

The Missive, June 2023

First Presbyterian Church

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*“Always remember, you are braver than you believe,
stronger than you seem, and smarter than you know...”*

This is a favorite family quote inscribed on both a mirror and the arm of one of our children.

*We'll let you guess who. The attribution is unclear but it seems this is misattributed to AA Milne when in fact it was originally in *The Tale of the Swamp Rat* by Carter Crook.*

Erin and I reflect often on what we've learned these past few months. Courage, strength and being smart were (and remain) integral to the recovery process. We have indeed learned that we are braver, stronger, and smarter than we'd known.

But we also learned that hope is the reason we continue to progress forward with each new day. Without hope, it would have been too easy to give up.

“It always seems impossible until it is done.” That quote by Nelson Mandela was one of many sent to us this spring. We have learned to be a people undaunted by that which seems impossible. And, with this, we learned that you, our beloved church family, are far braver, stronger, and smarter than any one of us ever knew.

We learned that God is steadfast; the shepherd supplies every need.

Lastly, we learned that Love is at the heart of everything we endeavor to accomplish as the people of Christ. Love is the reason we awake in the morning and set our sights on making our personal worlds and the greater world around us a better place.

We are looking forward to rejoining you, siblings in Christ, in continuing our ministry together.

*In Christ,
Mark and Erin*

JUNE 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00: Bible Study 5:00: Girl Scouts	2	3
4 9:45: Worship with Communion 11:45: VBS Planning Meeting	5 11:30: Membership & Fellowship 1:00: Pastoral Care Team 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	6 9:00: Rummage Sale Set-up 9:00: GPP Walking Grp. 10:00: Food Pantry	7 9:00: Rummage Sale Set-up 10:00: Food Pantry 12:00: Seasoned Seniors 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts 7:00: Mission cmte.	8 9:00: Rummage Sale Set-up 11:00: Bible Study 6:00: Deacons Meeting	9 9:00: Rummage Sale	10 9:00: Rummage Sale 5:30: Student Piano Recital
11 9:45: Worship, Pride Service, 2¢-a-Meal & KidsFirst 11:00: Picnic in the Park	12 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts	13 10:00: Food Pantry 6:15: Daisy Scouts 7:00: Shared Blessings	14 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Worship & Music 6:00: Girl Scouts 6:15: Session Meeting	15 11:00: Bible Study 5:00: Girl Scouts	16	17 10:00: Garden Bed Planting
18 ~ <i>Father's Day</i> ~ 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst	19 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	20 10:00: Connected Threads at Beacon Point 10:00: Food Pantry 10:30: Christian Ed Leadership Team	21 10:00: Food Pantry 1:00: GPP Walking Grp. 5:30: Girl Scouts 6:00: Girl Scouts	22 11:00: Bible Study	23	24
25 9:45: Worship & KidsFirst 11:45: Just Love 4:00: Student Piano Recital	26 5:00: Boy & Cub Scouts 6:30: Boy Scouts	27 8:00: Men's Breakfast 10:00: Food Pantry 4:30: Door Hanger Painting 6:15: Daisy Scouts	28 10:00: Food Pantry 6:00: Girl Scouts	29 11:00: Bible Study 5:00: Girl Scouts	30	

FPC ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE PICNIC

June 11th - immediately following worship, join us for a Picnic in the Park to celebrate KidsFirst and the end of our program year. More details will be shared in our weekly Thursday emails.

LADIES' BOOK CLUB

The next ladies book club will be at Arlene Kuizema's house on July 26 at 1 pm. They will be reading West With Giraffes by Linda Rutledge.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Food and Fellowship. The last Tuesday of each Month, June 27th, 8am at Liz's Parkview Café.

RICHLAND FOOD PANTRY

Call 269.343.3663 to make an appointment. Tues. & Wed. 10 - 12.

June Birthdays

2nd	Mariela Carisalez	12th	Gavin Gibson	20th	Lane Steele
2nd	Shannon Wixson Smith	14th	Amy Mack	20th	Jilisa Williams
2nd	Carol Miller Johnson	14th	Bethany Gibson Gauthier	20th	Stacy Ferreira
3rd	Sharon Sorrell	14th	Aimee Robinson	22nd	Carol Hodgson
4th	John Welser	14th	Nikki Vantine	23rd	Steve Inman
4th	Shari Wynsma	15th	Michelle Fisher	24th	Nick Gauthier
5th	Tom Farho	15th	Justin Gibson	26th	Cheri Calkins
5th	Gerald Hildenbrand	16th	Jerry Bryer	26th	Abraham Smith
5th	Brandon Jennings	16th	Sandy Carahaly	26th	Tara Steele
7th	Larry Osborne	16th	Carol Thorne	26th	Bob Tower
7th	Mark Williams	17th	Tina Brignall	26th	Jarad White
8th	Keagan Miller	17th	Mary Lindenberg	27th	Kelly Schaadt Boyle
9th	Brandon Wynsma	17th	Michael Odar	29th	Paisleigh Burris
10th	Mark Fisher	17th	Karen Stasevich	30th	Joe Gibson
10th	Chase Sullivan	18th	Jim Collier	30th	Jerry Petersen
11th	Alexis Rairigh	18th	Tim Peters	30th	Ava Rogers
11th	Maria Hills	19th	Gene Rothenberg	30th	Charlene Nash
11th	Peter Mattes	20th	Catherine Martin		

& Anniversaries

1st	Linda & Milt Pollock for 55 years	19th....	Lynn & Mark Hittle for 47 years
12th....	Terri & Philip Dawson for 41 years	22nd...	Pat & Tim Peters for 59 years
14th....	Suzie & Rob Carpenter for 37 years	23rd ...	Heather & Darwin Putt for 11 years
14th....	Maria & Bob Hills for 66 years	23rd ...	Joan & Larry Romyak for 50 years
15th....	Betsy & Steve Powell for 4 years	24th....	Jennifer & George Spengler for 34 years
17th....	Sandy & Steve Hart for 51 years	25th....	Faith & Zip Fiordalis for 46 years
18th....	Marleigh & Branden Burris for 7 years	25th....	Laura & Andrew Fiordalis for 18 years
18th....	Mindy & Brad Hittle for 18 years	28th....	Kyle & Kelene Monk Rogers for 15 years

& Remembrances

26th.... Marv Hoektra's passing



Carillon Hymns and Honoree

Date..... Selection

1st.....	Take My Life
3rd.....	Onward Christian Soldiers
3rd.....	Pass It On
3rd.....	America the Beautiful
12th	When Morning Gilds the Skies
23rd.....	Amazing Grace
28th	Old Rugged Cross

Honoree

C. J. Hoorn
Brad Hoorn
Brad Hoorn
Brad Hoorn
Donald James
Julia Stephens
Alice V. & Harold F. Ostrander



Small Group Ministries

by Amber Beals

Small Group Activities this summer:

Walking Group

Please note **CHANGES**; we are going to shake things up a little. Here are the June walks:

June 6, 9am (Tuesday): We will walk the 2.2 mile loop in the Gull Prairie Preserve. Meet in the North church parking lot at 9 sharp.



June 23, 9am (Friday): There was a concern noted that some people want to join in, but are concerned about the uneven terrain on the preserve trail, so on this day we will meet at the Richland Township Park. I believe the loop is around 1.5 miles.

Mom's Group

For the month of June, we are going to meet up for a dinner out. If you are interested, please watch your email as several dates will be proposed and we will choose the one that works for most moms. Once we set a date, we will be sure to put it up on Facebook and get it in the Thursday email. Then we will take July and August off and regroup in September.

Family Pool Party

August 12: (Save the Date)! The Carisalez' have generously offered to host a pool party in August for the families in the church. Be sure to put this on your calendar!

Door Hanger Painting

Tuesday, June 27, 6pm-Gull Prairie Room
(Please note that orders and payment are due by Sunday, June 4)

Bring a salad to share, come ready to paint, and join other churchgoers for a fun evening!

Follow the link to select your design and size and place your order. Prices range from \$22-29 depending on the size you choose. Your payment and order must be placed by June 4 so that the door hangers can arrive in time. Please write checks to the church with "Door Hanger" in the memo line or place money in an envelope and leave in the dropbox outside the church office or mail to the church. Painting supplies will be provided. If you submit your order and aren't sure if it went through, or if you need help with this, please reach out to Amber, amberbeals@gmail.com. Amber will also be available a few Sundays after church to assist with orders if needed. This activity is open to anyone who likes to paint or just wants to have fun!

www.fpcrich.org/door_hanger_painting.html



Earth Care Congregation At Work Outside

by Amber Beals

Did you know that our church has an expert when it comes to plants and landscaping? Thanks to our very own Steve Allen, we have beds designed and plants ordered for our new garden beds behind the Deacon Brown House. Steve designed two of the beds using native perennials, and we will fill the remaining bed with annuals for this year. The two perennial beds will be certified Butterfly gardens. Now we just need your help to plant them (see below)! Steve will be placing the plants according to his design plans, so all we have to do is dig a hole and insert the plug. Easy Peasy.

Also, a big shoutout to Steve Sutherland and Rick Foster for preparing the beds and planting the grass! And please express your gratitude to Tom Stegink for taking on the furnace/AC projects/lighting projects around the church as we continue to strive to make the church more environmentally friendly.

Garden Bed Planting Volunteers Needed: Saturday, June 17, 9am-noon, includes lunch!

The Earth Care Committee has secured native perennials to fill the 12'x12' garden beds behind the Deacon Brown House and they are looking for a minimum of 6-10 volunteers to help plant them. Can you spare a Saturday morning to help? The more volunteers, the better. A simple lunch of hotdogs/brats will be provided to all volunteers. Please bring a garden trowel and gloves with you. Follow the link below to sign up to volunteer. If you need help signing up or are unsure if it was submitted correctly, please reach out to Amber at amberbeals@gmail.com or find her at church!

<https://tinyurl.com/khh5p89w>



Earth Care Congregation At Work Inside

by the Building & Grounds Committee

Our Church remains committed to being an Earth Care congregation. One of the areas of emphasis is facility management. In the past we have invested in high efficiency furnace and air conditioners when replacements are needed and replacing Gull Prairie Room lights with efficient LED bulbs. Such efforts are environmentally responsible and can save the church much needed operating funds.

Building and Grounds Elder Steve Sutherland contacted Consumers Energy to conduct a free audit of the church with a goal to conserve energy. As a result of this audit, multiple energy saving recommendations were made, including changing over to low energy consumption, no-cost LED bulbs where feasible, and replaced several faucet aerators with the latest low-flow design to conserve water, which saves money and energy. Consumers also made a commitment to come back on June 9th to replace all the chandelier lights in the Sanctuary with LED lights. This is great news as many lights are burnt out and replacement costs are high.

Since the Gull Prairie Room air conditioning unit has failed after 23 years of service, both it and the associated furnace will be replaced with new high-efficiency units in the near future, prior to the Rummage Sale dates.

Thank you to members of the Earth Care Committee and several volunteers for taking the lead on these improvements.

FOOD PANTRY SHOPPING LIST

The Richland Food Pantry is eager to accept donations to help members of our community with food insecurities. Currently, our pantry is wanting boxed breakfast cereals and canned soups. Monetary gifts can also be directed to the food pantry by specifying it as the intended recipient on your church offering envelopes or check.



NEED FOOD?

Our food programs are **FREE** and serve all of Kalamazoo County*.

GROCERY PANTRY PROGRAM

- ✓ No eligibility requirements. No ID required.
- ✓ Pick-up groceries 2 times per month.
- ✓ Someone else can pick up on your behalf.
- ✓ Home deliveries available county-wide.
- ✓ Non-perishable food as well as fresh produce, meat, dairy, bread, and eggs.
- ✓ At least four days' worth of food for everyone in your household.
- ✓ Special dietary needs? Let us know!

To Schedule A Same-Day Pantry Pick-Up:

Call 269.343.3663 Monday-Friday from 9AM-4PM

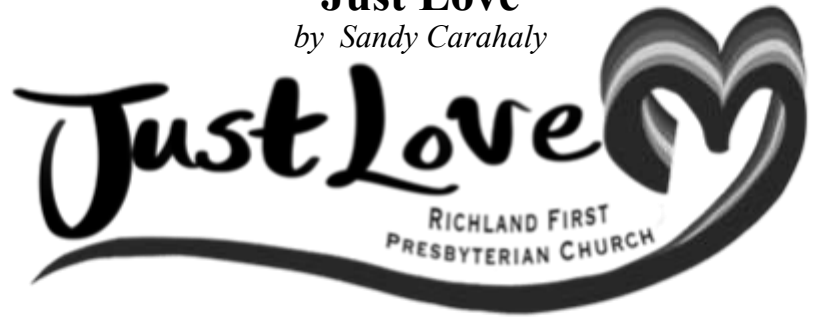
If you are unable to call or reach us during these times,
email info@kzoolf.org or message us on Facebook.

NEED FOOD LINE: 269.343.3663

901 PORTAGE STREET, KALAMAZOO KZOOLF.ORG INFO@KZOOLF.ORG

*If you live outside the County and need assistance, give us a call. We may be able to help.

Just Love
by Sandy Carahaly



Please join us June 11 for a very special Pride worship service!

This year our focus is on Allyship, and we need YOU to participate in the following ways:

- Wear bright colors to Worship on June 11 – BE the rainbow!
- Email sandy@carahaly.com your stories, affirmations, reflections, testimonials, poems, drawings, photos, etc. about Allyship for inclusion in an insert to the Order of Worship bulletin. Why is it important to be an ally? What has an ally done for you? How have you been an ally to others? What does allyship mean to you? This can be as short as a word or as long as a novel (if you're so inspired!) Please also let us know if you would like to remain anonymous or if it's OK to print your name. Please send by June 5 to allow time to collate.

Recommended Reading:

[The Savvy Ally: A Guide for Becoming a Skilled LGBTQ+ Advocate](#) by Jeannie Gainsburg.

A Minute to Learn: Allyship

Allyship is a commitment. It involves actively listening to and amplifying LGBTQ voices, standing up against discrimination, and challenging societal norms that perpetuate prejudice and inequality. True allyship also includes educating oneself about LGBTQ history, issues, and terminology, and using that knowledge to promote acceptance, understanding, and equality in all aspects of life. By reading this, you are taking a great step towards becoming a strong ally!

Days of Significance, June, 2023

June: Pride Month

June 12: Pulse Night of Remembrance

June 26: Anniversary of SCOTUS ruling on Obergefell v Hodges, which legalized same-sex marriage in the US.

June 28: Stonewall Riots Anniversary; Global Pride Day

Our June meeting is scheduled for June 25 at 11:15 in the Deacon Brown House. All are welcome!

Mission Committee adopts Seita Scholar Program at WMU

by Jennifer Spengler

As many of you are aware, the Seita Scholar program at Western Michigan University provides mentoring and physical support for students who have “aged out” of the Foster Care system in the State of Michigan and qualified for their studies at WMU. The freshmen in this program are offered a Welcome Pack of supplies the students will need to begin their life in the dormitory.

The First Presbyterian Church of Richland generously purchased items and made financial donations (which were used to purchase needed items) last summer for the Seita Scholars program. The Mission Committee would like to adopt this group again this summer and is asking

for our congregation’s support.

Please see the attached Welcome Pack donation needs list, and if you are able, please purchase items from the list (or make a financial donation which the committee will use to purchase the needed supplies). Your donation of Welcome Pack items can be brought to the church office for storage. The deadline for receipt of the Welcome Pack donations is Thursday, July 13, 2023 so that our donation can be delivered to WMU the first week of August prior to Freshman Orientation. Thank you for your continued generosity!

SEITA SCHOLARS PROGRAM WELCOME PACK DROP-OFF FORM

ITEMS DROPPED OFF (PLEASE FILL IN QUANTITY OF ITEMS IN BOXES):

Fall Welcome Pack Donation (complete pack donation)

Fall Welcome Pack Donation (miscellaneous pack items, not full pack)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathing Sponges/Puffs | <input type="checkbox"/> Razors (multi-pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Body Wash/Bar Soap | <input type="checkbox"/> School Supplies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Box Fan | <input type="checkbox"/> Shampoo and Conditioner |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combs/Brushes | <input type="checkbox"/> Shaving Cream or Gel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deodorant | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Caddy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dry Erase Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extension Cord | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet Paper (four pack or more) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fabric Softener (dryer sheets) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toothpaste and Toothbrush (two pack) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Feminine Hygiene Products (unscented) | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Blanket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin Comforter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hypoallergenic Pillow | <input type="checkbox"/> Twin XL Jersey Sheet Set |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Basket (large, rectangular) | <input type="checkbox"/> Full Size Sheet Set (as alternative to twin) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Laundry Detergent | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath Towels (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lotion | <input type="checkbox"/> Hand Towel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mattress Pad (twin) | <input type="checkbox"/> Washcloths (five) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nail Clippers | <input type="checkbox"/> Umbrella |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planner (2023-24) | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Gallon Tote |

Additional Items: _____

Actual Value: _____ or Estimated Value: _____

From The Library Cart

by Joan Willemstyn



A book review for [A Generous Orthodoxy](#), by Brian McLaren. It can be found on the Library Cart.

I would like to recommend this book to anyone who would enjoy exploring a stimulating, fresh approach to our Christian faith. Pastor McLaren looks at all of the different branches of Christianity, and finds that each branch has something to contribute to our deeper understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. I was first introduced to this book when Pastor Pat Weatherwax referred to it in her sermons. I'm glad I bought the book because it has challenged me to look at what I believe and why I believe it, and it has enlarged my faith. I enjoyed reading this book, and I think other church members would too.

“The Way We Are ”

shared by Rev. Pat Weatherwax

This came across my email and I liked it for the way it was designed to facilitate discussion. It's free to use from the PC(USA) and has study guides that go with it. Do you agree with this identification?

Presbyterians are the way we are because Presbyterians are Christians who believe:
Studying the Bible prayerfully and together helps us figure out which things matter more than other things;
Grace happens; God's grace invites response; God gave us brains and expects us to use them; We are beloved, gifted, capable, and safe. Already. Right now; God calls us to be on the side of the ones who are having the hardest time; Nobody's perfect; There's more Holy Spirit in a bunch of us than in any single one of us; God isn't finished; and God's love is not limited to our particular faith community.

God loves you and so do I!
Pat Weatherwax

70 YEARS OF HOMEMADE PIES!!

by Terry Vantine

Dear Presbyterian Women,

The 4th of July parade is right around the corner and the time to sign up to bake pies is here. You are aware of all the good causes the money earned from the Pie Tent supports. You also know that the community loves your Pies! Please look for the sign up sheet in the Gull Prairie room and write down the number of Pies you will bake. Remember, NO cream or store bought pies. Our patrons look forward to the BEST PIES from all of you!



Your Pies must be in ziploc type plastic bags and clearly labeled with their flavor.

Your Pies can be frozen and put in the Church freezer well labeled for the PIE TENT or they can be brought on the 3rd and left on the kitchen counter. The Pies will be moved to the Pie Tent around 8:30-9:00. If you choose to bring your Pies on the 4th please have them there by 8:30.

If you are interested in making individual serving Pies, PW has 50 small Pie pans.

Please refer any questions to Jan Harrison at 569-2857.

Let's make the 70th year the best ever!

Rummage Sale

SALE DATES

The Annual Summer Rummage Sale will be Friday, June 9th, from 9 am – 3 pm, then 5 – 7 pm, and Saturday, June 10th, from 9 – 11:30 am. All items will be sold for the prices as marked on Friday. On Friday evening, the prices drop to \$2 for whatever you can fit in a bag, then Saturday morning, the prices drop again to only \$1 a bag.

COLLECTION DATES

After the Scouts help us set up Monday, June 5th, we will collect your sale item donations Tuesday, June 6th, thru Thursday, June 8th. We ask that all donations be delivered to the Church by Noon on Thursday and that you do not bring TVs, computer screens, car seats, or sofas.

VOLUNTEERING

We hope you will set aside a few hours or days that week to help: Tuesday thru Thursday from 9 am to 8 pm to sort and price; and then Friday, 8:30 am to 7 pm, and Saturday, 8:30 am- 1 pm, for the sale and cleanup. And as a bonus, Faith and Zip Fiordalis plan to be in town to help with the sale. It is always good to see them. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be posted on the PW bulletin board in the Gull Prairie Room.

PROCEEDS

Proceeds from the sale support the PW Mission.

The Trails of Scouting Flag Retirement Ceremony

by Amber Beals

Have any tattered or faded flags around that you don't know what to do with? Ever wonder what the proper way is to dispose of them? We can help!

BSA Troop 294 is hosting a flag retirement ceremony in the Richland Square on June 14 at 6pm and the community is welcome to attend. Bring any flags you need disposed of and a chair to watch the scouts perform this ceremony which involves burning the flags in a dignified, honorable way. If you have questions, please reach out to Antoinette Sandum, P: 269-275-5553, email: asandum1scouts@gmail.com.

If you have worn flags but are unable to attend the ceremony, you may drop them off at the Richland Township office anytime before June 14 or you may leave them in the church office for Amber by June 17



KidsFirst

by Brooke Heck

June is here! Bring on the sun, bbqs, and all the summer fun that blooms this month! KidsFirst has a LOT of fun planned for this summer, including the Summer Kick-off party this month on the 11th (you won't want to miss it!), fun summer focused lessons, and Vacation Bible School! I am so excited for all that is in store for the next few months in KidsFirst, but am also working hard on slowing down and enjoying the moments I am living in right now. I am slowing down to look for the joy in small moments each day, to appreciate the beauty of the world God created for us, and to reflect on the moments and people that have shaped me into the person I am today.

Celebrating Father's Day this month is the perfect opportunity to reflect on all the important people that have played an important role in my life. While thinking about this, I found this scripture and thought it was a beautiful take on fatherhood:

"I will be a father to him, and he'll be a son to me. When he does wrong, I'll discipline him in the usual ways, the pitfalls and obstacles of this mortal life. But I'll never remove my gracious love from him."

– 2 Samuel 7:14-15

I love the choice of "I will be". Not "I have to be" or "I was chosen to be". I WILL be. It is a choice to be great father (or mother!). God CHOSE Joseph to father Jesus. Joseph could have rejected God's request and said "the child's not mine", but instead he accepted Jesus, raised him, provided for him, and loved him as his own. He was a FATHER to him.

Father's Day is a chance to look deep and truly see all the people in your life that have stepped up and said "I will" when you needed someone to be there in life's hardest and happiest moments. The people who were always available to dole out advice or just lend a listening ear. The person who was there to catch you, hold you, love you. Fathers, brothers, uncles, grandparents, pastors, friends, mentors, the list can go on and on... but there is one thing I know, there are so many people that have said "I will" for you and would "never remove [their] gracious love" for you! Love like Joseph. Love like Jesus. Just love.

Happy Father's Day to all those at FPC!

Brooke


★ Me and my _____ ★

He always says _____

I love him because _____

Our favorite thing to do together is _____

(draw a picture of it here!)



#favoritethingtodo
#iloveyou

SUBSCRIBE



First Presbyterian Church
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Mark W. Jennings, Pastor
Larry Myland, Director of Music
Brooke Heck, Sunday School Director
Amber Beals, Coordinator of Small Group Ministry
Rachel Little, Office Manager
Connie Slater, Sexton
Gretchen Ferris, Treasurer
Chris Gobble, Financial Secretary
Paul Gobble, Director of Communications

JUNE