to Washington, D.C..

The following is our schedule for May: May 1st Popcorn and a movie. May 8th Mother's Day craft. May 15th Communion lesson taught by Pastor Barbara. May 22nd Youth service downstairs with an activity. May 29th Youth Sunday service upstairs in church. The nursery will still be available, but all others will be upstairs.

Now is the time to start thinking about summer camps for kids. Sleep Away Camp is for students entering into grades 3-6. It will be from August 18-21 at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. Junior High Camp is for students entering grades 7-9. It will be from August 7-13 at the Dunkirk Conference Center. Senior High Conference is for students entering

grades 10-12 and the graduates of 2011. It will be from June 26-July 2 at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center. You can find information and forms for all of the camps online at the diocesan youth web page at www.eyouthwny.org.

Alison L. Mohr

For Sale

We have an XL Ladies Royal Blue St. Peter's polo shirt for sale. The cost is only \$25. Please see Alison Mohr if interested.

Thank You



We would like to thank you for your very generous donation of mittens, hats and winter apparel. We would also like to thank you for the mugs, hot chocolate and toilet tissue.

You Made My Day

On April 5th you brought in 19 bags of food. This is a wonderful donation and we really appreciate your continuing support of the Food Pantry.

University Presbyterian Church

A Blessing and Prayer Tribute

Blessed be all mothers
Who come into our lives
Whose kindness, care and loving
Remain with us to guide.

Your inspiration in us
Made us strive in every way
Especially to remember
Helping others makes our day.

Mothers, this little tribute
Flows directly from my heart
You are so loved and cherished
Invaluable, one and all, you are.

By: Susan Kramer





John Frantz for vacuuming and cleaning the church many times during Lent.

Diana Leiker for the paintings that have inspired us throughout Lent and on Easter Sunday

Merrie Hill for printing and folding bulletins.

Tom Halterman for changing hymn numbers on the sign board numerous times

Pastor Barbara, Diana Leiker, Carma Miccoli, Alfred Price, Karen Miller, Betty Peters, Robert Kapchan, Kirsten Reitan, Kathy Bates, Jane Cushman, Becky Peiffer, Damon Piatov, and Deacon Tom, who helped decorate the church for Easter.

Deacon Tom for changing the outside signs numerous times.

Sheila Schaschack for organizing and directing the musical group.

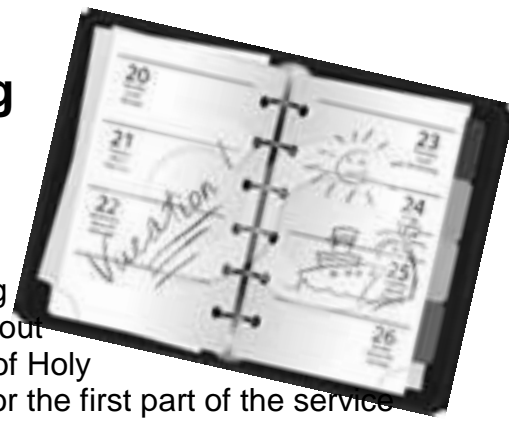
Megan Fiutak and Diana Leiker for directing the instrumentalists.

All the children and the adults who played musical instruments or sang at the Easter Service.

Annabel and Steve Paradise for running the projector for congregational singing.

Simon Ramos, 2 yrs old, who brought much joy and many smiles at his playing a musical instrument while his father, **Peter**, played the drums at the Easter service.

Upcoming Events



May 15th

Pastor Barbara will be teaching the children about the sacrament of Holy Communion. For the first part of the service she will be with the Sunday School children. For the Great Thanksgiving (Holy Communion), she will invite all children to join her around the altar for an instructed Eucharist. This Sunday is also a J2A bake sale and Hospice speaker talking about Health Care Proxies after the 10 am service at Coffee Hour.

June 5th

We are having a New Members Pot Luck Brunch at 11 am, honoring all who have joined us within the past year. If you are such a one, please mark your calendar now. We will also be joined by Deacon Kim Greene at the 10 am service. Deacon Kim completed her parish internship here. She now serves and Church of the Good Shepherd.

June 26th

This is our last day of Sunday School until September. There will be an Ice Cream Social and the awarding of certificates and honoring of teachers.

August 6th

Our Annual Lawn Sale takes place this day, rain or shine. We've already lined up the pony rides!!!! You can come, eat, buy, and ride – or rent a table to sell your own 'stuff.' See Kristie Payne for details. We hope this is an 'all hands on deck' event. Proceeds contribute to youth camps and pilgrimages, and our renovation project(s).

August 26th and 27th

Our Annual Parish Retreat at Christ the King Seminary takes place this Friday and Saturday overnight. It is an 'adults only' spiritual retreat. The theme this year is "Releasing our Hearts from Guilt: Embracing New Freedom in Christ."

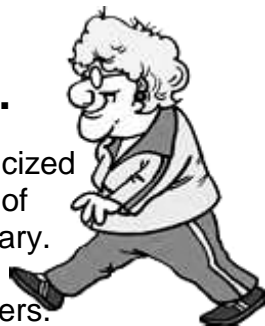
August 28th

This is our parish picnic after the 10 am service, at St. Peter's.

Yes, I am a Senior....

Seniors are constantly being criticized for every conceivable deficiency of the modern world, real or imaginary.

We take responsibility for all we have done and do not blame others.



However, upon reflection, we would like to point out that it was **NOT** the seniors who took

The melody out of music
 The pride out of appearance
 The courtesy out of driving
 The romance out of love
 The together out of family
 The learning out of education
 The service out of patriotism
 The Golden Rule from rulers
 The Nativity scene out of cities
 The civility out of behavior
 The Refinement out of language
 The Dedication out of employment
 The prudence out of spending
 The ambition out of achievement or
God out of government and school

Yes, I'm a Senior!

I'm the life of the party...even if it lasts until 8 pm.

I'm very good at opening childproof caps... with a hammer.

I'm awake many hours before my body allows me to get up.

I'm smiling all the time because I can't hear a thing you're saying.

I'm sure everything I can't find is in a safe, secure place.... somewhere.

I'm beginning to realize that aging is not for wimps.

I'm a walking storehouse of facts...I've just lost the key to the storeroom door.

If only I could remember why I wrote this.

Unknown



Treasurer's Report

St. Peter's Episcopal Church

As of April 30 2011

Operating Account

RECEIPTS YTD	Actual
Plate & Pledge	25,062.44
Liturgical & Outreach & Special	3,306.02
Memorials	535.00
Other	7,080.64
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$35,984.10

DISBURSEMENTS YTD	Actual
Building & Grounds	\$2,230.64
Clergy	16,276.08
Memorial Expense	327.75
Operations	4,799.42
Outreach	4,814.00
Personnel/Payroll tax/Payroll	
Service	2,951.73
Utilities	3,394.16
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$34,793.78

St Peter's Account Balances 4/30/11

First Niagara - Checking	\$51.61
Capital Funds YTD	\$9,748.11
Money Market - Savings	\$12,459.93
Interest & Deposit	\$987.89
Withdraw	-\$4,647.42
Total 4/30/11	\$8,800.40

300.42	Continuing Ed.
1,210.17	Meath Memorial
251.05	Walgate Memorial
3,470.00	Sitek Memorial
59.15	Wellness Ministry
968.32	Renovation/Capital Funds
356.00	Summer Camp
201.47	Parish Nurse
239.50	Music Fund
1,515.32	Memorial Garden
182.00	Order St. Luke
11.00	UTO
36.00	Theo .Ed.

Money Market - Checking	4/30/11	\$260.46
Lillian Shandraw Ed.	4/30/11	\$501.50
J2A Pilgrimage Fund	4/31/11	\$126.77
Mission & Ministry	4/30/11	\$515.52
Columbarium Fund	4/30/11	\$3,526.66
Morningstar Ministries	4/30/11	\$5,470.53

April - only paid interest on the loan. Still owe the Diocese \$30,000.



May is National Stroke Awareness Month



Stroke strikes fast. You should too. Call 9-1-1.

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States. It is also a leading cause of serious long-term disability. While most strokes occur in people aged 65 years or older, strokes can occur at any age.

Knowing the symptoms of stroke and calling 9-1-1 immediately if someone appears to be having a stroke are crucial steps in getting prompt emergency medical care for a stroke. New treatments are available that can reduce the damage caused by a stroke for some victims, but these treatments need to be given soon after the symptoms start.

Know Your Signs and Symptoms

The American Stroke Association notes these five major signs of stroke:

- Sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body.
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding.
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes.
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, or loss of balance and coordination.
- Sudden, severe headache with no known cause.

If you think someone is having a stroke, you should call 9–1–1 or emergency medical services immediately. Receiving immediate treatment is critical in lowering the risk of disability and even death.

Healthy Lifestyle Choices Can Lower Your Stroke Risk

Knowing your risk of stroke and doing what you can to decrease or control your risk is the best approach to preventing stroke and stroke-related disability. All people can take steps to lower their risk for stroke, whether they have had a stroke or not. Things you can do to lower the risk of stroke include steps to prevent and control high blood pressure, heart disease, and other chronic conditions, eating a healthy diet, maintaining a healthy weight, exercise, not smoking, and not drinking too much alcohol (drinking more than two drinks per day on average for men or more than one drink per day on average for women).

- **Prevent and control high blood pressure.**
- **Prevent and control diabetes.**
- **Abstain from tobacco use.**
- **Treat atrial fibrillation.**
- **Prevent and control high blood cholesterol.**
- **Maintain a healthy weight.**
- **Keep regular physical activity.**
- **Eat healthy food.**



Prayers of the People

Long Term:

Kelly, Leigh, Sarah and family, Darlene, Jim, Dianne and Olin, Jim & Mary M, Ulyssa, Norman, Eric, Donnalyn, Adel, Bill B, Douglas, Lauren, Brandon G, Jean Z, Bea, Wilma, Harlan, Stanley B, Steve and family, Marty, Kevin R, Nancy, RJ, Roy and Ellie, Karen, Patty K, Mary, Father Joe & family, Megan, John W, Amanda, Phillip, Alyssa, Barb & Frank, Shirley, Dorothy, Wesley C., Warren, Jim R, Art, Jacque D, Kimberly D, Anna, Wanda, Patrick W, Josh, Kay, Richard, Debbie, Talisa, Rev. Phil, Chelsea and family, Fr. John Russell, Betty J, and Darlene S.

Short Term:

Theresa M, Jan, Paul R and Reidun, Joan, Mary Lou C., Tim, Ron B, Bill M, Tom H., Phoebe, Mark B, Nicole, Joshua, Edwin M., Kirk, Dave F., Ruth, Missi, Steve H, Teresa, Lynda H., Michael, Joan, Walter, Robert C., Ruth R, Rich, Donvan, Bob and family, Deacon Rocky, Adam, Deena and Dave, Joshua, Addie M., Dan, Joel, Tom T, Mrs. Newell, Fr. Peter, Andrew, Mark, Joy, Elena, Bob R. & Bill H.

Service Men:

William, Jessie, Jack, AJ, Greg, Ray G, Christopher, John, Dustin, Nathaniel, Vinnie D, Gene S, Fred C, Ricky, James & Michael V.



- 5/ 01 Merrie Hill
- 5/02 Paul Hewitt
- 5/03 Kelly Tripp
- 5/04 Glynn Matthews, Jr.
- 5/10 Susan Woloszyn
- 5/13 Aliah Sanchez-Clarke
- 5/13 Jeffrey Tripp
- 5/14 Stewart Martin
- 5/21 Carma Miccoli
- 5/22 Myla Sanchez-Hill
- 5/23 Glynn Matthews III
- 5/25 Meghan Hemmer



- 5/18 Mr & Mrs Jerry Mohr
- 5/22 Mr & Mrs Andrew Hamilton

