

TRINITY TOPICS

The Newsletter of Trinity Episcopal Church
POTTSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

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September/October 2023

Musings from the priest's computer....

September, 2023

Although we are not animists—those who believe that living and inanimate objects have spirits which influence humans—the created order does influence us in many ways. Foggy or misty mornings seem to envelop us, and bring melancholy or introspection, while brilliant sunlight can lift our mood and give energy. Likewise, a beautiful vista gets the heart and mind racing. We are leaving the colors of summer, greens and reds and yellows and purples and blues, for the bronze shades of autumn. The lengthening night times are teasing us as counters to the location of dawn and the associated warmth of sunlight. Our liturgical order is also subtly changing from the Matthean themes of the work of Jesus and his miracles and encompassing more of the coming of the Kingdom of God here and now.

As the autumn days approach quickly, the Church in Schuylkill County is also moving quickly. Numerous events are highlighted on the ministerial and outreach calendars. There will be joint worship, joint exploration of our shared history, teaching and learning opportunities, and of course, liturgical events which call us again and again to pray, and praise, and gather and love one another. Included in these are Baber Day, with tours, music and solemn Evensong, our Annual Outdoor Eucharist and Picnic in September, monthly Saturday evening Vigil Services, the Blessing of the Animals, and of course, fellowship, masking as fundraisers. These all serve to bring more of us into the participation of and with and for the Body of Christ here. Instruction for those seeking Confirmation or Reception in the Episcopal Church begins after Baber Day and is also a great opportunity to learn and grow your faith while lifting others with your unique experiences and insights.

Autumn also brings us connections with the natural world. Differing smells, changes in vegetation, the starkness of tree bark contrasted with the changing leaves and flowers all are harbingers of the next season. Animals are getting ready as we must also. Readying ourselves for the next church season and readying for differences in the life in our congregations throughout the county may touch us all somehow. As summer slowly—or rather quickly—starts a movement towards autumn, continue to pray for one another in joy and love. Welcome each other as you so ably welcome those unfamiliar to you. And above all, invite others in to watch and pray and participate in the life of the best kept secret in Christianity, the Episcopal Church.

Your brother in Christ,

Fr. Kurt

For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord, 'plans for well-being and not for trouble, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11

Trinity Church's Mission Statement

"Living, loving, sharing in the name of Jesus Christ"

Vision Statement



Services At Chapel of The Resurrection

Summer services continue to be held at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Charles Baber Cemetery at 9 am through September 10.

ECSC Picnic

The combined picnic for the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County will be held on Sunday, September 17 at the Island Pavilion in Schuylkill Haven. The Eucharist will be at 10 am followed by food and fellowship.





Shepherd's Pie Dinner

There will be a Shepherd's Pie fundraiser dinner on Saturday, September 23 from 3 to 6 pm. The cost is \$10.00. Eat-in or take-out will include dinner, dessert, coffee and water. Please call the church office at 570-622-8720 to reserve your dinner or sign up at the Chapel. The deadline for reserving is

September 9.

Return To Sanctuary

We will return to the sanctuary on Sunday, September 24 at 9 am.



United Thank Offering

As we continue to celebrate the Risen Christ, we are grateful for the many blessings in our lives. Please remember those less fortunate than we are by your offerings in your UTO box or set aside to put in a UTO envelope at our

fall ingathering on October 1 and 8. Envelopes are available at the back of the Chapel or the entrances in the sanctuary.

Healing Services

The Wednesday noon Healing service will resume on September 27 in St. Luke's Chapel. Healing and anointing will be offered on the 4th Sunday of every month during the Eucharistic service.





Concert Series

The first concert of the 2023-24 season will be held on Sunday, October 8 at 4 pm. Greg Giannascoli, marimba player and Schuylkill County native, Ron Stabinsky, piano will present a program of Kreisler and Gershwin. Please see the enclosed flyer.

Concert Series Reception

Once again, donations are being requested for the abundance of goodies that highlight our receptions. Sign-up sheets will be in the notebooks at the main entrance and in the ambulatory and also on the bulletin board at the base of the 2nd St. stairs. Thank you in advance for your contributions.





Stewardship Sunday and Necrology

Sunday, October 29 will be our annual Stewardship Sunday. Please watch the mail in September for a letter from Father Kurt with a pledge card included. We appreciate your time, talent and treasure and the Budget Committee is helped immensely by knowing what

monies are coming into the church. The Budget Committee will meet in late November or early December so the Vestry can pass a budget at the December meeting. Thank you for prayerfully considering your contribution. Also, Father Kurt will be including a Necrology service with the Eucharist at the 9 am service. There are sign-up sheets in the binders and on the bulletin board to put the names of loved ones who have passed on to be read during the service.

Safe Trick or Treat

We're planning our third year of participation in Downtown Pottsville's Safe Trick or Treat. We have bags and religious items for 288 trick-or-treaters. But we need your help! Here's what you can do:



- 1. Donate food treats. All treats must be individually wrapped. Here are some ideas: candy bars, Tootsie Rolls, lollipops and Keebler or Lance Sandwich Crackers. You can place your donated food on the piano in the lounge.
- 2. Help us pack things up. We're meeting in the lounge after the service on October 15th. Please plan to stay and help that day. Everything will be on the table. You'll just walk around the table and pack items in a bag. If you pack 2 bags or 20, your help is needed and appreciated.
- 3. Come and hand out the treat bags on the afternoon of the Safe Trick or Treat. It's usually the Thursday before Halloween (October 26^{th}). We will confirm the date in the weekly bulletin.

Reaching out with a Christian message during the Halloween season is an excellent opportunity to share God's love and let people know that Trinity is excited to share our faith in the community.

If you have any questions, please contact Lea Bortner at <u>ljbortner@comcast.net</u> or (570) 516-4726.



St. Clair Halloween Parade

The Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County will have a food table at this annual parade. Please look for further details in upcoming bulletins about the date for help in food preparation and the date of the parade.

Animal Blessing

On Sunday, October 8, Father Kurt will bless all your furry and less furry friends. Please join us with your extended animal family.





Our 2023-24 Concert Series season will begin on Sunday, October 8 at 4 pm featuring Grammy award nominee, marimba player Greg Giannascoli accompanied by Schuylkill County native, Ron Stabinsky at the piano. A fantastic way to kick off this 17th season. Please see the enclosed flyer. Patron support is always welcome as we offer this wonderful outreach to the community. As always, our audiences look forward to the reception following the concerts, so please sign up for contributing goodies for that. Many thanks in advance.

Organ refurbishment update: Our updated, refurbished Grand Lady, Austin Op. 1040 will once again enhance our worship as we return to the sanctuary on September 24. The project was completed on August 1st and donations to the organ fund are always welcome. We are thrilled to announce that a dedication concert will be held on Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 2 pm with a suggested donation of \$10.00 which will go toward the organ restoration. F. Allen Artz, III, a great friend of Trinity and our concert series will present a program on the theme of "Love". What an exciting time!

Many people commented positively on the vocal quartet that was offered at the service on Pentecost Sunday. Hopefully, duets, trios and quartets will be scheduled from time to time in the future.



Apple Dumpling Fundraiser

Once again, we will offer delicious Apple Dumplings. The cost is \$6.00 and the pick-up date is Wednesday, October 11. Please call the church office to order - 570-622-8720 or sign up at the Chapel. The deadline to order is September 24.

Advent Project

The Advent project this year will be focused on nursing home residents in the county. Many times, these residents have very little money to spend on personal items that we take for granted, such as nice soaps, lotions, shampoo, tissues, lip balm, nail files, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hand sanitizer, etc. We would like to collect



TRAVEL SIZE items that can be put in a gift bag and given out at Christmas. We will begin collecting items in mid-October (there will be a box at the church) and finish the project by the second week of December so the gift bags can be distributed before Christmas. Please contact Cathy Clouser at the church if you have any questions. Many thanks for your generosity!

Celebrating Youth Participation in the Episcopal Youth Event at the University of Maryland

Dear Trinity Congregation,

We are thrilled to share exciting news about our church's youth members, Callie Palerino and Teagan Wehr, who recently participated in the Episcopal Youth Event held at the University of Maryland. It is with joy and gratitude that we inform you about their experience and the impact of your unwavering support.

The Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) is a gathering that brings together young people from across the Episcopal Church to engage in spiritual growth, community building, and exploration of faith in a dynamic and inclusive environment. This year's event, hosted at the University of Maryland, provided an invaluable opportunity for our teens to connect with their peers, deepen their understanding of their faith, and strengthen their commitment to serving others.

Callie and Teagan attended the event with several other teenagers from the Diocese of Bethlehem and were not only enthusiastic participants but also wonderful ambassadors of our congregation's values and teachings. They embraced the event's theme wholeheartedly--learning, sharing, and reflecting on their faith journey. Through workshops, discussions, and worship sessions, they gained insights that will undoubtedly shape their spiritual growth and personal development.

None of this would have been possible without the generous support of our congregation. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial assistance allowed Teagan and Callie to attend this transformative event. Your belief in the importance of nurturing our youth's faith and guiding them on their path of spiritual discovery is truly inspiring.

We encourage you to engage with them, ask about their experiences, and support their continued spiritual growth. Their stories, reflections, and insights can inspire all of us to deepen our own connections with our faith and community.

In closing, we extend our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support. Your commitment to our youth demonstrates the heart of our congregation, and it is through your efforts that Callie and Teagan were able to embark on this journey of faith and self-discovery. We look forward to sharing more about their experiences in the coming weeks and celebrating the positive impact of your generosity.

May our congregation continue to thrive as a source of guidance, inspiration, and love for all its members.

With profound gratitude,

The Palerino and Wehr Families

Photos from the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) at the University of Maryland







Fr. Bruce Gowe & teens from the Dio. of Beth.



Teens attending EYE at the Univ. of Maryland

EXCITEMENT:

Sunday School News

Please consider coming back to church school this year. COVID took many of us away from attending church regularly. We would love to see you come back and join us! Many exciting things are happening in the church!

Our teens will be putting together the new **Youth Lounge** in the undercroft of the church during September with the hopes of unveiling it when we **return to the main church on September 24.** This will be a dedicated space for our older students/teens to meet for Youth Group activities and to have a safe space to socialize.

The **Blessing of the Animals** will be held on Sunday, October 8. You are welcome to bring pets, pictures of pets, and stuffed animals to be blessed.

A campfire event is being planned for this fall. Details will be forthcoming.

Fr. Kurt will be offering **Confirmation Classes** starting this fall and winter. They will be held every 2-3 weeks on Thursday nights. Please contact the church office if you are interested.

Our annual Bowling night is also being planned for November. More details to come...



Confirmation-Reception-Reaffirmation

A series of meetings leading to Confirmation, Reception or Reaffirmation will be held at Trinity, twice monthly beginning September 21 at 5:30 PM. If you have not been Confirmed or would like to be formally received into

the Episcopal Church, or would like to publicly reaffirm your Baptismal Vows, OR if you are curious about what is discussed during these meetings, please contact Edna at the Trinty office at 570-622-8720 or call Fr. Kurt at 570-640-1738 to register. All are welcome to participate and share. Details can be found on the Parish website and in the Sunday bulletins.

Deadlines!!!!!!!!

Please note: event notices to be included in the bulletin are due to the office by NOON on the WEDNESDAY before the Sunday they are requested to be in the bulletin.





Volunteer Opportunities

Assistance is needed! If you can spare an hour or two on Thursdays to help stuff, sort, and fold bulletins, please call the office.

Memorials And Honorifics

Consider donating in memory of a loved one or to honor someone by name to help defray the costs associated with the bulletins, candles, wine, altar flowers, etc. Call the office for details!





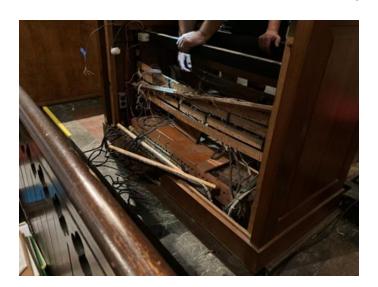
Telephone Reassurance Program

Marion C. Price Trust will soon establish a Telephone Reassurance Program. Participants from 12 through 100 years of age are needed to commit to calling another person to inquire about any needs, including food insecurity,

and health concerns, and to chat a little to develop a sense of belonging and friendship. The commitment might include a daily, several times a week, weekly, or every other week telephone call to someone who would like to be called near a specific time on a specific day. The goal is to increase our fellowship and outreach and to extend the love of Christ to folks who may be absent from our pews due to a variety of reasons. Training will be provided, but the only requirements are a willing heart and a functioning telephone! More details about training will be announced in the bulletins and websites of the Episcopal Church of Schuylkill County. Speak to Cathy, Lea, or Fr. Kurt for additional information.

Austin Opus 1040 Organ Console Refurbishment Update Before and After Photos

July 5, 2023





August 1, 2023









Trinity Episcopal Church Concert Series



Sunday October 8, 2023 at 4 pm

Greg Giannascoli, marimba Ron Stabinsky, piano

We are thrilled at the return of the Grammy-nominated marimba artist, **Greg Giannascoli**. His most recent CD was reviewed by *Percussive Notes* magazine: "...extremely gifted and skilled performer...virtuosic... precise...sensitive...beautiful lines...high caliber performances..." Mr. Giannascoli will present works by Kreisler and Gershwin.





season!

Ron Stabinsky, a Schuylkill County native is known for his keyboard facility in many musical genres and also his improvisational skills. He has collaborated with Mr. Giannascoli on several occasions. Mr. Stabinsky's debut album, "Free for One," received four stars in *Downbeat* and tied for number one debut of the year in the 2016 NPR Music Jazz Critics Poll. What a duo to open our 2023-24

Come meet the Artists at a post-concert reception.

No Admission Fee - Free Will Offering Taken

For more information, contact Trinity Episcopal Church 200 S. Second Street, Pottsville, PA 570-622-8720 Episcopalch200@gmail.com trinityepiscopalpottsvillepa.org

Trinity is Handicapped Accessible

Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 4 pm

The Beethoven Trio Project
Simon Maurer, violin • Xun Pan, piano • Ai-Lin Hsieh, cello

News From Marion C. Price

Senior Expos

*Rep. Joanne Stehr will hold a Senior Expo on Friday, September 15, 2023, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Pine Grove Hose Hook and Ladder, 1 Orchard St., Pine Grove, PA 17963. There will be a speaker from the Attorney General's office and a drug take-back box from the Schuylkill County Sheriff's Office. Lunch will be served. If you plan to attend, RSVP at 570-653-2018.

*Diakon Living and Learning After 50 Senior Expo will be held October 17, 2023, at the Fairlane Village Mall in Pottsville from 10 AM to 2 PM. Visit this safe, educational and fun event for information to help live a happy, healthy life as independently as possible. Diakon also offers classes and programs throughout the county.

Country Line Dancing is offered Monday evenings at the Walkin Art Center, 220 Parkway 3rd Floor, Schuylkill Haven. The cost is \$6 a class. Lesson: 6:30-7:30 pm Dancing: 7:30-9 pm

Functional Fitness is a class focused on functional cardio movement and strength exercises designed to increase flexible strength for daily living activities. This class is offered Tuesday mornings 9:15-10:15 AM at the Schuylkill Haven Rec Center, 340 Haven Street.

Gentle Yoga is a soft yoga course with gentle yoga postures, breathing techniques, guided meditation relaxation and proper body alignment techniques. You will find this \$6 class on Tuesdays from 6-7 PM at 23 Meadowbrook Center, Rte. 183, Schuylkill Haven.

Seated Yoga is a total yoga experience for seniors, beginners and those with limited mobility. This class meets Wednesday mornings 10:30-11:30 am at the Schuylkill Haven Center, 340 Haven St. and Friday from 11 am -12 noon at the Mahanoy City Center, 138 W. Centre St. Classes are \$6

Zumba Gold is a dance fitness exercise class geared toward active older adults and is offered Tuesday evening from 5-6 pm at the Schuylkill Haven Center, 340 Haven St. and Thursday 6-7 pm at 23 Meadowbrook Center, Rte. 183, Schuylkill Haven.

Other programs, including walking classes, blood pressure checks and diabetes management are also offered at different locations in the county. Locations and costs vary so please contact Diakon at 1-800-621-6325 for more information.

PA Medi is a Diakon program available at no cost to help people with Medicare compare and select the best Medicare and prescription drug plan. Many "enrollment events" are held during Medicare open enrollment from October 15-December 7. Appointments are also available at the Diakon Office located at 2020 W. Norwegian St. Pottsville. For more information or to make an appointment call 1-800-621-6325.

Good news from Medicare - Medicare Part D now covers these vaccines and more at no cost to you. *Shingles *RSV *Tetanus/diphtheria (Td) *Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (whopping cough) (Tdap) *Hepatitis A

Speak to your doctor to keep up to date on these and other vaccines to help stay healthy.

Nature's Majestic Display

Sept.\Oct. 2023

The "majestic" display of Nature can have many facets. "Majestic" can be tall snowed capped mountains, the ocean sweeping in and out on a sandy beach or rugged coast, a rainbow across the sky after a heavy rain, a deep grass and wildflower-filled valley, or a trout-filled lake, or a babbling, wandering brook, or deep sunset tinted canyons, or clusters of stacked rock formations, or giant sequoia and redwood trees, or a lightning storm, or perhaps mounds of sifting and windblown desert sand. For most of us northern folks, autumn is majestic when nature provides miles and miles of trees changing into a panoramic display of red, rose, garnet, mauve, orange, tangerine, lemon, lime, yellow, cream, brown, molasses, and amber colors. Fall is nature's way of sending us a memorable display of its majesty before it closes down for its silent, snowy white sleep. While many people like to go on bus, train, and car rides to the northern states to see nature's fall display, if you live locally, you only have to drive to the Charles Baber Cemetery.

All the sugar, Norway, and sycamore maple trees in the northern states lead the pack in changing color. For the cemetery, in the lower level, north of the Comloquoy mausoleum, our sugar maple changes into bright yellows with large patches of orange. Our Norway maple by the chapel changes into cantaloupe colors, while our sycamore maple west of the chapel has peach coloring. Along the W. Market Street wall, the London planetrees change to pale yellow to offset their multi-colored bark. Across from them the one lonely white ash also changes into a yellowish undertone with wide bands of carrot coloring. The tuliptree on the right inside the main entrance changes into a mustard yellow coloring. Of little notice are the baby coffee tree beside it and the baby horse chestnut to the east of it, both of which change into mellow yellow colors as well. The young homestead hybrid elm to the east of the pond with their skyward reaching branches take on a sandy yellow coloring, not to outshine the bright yellows of the nearby sugar maples. Other trees throughout the property like the elms, little leaf linden, box elder, black locust, black walnut, black cherry, and American beech also prefer subdue yellow colors of straw and wheat. However, the tall gangly female ginkgo to the west of the entrance and the male ginkgo to the east of the entrance become a blaze of bright canary yellow coloring. Following later in the fall display, the European Hornbeam along the Market Street wall changes to butter yellow starting at the tip of the tree and steadily melting downward as the days go by.

These varying shades of yellow serve as deep contrasts to our glorious red maples that are sprinkled throughout the property and also line the road going down the hill from the chapel and the grassy path to the east of the chapel. We have many varieties of red maple, and the depth of their redness varies with the specie. We have candy apple red, scarlet, garnet, burgundy, merlot, carmine, rose, and pinkish yellow. And then we have species like the dawn redwoods, bald cypress, eastern red cedar, and cryptomeria that pick up the earth tones of amber, chocolate, mahogany, walnut, and cinnamon. Our red, white, swamp white, chestnut, and pin oaks are their own enigma. Depending on rain or drought or excessive heat, they can take on yellow shades one year and red shades another year. The pin oak inside the 16th Street entrance and inside the East Market Street wall takes on a salmon coloring. The mighty white oaks to the right of the entrance and the red oaks down the hill from the chapel take on blush rose coloring. And the swamp white oaks to the west of the pond take on an almond coloring with their leaves drying, but clinging fervently to the limbs through the windy wintery months.

In the lower level to the east of the pond, the star-shaped leaves of the sweet gum can have green, yellow, tangerine, and red all on one leaf. The drooping leaves of the sassafras on the middle school hillside can be red or orange or yellow depending on their location and the rain or drought conditions. The leaves of the black gum by the chapel turn orange. We have the staghorn sumac with bright red leaves and dark red popsicle-shaped flowers. And lastly, we have our cabernet-colored leaves of the copper beech by the chapel. Notice the fine silver hairs that edge the serrated leaves. The Japanese larch by the 13th Street entrance gate is the only evergreen that drops its needles in the fall.

Come and walk, or slowly drive through the property or along Market Street to catch the majestic sight that nature provides for its fall entertainment. No matter where you look, nature is breathtaking at this time of year.



25th Annual Baber Appreciation Day

Saturday, September 9, 2023

3:00 to 6:30 PM

Hot dogs, baked beans, chips, watermelon & water will be provided.

"Free Will Donation"

Bring your own folding chair, a sun hat, and some bug spray.

NATURE AND HISTORY WALKING TOURS 3:00

SMALL BASKET RAFFLE BAKE SALE

PICNIC BEGINNING 4:30

THIRD BRIGADE BAND CONCERT 4:00 - 5:45 PM

SOLEMN EVENSONG SERVICE - 6:00 PM

Rain Date: Sunday, September 10, 2023

- (1) Monetary contributions to purchase the hot dogs, rolls, condiments, baked beans, paper products, water and chips would be greatly appreciated. Monetary contributions can be given to any one of the three listed below.
- (2) Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up, cut the melons, grill the dogs, man the baked goods and the basket raffle tables, and hand out the plates of food.

If you can help or contribute, contact Kurt Kovalovich 570-640-1738, Carol 570-617-6704, Carla or Norm 570-628-3868, or the office at 570-622-8720.

SEPTEMBER 2023

Boyer's Caring and Sharing fundraiser program continues

- 3 9 am service at CBC
- 4 OFFICE CLOSED
- 9 BABER DAY 3 to 6 pm, Evensong at 6 pm DEADLINE FOR SHEPHERD'S PIE DINNER
- 10 9 am service at CBC Rain date for Baber Day
- 17 ECSC COMBINED PICNIC at the Island, Schuylkill Haven, 10 am Eucharist
- 23 Shepherd's Pie dinner, \$10.00 Eat in or take out. 3 to 6 pm.
- 24 9 am service with healing
 RETURN TO THE MAIN SANCTUARY
 DEADLINE FOR APPLE DUMPLINGS
- 27 12 noon Healing Service

OCTOBER 2023

Boyer's Caring and Sharing fundraiser program continues

Advent Project begins for Nursing Homes (See Assorted Articles)

- 1 9 am service, UTO Ingathering
- 4 —12 noon Healing Service
- 8 9 am service, UTO Ingathering and BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
 - 4 pm Concert series
- 11 12 noon Healing serviceApple Dumpling pick up
- 13 & 14 Diocesan Convention
- 15 9 am service
- 18 12 noon Healing service
- 21 Soup Sale at St. John's, Ashland
- 22 9 am service 10:30 — Vestry
- 25 12 noon Healing Service
- 27 5:30 pm Wedding rehearsal
- 28 1 pm Wedding
- 29 9 am service STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY AND NECROLOGY

SAFE HALLOWEEN DATE to be announced St. Clair parade — food table for ECSC, watch for details in the church bulletin

NOVEMBER 2023

- 1 12 noon Healing Service
- 5 9 am service

Trinity Episcopal Church

200 South Second Street Pottsville, PA 17901 Phone: 570.622.8720

Fax: 570.621.3221

Return Service Requested

Deadline For November/December "Topics" Monday, Oct. 16, 2023



September Birthdays

- 1 Alexa Stone
- 2 Dawn Burns
- 4 Layla Sinko
- 8 Braden Burns
- 10 Katherine Reese
- 11 Brianne Stone
- 14 Anthony "AJ" Rauco
- 15 Anthony Pritiskutch
- 16 Joseph Rauco, Kennedy Holden
- 20 Sandra Moore
- 25 Bob Burns
- 27 Clarence Eckert
- 28 Sean Holden

October Birthdays

- 1 Jordan Franko, Haley Banonis
- 3 Justin Franko,
- 5 Georgine Curtier, Fr. Timothy Albright
- 9 Donna Schenck
- 14 Randy Bedford
- 15 Lora Brennan
- 20 Suzanne Franko, Zoe Lynn Holden
- 23 Sienna Darker
- 28 Barbara Tokarz
- 29 John Ross