

**Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church**  
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# July/August 2026

## Newsletter

Return Service Requested



### The Ministers/Leaders of Mt. Pisgah

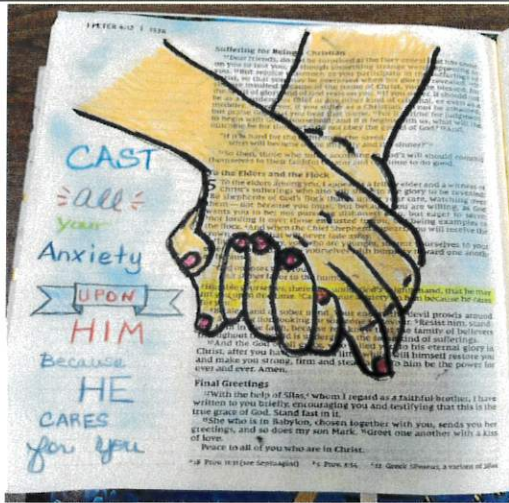
Presiding Bishop ELCA .....The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
 N.C. Bishop ELCA .....The Rev. Emily Hartner  
 Pastor .....The Rev. Justin Mauney  
 Secretary .....Crystal Wright  
 Children's Ministry .....Olivia Stillwell/Lindsay Bolick  
 Children's Music .....Kelcie Bagley  
 Youth Ministry.....Josh & Stephanie Davis  
 Contemporary Music.....Brandon & Kelly Deal  
 Director of Adult Choir .....Cheryl Weldon  
 Organist/Pianist..... Adam Ormond  
 Website & Social Media.....Grace Douglas  
 Food Pantry .....Jennifer Stafford  
 Custodians.....Chris & Lisa Bowman  
 AV Tech.....Connor Stillwell

### Council of Ministries

President.....Jeff Davis .....828-612-9029  
 Vice-President .....Donovan Douglas .....828-514-7113  
 Secretary ..... Lora Huhn.....320-493-5151  
 Treasurer ..... Noelle Bernesser.....704-896-8767  
 Evangelism .....Steven Childress.....321-274-2260  
 Stewardship .....Terry Gilbert.....828-409-3941  
 Finance .....Doug Lackey.....828-612-7588  
 Outreach .....Debbie Kafer... 828-495-8828  
 Fellowship ..... Shannon Lail.....828-244-0875  
 Property ..... Scott Anderson.....714-209-6006  
 Worship.....Laura Barnes..... 828-855-4396  
 Christian Ed.....Amy Daigle.....828-320-8101  
 Youth ..... Summer Smith.....828-578-0817  
 Young Adult..... Jayce Johnson.....

If you are not receiving our Weekly newsletter via email,  
 please submit your email address to:  
[comms@mtpisgahelca.org](mailto:comms@mtpisgahelca.org)





Join us for **"Bible Journaling"** on Tuesday's @ 6:30 PM (downstairs in the KIC room) for a fun filled session of combining scripture and creativity for a deeper connection with God's Word.

No Crafting or artistic skills required!  
Childcare provided!

For more information contact:  
**Laura Barnes @ 828-855-4396**



**Mt. Pisgah Family Tree(s)**

If anyone and/or new members would like to have a leaf placed on our family tree(s). Please reach out to Peggi Parlier @ (828) 850-9154 to purchase or with questions.

Thank you Mt. Pisgah Family for your support and help in this endeavor.

We are Blessed to Be A Blessing, **Peggi Parlier**



Don Hefner, Rosco Troutman, Konner & Richelle Soderberg (missionary support), Hugh Stafford, Maverick (son of Josh & Kasie Hughes), Tim & Lynn Wilson, Shirley Patterson (mother of Steve Talley), Sheila (sister of Chuck Witherspoon), Yancy Thick (brother of Tim & Ronnie Thick), James Cook III (father of Barbara Baumgart), Dean Setzer, Carolyn Carpenter, the family of Annette Huffman on her death, Debbie Sipe and family on the death of her father (Earshel Miller), Bob Setzer (brother of Tressa Cline), Chris Stillwell & Stephanie Davis.

**Shut Ins:** Arlene Bolick, Denise Conklin, Dwight Helton, Ronald Johnston, Sandy Moore, Helen Reitzel, Sandy Rose, Darrell Sigmon, Martha Eggers, Ruth Harkey & Jim Good.

Dear Mt. Pisgah,

**Thank you** for the cards, gifts and everyone who came and shared my Eagle ceremony with me.



It meant so much to me!

**Zane Mawyer**

**Thank you** Mt. Pisgah Church family for the prayers, love and kindness shown to our family during the loss of our dear mother.

The service was one mom would definitely approved of.

Also thanks for the wonderful meal served to our family, It was a blessing.

With much Appreciation,  
**The Family of Cora Bowman**

## *A word from Pastor Justin*

Dear Friends in Christ,

During my time at Mt. Pisgah, I have noticed that communion often feels like one of the most reverent moments in worship. There is a holiness to it. The sanctity of the bread and wine creates a serious and sacred tone in the congregation as we come forward to receive the body and blood of Christ. But on one particular Sunday, something unexpected happened.

As we began distributing communion, a little boy ran down the aisle between the two lines of people and walked right up to one of our communion assistants. He was not nervous, embarrassed, or ashamed. In fact, he seemed completely comfortable in the sanctuary, around the people of the church, and approaching the table of grace.

As I watched, I noticed the faces of the congregation looking down at him. One by one, people began to smile. Someone even said as they walked by, “This is how the church should be.” And I think they were right.

**That moment was a beautiful reminder of both the sacredness of God and the childlike faith we are called to have in worship.** Communion is holy and not to be taken lightly, yet it is also a gift given freely. It is not a reward for those who have it all together, instead it is a table reserved for those who have doubts, failures, questions, and struggles alongside their faith.

Romans 3 reminds us that “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” None of us come to the table because we are more worthy than someone else. None of us come because we have earned our place. **We come because, through Jesus Christ, we are “justified by his grace as a gift.”** That is the good news. No one is too far gone to receive God’s love. No one needs to have all the answers before worshiping God wholeheartedly. No one is more deserving of grace than another.

May we learn from that little child of God who felt comfortable enough in worship, in his church family, and before the presence of God to walk right up to communion. May we approach God with that same trust. May we remember that grace is not something we achieve, but something we receive.

So today I invite you to consider this question: **What might be keeping you from approaching God with the trust, openness, and joy of a child?**

Whatever it may be: guilt, fear, shame, doubt, exhaustion, or the feeling that you are not enough... hear again the promise of the gospel: **in Christ, grace is already given. The table is already set. And you are already loved.**

Thanks be to God.

*Pastor Justin*



# Coffeeshouse SUNDAY SCHOOL

*Real Conversations. Real Faith. Real Life.*



A RELAXED,  
COFFEE-FILLED SPACE  
TO EXPLORE FAITH,  
ASK QUESTIONS, AND  
GROW TOGETHER.



GOOD COFFEE  
GREAT DISCUSSIONS



RELEVANT TOPICS  
THAT MATTER

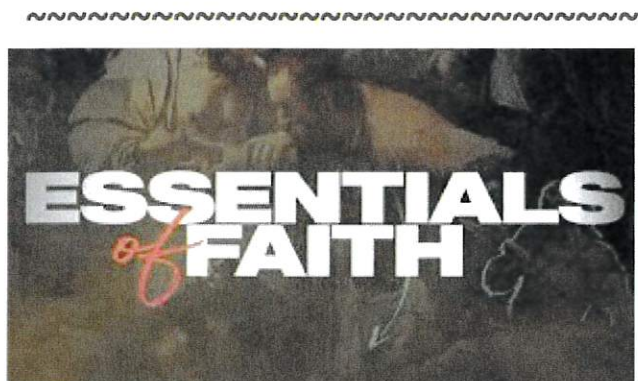


ALL ARE WELCOME

*Open to all* | 20 YEARS OLD TO 40ISH

MEETS DOWNSTAIRS EVERY SUNDAY @ 9:15 AM

BRING YOURSELF. BRING A FRIEND. LET'S GROW TOGETHER.



## Adult Sunday School Class

Meets in Celebration Hall @ 9:15 am  
each Sunday.

All are welcome as we study the  
word of God.

We are beginning a series from Right  
Now Media titled "Essentials of Faith".

Bestselling author Kyle Idleman will help  
us answer the question "How do we live  
as Christians?"

God Bless, Yvonne Osborne

## Young at Heart Sunday School (YAHSS) – Join Us!

You're warmly invited to be part of our Young at Heart Sunday School class (YAHSS), meeting each Sunday at 9:15 AM in the Upper Room.

We are currently enjoying *The Chosen: The Last Supper* video series, sharing in meaningful discussion as we walk through these powerful moments together. This series will conclude in mid-May.

Beginning this summer, our focus will shift to diving deeper into the Gospel and weekly scripture readings used in our worship services. Each week will offer an opportunity to reflect, share, and grow in our understanding of God's Word in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

Whether you've been attending for years or are looking for a place to connect, we would love to have you join us. Come as you are and grow with us in faith and fellowship.

## Young at Heart SUNDAY SCHOOL (YAHSS)

*Where faith, friendship, and God's Word come together*



EACH SUNDAY  
9:15 AM



IN THE  
UPPER ROOM



JOIN US

as we dive deeper into the  
Gospel and Scripture readings  
for the week, allowing us to  
share together and grow  
closer to God and each other  
through His word.



All are welcome!  Come as you are and grow with us!



# Confirmation & **Youth** ★ **Information** ★

Wednesday night Youth will return on August, 26<sup>th</sup>!

July 8<sup>th</sup> thru 10<sup>th</sup>  
Leadership  
Camp



July 12<sup>th</sup> thru 16<sup>th</sup>  
Confirmation  
Camp

Wed. July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Youth to help decorate for  
Vacation Bible School  
(6:00 PM) Dinner provided!

***\*Youth will then help as leaders  
during VBS week  
July 26<sup>th</sup>–30<sup>th</sup>***

Please see Josh & Stephanie Davis if you  
have questions or send an email to:  
[youthdir@mtpisgahelca.org](mailto:youthdir@mtpisgahelca.org). Also, check  
our Facebook page for updates.  
We are blessed!



## **Kids in Christ**

Our KIC Wednesday nights  
will return on August, 26<sup>th</sup>!

Join us for Sunday  
school **every** Sunday  
morning from 9:15–  
10:15 AM

We always have a blast!  
See you there!



**Mark your calendars:**



July 26<sup>th</sup> thru 30<sup>th</sup> – (5:15-8:30 each evening)  
Vacation Bible School  
\*Closing night on the 30<sup>th</sup>  
will begin at 6:00 PM

Sun. Aug. 2<sup>nd</sup> – VBS video, singing and  
sharing during services.

Please join our Facebook page for updates &  
more info: Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church Kids in  
Christ OR email: [KIC@mtpisgahelca.org](mailto:KIC@mtpisgahelca.org) to  
reach Lindsay Bolick or Olivia Stillwell

# Mt. Pisgah Lutheran Church VBS Registration



Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ DOB: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell #: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Special Notes

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**Yes**, you have my permission to photograph my child to use in finale video/social media.

**No**, you do not have my permission to photograph my child for finale video/social media.

Treasury  
Report  
6/19/26



Income for April was \$41,472, which is 109% of budget and income for May was \$27,301, which is 72% of budget. Expenses for April were \$43,035, which is 113% of budget and expenses for May were \$44,586, which is 117% of budget. So for April and May, we spent \$18,848 more than we received. **Year to date through May, we have spent \$34,443 more than we received.** Income was up in April, which is great, however expenses are also up each month. There is only one month left in this fiscal year, so I would encourage all who are able to give more to finish the year strong. We also have \$159,720 in the reserve account as of May 31st. I am confident that we will end the year in good shape.

Feel free to reach out with any questions you have, and I will do my best to answer them.

Noelle Bernesser  
Treasurer



With just a few clicks, you can set up your gift today!

Scan the QR code provided to go directly to the giving form and support the work of the Church.

If you have any questions or need any assistance setting up online giving you may contact Donovan Douglas or Crystal Wright.



# Mark Your Calendar!

## COUNCIL & COMMITTEE RETREAT

 SATURDAY, AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>  
8:30 AM – NOON

If you are on Church Council or one of their committees, please make plans to attend this retreat as we *prepare our upcoming year's events.*




 *Reflect.*  
on our mission and ministry.

 *Plan.*  
for the year ahead.

 *Prepare.*  
for opportunities to serve.



Your participation and ideas are valuable as we seek to *strengthen* our mission and ministry.

*We look forward to working together as we plan for an exciting year ahead!* 

Join us on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>** **DURING ONE 10:00 WORSHIP SERVICE**

**Annual Rally Sunday!**

We will share our **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES!** and upcoming **EVENTS!** See how you can **GET INVOLVED!**

**Let's GROW together!**

**MEAL WILL BE PROVIDED FOLLOWING THE SERVICE!** *Don't miss it!*



## Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is open on:

Monday's 3:00-5:00 PM

Friday's 1:00-3:00 PM

Volunteers Needed. Please contact Jennifer Stafford @ (828) 455-8277 or [jennstafford3@gmail.com](mailto:jennstafford3@gmail.com) if you are interested.

**Special Needs:** Peanut Butter, Rice, Dry Beans, Spaghetti Sauce, Spaghetti Noodles, Shampoo, Bar soap, & Toothpaste



### G.L.O.W.

Glorify God, Spread Love, Overwhelm with Joy and Witness to Others Our mission is to make and distribute care packages to those battling cancer in hopes of bringing joy and spreading God's Love.

How do I nominate an individual for a care package? Know someone in need of a care package and/or prayer shawl?

Fill out a card with the requested information and place in the G.L.O.W. box located in the Narthex. Care Package/Prayer Shawl requests will be picked up from the box each Sunday. Someone from our ministry will be in contact about your request.

Want to help? Any donations towards our ministry are greatly appreciated.

See Laura Barnes or Olivia Stillwell.



## Single Adult Fellowship

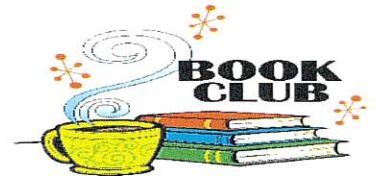
Our next lunch out will be held on Tuesday July 14, at the Hen and Egg in Newton at 11:00 am.

The restaurant is located at 204 North College Ave and is highly rated by its customers.

We're meeting earlier than usual so you can choose a late breakfast or an early lunch from their expansive menu.

The group is open to any single person. Call or text Barb Beck at 630-951-0620 or Janice Simmons at 828-850-5920 for more information.

## Book Club 2026



Following is a list of the books and the discussion leaders for our upcoming meetings (***please note changes***). The group is open to all women of Mt. Pisgah and their friends.

**We meet at 9:00 am at the church** on the third Saturday every other month.

July 18 – ***“Happy Land”*** by Dolen Perkins-Vasquez; Diana Earnest

September 19 – ***“Where the Rivers Merge”*** by Lisa Monroe; Yvonne O. and Patti S.

November 21 – ***“Under a Gilded Moon”*** by Joyce Jordan-Lake; Vicki Boyd

Think you might be interested? Call or text **Barb Beck** for more information @ **630-951-0620**.



## Boy Scouts

**Boy Scouts meet on Tuesday(s) 6:00-8:00 PM**

## July 2026

◀ June

August ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer's Market	3 Food Pantry CLOSED 7:00 AA	4 <b>Independence Day</b>
5 <b>Noisy Offering</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	6 3-5:00 Food Pantry	7 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA	8 <b>Leadership Camp</b>	9 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer's Market <b>Leadership Camp</b>	10 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA <b>Leadership Camp</b>	11
12 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship <b>Confirmation Camp begins</b>	13 3-5:00 Food Pantry <b>Confirmation Camp</b>	14 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA <b>Confirmation Camp</b>	15 <b>Confirmation Camp</b>	16 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer's Market <b>Confirmation Camp ends</b>	17 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	18 9:00 AM Book Club
19 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	20 3-5:00 Food Pantry	21 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA	22 <b>6:00 Decorating for VBS (dinner provided)</b>	23 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer's Market	24 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	25 Church reserved for VBS preparation
26 <b>Contemporary</b> 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship (youth band & video) (Cont. band interest mtg after both services) <b>*Vacation Bible School</b>	27 3-5:00 Food Pantry <b>*Vacation Bible School</b>	28 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts <b>*Vacation Bible School</b>	29 <b>*Vacation Bible School</b>	30 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer's Market <b>*Vacation Bible School Closing</b>	31 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	

# July 2026 Birthday & Anniversaries

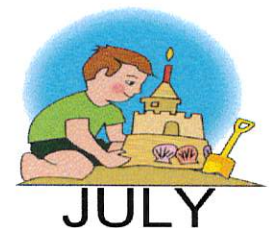
1. Austin Wasmund
2. Chris Conant
3. Dylan Jolly
4. Warren Hollar  
Wryan Patterson  
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July
5. Elizabeth Talley
6. Mary Bogner (Belford)
7. Ed Stewart  
Jennifer Stafford  
Summer Smith
8. Nathaniel Barnes
9. Pete Legg
- 10.
11. Matthew Quarles
- 12.
13. Brenda Austin  
Dennis Harrow  
Anyancia Stafford



14. Tessa Stafford  
Doug & Lisa Lackey-A
15. Lynn Wilson  
Abigail Bumgarner  
Suzanne McLean  
Donna Sprouse
16. Jake Curtis  
Alyssa Rogers  
David & Cheryl Weldon-A
17. Jim Good  
Josh Eckard  
Luther & Cindy Rudisill-A
18. Justin Bowman  
Seddon Wagoner  
Jessica Burton  
Emily Bendzinski  
Abraham Church
19. Darrell Parlier
20. Teresa Abernathy
21. Steve Dagenhart  
Aiden Daigle
22. Larry Creed  
Kaid Roseman  
Barry Smith  
Zac Thick



23. Joel & Jessica Kunze-A  
Ella Hickerson  
Gloria Setzer
24. Brian Sharpe  
Nicholas Sipe  
Allyssa Barnes  
Declan Bagley  
Richard & Crystal Wright-A
- 25.
26. Josh Davis  
Phyllis Killian  
Cathy Hallman
27. Tanner Williams  
Tony & Karen Whitener-A
28. Jacob Davis  
Lee Kirby  
Boyd Kiziah  
Jeremy & Rhea Sherrill-A
29. Chris Stillwell
30. Jim Killian  
Heather Stafford  
Jerry & Linda Piercy-A
31. Don & Sandy Hefner-A  
Connor Stillwell



◀ July		August 2026					September ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2 Noisy Offering 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship (VBS sing & video)	3 3-5:00 Food Pantry	4 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA	5	6 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer’s Market	7 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	8	
9 Contemporary/Youth 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	10 3-5:00 Food Pantry	11 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA	12	13 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer’s Market	14 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	15	
16 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	17 3-5:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Staff Meeting	18 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA	19	20 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer’s Market	21 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	22 8:30-Noon Council & Committee Retreat	
23 8:00 Worship 9:15 Sunday school 10:30 Worship	24 3-5:00 Food Pantry	25 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Sr Center 5:30 Men’s Bible St. 6-8:00 Boy Scouts 6:30 Bible Journaling 7:00 AA	26 9:15 Prayer Group 10:00 Women Bib. St 5:15 Dinner 6:00 Bible Study 6:15-7:30 KIC 6:30-7:30 Youth 7:00 Choir	27 5:30 AM – F3 8-5:00 Alex Senior 4-7:00 Bethlehem Farmer’s Market	28 1-3:00 Food Pantry 7:00 AA	29 9-3:00 PM Via de Cristo Meeting	
30 Rally Sunday 10:00 ONE Worship (ministry sharing) *Blessing of the Backpacks & Teacher Recognition	31 3-5:00 Food Pantry						

# August 2026 Birthdays & Anniversaries

1. Matt Bendzinski  
Sophia Behling  
Judy Poole
2. Kathryn Tesh  
Lauren Hall
3. Luke Clinard
4. Margo Smyre
5. Jaden Curtis  
Pat Jenkins
6. Megan Putman  
Kelcie Bagley  
Terry & Jill Peek-A
7. Allison McCall
- 8.
9. Edwin Dagenhart  
Alma Yount
10. Donny Markham
11. Celeste Crafton  
Noelle Bernesser  
Terry & Barbara Gilbert-A
12. James & Mickey Adair-A
13. Eddie & Janice Eckard-A  
Cathy Thick  
Anne Wagoner  
John Worm



14. Paulette Alexander  
Calyn Lail  
Linda Piercy
15. Teresa Harrow  
Haiden Wales
16. Cal Overby
17. Brian & Heather Sharpe-A  
Susan Petersen
18. Dean & Judy Setzer-A  
Rosa Bendzinski
19. Carolyn Carpenter  
Anthony Mawyer  
Dwight Helton
20. Gregory & Judith Dostall
21. Bailey Tesh  
Rena Mawyer  
Frank & Patti Simmons-A
22. Jackson Bailey  
Jeff Heffinger  
Trey King
23. Harley Fox
24. Doug & Tami Hefner-A



25. Kim Abernathy  
Gregory Dostall
26. Penny Hall  
Tim & Allison Harmon-A
27. Ray & Mary Bogner/Belford-A  
Michael Cook  
Dalton Johnson  
John & Yvonne Osborne-A  
John & Kate Worm-A
28. Jerry McCloud  
Holly Bernesser
29. Rhea Sherrill  
Carolyn Troutman
- 30.
31. Daxton Lail

