

# the COURIER

Established  
1866

The Newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church  
Dearborn, Michigan

FEBRUARY 2020  
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## Grace: What does that mean?

Grace is both an experience and a belief in Christian faith and spirituality that is nurtured through prayer. Grace is experienced as the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Sometimes the Holy Spirit moves under the surface of human consciousness and experienced as a feeling, like peace. Sometimes the Holy Spirit moves under the surface of our consciousness and experienced as an inspiration or a new insight or an awareness. Sometimes, because the Holy Spirit moves under the surface of our consciousness, we miss the prompting all together.

At Christ Church we have been practicing ways to notice the Holy Spirit in our lives. The "Star Words" that we picked on Sunday, January 5th, when we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, is one way to consider how the Holy Spirit may be moving in our lives. Did you get a Star Word and if so, what was it? We passed around paper bags filled with star-words like mystery, trust, hope, vision and others. My Star Word this year was "Thankful" and so I am going to pay attention to opportunities to be thankful and see what comes up for me. Pay attention to your word this year and see if you notice anything happening.

We also practice noticing the Holy Spirit when we have sermon dialogue time. Sermon dialogues invite us to listen to scripture in a particular way, noticing what word, phrase or image stands out. We also practice the kind of intentional Bible reflection in our Baptized for Life dinners and sometimes in meetings when we participate in Bible Sharing. In noticing what word, phrase or image stands out for each of us in a scripture passage we may hear something inspiring or provocative or inquisitive that Holy Spirit is pointing us to ponder.

Praying is another way we open ourselves up to God and invite God into our lives. Prayer is a conversation with God. Silent prayer is a form of communication with God even though no words are used. Noticing when and how God is present in our lives takes practice. Many of us are not able to recognize God's presence without some intentionality on our part. Prayer is part of that intentionality and it often leads to recognizing grace.

Previously I have said this about Grace: "Grace is the experience of God's presence in our lives and the world. Grace is a gift from God. Grace can pass us by unnoticed. Grace can be simple and profound. Grace can change our lives, transforming us from the inside out. Grace is often an answer to prayer, which may not be the "answer" we want, but is God's response nonetheless. Grace is that feeling of hope or peace when all else seems to point elsewhere." But grace does not come easily, for even as it can bring peace and hope it can also knock us off center. Sometimes grace comes and upsets the apple cart.

Anne Lamott, a popular author who often reflects on her faith, says this about grace:

"I wish grace and healing were more abracadabra kind of things. Also, that delicate silver bells would ring to announce grace's arrival. But no, it's clog and slog and scotch, on the floor, in the silence, in the dark."  
— Anne Lamott, *Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith*

Grace comes to us unbidden and works on us from the inside out. Prayer works the same way. When we take our worries and fears into our prayer life and offer them up to God, things happen. What happens, however, may not be what we anticipate. Most often the circumstances of that prayer-offering do not change, we do. How we see the situation, the conflict, the struggle, the worry and fear, changes because we change.

Praying with one's star-word is an invitation into the unknown. Using this word in prayer might be as simple as thinking about the word while taking a walk. It might be noticing how the word pops up in your life in seemingly random ways. Perhaps you have never been fond of the word you picked but now that word stands out for you in the most unexpected ways. What will praying with this word reveal to you this year?

*In Peace,  
Pastor Terri*

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## PREPARING FOR LENT

This year the season after the Epiphany concludes on February 26th with Ash Wednesday. The season after the Epiphany is also known as “ordinary time.” Our scripture readings in ordinary time focus on the everyday life and ministry of Jesus. On Sunday mornings we will reflect on Jesus’ struggles, his prayers, and the signs of grace in his life. We will ponder what these reveal to us and how we might follow the example Jesus offers us.

With the season of Lent we will enter an intentional time focused on prayer. We begin with our Ash Wednesday services at noon and a bi-lingual service at 7pm with Mother of

the Savior. Following the 7pm service we will share a traditional Lenten meal with MotS. Having fasted all day, it is the tradition of people in the Orthodox Church, from which many members of MotS have come, to break the Ash Wednesday fast with a special meal. We share this meal last year and it was delicious! Our prayers and reflection in Lent are intended to help us look closely at our lives. In this “self-examination” of our lives we wonder how we can grow closer to God, what we can do to foster our relationship with God, how we are living as God intends, and how we might more fully live the life God desires for us.

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## EMPOWERING VOTERS, DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

*By Mary Jo Durivage, League of Women Voters*

On February 9 the League of Women Voters will host an adult forum following the 10am service. This forum will share information on New Voter Rights in Michigan, the 2020 Census, and the Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. League of Women Voters members Betsy Cushman and Mary Jo Durivage and Voters Not Politicians member Geri Biggs will explain how new Michigan laws make it

easier for citizens to vote, the importance of high participation in the 2020 Census, and how to apply to serve on the new Commission. Come and learn about these “Tools for Democracy” so you can not only inform yourself but also be a knowledgeable source of knowledge for your friends and families. Bring your questions!

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## WEAVING THE FABRIC OF COMMUNITY

**Dearborn Area Interfaith Network (DAIN) invites you to a series of community dinner conversations to:**

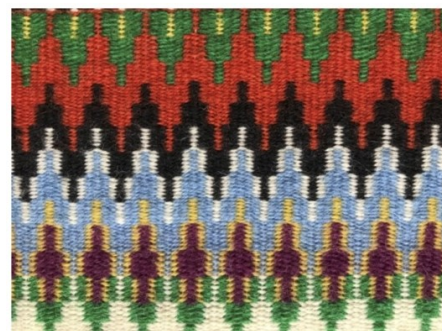
- Share a meal
- Build deeper community friendships
- Listen to one another
- Learn how to be comfortable with people of different cultures and ideas
- Work together to weave a stronger community by lifting up our diversity
- Engage in constructive dialogue
- Learn about the foundational documents of the United States
- Learn about other influences that formed this country and their impact today

*At these dinner conversations you will not be asked to endorse or support any particular religious ideology or perspectives on any issue being discussed. You will be encouraged to gain clarity about your own beliefs and values and to respect those of others.*

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|------------------------|--|
| • February 13, 2020    | The Doctrine of Discovery                        |
| • March 12, 2020       | We the People, Preamble to the Constitution      |
| • April 30, 2020       | Bill of Rights ( <i>no food due to Ramadan</i> ) |
| • May 28, 2020         | The Civil War                                    |
| • June/July/August     | Summer Break, no conversations                   |
| • September 24, 2020   | Race and Privilege                               |
| • October 22, 2020     | Immigration                                      |
| • and if we hold a Nov | Violence with Guns                               |

**Gathering: Dearborn Schools Administrative Service Center, 18700 Audette St., Dearborn, MI 48124 – 6pm – 8:30pm.**

**RSVP:** Erin, Office Manager of Christ Church, 313-565-8450 or [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org), no later than three days before the event so we can arrange for enough meals. *Note that no meal will be served on April 30 due to the observance of Ramadan.*



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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

*By Kevin Green, Treasurer*

As I reported at the Finance Forum on January 19 and at the Annual Meeting on January 26, we finished 2019 with a deficit of \$29,768, which was approximately \$2,600 better than we had budgeted. Both income and expenses were about 95% of the budgeted amounts. Thank you to everyone who helped us beat the budget!

For 2020, we are forecasting a deficit of \$64,150, primarily due to much lower income than in 2019 and previous years. Copies of the 2019 results and the 2020 budget, as well as a report on our various asset accounts, were sent out with the Annual Report and are

also available in the Church Office. While we are blessed to have the resources to cover the 2019 and forecasted 2020 deficits, those resources won't last forever at this rate. As suggested by the Wardens and me at the Annual Meeting, please look deep within yourselves to determine whether you are able to increase your giving level in 2020 and beyond. Also, please consider naming Christ Church as a beneficiary in your wills or trusts.

Last but not least, please consider joining the Finance Commission. Many hands make light work!

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## MUSIC MOMENT

*By Ally Barone*

As we move through the Epiphany season, one hymn that many people know and associate with this time is "In Christ There Is No East or West". However, as is frequently the case, not many people know the history of this hymn. The text was written by William Arthur Dunkerly under the pen name John Oxenham. The tune we sing "In Christ There Is No East or West" to from the 1982 is called MCKEE, but that wasn't always true. Prior to the 1930s the hymn was sung to ST PETER, written by an early American composer. However, in the 1930s Henry T. "Harry" Burleigh, an African-American who bought his and his mother's freedom from slavery for \$55. Burleigh set the text to an African-American spir-

itual derived from an Irish tune. Burleigh studied at the National Conservatory of Music in New York where he helped to inspire the spiritual influence in Dvořák's "New World" Symphony. While we often associate the influence of spirituals with hymns in "Lift Every Voice and Sing", the influence goes beyond that and can actually be seen in many different hymns.

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## WHAT SHALL WE DO?

We're wondering what we should do about Shrove Tuesday? In the past we have had a pancake supper or a Mardi Gras celebration with pasta and sometimes we've begun the evening with a little prayer service to burn the palms from the previous Palm Sunday.

Last year we did not celebrate Shrove Tuesday, instead we had a mac and cheese fundraiser for Blessings in a Backpack. That was followed on Wednesday, Ash Wednesday, with a bilingual service and a meal afterward, hosted by Mother of the Savior. It is tradition in the Arabic churches to break the Ash Wednesday fast with a meal following the service. The food served last year was traditional Lenten food for people who follow the Orthodox traditions of the Middle East, which means no meat and no dairy. It was a delicious meal and a wonderful gathering of people.

So, what shall we do this year? One thought is, because we already have a number of evening events and dinners, we could have a Shrove Sunday - with pancakes for coffee hour. If we want we could include a little prayer after Sunday worship to burn the palms (outside). We do still plan to have the bi-lingual Ash Wednesday service at 7pm followed by the traditional dinner, and maybe that is enough?

If anyone is interested in taking the lead on a Shrove Sunday or Shrove Tuesday meal, let the office know .

### **MARCH COURIER SUBMISSIONS**

Submit news and articles for the March issue of the Courier by March 24th to [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org). Please add Courier to the subject line.

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## VESTRY REFLECTION

### FAMILY MATTERS

*By Lynn Becker*

This year the star I received was FAMILY. When I received this star, I immediately asked myself, what does family mean to me? As I pondered this question my immediate answer was that family consisted of those related to me by blood (mother, father, sister, brother, children grandchildren and great grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews). But in today's world family may include step-parents, step siblings and half siblings as well. Keep going back further and you add more names and faces to the list of ancestors who comprise your family tree. But the idea of family is bigger and grander than that. People refer to their "work families", "church families", "family friends", "adopted families" to name some of the more commonly understood uses of the word family. A common trend right now is to use DNA samples to determine who we are and what part of the world our ancestors came from. There are search engines designed to help you find your ancestors as well as connect with family members you may have out there. Once these family members are found today's technology makes contacting and keeping in touch easier than it has ever been. Recently, I was in the waiting room at my doctor's office. When my name was called, the lady sitting next to me told me her name was also Becker and she wondered if we were related. We exchanged phone numbers and she later called me. After talking and

exchanging names of our known relatives we determined that we were not, in fact, related for as far back as we were able to go. That raises the question, if we had been able to go back further in our ancestry would we have found a connection? The answer, I believe, is that we would. As Christians we believe that GOD made Adam and Eve in his own image and that from them the tribes and nations grew and populated the Earth. That would make each of us a part of a greater family, the family of MAN, GOD's delightfully diverse family.

But GOD did not just give families to people, he also gave them to the beasts of the earth. Dolphins roam the oceans in pods, lions have family units called prides, elephants have herds, the great apes have family units, birds have flocks, dogs and wolves have packs, bees have hives. The list goes on and on. When we adopt a new puppy, we become it's packmate and it becomes in turn part of our family. Connecting the dots yet? I think it is very safe to say that GOD had a theme going on when he created us in his/her image. and family was an important part of that design. Is anyone else wondering if GOD had an annoying little brother or a bossy big sister?

Until next time,

Blessings, peace and joy to my brothers and sisters in Christ.

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## FOOD PANTRY

*By Erin Biggs*

Every month the food pantry at Christ Church feeds families and individuals who are in need of food from all over the community. Whether they need just a little bit or a lot, those who come to our pantry are always so grateful for the food and welcoming atmosphere of the church.

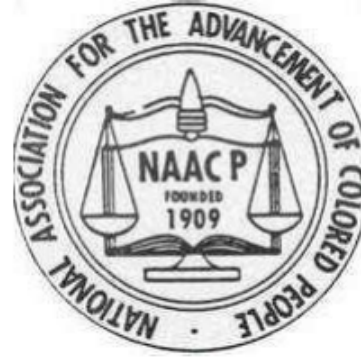
Often times the people who come to the pantry share their stories with me, from sadness to happiness, I hear it all. Just this morning a single mom came in to get a few things to get her and her teenage son through the weekend. She was in tears telling me how much it meant to be able to come to Christ Church and know that she would be able to feed her son for the weekend. She said that we are the one place that she doesn't feel judged for needing help. Hearing things like that always breaks my heart, but at the same time it makes my time with the pantry so much more rewarding, knowing the good that we do for so many.

We also have people who come to our pantry who give back to the pantry in many ways. We have 2 ladies, you may have met them at the Giving Thanks dinners, who help with passing out the holiday meals for the pantry. They have been doing this for close to 3 years now. They also come in through out the year and help with stocking and organizing.

Just recently we had a young man come in to use the pantry and he noticed that we had some baby formula in the cupboard. He immediately asked if we take donations of formula and baby food. Of course we do, as long as it isn't opened and it is the one thing that cannot be expired. He came back a few days later with a big box of baby items that his child no longer needs. He has also volunteered, and recruited a few of his friends, to help with the pantry in any way they can. They will also be headed to Gleaners to help with packing and sorting donations there.

Our food pantry is so much more than just a place for people to come for food. It is a place to share a story, shed some tears, lend a hand, give a hug and hopefully leave with a smile and hope for better days ahead.

**SOUPE BOWL** - The Souper Bowl Challenge ends this Sunday (Feb. 2nd). As of the time the Courier is being published we have collected a total of 426 cans/dollars. Please bring in your donations for this fun competition to fill our pantry shelves this Sunday!



*Empowering Voters, Defending Democracy*

# ***Town Hall Meeting – Census, Citizen Independent Redistricting Commission, New Voter Rights***

Saturday, February 15, 2020

1:00 pm

Caroline Kennedy Public Library  
24590 George, Dearborn Heights

Join with your neighbor and find out how YOU can be involved  
and make YOUR voice heard!!

**Lunch will be provided! All are welcome!!**

League of Women Voters Dearborn/Dearborn Heights  
[www.lwvddh.org](http://www.lwvddh.org) <https://www.facebook.com/lwvddh.org>

Western Wayne County Branch NAACP  
<https://www.facebook.com/naacpwesternwaynecounty>



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## SHARING STORIES PROJECT

### BETTINA CALDWELL

*By Chris Burkhalter and Diana Brehob*

Though born in Belleville, Michigan, Bettina Caldwell's first words were in French. Bettina's mother, Rachelle, went to France to visit her mother, dying of cancer, and took baby Bettina with her. They stayed for 18 months. Bettina's parents first met in France when her father, Clifford, who hailed from Texas, was stationed near Beaune, France during World War I. Rachelle came from an upper-class family, yet worked in a French laundry during the War. The couple married in Beaune, but relocated to Clifford's home in Texas. Because Rachelle was terribly homesick, the couple moved to Belleville, where Rachelle's good friend, Marcelle (who'd worked with Rachelle in Beaune and who'd also married a U.S. serviceman), now lived.

After Rachelle's mother passed away, Rachelle was reluctant to part from her family in France again. Nevertheless, she returned (with Bettina) to Clifford in Michigan and went on to have another daughter, Jacqueline. During Bettina's childhood, during the depression, the family lost their home and her father scabbled out a living doing whatever he could. In particular, he was a self-taught electrician. The family scraped up money to buy an acre of land outside of Belleville on which Clifford built a home by himself. The family had an extensive garden and raised poultry. Bettina remembers fondly the days she spent working alongside her father in the garden. She enjoyed sewing, embroidery, gardening, and cooking, and picked up all manner of useful skills from her father. Later in life, Bettina would handle many of her own electrical repairs. The family remained close with Marcelle and her husband. They also found good friends in neighbors Lester and May Hanna. A fond memory is the Thanksgiving dinners hosted by Bettina's parents with neighbors and friends and at which they served from the bounty of their harvest.

When neighbor May Hanna became gravely ill, she was cared for by her sister, a nurse. Bettina saw the care that the sister provided and knew then that she wanted to go into nursing. Bettina trained for three years at Grace Hospital in Detroit, returning home on weekends. On December 7, 1941 – shortly after Bettina had completed her training – Bettina's parents were waiting for her at Grace Hospital when radio

broadcasts reported the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Just two months later, a unit was activated by a doctor from Harper Hospital who had served in the first world war.



Bettina enlisted right away and was activated for duty in October, 1942 as the youngest nurse

in her 17th General Hospital Unit group. She worked for the next five years as an Army nurse, staging first in Casa Blanca, Morocco and then in Oran, Algeria awaiting the Allies' invasion of Italy. As soon as reasonably secure, she was stationed in Naples, Italy, where she worked twenty miles from the front lines. Working alternately in a hospital run by nuns and in "the huts" (a tent campus on the hospital grounds), she treated trench foot and other debilitating ailments. Penicillin was newly used to treat infections and saved many lives. Bettina made friends easily in the Army. On leave, she traveled extensively with friends and officers, and met celebrities supporting the war effort (including Madeleine Carroll, an actress who starred in Alfred Hitchcock films, and who at one time was the highest paid actress in film).

Returning home from the War in 1946, Bettina vividly remembers arriving at the Michigan Central Station, where she was met by her father. She was overjoyed to see him, but also shocked at how much older and ill he looked. He died several years later from cancer at the age of 54. Bettina and Rachelle moved to Wayne and lived together until Rachelle's untimely passing from a cerebral hemorrhage several years later at the age of 58. Bettina (99) and sister Jacqueline (95) are surprised to have so greatly exceeded the life spans of their parents.

Bettina worked for Veteran's Affairs and at a private practice before moving into industrial nursing at Ford's Engineering and Research Center. Before she bought her home in Springwell's Park, she roomed with Charlie and May Fourot who introduced Bettina to Christ Episcopal Church around 1952, when Father Green was Rector. Bettina served on Altar Guild and would help out in the kitchen.

Asked if her life has played out differently than she'd imagined, Bettina told us that she'd believed from an early age that she would become a nurse, and that a war would figure into her life somehow. Her time in the military was a highlight of her life, as was working with her family on the farm. She is an avid reader.

## Calendar Highlights

### FELLOWSHIP

#### COFFEE HOUR

Sunday, 11:15am

Refreshments in Fellowship Hall following the 10 am service. The sign-up sheet is downstairs if you would like to host a Sunday.

### YOUNG PEOPLE

#### CHILDREN'S PRAYER ROOM

Sunday at 10:05am for 3-9 year olds during the 10am service. The children leave the church together and meet in the Prayer Room for a child friendly service with stories and crafts, then return to church for communion. Please contact the church office at 313-565-8450 or [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org).

### HEALTH

#### MARTIAL ARTS

##### Adult Classes

Wednesday 7pm

Sunday 2pm

#### STRETCHING CLASS

Meets the 2nd and 4th Saturday monthly at 10:30am. Michael Mroczyk, leader of our Martial Arts Group, is offering coaching in a method of effective, dynamic, facilitated stretching for all

interested persons. The sessions are open. The greatest benefit will be for those whose range of motion has atrophied. Come dressed comfortably. The sessions are free of charge. Donations to Christ Church are welcome.

#### YOGA

Tuesdays, 7:15-8:15pm, Room 213

This is a beginner level hatha class. Hatha links movement with breath. If you have a yoga mat, please bring it. The sessions are free of charge.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### FEBRUARY

Feb 1 Vestry Retreat  
Feb 1 League of Women Voters 10am  
Feb 1 League of Women Voters 1pm  
Feb 3 Listening Group 7pm  
Feb 3 Scout Leaders 7pm  
Feb 4 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm  
Feb 4 AAUW Meeting 7pm  
Feb 6 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm  
Feb 8 Community Garden 3pm  
Feb 9 League of Women Voters Forum  
Feb 16 Holy Currencies Book Study  
Feb 17 Office Closed—Presidents' Day  
Feb 17 Listening Group 7pm  
Feb 19 CHI Healing 6:30pm  
Feb 20 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm  
Feb 26 Ash Wednesday  
Feb 29 Chi Running 9am

### MARCH

Mar 2 Listening Group 7pm  
Mar 2 Scout Leaders 7pm  
Mar 3 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm  
Mar 5 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm  
Mar 7 League of Women Voters 10am  
Mar 10 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm  
Mar 16 Listening Group 7pm  
Mar 19 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm  
Mar 21 Dearborn School of Music Recital 3:30pm  
Mar 21 MotS Mother's Day Dinner 6pm

### MARCH

Apr 2 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm  
Apr 4 League of Women Voters 10am  
Apr 5 Palm Sunday  
Apr 6 Listening Group 7pm  
Apr 6 Scout Leaders 7pm  
Apr 7 Scout PLC Meeting 6:30pm  
Apr 7 AAUW Meeting 7:30pm  
Apr 9 Maundy Thursday  
Apr 10 Good Friday  
Apr 10 Office Closed  
Apr 12 Easter Sunday  
Apr 13 Office Closed  
Apr 20 Listening Group 7pm  
Apr 23 Baptized for Life Dinner 6pm

## February Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

Oliver Angel FEB 1  
Nancy Kreager FEB 1  
Kayla Lewis FEB 2  
Diana Brehob FEB 3  
Paul Gray FEB 3  
Pat Snyder FEB 5  
Katie Patterson FEB 8  
Nick Bell FEB 12  
Christopher Ventura FEB 12  
Terri Pilarski FEB 15  
Richard Audi FEB 19  
Claudine Bauer FEB 19  
Stephanie Mulkern FEB 20  
Margaret Kirk FEB 21  
Phyllis Solberg FEB 21  
John Logan FEB 23  
Rosemary Manseau FEB 25

Caroline Serfass

FEB 27

Charles Beck

FEB 29

### ANNIVERSARIES

Robert & Lisa McCallum FEB 4 (3)





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#### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

**The Rev. Bonnie A. Perry**, Bishop-elect  
**The Rev. Terri Pilarski**, Rector  
**Lynn Becker, Jr.**, Warden  
**Nick Bell, Sr.**, Warden  
**Kevin Green**, Treasurer  
**Matthew Sallman**, Clerk

#### STAFF

**Allison Barone**, Music Director  
**Erin Biggs**, Office Manager  
**Tess Dowgiallo**, Children's Choir Director  
**John Jones**, Sexton  
**The Rev. Halim Shukair**, Curate

#### VESTRY

**Jean Angel**  
**Lynn Becker**  
**Barbara Hall**  
**Stephanie Mulkern**  
**Jill Poske**  
**Holly Schanz**  
**Dale Taylor**  
**James Thornton**