

The Merry, Merry Month of May - a letter from Rev Deb

Dear Friends,

As the month of May took hold while growing up, I would hear snippets of this song from my grandmother and mother. I don't believe I ever heard the whole song. What was important was merry and May for surely these words were descriptive of all the lovely females in my family. May was the middle name of all: Grandmothers Althea Mae and Lillian May, mom Haroldine Mae, and me - Deborah Mae. Our daughter Chandler Mae was destiny. I found myself humming a few bars while driving and enjoying the signs of spring the other day, ever grateful for the circle of life; ever grateful for the anticipation of all the things that May will bring - the earth coming alive, Mother's Day, Go N Serve preparations and the birthday celebration of the Church, Pentecost!



**"Just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we may live new lives."
-Romans 6:4b**

The Magic of Spring

For the wintery Spirit, which has endured (How long O Lord???), spring feels like a magical unfolding of light and color and beauty. Clinton always says, "Look at the light Debbie!" And he's right. It's as if the trees stretch toward the brightness with their budding branches; the birds sing and chatter at the "top of their lungs" and the unending carpets of brown roll into verdant green. Resurrection hope abounds.

**"Faithfulness will spring up from the ground and righteousness will look down from the sky"
-Psalm 85:11**

The Movement of the Spirit

In all seasons. even in the midst of this awakening beauty, we are struck by tragedy, challenges, loss and inhumanity. The news never goes away. Life's harsher realities come to us. And yet, this is when the movement of the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst; nudging, guiding, bridging, encouraging, holding, fulfilling, healing. Every May we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church at Pentecost. We celebrate the courage and the conviction of our fore bearers in the faith and this carries us forward.

"Suddenly there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty wind, and it filled the house where they were meeting...what looked like tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them and everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit..." --Acts 2:2-3

May Hope abound and the Spirit uphold and even a bit of merriment find you this Spring!
Blessings in Christ,
Deb

"The Best Story Ever!" Summer Worship Theme Begins on Pentecost Sunday



We celebrate the birthday of the Church on May 24 this year, which also happens to be summer's kick off of Memorial Day Weekend. Wear red as a sign of the Holy Spirit! The story of the early church is part of our story, which is part of the story of God's saving grace and of God's people --which makes it part of the best story ever.

This summer we look forward to meeting more of our fore bearers in our biblical family album of faith. We'll learn how individuals brought gifts of leadership and faith to their time and how we might do the same in our time. Perhaps as we become more familiar with these stories of our heritage, we'll join the great tradition of story tellers that have carried the good news through the ages.

Adult Education

Sundays

9:00 am - Lenten study of the book *Final Words From the Cross* by Adam Hamilton. Facilitated by Brooks Reid in Rev. Deb Roberts' office. The group is studying *Toxic Charity- How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help (And How To Reverse It)*.

10:30 am - "Wholly Human, Wholly God" video series by Bart Ehrman. Facilitated by Jim Clinton in Room 202.

- 5/3 The Divided Christ of the Separationists
- 5/10 Christ's Dual Nature—Proto-Orthodoxy
- 5/17 The Birth of the Trinity
- 5/24 The Arian Controversy
- 5/31 The Conversion of Constantine

11:30 am - Bible Study for Young Marrieds - a study of the book *With: Reimagining the Way You Relate to God* by Skye Jethani. Class meets in Rev. Deb Roberts' office.

7:00 pm - A study of the book, *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton; facilitated by Frank Mayer in the Middle School Room.

Tuesdays

9:00 am - Men's study of *Making Sense of the Bible* by Adam Hamilton; facilitated by Frank Mayer in the Middle School Room.

7:30 pm - For the month of May we will be studying and discussing *Christianity and World Religions* by Adam Hamilton. This 6 week study will compare and contrast the world's five largest religions: Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism. We will meet at Hopvine Brewing Company at 4030 Fox Valley center Dr in Aurora on Tuesday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join this new study.

Wednesdays



9:15 am - 11:15 am - Women on Wednesdays will conclude our "Having a Mary Spirit" study on May 6th and then join with Presbyterian Women on May 13 for the Annual Spring Luncheon for our final meeting. We will then take a break for the summer and resume in

Sept. with a new study. We have had a wonderful year studying God's word together and welcome women to join us next fall!

Thursdays

6:00 am - Men's Daybreakers Group led by Rev. Clint Roberts at the Coffee Bar.

9:30 am - 11:00 am - Rev Cindy's study continues through May 14 with Adam Hamilton's book The Way. We meet in the Middle School room from 9:30-11:00 am All are welcome!

The Knox Book Club



The book club continues to meet the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 in the evening. For May, we are reading nonfiction - The Girls Of Atomic City, The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II, by Denise Kiernan. We welcome all who would like to join us for discussion of this New York Times bestseller. Our June book is Boys in the Boat, also nonfiction (rescheduled from earlier). We meet in the home of Fran Lukes at 2153 Lancaster Circle, Apt. 101A. You may contact Janice Wiles with any questions

at [630-416-9537](tel:630-416-9537) or wilesjan@gmail.com.

Presbyterian Women

Ladies Spring Luncheon



PW Spring Luncheon will be held May 13 at 11:00am in Lehman Hall. The theme for the luncheon is books and our speakers Carol Katsoulis from Anderson's Bookshop and our great friend Bonnie Mauer will discuss the current and new books for summer reading pleasure for you , as well as, the children in your life. Sign-up sheets will be in the Commons April 19-May 3 and online, too. As always, there is no charge for the luncheon, but

we do ask each woman to bring a dish to pass. Babysitting will be available on a pre-arranged basis by May 3rd. Contact Deanna Swauger at gswauger@sbcglobal.net.

PW Women's Retreat

Pruning Our Branches will be the topic for the PW Retreat May 15-17 at the beautiful LaSalle Manor, Plano, IL! Enjoy great meals, lodging, fellowship and spiritual renewal! Sign-up in the Commons 4/19, 4/26 and 5/3 between services or online now through 5/3! \$175 fee; scholarships available. **REGISTER ONLINE**



PW Flower Sale

PW Flower Sale pick up is Thursday, May 7 after 10:00 am.

Extra flowers and baskets will be for sale all day.

Questions, please call Dee Dee Porter [630-416-8072](tel:630-416-8072)

Chick Flick

Where Film, Faith and Fellowship come together.

The Chick Flick committee is hard at work planning the third season! Ladies of Knox help us by voting for film selections, a ballot box and info sheet will be in the Commons through Memorials Day weekend.

May Chick Flick: Friday, May 1, 6:15-9pm – **REGISTER ONLINE**



Missions at Knox



The dates for this year's mission trips are:

Sisseton, South Dakota - June 20-26

REGISTER ONLINE

Fort Peck, Montana - July 26-31

You can register on line at the Knox web site at www.knowpres.org. If you have general questions about the trips contact Dan Pucci dan.pucci1@gmail.com. If you have questions about VBS

contact Ginny Van Blaricom gvanb5@aol.com.

Has your yellow polka dot bikini grown too teeny weeny?

It's that time of year again! Just to give you a little motivation and a chuckle, here are the top 10 reasons to donate to the Sisseton Swim suit drive:

10. Make room in your drawer for a swimsuit that actually fits.
9. Give the children of Sisseton a "feel good" with a trip to the pool wearing a new suit
8. Costco, Target, Kohl's & Walmart have AWESOME specials on suits this time of year.
7. Animal print swimwear is out of fashion.
6. Treat a kid to a super hero or Disney themed suit and relive your special memories.
5. Ring your neighbor's bell to just catch-up with the excuse you're collecting gently worn suits.
4. Share generosity – take your child for a swimsuit and let him/her select a suit for a Sisseton child too!
3. Magically your trunks have sprouted a muffin top big enough to rival Corner Bakery's.
2. Make sure no child is left without, we need plenty in all sizes, especially larger sizes.
1. It's what Jesus has taught us to do!



Please deposit new and gently used suits OF ALL SIZES in the bin by Lehman Hall. Do you have a child on a local swim team? Please call Julie Mildrum 630-717-8240, or Diana Newby 630-904-6508 for info on swimsuit drives.

Master's Touch Friendship Dinner

Knox Missions Council still has room for people wishing to attend the **May 12, 2015**, annual **Master's Touch Friendship Dinner**, sponsored by **Wayside Cross Ministries**. There is no charge for those attending this fund raising event at **Gaslite Manor, 2485 Church Road, Aurora** (near Butterfield Road and Farnsworth). Door open at 6:00 PM with dinner served at 6:30 PM.

Pastor James Ford, of Christ Bible Church, Chicago, will be the featured speaker. For further information please contact Bob Badertscher at r2b2@vetrad7.com or call (630) 768-8547.



Loaves & Fishes

The next Hunger Sunday is **May 3**. The most needed items this month are:

Tuna, pinto beans, black beans, chili, cereal, pasta, rice, crackers and oatmeal

Donations can be left in or near the Loaves & Fishes bin next to the Mission Council table. Thank you!



Mathew 24:32

"Now learn the parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know summer is near. "

Now that summer is here, we will be changing the menu this month from Casseroles, to Tacos and Side Salads for the duration of the summer months. Please look for the new sign-up sheets and new menus in the commons!

A big warm hearted Thanks and Praise for all of our dedicated volunteers and shoppers for Hessed House! What all your graciousness represents to the Hessed House is affirmation. Affirmation that there are people out there, many of them perfect strangers, who still care about them and their well-being. It is an acknowledgement that many people realize that we are all in this together, and they are not going through this difficult time in their lives alone. When I volunteer for a shift, I am always overwhelmed by the love, togetherness, and grace I feel with the volunteers and residents. It reminds me that even in despair and desperate situations, there is always hope and the everlasting love of Jesus Christ. For that, I am truly grateful!!

As always, we are in need of volunteers to work one of the three shifts or to donate a food dish. So if you find you have some time to share please consider the giving of your time and talents. The Hessed House is in also need of these items: Jeans/Workpants, (especially sizes 32, 34, & 36), Reading Glasses, Men's & Women's Sneakers, Duffel bags/Cloth Grocery Bags. If you would like to donate these or any other items, please place them in the Hessed House donation box.



If you would like more information about volunteering or about the Hessed House, please go to the Knox Presbyterian Church web site and click on volunteer donation opportunities, and then click on Hessed House, OR, you can email Diana Oshiro at ddoshiro@hotmail.com or Janet Gravel at janetgravel@gmail.com, and

they would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Next Volunteer Night: May 23

Please sign up in the Commons to bring food or to work one of the three shifts:

6:00 pm 11:00 pm 3:00 am

IMPACT: Knox Go and Serve 2015

Please consider supporting our youth Go and Serve mission trip in any of the following ways. Watch our fundraising progress on the thermometer located on the South wall in the Commons Area. Thank you for supporting our youth Go and Serve trip to Albion Michigan this summer!

- **Mother's Day cards for sale!** The High School youth will be selling beautiful Mother's Day cards for all the mom's in your life. They will be available in the Commons Area for a \$2 donation on the following Sundays: **May 3 and May 10**. Please consider purchasing your cards from our High School youth this year.
- **Roses for the Mother in your life!** On Mothers Day, **Sunday May 10**, our Go and Serve youth will be selling roses for that special mother in your life! Roses will be available for purchase between services from Go and Serve High School students in the Commons Area. They can be purchased for \$3/stem or \$8/3 stems.
- **Be a Prayer Angel for a Go and Serve Participant!** Sign up in the Commons Area on Sundays - May 17, May 24 and May 31 to be a Prayer Angel. You will receive the name of a participant and asked to pray for your participant before and during the Go and Serve mission trip.
- Time to wash away winter from your automobile! Have your car hand washed and dried by our Go and Serve youth on **Sunday, May 31 from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon**. Drop your car off in the parking lot along Gartner on the way into church and it will be cleaned and ready for pick-up after the service. Donations welcome. (Rain date June 7)
- Third Thursdays at Hopvine! Join us every third Thursday at Hopvine Brewing Co (4030 Fox Valley Center Drive, Aurora (next to the Comedy Shrine)) for lunch or dinner! Our next day at Hopvine Brewing Co is **May 21**. Mention Knox Go and Serve (or provide the coupon below) to your server and Knox Go and Serve will receive 10% of your dining bill! Extra coupons are available in the Commons Area. Friends and family welcome!



Important Dates for Go and Serve 2015:

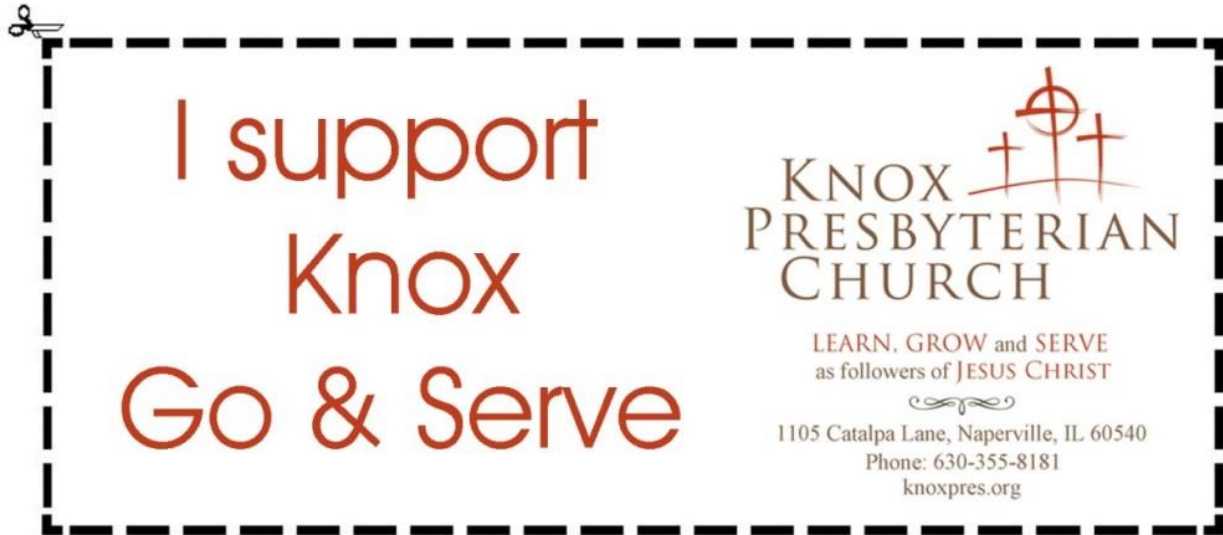
April 15 - On-line Registration is open

ADULT REGISTER ONLINE

STUDENT REGISTER ONLINE

May 13 - 7:30 - Go & Serve Mandatory Meeting & Early Registration (\$300) Ends

May 27 - Registration (\$350) Ends



Children's Ministries



Sunday School Calendar:

- May 17: Last Sunday of the school-year SS program.
- May 24: Sunday School will not meet.
This is Memorial Day Weekend.
- May 31: First Sunday of the Summer SS program.

What changes when Summer Sunday School begins?

Number of Classes & Ages in Classes

- Only two classes at each Session (9:00 and 10:30):
Sandbox Set: age 3 (potty trained) to children entering Kindergarten in Sept.
This class meets in room 14 (first floor, back hallway, at Noah Mural).
Playground Pack: children entering 1st to 5th grade
This class meets most often in the gym and Middle School room. If it's not in these rooms, check hallway poster for location.

- There isn't a class for 6th and 7th grade during the summer. It will resume in Sept. Watch for a couple of Middle School Fellowship dates over the summer when they sit together at the second service and then enjoy a picnic at a park.

Teaching Staff

- There isn't a teaching staff for the whole summer. Teachers and Helpers are scheduled for each Sunday.
- Parents are encouraged to teach or help in your child's class 1 or more times during the summer.
- Members of the church are encouraged to volunteer for a Sunday. This is an opportunity for those who have taught SS before, to return to the classroom for one Sunday!



Questions & Volunteering: Contact - Jane Burkelman

Co-Director of Children's Ministries, 630-615-4303, jburkelman@knoxpres.org

She'll be able to help you or direct you to someone who can.

Pre-school Play Group – Come meet other young families!



Families of Toddlers and Preschoolers

Want to get out of the house and meet other young families of Knox? Then join us for a time for parents and kids to play and socialize. Many toys will be put out for the kids during this open house play group.

May 9 – 10:00am – 11:30 am

Blessed Ones Dance & Music Ministry - Blessed Ones

Blessed Ones are adorable children ages 3-Kindergarten who meet Thursdays from 5:00 - 5:30pm.

Session 2 – April 23 – May 7 and performing on Sunday, May 10 at the 10:30 am worship service.

Contact Jenny Hubbard if interested or 630-615-4318, jhubbard@knoxpres.org

REGISTER ONLINE



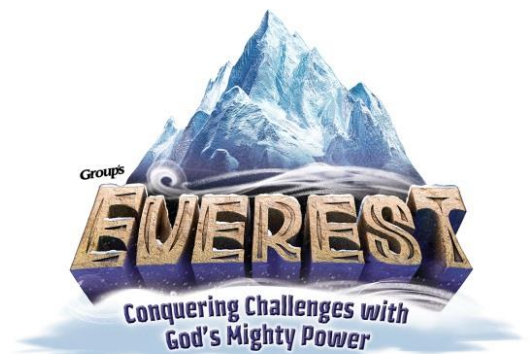
Vacation Bible School

June 22 - June 26

9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Activities include - singing, Bible story time, recreation, crafts, snacks, and time with Chadder the Chipmunk.

REGISTER ONLINE



VBS Program for Kids with Special Needs

June 23 - June 25

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Activities will be similar to the morning VBS program but will be adapted to fit the needs of the kids. A team of professionals with experience working with kids with Special Needs will be planning and leading this VBS. Those interested in helping should contact Jenny.

Save the Date
Arts Camp

July 6 - 10
10:00 am - 11:30 am



Family Camp Opportunity

Camp Geneva in Holland, MI offers a Family Camp long weekend on September 4-7, 2015 with "Extend your stay" options for an even longer weekend. **Registration will begin June 15** through Camp Geneva's website at <http://www.campgeneva.org>. Once you have registered, please also register with us at www.knoxpres.org so we can plan accordingly. The weekend will include many fun activities led by Camp Geneva as well as some led by one of our Knox Pastors specifically tailored for our group.



If you have any questions, please contact Jenny at 630-615-4318 jhubbard@knoxpres.org



Children's Ministries Mission Opportunity

Join us for a day of planting flowers and helping with yard work. Bring your kiddos (all ages), garden tools and join the fun!

Saturday, May 30 2015.

Meet at Knox at 10am to receive your work assignments for the day.
Lunch will be served following the event at 1:00pm.

High School Youth Activities

May

Baccalaureate for High School Graduates @ Knox
Saturday, May 23 - 7:30 pm

We need both a bio and a photo of your senior by May 9. Contact Joan at jtanck@knoxpres.org.



Church News

Knox Boomers Kick Off: Memorial Day Weekend

The first meet and greet of the Knox Boomers took place last month in the home of Randy Johnson and Diane Heinz. It was a great event and a wonderful time of fellowship.

Join hosts Deb and Clinton Roberts at their home:

Friday, May 22 at 6:30

For an outdoor fish fry and old fashioned s'mores. Chefs Cindy and Fred Padgett will show us how it's done.

Please bring a folding chair and a salad or appetizer to share. Look for the Knox Boomers summer schedule soon!



Summer Ladies Softball League

Calling all ladies 18 years and older who are interested in playing on a women's softball league this summer. Games are on Tuesday evenings beginning in May ending in July. Come on out and meet some new friends and have some fun. For more information please contact Susan Morgan at snbmorgan@wideopenwest.com or 630-420-2423.

Hails and Farewells



Jane Burkelman

On Mother's Day, May 10, we will celebrate Jane Burkelman's retirement as Co-Director of Children's Ministry. Jane has served Knox's children and their families with ability, devotion and excellence for fourteen years since she joined our staff in 2001. We are grateful to Jane for her faithfulness, humor and collegiality, and we will always love her for her gracious ways of showing us the heart of Christ. Jane will continue to be an active member of Knox and will use her newfound freedom to spend more time with her own children and grandchildren. A reception for Jane will be held at 10:00 am between services in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 10.



Rob Biggs



Rob joined our staff as Interim Facilities Manager for three months a year ago. We think he liked us too much to leave us too soon! We are grateful to Rob for stepping up to serve our church when we had no Facilities Manager, and for his competence and cheerfulness toward staff members and church members alike in the conduct of his duties. He and his loving family (wife Susan and daughters Ripley and Jordan) will be relocating to Saco, Maine this June. Rob will leave his position at the end of May.

Please take time to drop a note or speak personally to Jane and Rob, thanking them and wishing them all the best as they write this new chapter of their lives.

With deep appreciation,
Clint Roberts
Head of Staff

The 2015 Dr. Anne T. Sherren Scholarships be given as follows:



Lara Musser Gritter, will be a third year seminary student at Duke Divinity School of Duke University in North Carolina, in the amount of \$2500 for the academic year 2015-2016.

Jenny Hubbard, will be a third year student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago

Je Lee, will be a third year student at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago

Joel Lynn who will be a first year student at Princeton Seminary in New Jersey,

Please congratulate each of these fine Christians when you see them. All four or them are studying to become ministers.

National Day of Prayer

DuPage County celebrates the 64th Annual National Day of Prayer by joining together at the Naperville Municipal Building at 400 S. Eagle Street in downtown Naperville on Thursday, May 7, 12 noon- 1:00pm. The event is free and Parking is free. Please speak to Pastor Cindy [630-615-4308](tel:630-615-4308) if you are interested in going. We can carpool from Knox!



One Great Hour of Sharing

We received \$7,108.59 to date for this great cause.
Thank you for your generosity.

Ministry to Seniors



Hall of Famers Luncheon

Thursday, May 14, 2015

Please join us for a little taste of Hawaii
Knox's own Mort and Sue Mortensen will share
their knowledge of the Hawaiian Islands
&

Kim Johnson will entertain with Hawaiian song and dance



11:30 a.m. – Worship and Communion in the Chapel

12:00 noon – lunch in Lehman Hall

Cost: \$7.00

Call Diane Heintz (630/355-8181) for reservations

A Note of Thanks

I want to thank the Knox Community for your support during my 14 years as your Co-Director of Children's Ministries. I am grateful for your trust and friendship and for the opportunity given me. As I move into the next chapter of my life, I look forward to my future volunteer involvement at Knox.

- Jane Burkelman

Care Ministries

Illness/Health Concerns:

David O'Leary (uncle of Lin and Pat Carter) (hospice)
Peter Pfeiffer (Eric Pfeiffer's brother)
Chuck Ward (friend of Linda Mast)
Ken Chapek (hospice)
Cari Shanahan (friend of John and Susan Lies)
June Chapek
Marie Chmelik (cousin of Helen Souta)
Blanche Pettit
Kayla Rocholl (great granddaughter of Alice Birzetis)
Lori Ferry
Beth Stolrow (Jack and Judy Ditmar's daughter)
Susan West-Slayton
Bill De Roo (Debbie Geraci's father)
Jack Parker
Donovan McCoy (Tom Sieczynski's grandson)
Peggy Komma (hospice)
Richard Slayton (Robert Slayton's father)
Pat Carter
Betty Bohlander (friend of Diane Charles)
Boots Parker
Heidi Morgan (granddaughter of Norah Johnson)
Carol Sieczynski Taff
Jeff Jackson (son-in-law of Carol Brand)
Bob Birkemeier (friend of Lin and Pat Carter)
Kay Bledsoe (cousin of Janet Schletter)
Amanda Bartlett (wife of Lisa Bonomo's nephew)
Jaden Mbadu (age 1 1/2) and mother
Danielle Mbadu (friend of Stacey Barrett)
Craig Harris (David Bebb Jones' cousin)
Barb Stewart and Don Stewart (friends of Helene Schaefer)
Barb England (Kristy Cortright's mother)
Steven Clinton (Jim Clinton's son)
Barbara McCarthy (mother of Susan Weiner)
Dave Godwin (Rita Eagleson's daughter's father-in-law)
David Wayne (friend of Mark and Pam Guth)
Shirley Sichel (Marriette Siczewicz's aunt)
Tim Buchanan (son-in-law of Dave and Bonnie Olson)
Robert DeYoung (Dawn Pakkebie's father)
Carol DeYoung (Dawn Pakkebie's mother)
Suellyn Steigmeyer (friend of Anne Mair's daughter)
Carol Mickelson (friend of Diane Charles)
Ed Terry (Anne Sherren's brother)
Mary Louise Hansen (Doug Hansen's mother)
Dan Veitkus (Providence Rehabilitation Center) (brother-in-law of Ed Crylen)
Jean Banks and Nell Reinert (cousins of Norah Johnson)
Adalyn Rose Hanson (premature newborn of Amy and Jeff Hanson) (Rush Presbyterian St. Luke's Hospital)
Irene Birzetis (daughter-in-law of Alice Birzetis)
Kinleigh Anne Schnier (Mayo Clinic) (great niece of Doug and Cheryl Hansen)

Grieving:

Mourning

The friends and family of Virginia Ditmars on her death (Jack Ditmars' mother)
The friends and family of Allen Heinekamp on his death (Eric Heinekamp's father)
The friends and family of Pauline Atkinson on her death (Janet Schletter's aunt)
The friends and family of Mayjane Real on her death (Pat Real's sister-in-law)
The friends and family of Robert C. Wigger on his death (Cabot Wigger's father)
The friends and family of Hildegard Huggins on her death (Judy Loftus' mother)
The friends and family of Irene Johnson on her death (Becky Schaefer's fiancé's grandmother)
The friends and family of Tony Lukashevich on his death (friend of Dave and Bonnie Olson)
The friends and family of Evelyn Ireland on her death (Sheri Berk's mother)
The friends and family of Helen Mahon on her death (Dennis Anderson's grandmother)
The friends and family of Annie Caselli on her death (Nancy Azzaro's mother)
The friends and family of Leona Haworth on her death
The friends and family of John Streeter on his death (Jan Parry's uncle)

Military:

Jonathan Ballew
Nico De Coning
Chris Hurford
Morgan Plummer
Calvin Warren
Scott Zwiars
All military personnel & their families.

Congratulations:

Erin and Jeff Hartman welcomed their baby girl, Rebecca Lynn on April 20. Grandparents are Jeff and Kathy Hartman.

Candice and Matt Sunblade welcomed their baby girl, Stephanie Marie on April 22.