



The Signpost

Harlem Road Church

September 2016

Volume 11, Number 7

Life Is Far Too Short

By Pastor Bud Leskovac

My brother Bob (whose picture hangs on the wall beside my desk) and I were very close when I was a young boy. He was ten years my elder, and I was always elated when he allowed me to hang out with him. At times I was allowed to camp out with him. On other occasions just he and I would take a ride in his 1965 Mercury; somehow I felt all “grown up” riding shotgun with my big brother. On several adventures we shared, he communicated his love for me...and I knew I was special in his life.

But life changed, as it often does, and I grew up. He was married, I was married, and we were both doing our best for our families and our homes. To this day I'm not sure what happened, but somewhere along the line we had a major disagreement about something and our relationship became strained. We were cordial with each other, but only on a surface social level. As I look back, we lost several years of relationship because of this disagreement...years that can't be restored.

Then one day my brother Larry called me to tell me that Bob's daughter, Mandi, had been in a terrible car crash. She was in I.C.U. in Pittsburgh and not expected to live. Without even thinking I dropped everything and drove across I-70. I knew my brother needed me.

Many years of troubled relationship were erased in that initial embrace as I held my older brother and he sobbed. We went to the chapel and prayed...and miraculously, Mandi survived. As the days went by, Mandi healed, my relationship with my brother healed, and at times we would spend an hour on the phone together. One day he shared deeply from his heart. “Bud, now I understand why you are a pastor. I have just completed a weekend where I have come to know Jesus in my life like never before.” To my thrill, Bob had been reconciled with God through Jesus Christ at the Roman Catholic version of our Walk to Emmaus weekends. For the first time ever, Bob and I prayed together thanking God for what He had done in our lives. We were at peace. We were reunited in Christ as more than earthly brothers; now made brothers in Christ. And I'm so thankful. Later that year, Bob passed from this life at age fifty in a very unexpected and untimely death. It was a most emotional and difficult experience to speak at his funeral. Life is far too short.

I learned that difficult lesson. Life is far too short to take for granted...and it's far too short to waste on things that don't really matter or have little eternal significance. Sometimes in the fast pace of life, or sometimes just in our plain laziness, we miss the purpose for which Jesus came to earth. “I have come,” He said, “that you might have life, and life more abundantly.” “I have come to seek and save the lost.” But when you're stressed out by the pressures of daily life, or if you are choked out by negativity, or you are among the 70% of Americans who say they are basically unhappy, or if you are oppressed by envy, then you are not really living an “abundant life,” are you?

Looking forward to the fall, Advent and Christmas season, let's declare it's time to refocus and energize our faith lives. Let's get beyond negativity, unhappiness, stress, and envy, and let's focus on the eternal, so that our lives won't be filled with regrets or become irrelevant. So please consider this my personal invitation for you to attend each Sunday during the fall, get involved in a small group, attend a Sunday school class, get involved on a ministry team, or even consider an “out of the box” way to be in ministry to others. Every single Sunday will be of great help as we open God's Word and allow it to speak truth into our lives. With every class or small group, and every time you care for someone else, your world will be lifted to a new place beyond the daily grind. Life is indeed, far too short. Live well.

Remember you are loved.

Pastor Bud

Calling Folks to Prayer!

Join us for a 6-week Bible study surrounding the movie "War Room." We will begin on Thursday evening, September 15 and watch the movie as a group from 7-9 pm. Then we will meet for the next 5 Thursday nights (September 22-October 20) for Bible study surrounding the theme of the movie. The Bible study will run from 7-8 pm. We will meet in classroom #105. Please plan to join us. If you would like to attend and need childcare, please RSVP to Pam Leskovac 614-507-1577 or email: pam@harlemroadchurch.org

Youth Group Plans

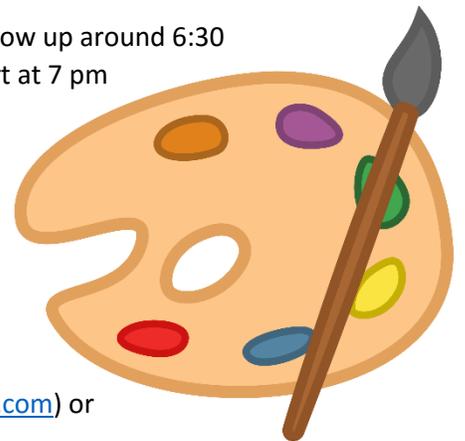
By Doug Edwards and Liz Stimer

Please join us for a youth group (grades 6-12) kickoff party on Sunday, September 18 from 12:30-3 pm. We will be playing games, enjoying lunch and hosting an informational meeting for parents about our plans for the youth. Lunch will be provided. Please put this on your calendar and join us! If you are able to attend or have any questions, please email Liz Stimer at estimer4@yahoo.com or Doug Edwards at djedwards6@yahoo.com. We look forward to meeting all of you! It's going to be a great year!

Paint Night and Potluck!

We are having a paint night & potluck on Friday, October 7. People should show up around 6:30 pm to bring in dishes, grab some good food and find a seat. Painting will start at 7 pm and finish around 9. Child care will be available if there is enough interest. We'll be sending sign-up sheets around at church for the potluck and will provide a link to register and pay online. Cost is \$25/person. Anyone 8 years old and older is welcome (men too)! Please invite friends and extended family to come too. It's a fun, easy-going event where you can connect with one another. We are planning to create a seasonal "pumpkin" type of painting.

If you have questions, contact Jenni Stupski at 614-579-2158 (jenpennij@aol.com) or Karen Dodson at 614-579-5135 (kadee115@aol.com).



New Adult Bible Study on Sunday Mornings

When Jesus Christ sent messages to seven First-Century churches, those messages were timely and accurate for them to understand what God expects His churches to be. 2,000-plus years later, those messages are still relevant and can help us and our churches too. Their primary meaning has personal application for our lives, as well as to the church body. Christ dictated those seven letters personally to the apostle John, who wrote down everything Christ instructed him to, in the book of "Revelation." This study focuses on Christ's comments about what the churches in Asia Minor were doing that was pleasing or disappointing to God. We are living in a time when many churches have lost their identity and have given way to the pressures of "political correctness." And sadly some churches have even left Jesus standing at the front door and will not allow him in. At the end of the day, it is not important what we think the church should be. The only thing that matters is what God expects His church to be. This study will help all of us understand God's expectations for His Church and assist us in focusing our efforts towards pleasing Him. Everyone is welcome to join this study, which will be held each Sunday morning at 9:45 beginning September 11 in the classroom across from the chapel. Contact Mark Peterson at 6906whodey@gmail.com.

Children's Ministry News

By Pam Leskovac

Our goal in Children's Ministry at HRC is to "Connect Kids to Christ." With that in mind, we offer many programs for children – and all of them are focused on building a relationship with Jesus. We have Sunday school on Sunday mornings, and Friday Night Live once a month from September through November and February through April. Our children prepare a big Christmas musical that we present to the church the first weekend in December. Please – if you have children or know of children you'd love to see get connected to Christ – bring them into the life of the church. Harlem Road Church is a great place for kids to gather.

We have nursery care and Sunday school classes during both worship services for children ages 2-5th grade.

- At our 8:30 service, the children leave after the opening worship songs and attend a combined class in room #105. Parents can pick up their children in that room when the worship service ends.
- At 9:45 we have youth Sunday school classes and adult Sunday school classes. Children are invited to join in fun and fellowship time in Room #102 during adult class time.
- At our 11am service, the children leave after the opening worship and go to the Chapel. From there they are dismissed by ages to their classrooms. Parents can pick up their children in their classroom after worship
 - Toddlers (ages 2 & 3) – Room #101 (third room on the right down the education hall)
 - PreK/K – Room #102 (fourth room on the right down the education hall)
 - Grades 1-3 – Room #105 (hallway off lobby - first room on the left)
 - Grades 4-5 – Room #104 (last room on the left down the education hall)

Christmas Musical

"All About that Baby" is our children's Christmas musical this year. Rehearsals will begin soon and be held after the 11 am worship service w/lunch provided. The details surrounding the musical are still being worked out – so watch the bulletin for updated information! Contact Kate Steele (614-312-7691) if you have any questions.

FNL

"Friday Night Live!" begins September 16 from 6:30-8:30 pm. You won't want to miss out on this fun-filled, fast paced event for kids ages 4 through 5th grade. We meet in the Family Life Center and eat dinner together and then move from game station to story station to craft station and close together in the Family Life Center.

Parents – we ask that you accompany your children into the building and register them, and then come into the building to pick them up. We don't allow children to go into the parking lot at the end of the event without a parental unit!

FNL Dates for this programming year:

- September 16
- October 14 (date change!) – Trunk or Treat event
- November 18
- We don't meet in December or January
- February 17
- March 17
- April 21

Missions News

By Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka

Harlem Road UMC focuses its Mission Outreach efforts in two key areas: our local Big Walnut community, with an emphasis on Westerville Estates, and our global Haitian community in the Imagine Missions orphanage. Our local outreach is done in partnership with other churches and organizations. We call our combined group "SidebySide." The other organizations are Galena UMC, Church of the Saviour UMC, New Albany UMC, New Albany Church of the Resurrection Catholic, and Harlem Township Helping Hands.

Local Outreach

Free Produce Giveaway

We hold our monthly produce giveaway each THIRD SATURDAY through December. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Mishelle Soule at bristol2425@yahoo.com. Volunteers are needed from 10 am – 1 pm to sort and hand out the food. CRITICAL: if you have a pick-up truck that can haul 2,000 lbs, WE NEED YOU to help occasionally to bring the food from Mid-Ohio Food Bank in Grove City to HRUMC on a Saturday morning. You'd be down in Grove City by 9 am and be done helping us by 10:30 am.

SidebySide - Fall Activities

SidebySide will again be running Homework Help at the Estates Clubhouse and we will start on Wednesday, Sept. 14. This program takes only 90 minutes (from 3:30 – 5 pm) and is for elementary aged kids. We NEED YOUR HELP to ensure that each child has a one-on-one experience with a loving, caring adult. The format will be more structured this year with dedicated time for homework and group activities. You don't need to be "smarter than a 5th grader" to help. You just need to care about helping a child learn to love learning. Please let Judy Sharpe-Kosmatka know if you're able to help.

YoungLife

YoungLife is an international Christian organization that reaches kids for Christ through local schools. YL does this by having college kids go into the high schools to meet the kids there, form relationships and earn the right to share the Gospel with them. One of YL's biggest activities each year is a one-week camp where kids are loved and taught about Jesus. Your gifts to HRUMC's budget allow HRUMC to donate to three different YL areas: Olentangy (led by Katie and Matt Schaublin), Lebanon (led by Jessica Sharpe) and Westerville/Big Walnut. The comments below are from the Olentangy area, and are representative of comments we've received from all the YL areas after kids go away to camp:

"Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to grow in my relationship with Christ and to have my questions answered and to love on all of the girls and boys I normally wouldn't have loved on. I feel so blessed to be given this opportunity to grow and watch others grow in Christ. I have found salvation and peace within Jesus and just thank you for giving me this. So, so much love...thank you."

"Thank you for loving me. Thank you for caring about me. Thank you for making this trip happen. Thank you for guiding me all throughout my life. Thank you."

"Thank you for this week. It has made me realize that having a relationship with Christ is not always easy but it is totally worth it. This week has been one of the best weeks of my life and you helped make that happen. Thank you! Ally"

“Thank you so much for making it possible for kids to come and have the best week of their lives. I’m thankful that girls I never thought would come got to come because of people like you that support us. Girls with depression, anxiety, insecurities, etc. got to come and hear how loved and valued they are. This week changed lives. Thank you.”

SidebySide - Summer Activities

SidebySide held two key events over this past summer: a “Staying Sharp over Summer” (SSOS) program that ran each Tuesday morning in June and July and a School Supplies/Clothing Giveaway.

The SSOS program averaged 13 kids/day with a total of 26 participants. 14 kids participated in 4 or more sessions and 9 kids participated in 6 or more sessions. The entire event was designed and lead by Christie Johnson Stuber, Souders school Occupational Therapist and sister to Kathleen Schnipke. THANK YOU CHRISTIE!!!

The school supplies/clothing giveaway was equally a huge success. We had several phone calls in the weeks preceding asking when and where it would be held. 132 kids and 68 adults were served. 101 pairs of NEW shoes were given out, thanks to Harlem Township Helping Hands. THANK YOU HELPING HANDS!!!

Global Outreach

THANK YOU to all who donated book bags for our Haiti kids’ Christmas gifts. The sponsors have sent the gift items, all the book bags have been packed and have either already landed in Haiti or will be traveling down there in the next few weeks.

Ongoing Missions at HRUMC

Income for Our Neighbors: Each month, necklaces made by two Westerville Estates women are taken to the Ohio Art Market for sale. Please patronize the Ohio Art Market, located in Uptown Westerville on the corner of Main and State streets.

Aluminum Pop Tabs: Please bring in the tabs off your aluminum cans and we will take them to the Columbus Ronald McDonald House which recycles them to raise funds to purchase wheelchairs. Receptacles are on the table at the back of the main hallway.

BoxTops for Education: Please bring in the BoxTops for Education labels from your food packages and we will take them to Souders Elementary School. Receptacles are on the table at the back of the main hallway.

Kroger Community Rewards: This is a great way to help your church! We have 9 households who are shopping at Kroger and using their Community Rewards card to bless Harlem Road UMC. Those 9 households were responsible for Kroger’s donation of \$213.36 for the past three months. YOU CAN ALSO HELP IN THIS WAY! See the instructions below - and thank you!! If you’ve enrolled in the past, your enrollment expired March 31. If you didn’t re-enroll in April, you will need to do so now.

If it’s the first time you are registering, you will need to set up your account first.

- For a member to enroll your card, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
- Click “Create an account”
- Put in your email address and password. Confirm your password
- Enter plus card OR alt ID number
- Go to Community Rewards (near bottom)

- Follow through the steps. (Name, address, etc.)
- Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization.
- Choose the correct organization.
- Click Enroll.

For a participant to re-enroll your card, go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com

- Click "Sign-in"
- Put in your email address and password that you used to enroll your card.
- Click on your name at the top right, and scroll to the bottom for Community Rewards.
- Put in the group number or part of the name of the organization.
- Choose the correct organization.
- Click Enroll.

If you are having an issue with your password and or email address, please call 1-800-KROGERS, and press 5 to speak to a customer service representative.

MarketPlace

MarketPlace is returning this fall at Harlem Road Church on Saturday, October 22 from 10-3. We are still seeking vendors for this event, as well as volunteers who will help with setup, tear down, and some other acts of service. If you are available to help, we need to hear from you. If you know of anyone who may be interested in renting table space, the cost is \$25.00. Please contact Judy S-K at judysharpekos@insight.rr.com or (614) 565-3395 OR Ellen Jacobs at jacobsellen53@gmail.com or (614) 406-4337.

Harlem Road United Methodist Church
5520 Harlem Road, Galena OH 43021

MARKETPLACE

Faith filled Funds Creation for Haitian
Orphans

Come join us on Saturday,
October 22, 2016!
\$3 admission
(ages 10 and under free)
Doors open 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

Vendors - Artisans - Café - Fun!
Jewelry, Hats, Soaps, Health Products, Ceramics, Food
Mixes, Silent Auction, etc.!

Health and Wellness

By Sue Wilcox

“September days have the warmth of summer in their briefer hours, but in their lengthening evenings a prophetic breath of autumn. The cricket chirps in the noontide, making the most of what remains of his brief life. The bumblebee is busy among the clover blossoms of the aftermath, and their shrill and dreamy hum hold the outdoor world above the voices of the song birds, now silent or departed.” - Rowland E. Robinson



The Health and Wellness Team continued to work during the summer months, with a mini men’s health clinic in June and a family fun and fitness evening in July. In August we held a panel presentation on arthritis.

Medicare Class

September 15-21 is Medicare Education Week. Glenn Evans is offering an educational forum on the basics (A B C’s and D of Medicare) for those of you who are planning for Medicare, on September 15 at 7 pm at the church.

CPR/AED Class

If there are at least 12 folks interested, we will offer this course. There is a sign-up sheet in the lobby at the church. The date and time are to be determined.

Journey to Bethlehem

We will make the trip to Bethlehem again this year. We need you to help by contributing your individual activities and miles in order to get us to the Holy Land before the birth of Jesus. We shall begin our journey September 4. There will be a sign-up sheet in the lobby, and Jim Bernhardt has agreed to track our miles again this year. For those of you who are new to our church and are interested in participating, please see Sue Wilcox to learn more.

Screen Time

By Lisa Branzel, Clinical Exercise Physiologist, ATC

TV became popular in the 60’s, then computers and video gaming, now smartphones. Are all these screens good for us? CNN reports that in July 2016 the average adult spent over 10 hours per day on screens. Children are not far behind, with several studies showing that ages 8-18 average 9-10 screen hours per day.

What is so detrimental about screen time? After all, it keeps kids quiet, you have information at your fingertips, and it’s largely a communication highway.

Let’s review the mounting evidence of negative effects:

- Obesity and health concerns related to physical inactivity and strategically placed high calorie junk food advertising.
- Disrupted sleep patterns due to the blue light encased in the screen. The body interprets this blue light as daylight and signals the brain to wake up. Therefore, no screens should be displayed in a room while you are sleeping.

- Brain development can be impaired. With excessive screen use, neurotransmitters like dopamine show patterns similar to that of substance abuse.
- Eye strain from fatigue and blurred vision are becoming increasingly more common. Also, the same blue light that disrupts sleep can damage the retina.
- Aches and pains of the back, neck, and fingers, and even migraine headaches, can be attributed to longer bouts of screen time.
- Loss of social skills. The ability to interact face-to-face with another person is becoming a lost art.
- Aggressive behavior increases with exposure to violence or anger, whether on TV or in video games.

Health experts are beginning to view screen time as a serious health risk. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no screen time for children under the age of 2 and limiting screen time to no more than 2 hours per day for ages 3-18.

Sound impossible? With God all things are possible. So imagine what the world would be like, with God's people engaged together with words and smiles, not through a screen.



Community Connection Groups

Thinking about joining a small group, but not sure which one might be right for you? Contact the leaders to find out more about the people in the group and what they do!

NEW!!! A women's nondenominational community connection weekly bible study group is starting this fall. The first meeting is Thursday Sept 8 from 10-11 am at Nancy Babbitt's home in Lake of the Woods, at 9119 White Oak Lane, Westerville. Contact Nancy at 614-891-5638 or johnlbabbitt@gmail.com

IRONWORKS MEN'S MINISTRY BREAKFAST GROUP. Ironworks is an opportunity for men to come together and network with other men of the church and community for the purpose of helping each other to become better warriors for Jesus Christ. We meet at the church the first Saturday of the month (starting in October). A hot breakfast starts at 8:45, followed by a relevant study topic/discussion. All men are invited and welcome to join us as we kick off the new season on October 1. Please see or email Mark Peterson for further information. Leader: Mark Peterson (6906whodey@gmail.com or 614-270-0600)

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Meeting Time/Place: Tuesdays at 7 pm in the pastor's office. All men are welcome!
Leader: Jim Bernhardt (bernarj@gmail.com or 614-895-1807)

WOMEN'S TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY Meeting Time/Place: Usually every Tuesday night at the home of Ellen Jacobs (148 Nicole Drive, Westerville) at 7 pm. Description: Please contact the leader to learn more about this group's current study. All women are welcome to join us on Tuesday evenings!
Leader: Ellen Jacobs (jacobsellen53@gmail.com or 614-406-4s337)

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUP Meeting Time/Place: We just started a new video series on the Holy Spirit. Please join us September 14 at 7 pm at Eva Wolfe's house, 6774 Highbridge, Westerville, and September 28 at Jenny Hecker's house, 668 Little Rock Road, Westerville.
Leader: Diana Robertson (office@harlemroadchurch.org or 614-882-9487)

WOMEN'S LUNCH BUNCH Meeting Time/Place: Lunch Bunch is meeting at noon Thursday, September 1 at Ming Flower Chinese Restaurant, 475 Lazelle Rd, Westerville.

Leader: Bobbi Pollock (blp1946@embarqmail.com or 740-965-4503)

SATURDAY COUPLES GROUP Meeting Time/Place: Contact Ron and Lisa Danne for information about the next meeting..

Leaders: Ron and Lisa Danne (lisad@columbus.rr.com or 740-967-2164)

THE AYERS GROUP Meeting Time/Place: We will meet on September 20 at Frank Bright's house, 5950 Litchfield Road, Columbus. On October 4 we'll have an Alice in Wonderland-themed "Tea Party" (with a bonfire and s'mores) at Karen and Diane's house, 210 Old County Line Road, Westerville.

Leader: Karen Dodson 614-579-5135, kadee115@aol.com.

Thank You from the Conference

Re: In appreciation of your support of Imagine No Malaria

Dear friends,

"Glory to God, who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us." This verse guides the Imagine No Malaria campaign of the United Methodist Church and it has been my touchstone during my time as your West Ohio Conference Coordinator for Imagine No Malaria.

3.5 million dollars sounded like more than we could imagine three short years ago. With God's help through your prayers and action, you've done more united than we could imagine, committing to more than \$3.6 million to help save the lives of women, children and men in sub-Saharan Africa. Sub-Sahara is an area of the world where United Methodism is strongly rooted and growing, and a land where children are considered blessed if they reach and live beyond their fifth birthday.

United we learned about malaria. We learned of the devastation it has brought to a vast population. We learned what was being done by the world to stop it and we learned that our church was a leader in education, prevention, treatment and communication about this killer disease called malaria.

United we gave to make a difference in children's lives, helping to change the paradigm of a child dying from malaria every 60 seconds. We gave to provide bed nets, medicine, hospital revitalization and education. We gave \$10 to save a life. And, because of your gifts the people of sub-Sahara today teach each other about the cause, the prevention and the treatment of malaria. Thank you!

United we shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people as they came to know the healing presence of Jesus Christ in tangible ways. The power of God was and is at work within all of us. Thanks be to God.

From the first dollars I received from children at Franklin First UMC, to the awe-inspiring generosity of Ginghamburg's million-dollar gift, to every dollar and every penny in between, you have blessed the people of sub-Sahara beyond my words. Every gift mattered, every gift is making a difference!

Thank you West Ohio for your generosity. You made this effort not about the money as important as money was, you made it about compassion and sharing God's love with those who are weeping the loss of their children, the loss of family, the loss of future. And, in church after church you've asked/'now that we've helped

sub-Saharan who in West Ohio needs that same compassion? How can we make the same kind of difference?' United we've opened our eyes and our prayers to the needs of our neighbors and the world.

Thank you West Ohio for supporting Imagine No Malaria; through your gifts and your prayers you and God are doing more for the people of Africa and the world than we could ask or imagine. Working with church after church you have welcomed and blessed me in ways far greater than I could ever imagine. Thank you!

Even though my status changed to retired on June 30, my prayers and my encouragement are always with you. May the hunger to share God's love always be alive in you and take you to places you never would have imagined!

In Christ's Amazing Love,
Dave Boling, CLM
West Ohio Imagine No Malaria Coordinator

(Your donations to Harlem Road UMC allowed us to give to this United effort each of the past three years. God bless each of you!)

Prayer Requests

Expectant Moms: Michelle Simonsen Faust, Jenni Stupski

Requests: Ty Young, Allie Pollock, Jim Stone, Kim Curtis, Phil Myers, Liz Fravel, Kelly Hanlin, Yvonne Lake, Martha Ann Branin, Arthur Saunders, Kyle Cooger, Jarrett Wampler, Gary Evans, Sara Roberts, Geneva Day, Betty Baughman, Don Tieche, Sophia Hill, George Pollock, Joel Wilcox, Denny Krebs, Herb Baker, Clyde Fravel, Linda Emerson, Penny Meyers, Winnie Bateson, Jim & Kim Houf, Brenda Barcus, Dottie Sund, Suellen Peterson, Doug Edwards, Trish Bateson, Phil Myers



Cancer Treatment: Kathy Rank, Denise Sproul, Shari King, Mike Stati, Nancy Neutzing, Zoey Harper, Judy Smoot, Allen Dyer, Charles & Sheryl Boldosar, Conner Taylor, Shawn Correll, Chuck Netting, Howie Goodman, Loraine Bell, Sidney Hatfield, Amy Yeagle, Debbie Goslin, Debbie Dorsch, Michelle Stimer, Gary Fravel, Rosemary Finn, Bunny Pearson, Craig Valentine, John Feller, John Bell, Leah Dean, Mike Doel, Jessie Wampler, Vicki Troendly, Robin Smith, Bonnie Edwards, Julie Smart

Military Service: Joe Pasqua, Jeremy Ragan, Christina Hahn, Chad Cunningham, Scott Crowell, Sean Hatch, John Smock, Stuart David, Nathan Brumbaugh, James Martin, Michael David-Gish, Nathan Bertram