

Dovetales, a newsletter of
Gladwyne Presbyterian Church,
1321 Beaumont Drive 19035 610-649-2235 www.gladwynepres.org
P. Todd Stavrakos, Pastor
April, 2009 edition



- April 2 Women's Book Group*
- April 4 9:30 a.m. - Noon Church-wide Clean-up*
- April 5 Palm Sunday
Noon - 3:00 p.m. Raindate for clean-up*
- April 8 7:30 p.m. Session
- April 9 6 p.m. Maundy Thursday Seder dinner with Tenebrae
service following
- April 10 GOOD FRIDAY - Church office closes at noon
- April 11 Easter Vigil
- April 12 Easter Sunday
7:30 a.m. Sunrise service in the Chapel in the Woods
Following the Sunrise service, stay and enjoy breakfast
and share in the Easter joy
9:30 a.m. Easter egg hunt for the youth
11:00 a.m. Worship - Easter Celebration
Refreshments - April Birthday Sunday
- April 13 Easter Monday - Church office closed
- April 16 7:30 p.m. Men's Group*
- April 21 7 - 8:30 p.m. Knit or Knot*
- May 2 Nurse Family Partnership Family Fun Day & Picnic*

For additional information concerning any of our Holy Week activities, please call the
Church office 610-649-2235



The Dangers in Multitasking

As I sit to write this article I do so facing Holy Week, and all its activities, a concert coming up to work on and a church-wide retreat to plan for. On one level, I guess I see myself as a great multitasker, someone who can juggle many plates at once. I think we all have to be multitaskers at times in our lives, and I am no different. But the reality is I do not function well with so many things on my plate; my anxiety level creeps up as my desire to control things tasks over. As my anxiety rises, work is not done to the level of satisfaction I have, which further increases anxiety. Notice a pattern here?

We live in a world that forces us to multitask, what do I need to do for the family, for my job, for my church? When we consider that each of those categories has three or four projects for us at a time, we can see how we might become over loaded. Yet, as we look around, there is so much to do. We have no choice but to do more, right? Churches suffer in the same way, there is clearly a lot of need in the world, there are many wonderful issues to be involved in, there are more important causes to work on. Shouldn't we try and do them all? Don't we have a responsibility to address all of them?

Perhaps we can take a cue from Jesus. I imagine there was plenty of need in Jesus' time, whether the poor or lame needed help, or the hungry children or widows, there were many causes. If Jesus had stopped to meet all the needs that existed, he probably never would have gotten to Jerusalem, heck he might never have had a chance to leave Nazareth. While Jesus was surrounded by much need, he never lost sight of his purpose and while he did not withhold his love and grace when those in need came to him, he did not allow himself to be deterred from his journey. In John 13:33, he says, "Where I am going, you cannot come." Only Jesus could go to the Cross, only Jesus could prevail at the Cross, that was his purpose.

In a world of great need, we can get sidetracked or we can lose our way if we attempt to resolve every need, or address every issue. If we are not careful we can get swamped by our desire to help others and lose sight of that which we are called to do. We must discern our purposes, both as individuals and as a community of faith. God has a plan for each of us and GPC. If we follow Jesus' lead and discern our purpose we can address those needs that we are called to address and then in faith know that God is calling others to address the needs we do not address.

At GPC, we must begin to narrow our focus, to allow God to guide us to our purpose. We must use our gifts and abilities in such a way to maximize our impact in this community and the world. Jesus was right, we cannot go where he went, but we can certainly go where God leads us.

So may it be.

Tom



Preliminaries from Environmental TaskForce

No, we cannot change the world or even our own environment overnight but there are several **No Cost** changes we can make now:

- Proper recycling – There are containers for both paper and plastic but we **need volunteers** to take these recyclables to their proper destinations – either your home or the dump.
- Use silverware rather than plastic ware.
- Use china plates rather than paper plates.

Additionally we are looking at some down-the-road projects involving minimal to much more expense:

- Rack on kitchen wall where you could store your own ‘from home’ coffee mugs for use on Sundays.
- Energy efficient light bulbs
- Air leakage around A/C units, doors and windows
- Earth friendly soap and cleaning products
- Proper building insulation
- Oil furnace upgrade and/or replacement

If you have any suggestions or wish to help us with this vital mission, please see or contact Wicky Dayton at 610-212-8288 (c)

=====



CHURCH-WIDE GROUNDS CLEAN-UP

On **Saturday, April 4 from 9:30 – Noon**, we will be cleaning up the grounds for Easter. If you have an 8 horsepower leaf blower (or 2), rakes, 12 x 12 tarps, all these would be very helpful. **Raindate will be Sunday, April 5, Noon – 3:00 p.m.** following worship. Bring gloves and a change of clothes (Sun.) – come prepared to work.

Thanks in advance to everyone who already signed up!!!



GPC Childcare Ad Hoc Committee Off to a Great Start!

GPC Childcare Ad Hoc Committee Off to a Great Start!

Camilo Romero-Stevenson (2002), Sam Stavrakos (2004), Natalie and Stephanie Pratt (2004), Miguel Romero-Stevenson (2005), Lydia Stavrakos (2005), Jack Kanzinger (2005), Joe Kanzinger (2007?), Nick and Marshall Zafiriou (2008), TJ (!?), and the newborn Nickel twins! We have 13 children (including infants) under 6! Wow!

With this relatively new “crop” of young sprouts growing up in our midst, and with an interest in also growing all of our programs, the Session called for creation of this Ad hoc Childcare Committee to address any needs and concerns of our Discovery youth and 6 & unders.

We had our first very productive and FUN meeting over a lovely Vietnamese dinner at Ha Long Bay in Bryn Mawr on March 11 (Jen S, Ann Guise, Joanne M., Kim P., Carrie K., and yours truly). A number of proposals will be brought back to the Session for approval and to stake out action plans, and a few we want to move on as quickly as possible.

One action in motion is that this committee proposed, and the Session approved on March 11, to create a space within the Community which is child friendly so that they can participate in the fellowship in a way that is fun and productive. This area will include a table their size at which they can eat, draw, color or play a game. We hope to have this together by Easter!

Second, this committee encourages the session to repair and paint the Center Room downstairs – with an eye to being child-friendly, as well as “cool.” Hopefully we can agree on colors, design and painters by summer, if not before.

Third, we would like to have a fairly permanent set-up for our childcare staff to more easily take care of our under 2 yrs. of age children in the corner of the Center Room next to the closets. This will include the new rug for our crawling kiddos, a changing table and pail (and other essentials), and an expandable gate that will cordon off this group from the Preschoolers. The closet area is preferable in case Wetherill would like to store these items during the week and take them back out again for Sunday.

So, as you can see, we’re off to a good start. We welcome your input, and hope for your support of this group (we organizers, yes, and especially GPC’s (our) children!). Below is a “Wish list” of a few key items that we need:

- Expandable/collapsible/baby-safe gate (maybe 20 ft?)
- Preschoolers’ size, preferably wood, table(s) and chairs for Community Room
- Small, fairly new, (washable?) baby-friendly floor covering for corner
- Cool coloring books for children under age 7
- (Board) games for ages 11 and under (esp. those without pieces babies might try to eat...)
- An artist willing to donate a mural or two to our Center Room downstairs (?) (Dream big or you never get anywhere!)

More next month!! Thanks. Linda Stevenson



Women's Book Group

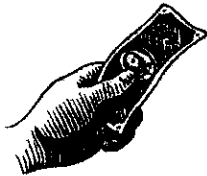
April's meeting is changed to April 2 because of the Seder service. Barbara Holmes will lead the discussion of *Year of Wonder*, by Geraldine Brooks.

The **May book** is *Belong to Me*, by Marisa de los Santos - Donna McGowan will lead us on May 14.

Description of *Belong to Me* from Amazon.com

Cornelia Brown surprised herself when she was gripped by the sudden, inescapable desire to move to the suburbs with her husband. Her mettle is quickly tested by her impeccably dressed, overly judgmental neighbor Piper Truitt—the embodiment of everything Cornelia feared she'd find in suburbia. With Lake, another recent arrival, Cornelia shares a love of literature and old movies—as she forms an instant bond with this warm yet elusive woman and her perceptive, brilliant young son Dev.

Acclaimed best-selling author Marisa de los Santos's literary talents shine in the complex interactions she creates between three unforgettable women, deftly entangling her characters in a web of trust, betrayal, love, and loss that challenges them in ways they never imagined.



LOOKING FOR TAX DEDUCTIONS?

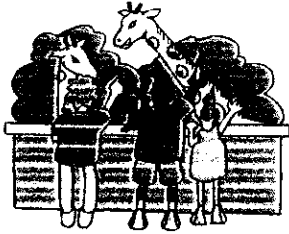
A great way to increase your tax deductions for next year is to increase your planned giving to our church by two dollars a day. Additional members made contributions or increased their annual pledge in support of the two dollar a day initiative during March. I wish to thank all who have joined this effort to date.

Tax time gives us all an opportunity to examine the financial resources over which we have been given stewardship. Our charitable contributions demonstrate our willingness to share these resources with others. The priority that we place on the ministry of our church is shown by the percentage of our charitable giving that is directed to GPC.

Please make sure that your pledge is up to date and consider joining those of us who have already increased our support of the church by participating in the two dollar a day program.

Thank you again to those of you who have taken a leadership roll to help maintain and grow the ministry of GPC.

Ralph Hall, Treasurer



Nurse Family Partnership Family Fun Day & Picnic

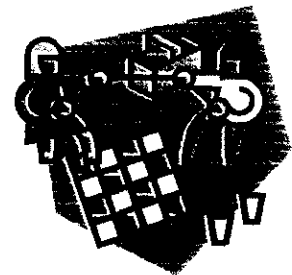
The event for NFP clients and their families will be held at Elmwood Park Zoo in Norristown on **Saturday, May 2nd from 1 - 4 p.m.**

More than 150 parents and children from Montgomery County had signed up to attend the picnic last Sept. Weather caused it to be postponed until this spring, and we anticipate similar interest.

Food and fun are important ingredients for family outings. You could help make this event special for our guests by offering to provide **finger foods** (cookies, brownies, veggies & dip, etc), **100% juice boxes** (apple or lemonade) or **bottled water**. In addition, we'd love to take pictures of the families. Do you have a **digital camera** that you could bring and use during the picnic?

Your **presence** at the Zoo that day would be a blessing. We'll need many helping hands to make the day successful. **Please indicate how you will help on the list at the back of the church.**

Sandy Drayer





April Birthdays

- 4 Alfred Reeves
Gerry Hoffman
- 7 Sally Stevenson
Jenna McGowan
Paul Pratt
- 9 Annie Sciolla
- 16 Jack Kanzinger
- 20 Morris Williams
- 23 Linn Ballard
- 30 Willa McGowan



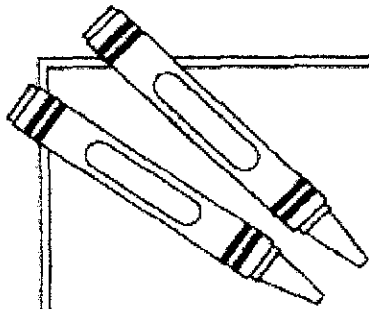
Calling all men – GPC and beyond.....

The Men's Group meeting was led by Bruce MacCullough with discussion about conscience based on reading a short chapter from the Book of Quaker Wisdom. This was followed by a time of sharing about our spiritual journey. We welcomed a "new" member again this month.

We are spiritual seekers that wish to share and nurture our journey in community together. We are committed to action as well as sharing our faith and will volunteer four times each year at Habitat for Humanity in Norristown. We hope that these events will provide an opportunity to make mentoring connections. We will also look for and support other opportunities to serve.

The group is open to all men who feel that they would like to enrich their spiritual lives. We actively invite other men of all ages, not just from GPC, to join. Our regular monthly meetings will be on the 3rd Thursday evening at the church, with the next on April 16 @ 7:30pm.

We are grateful to the Lord for guiding our time together.



Just for **KIDS** Easter

Easter is a special day for Christians. The days before are dark and sad, but on that special day – we celebrate! Why do we celebrate?

Write the word to fit each definition. Transfer the numbered letters to the corresponding boxes. Read the answer.

□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13



□	□	□
14	15	16

□	□	□	□
17	18	19	20

great happiness

a place where plants grow

opposite of evening

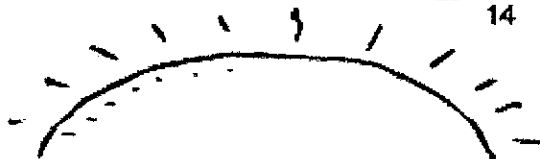
a shape that means love

it rises every morning

a close companion

Jesus was nailed to it

it blocked the door of Jesus' tomb



1 12

11 20 16

13 7 6

15 9 19

8 4

10 18 17



3 5

14 2



Some time ago when I was on the 'Refreshments' team, I brought flapjacks - the English version. Many people asked for the recipe and I owe an apology for being so tardy in sharing it.

Warm regards,
Betty Reeves

FLAPJACKS (English version, which is really a kind of granola bar)

- . In a saucepan, heat gently together for a few minutes: **3 oz. butter, a scant cup sugar**
- . Add and stir in **1 Tbs. Lyles Golden Syrup** (available now at Super Fresh for about \$3.50)
- . Add about **2 1/2 cups rolled oats** (not the quick cook kind)

Blend well together. It will be a very loose mix, not a cake-like consistency.

Spread into a jelly roll pan that you have lined with parchment paper. No need to grease. Don't use waxed paper.

If you use a pan about 18 x 12 x 1" the mix will scarcely cover the area, but in cooking it will all run together.

If you prefer thicker and more chewy bars just use a smaller pan and adjust cooking time.

Bake in the middle of a 325 degree oven for 10 - 15 minutes - the thin version browns swiftly so keep an eye on it after 10 mins.

When golden brown, take out, and while it's still very warm, mark it into bars . When cold simply break it up along the lines.

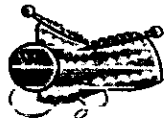
Start to finish this takes about half an hour including wash up and packaging.

The lining of the pan can take 2 or 3 batches.

Variations are endless. Additions can include eg. a handful of dried fruit, or coconut, or orange zest, etc.

N.B. It's crucial to line the pan as the mixture glues itself to an un-lined pan.

Also, there seems no substitute for Lyle's Golden Syrup.



Knit or Knot

The next meeting will be April 21st, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at Sandra Drayer's home.
Come and discover the joy and camaraderie of knitting.

Spring is coming, Easter cannot be far behind



If we are talking about Lent, then Easter must be soon. Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday on April 5th** and we have several events planned to prepare for Easter Sunday. On **April 9th**, we will celebrate **Maundy Thursday by holding a Seder dinner**. It is appropriate that on the first night of Passover, we join together and remember the sort of meal that Jesus shared with his disciples. On **Saturday, April 11th** we will hold the **Easter Vigil beginning at 8 am** and ask that you sign up for an hour slot to sit vigil through **Easter Sunday's Sunrise service at 7:30 am in the Chapel in the Woods**. Following the Sunrise service stay and enjoy breakfast and share in the Easter joy. At **9:30 am on Easter Sunday, we will host an Easter egg hunt** for the youth and then at **11 am we will celebrate Easter**. Be sure to get these events on your calendar so you do not miss out on any of these wonderful experiences.

=====

Stalking the Son

The empty church sits full with
A resounding silence that circles a wary visitor,
Cautions her into the footsteps of a woodsman
Stalking in the close winter quiet.
Her prey is the elusive light
Fluttering through stained glass windows.
One moment splashing blues, greens and reds
Across smooth white marble
The next-
gone, without warning,
Hidden among the saints who guard their charge well.
She stalks up the corner aisle,
Sacred silence eddying round her ankles.
The visitor approaches the weakest of prey,
The almost motionless light of the rose window
Swaying slightly side to side,
A kaleidoscope of rich colors and shapes,
Trefoils and trapezoids, earth and heaven.
Carefully, carefully she slips forward one foot
And the petal of light stops shifting.
Quietly she follows the petal to the heart
Dancing with a hunter's grace
Through the tiny shapes within.
Standing at last at the heart of the window
Bathed in the light of the Son
She smiles and knows the hunt is over.

Jenna McGowan



WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Update – from March 15 Meeting – CHOIR RISING!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE – Update – from March 15 Meeting – CHOIR RISING!

As you all well know, pastors are essential to worship, but it is an entire community that makes for an energetic worship service. GPC has a tradition of informal, lay-led and participatory worship – which we are working to uphold and enhance through the work of this committee. All are welcome to make suggestions, and better yet, attend our meetings if you would like to play a part (once in a while or on an ongoing basis!). Currently “we” are: Hank Holmes, Sally Stevenson, Mark Fifer, Brian Gibson, and Pastor Todd.

To this end, as of April, if we have items on our agenda (and we generally do), we will meet every 4th Sunday of the month at 9am. We will announce the meeting the week prior to the meeting. We also communicate via email if you would like to be a part that way.

Copying Ann Guise’s great idea, and everyone’s fabulous contributions to our “team” approach to providing refreshments after the service, we are also working to create “Worship Teams” that will function on a fairly regular basis, based on the small groups functioning in the church. For example, the Men’s group might take care of the roles of greeters and taking the offering on the first Sunday of the month. Women’s book group might take the second Sunday, and so on.

Also, per the request of many to try to get a CHOIR going on a regular basis, our marvelous Music Director Brian Gibson has agreed to give it a go. Brian mentioned some of the challenges he faces with this request are that we don’t have a huge number of singers at this moment in our congregation, and when he does call for an occasional choir, oftentimes few people show up for the rehearsals. Since we all enjoy a vibrant music program it is important that we play our part in the worship service. **WE CAN DO IT!**

In church on March 15, Brian announced that rehearsals for the Easter (April 12) Choir will begin March 22, just after the service. So if you’re interested, please come and sing (and/or ask Brian for the music and practice at home!).

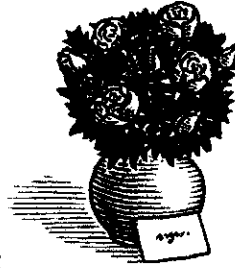
We hope to have the CHOIR one Sunday in May, and depending on that and our singers’ schedules for June, we will try to one more Sunday in June. And we’ll see how it goes from there.

Meanwhile, see you all on Sunday, and at our next regular meeting, April 26, at 9am.

Blessings!

Linda Stevenson, Elder for Worship Committee

NEXT EDITION: SURVEY RESULTS – if you would still like to complete a survey on our Worship processes, space, etc., please just ask for one (hard-copy or electronically available) from me or Margaret.



Mother's Day Concert

On Mother's Day we take the time to celebrate the important role that mothers have held in our lives. While for many it is a joyous day, for others it is a day of mourning, as some remember a mother who has passed away. Unfortunately many children and young adults in our community have suffered this kind of loss and for many there are no outlets for their grief.

Fortunately one place, Peter's Place, was formed to provide counseling and support for grieving children and families. This Mothers' Day, May 10th, GPC will host its annual Mothers' Day concert at 4 pm. At the concert a special offering will be collected to support the activities of Peter's Place.

Last year we were all moved by the music of Annie Sciolla and Rick Hall who helped to support the Presbyterian Children's Village and raised over \$1000. Please come and join us for another wonderful concert by Annie and Rick and make a statement about caring for the young people struggling with their losses in our community.



Building Community: Gladwyne Presbyterian Church Retreat 2009

So how do we top last year's retreat at Ocean Grove? That is a tough question, but we think we have found a way. This year GPC will be holding its annual retreat at Kenbrook Retreat Camp in Lebanon, PA. (www.kenbrook.org) Kenbrook offers a wonderful and peaceful location, nestled in the hills of central Pennsylvania. Enjoy hiking, canoeing, volleyball and other activities, or just find a quiet spot and rest. This year's program will focus on community building, deepening our connections with one another. Costs for the retreat are \$169 for a single, for two people in a room \$148 and triple or quad occupancy is \$117. These rates apply for those over the age of 13. Children less than a year old are free. Other children up to 12 cost \$9 for each year old the child is, for instance a 5 year old would be \$45. Please contact the office by May 15th, or sooner if you wish to attend the retreat.

Christianity 101: So, how did the bible come to be? Part 1



In the Reformed tradition of Christ's church, we place an emphasis upon the Holy Scripture. The slogan that we use is "Reformed and always reforming to the Word of God." It is the Word of God that inspires us in our lives and we live to meet the call of God. But how did we decide what the Word of God is? That is a good question. Some would say that Holy Scripture was provided by God to humanity as it is and therefore it is infallible and must be read literally. While others view scripture as a partnership between God and humanity, where God inspired the authors to provide words to the children of God that would guide their lives. We tend to follow along with the latter view as opposed to the former. So how did the bible come to be?

We first need to begin with the Old Testament, where did it come from, who created it. We take for granted that much of the Old Testament took form in oral traditions, certainly such stories as Adam and Eve, Noah and so forth come more from oral folklore than actual historical texts. This is not to say that they did not happen, but the times reflected in the stories are periods in which very little was recorded in a written form. The first time scripture, from a historical perspective, speaks of the Law, which usually refers to the first five books of the bible, was during Josiah's reforms in the Kingdom of Judah during his reign in the 6th Century BCE (Before Common Era). It is believed that Josiah found portions of the Law in the temple when they were sorting through the materials. The Law at this time probably consisted of Exodus and portions of Deuteronomy. At this time the Law was set aside as books of importance, and later came to incorporate Genesis, Exodus, Numbers, Leviticus and Deuteronomy.

The next major section of the Old Testament are the Prophets and this is a vast group which takes into account the famous prophets of Joshua, Samuel, Elijah, Isaiah and Jeremiah as well as minor ones such as Daniel, Jonah, Amos etc. These books took many generations to be completed and probably were not seen as "biblical" until around the 2nd Century BCE, although they were always venerated as wise books.

The last major unit are the Writings which take into account the Psalms, Proverbs, Ruth, etc. They are made up of both poetic texts as well as wisdom texts. While many held these texts in high regard by the 2nd Century CE, it was not until the time around Jesus that it was believed that the Writings became a part of Holy Scripture. By this time the Old Testament was set.

For all the texts, the same criteria was set, how do these words illumine our lives? Many of the texts had been around for a long time and had stood up to the test of time before they were seen as scripture. Israel saw the truth of the words, and came to an understanding that these words certainly must have been divinely inspired. It is clear that a partnership was at work, God had inspired the writers to create books of illumination, therefore they must be set aside as Holy.

Next up: The New Testament. For those seeking to study this topic more, I would encourage you to read William Barclay's *Introducing the Bible*.

Gladwyne Church Teams for Refreshments

April: Team 4

May: Team 5

June" Team 1

July : Team 3

August: Team 6

September: Team 2

* designates elder or deacon who serve as coordinators for THE TEAM

Work as a team to provide simple refreshments after Sunday services in community room.

SUE	ALTHOUSE*	2	CHARLES	LAMBDIN	2
DENIS	ANDRUCHOVICI	2	GREG	LOUX	3
ILEANA	ANDRUCHOVICI	2	PALMER	LOUX	3
JOYCE	BAKER	3	ADAM	LOUX	3
LYNN	BALLARD	4	BISSIE	LOUX	3
LAURA	COZZENS	6	JASON	LOUX	3
LARRY	COZZENS*	6	BRUCE	MAC CULLOUGH	1
SANDY	DAY	1	NOREEN	MAC CULLOUGH	1
BOBBIE	DAY	1	BRUCE	MACCULLOUGH	5
WICKY	DAYTON*	4	CAROLYN	MACK	2
SANDRA	DRAYER	3	CHRISTOPHER	MACK	2
PETE	DRAYER	3	VALERIE	MACK	2
Family	PRATT	2	ETHAN	MARKMAN	5
BETH	FEATHERMAN	2	CHASE	MARKMAN	5
MARK	FIFER	4	JOANNE	MARKMAN*	5
GINGER	FIFER	4	PAT	MCCOLE*	4
LIBBY	FIFER	4	DONNA	MCGOWAN	1
BARBARA	FRAZIER	5	WILLA	MCGOWAN	1
LINDA	GERSTEIN	5	JANA	MOSSEY*	5
BRIAN	GIBSON	6	BETTY	REEVES	6
EVAN	GIBSON*	6	ALFRED	REEVES	6
DONNA	GUILE	2	SANDRA	STASHIK	6
ANN	GUISE*	2	JEN	STAVRAKOS	4
VERONICA	HALL	3	SALLY	STEVENSON	6
RALPH	HALL*	3	LINDA	STEVENSON*	6
LIN	HALL*	3	KATHLEEN	TRONCELLITI*	1
MARTHA ANN	HANSON	4	BRIANA	WEISGERBER	6
PAUL	HOLLAND	1	MEAGAN	WEISGERBER	6
HANK	HOLMES	5	JOHN	WEISGERBER*	6
JACK	HOLMES	5	RUTH	WILLIAMS	2
KARLA	HOLMES	5	MORRIS	WILLIAMS	2
BARBARA	HOLMES*	5	CHRIS	ZARIFIOU	5
CARRIE	KANZINGER	1	JESSICA	ZARIFIOU	5
BARBARA	KANZINGER*	1			