

ST. STEPHEN SCROLL

St. Stephen Lutheran Church is a community of believers, saved by the grace of God, who are called to:

- *share his love through words and actions;*
- *welcome others into the family of Christ.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I am sure you have noticed we moved the baptismal font. Our font used to sit tucked out of the way in the chancel. Now it is right in the middle of the aisle. We used to keep it covered. Now it is uncovered. We used to put water in it only when we were celebrating a baptism. Now we fill it for every worship service. It can feel in the way during Communion, but that is the point. The font should be out front, in the center of things, to remind us of our baptisms.

We baptize and are baptized because in the moments before Jesus ascended into heaven he commanded the disciples (and us) to “go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

In baptism we are joined with Jesus in his own baptism, in his life, and in his death. In baptism the sinful part of us is crucified and buried with Jesus, and then, we are raised from the waters of baptism to new life in Jesus.

When Jesus was baptized, God called and claimed Jesus as his own beloved child. In your baptism, God called and claimed you as his beloved child too. You are the beloved child of God – called, claimed, cherished, and forgiven.

Martin Luther is famous for his struggle with feelings of unworthiness. He often questioned if he deserved God’s love, grace, and mercy, but we know there is nothing we can do to earn or deserve God’s grace, love, and mercy. These are gifts God gives to us freely, because we are God’s beloved children.

Martin Luther wrote that every morning when you wash your face you should remember your baptism. In other words – you should remember that you are baptized each and every day of your lives.

Many Lutherans don’t remember their actual baptisms. We were infants when we were baptized, but we can remember that we are baptized. By doing so, we remember the powerful, life-changing truth that we are God’s beloved children.

So next week and every week when we gather for worship and Communion and you see the baptismal font is in the way – stop for a moment. Dip your finger in the water in the font. Touch the water to your forehead or make the sign of the cross and remember that you are the beloved, forgiven child of God. Know that is the best news in the world.

May God bless you and keep you today and always.

In Christ –

Pastor Kerri



St. Stephen
Lutheran Church
5903 Bardstown Rd.
Fern Creek, KY 40291

502-239-7778

Email:
pastorkerri
@gmail.com

**Pastor Kerri M.
McFarland
Pastor Emeritus,
Thomas D. Swasko**

*St. Stephen Lutheran Church
is a member of the
Indiana-Kentucky Synod of
the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America.*

2015 Council Members

Brenda Firquin,
President
Buddy Zimmerman,
Vice President
Cheryl Markley,
Council Secretary
Rod Firquin,
Rec. Secretary (non-voting)
Larry Faue,
Andrea Goebel,
Paul Kiser
Connie Miller,
Michelle Sarson,
Duane Steines
Bill Wise,
Financial Secretary
Buddy Zimmerman,
Treasurer
Hank Evans,
Pianist/Organist
Kim Thonen,
Custodian
Cheryl Markley,
Office Secretary
**secretary.ststephen
@gmail.com**

***Check out the website!
ststephen-louisville.com***

Holy Week and Easter Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday Worship, April 2nd at 7:00 pm, Sanctuary
 Good Friday Worship, April 3rd at 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
 Easter Sunday, April 5th at 8 am and 10 am



Easter Breakfast & Sunday School

There is no Sunday school on Easter, April 5th or on Sunday, April 12th. This is the Jefferson County Public School spring break. However, **on April 5th at 9:00 am between the Easter worship services** in the fellowship hall, you are invited to enjoy a continental breakfast with your fellow Lutherans instead. See you there!

Easter Egg Hunt

The St. Stephen Senior Youth invite all children to the annual St. Stephen Easter Egg Hunt **after the 10:00 am worship service on Easter, April 5th**. They have been diligently stuffing plastic eggs during their Sunday school classes, and they will "hide" them on Easter morning. Participants will be divided into age groups. Listen to the announcements for details. Thank you to all who provided candy for the plastic eggs. When the egg hunt is completed, please take your emptied plastic eggs to the fellowship hall where they will be collected for reuse next year.

Easter Lily Donors

Easter lilies will be placed around the altar on Easter to enhance the worship space. If you have signed up for lilies, you may take them home after the 10am Easter worship service. **The cost per plant is \$14**. You may place your payment in the offering plate. Make a note on the check memo line or on the envelope that the payment is for "Easter lilies". Thank you.

Youth (and Adults) Will Enjoy Cookie & Canvas

April's Youth event planning is underway. Let's embrace the arts this month with a project through "Cookie & Canvas." They will be coming to us to instruct creating a wonderful and fun painting to welcome spring. **The Cookie and Canvas event will be Sunday, April 26th, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:30. The cost will be \$20 per person.** Unlike past events, **this is open for 3rd grade and up, including adults**. This is a great chance to create art side-by-side with your youth.

Each participant should bring a lunch to eat after church. Painting class will begin about 12:00 p.m. Halfway through we will break for some cookies and refreshments. We should finish up our paintings around 2:00-ish. Then we will finish up our cookies while the paintings finish drying.

If you have any questions, please contact Janette Constantino at 618-2084 or email at portia1596@gmail.com

We do need a minimum of 10 participates.

Golden Sneakers to Visit Cave Hill

The Golden Sneakers will enjoy lunch and then visit Cave Hill on **Wednesday, April 15th. Meet at 11:00 am at Ditto's Grill, 1114 Bardstown Road. After lunch, head to Cave Hill Cemetery at the 701 Baxter Avenue entrance for a vehicle-guided tour by Michael Higgs at 1:00 pm. The tour is \$10.00 per person.** We will group together in our own vehicles and get out for the various stops as Michael takes us through the tour route. Johna Wilson, 239-2030, is hosting this event. If you plan to attend, please sign up in the narthex so that we will know how many are coming.

Pastor Kerri Will Be On Vacation

Pastor Kerri will be taking vacation on Monday, **April 27th, through Sunday, May 3rd**. Pastor Joe Kiser will officiate on May 3rd at both worship services while she is away. We thank Pastor Kiser for his service.

Mortgage Fund Giving Down for 2015

The St. Stephen finance committee would like to thank you for your contributions to our church. However, we would like you to know that giving to the mortgage fund for 2015 is \$1500 behind. We have been able to pay our mortgage with carry-over funds from last year, but this year's giving has not kept up with the payments. We cannot continue on this path. Please consider this as you plan your future giving, and also, please do not forget the church as you leave on your spring break and summer vacations. Thank you in advance.

We Welcome a New Baby

Londyn Ann Turley, granddaughter of Steve and Rita Sarson, was born on March 24th, 2015 at 3:03 pm. Our thoughts and prayers are with Londyn, her parents, (Josh and Jessica Turley), and the whole Sarson and Turley families as we and they welcome this new addition to their families.



Yard Sale Fun for Everyone

Everyone has fun participating at a sale...especially when it is at St. Stephen! We will have plenty of jobs for everyone before and during our yard sale on **Saturday, May 16th**. We need many folks to gather items for the sale and to help gather items from neighbors and friends for the sale. Also, we will have a letter that can be used for tax purposes. We will be gathering not only your treasures but your delicious baked goods that we can also sell. We will need help pricing items and making them look their best for the sale. We need to have tables set up and items organized so that guests can find things easily. **If you have items to contribute, you can bring them anytime after Easter and place them in the roped-off area at the back of the confirmation room.** If you can help gather items from people who are unable to bring them to the church, or if you can help price merchandise, bake goods for sale, assist in organization of the retail space, work on the day of the sale, or serve as cashier, please call Chuck or Ellen Ullom at (502) 231-4327. They will be waiting for your call.

ELCA World Hunger Contribution Options

The ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Disaster Response Campaign at St. Stephen continues through Easter. There are at least 3 ways at St. Stephen that you can contribute to this campaign to help people around the world:

1. For each dollar donated, you may decorate a paper chick and you will provide a needy family with a real chick, which will eventually provide eggs to eat and sell. There are paper chicks, crayons, and markers available during coffee hour. Color as many as you want, or Pastor Kerri will find someone who will gladly do it for you.
2. Collect your spare change in the pig-shaped collection boxes available in the narthex for you to take home and bring back on Easter.
3. There are ELCA Hunger Campaign envelopes in the pew racks in the sanctuary. You may place your donation in the envelope in the offering plate.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Meet the Bishop

Have you ever had the opportunity to meet the Bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod (or perhaps we should call it the Kentucky-Indiana Synod)?

You are all invited to participate in a **Question and Answer Gathering with Bishop Gafkjen starting at 6:00 pm at Third Lutheran Church, 1864 Frankfort Avenue on Tuesday, April 14th**. The topic will be "Who is Welcome to the Holy Communion Table?"

The members of Third Lutheran will be providing a meal, sponsored by the South Central Conference Council. The Conference Spring Assembly will be held during the meal as a part of the evening's proceedings.

This should be a wonderful opportunity for fellowship with your Lutheran sisters and brothers in Christ from all over the area. Please mark your calendars and plan on participating in this evening of thoughtful discussion.

Fern Creek/Highview United Ministries

"Pennies From Heaven"

**Annual 2015 Gala Auction & Dinner
Saturday, May 9th, 2015 @ 6:30 pm
St. Gabriel Catholic Church**

Activities include silent auction, live auction, catered dinner, concert.

Listen to the announcements for details on purchasing tickets and pricing.

Fill the blue bucket in the narthex with your pennies to help St. Stephen win the penny challenge at the gala!

**Proceeds support the work of
Fern Creek /Highview United Ministries.**

Dear Members of St. Stephen,

Thank you so much for your cards, notes and prayers as I underwent a bilateral lung transplant at IU Methodist in Indianapolis. Your kindness meant more than words could ever express.

I am finally home and continuing the recovery process which I must admit is more difficult than I had anticipated.

Thanks also for your support of Tom while I was in Indianapolis. I know your calls, cards and prayers meant a lot to him too.

We are both very grateful to those of you who continue to remember us in your prayers.

God is good!

Maxine Swasko

St. Stephen Lutheran Church Congregational Council Meeting March 7, 2015

The regular meeting of the council was called to order by council President, Brenda Firquin.

A quorum was established. Opening prayer was offered by Pr. McFarland.

Members present: Brenda Firquin, Cheryl Markley, Connie Miller, Andrea Goebel, Buddy Zimmerman, Duane Steines, Michelle Sarson, Kenna Markley (youth), Paul Kiser, Pr. McFarland, Rod Firquin (recording secretary). Member not present: Larry Faue.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the February 8 meeting, the congregational meeting and the council organizational meeting on February 22 were all printed in the March newsletter. M/S – C. Markley/B. Zimmerman to accept all of the above minutes as printed in the newsletter. Carried.

Pastor's Report: Pr. McFarland

1. KY/IN Synod convention is scheduled for June 6 and 7, a Saturday and Sunday. Pr. McFarland noted the congregation is still in need of representation (lay) to the convention. The convention is being held on Saturday and Sunday in Indianapolis. If you are interested, either a couple, or individuals, please let Pr. McFarland know asap. She will be attending and thus not be at the Sunday, June 7 worship. The Bishop will provide the message to all KY/IN synod members. Council President Brenda Firquin has agreed to read the message at the 10:00 am service. Communion elements will be blessed by the pastor prior to leaving, so communion will be offered. Pastor Kerri will ask the members who attend the 5:00 pm service for volunteers to lead the evening worship.
2. Wednesday Bible study will continue for Lent. The focus is on the earthly family of Jesus as noted in the Bible.
3. A prayer vigil will be held on March 11. Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex.
4. The Good Friday service will be held in the fellowship hall. The framed Stations of the Cross pictures will be the focus of the service. Please make every effort to attend this service as we approach the Easter morning services.

President's Report: B. Firquin

1. Average February attendance was reported at 85.

Financial Reports:

The February Treasurer's Report was presented to the council. M/S – D. Steines/C. Miller to accept the report. Carried. (Copy of the report can be found at the end of these minutes.)

Old Business: No Old Business was presented.

New Business:

1. The May council meeting will be on the 3rd Sunday instead of the 2nd Sunday due to Mother's Day. The council will meet on May 17 following the 10:00 AM service.
2. Pr. McFarland reported Kim Thonen may have major surgery and would be unable for a period of time to continue her cleaning of the church. She has requested her daughter, Ashley, be allowed to fill in for her during her absence. The council approves this request and will continue to pay Kim her regular pay. She will be responsible for payment to her daughter. The council offers prayers for Kim and her family as she approaches this surgery.
3. The Weight Watchers has informed the Pastor they will begin their weekly meetings at 9:30 am instead of 9:00 am. No activities will be effected by this change of starting time.
4. Duane Steines asked question about the health of the large trees in the front lawn. As reported last summer, it looks like the ash trees have been attacked by the ash borer. It was suggested by the arborist who did some tree work to wait and see what happens to them this spring and summer. Their size and the trimming of dead material last summer could allow them to recover. They will be watched and if it looks like they will not make it, we will involve an expert for advice.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See reports at end of minutes

Evangelism: R. Sarson- reported by M. Sarson: No report at this time.

Fellowship: C. Miller

1. Easter Sunday morning breakfast will be served at 9:00 am.
2. The Youth will provide a light luncheon after the Palm Sunday service, prior to the "Basket Auction" on March 29. Please put this

on your calendar. The baskets are on display in the Narthex and they are loaded with exciting and interesting items. This has the potential to be a great general fundraiser as well as a wonderful opportunity for fun and fellowship.

Worship and Music: B. Firquin

1. With the great success of the Mardi Gras celebration, the committee has added this as an annual event in their planning cycle.
2. Please sign up for Easter lily donations in the Narthex. The cost is \$14.00. We would like to have the chancel full again on Easter morning.
3. The committee is investigating a "music ministry" event with St. Albans and Messiah Trinity. Both of those congregations have active choirs.

Property and Grounds: R. Firquin

1. The chair wishes to thank Herb Warren for his dedication and hard work during the recent snow falls. Herb "just shows up" and gets it done. Thanks Herb.
2. The company that sprays the lawn of the church and rental house cleaned the back parking lot after the first big snow storm on an emergency basis due to the tractor being temporarily out of service. They will bill the church with payment being made from the annex account.
3. The grass cutting schedule is now out in the Narthex. Please take a few weekends, especially early in the season and maybe pair up with another volunteer to make the task much easier. The tractor and other equipment will be readied for the seasonal change in the near future.

Christian Education: A. Goebel

1. Jeannette Constantino has notified the chair she will be resigning from the committee. Her husband, Tino, is being moved by the military to Texas in the next few months. Of course, the family will follow. The council and congregation wish the Constantino's God's speed and a safe move into their new home. The entire family has added much to our congregation and they will be missed. Thanks for all you have done for the St. Stephen congregation.
2. Julia Davis has volunteered to step into Jeannette's position on the committee. Kenna Markley will step in during Sunday school to team teach the 1-3 grade children with Sean Morris.
3. The theme for VBS will be "Hometown Nazareth". VBS will be held from July 5-9 (Sunday – Thursday) this year. Please note the opening night is on Sunday and closing is on Thursday.

Social Ministry: Pr. McFarland/R. Firquin/C. Markley

1. The congregation is reminded of the FCHUM annual Gala. It is held the Second Saturday in May at St. Gabriel. Please look for more information as this day approaches. This is the largest annual fundraiser for FCHUM. If you have never attended, you have missed a great time of fellowship and fun. It would be good for St. Stephen to have more than one full table of attendees.
2. Michelle Sarson recently volunteered to work in the food pantry at FCHUM. She and other volunteers did an inventory and organized the pantry. She reports the pantry is always in need of high protein canned goods.

Youth: K. Markley

1. The youth will continue to get ready for the annual Easter egg hunt. If you wish to donate candy, you still have time.
2. As noted the youth will provide a light lunch for the March 29 basket auction after the Palm Sunday service.

The next meeting of the council will be April 12 following the 10:00 am service.

M/S- P. Kiser/A. Goebel to adjourn. Carried.

Treasurer's Report:

February 2015	Republic checking	memorial	social min.	mortgage fund	mission plus	property annex
Beginning Balance	5,788.16	1,799.77	470.47	5,490.27	6,285.11	9,476.54
Deposits	10,355.16	0	125.91	1,150.00	0	600.00
Disbursements	12,733.62	0	45.00	1,076.00	0	432.00**
Interest					4.27	
Adjustments	40.00					
Ending Balance	3,449.70	1,799.77	551.38	5,564.27	6,289.38	9,644.54*

* end of January balance, ** yearly lawn service payment

Notes:

No February statements for Mission Investment or Property Annex.

Mission interest is from December and January.

The current mortgage is **\$151,430.39**.

April 2015 Servants of the Church

Sunday - 10 a.m.	4/05/15 *	4/12/15	4/19/15	4/26/15	5/03/15
Lector	Brenda Firquin	Paul Kiser	Tammy Utley	Marilyn Mills	Connie Miller
Ushers	Needed Needed	Steven Sarson Rita Sarson	Marcus Utley Adam Utley	Bailey Goebel Pat Markley	Marilyn Mills Barry Mills
Acolyte	Jack McFarland / Ella Markley	Rachel Utecht	Kayleigh Kiser	Ellerie Seifert	Bailey Goebel
Communion Table	Needed Needed	Michelle Sarson Adolphus Kahn	Deb Steines Kaitlyn Kiser	Barry Mills Marilyn Mills	Paul Kiser Kayleigh Kiser
Commun. Deacon	Rod Firquin	Kenna Markley	Rod Firquin	Cheryl Markley	Tammy Utley
Nursery	Needed	Cheryl Markley	Elaine Peterson	Connie Miller	Elizabeth Seifert
Cantor	Fred McBride	Bill Wise	Paul Kiser	Karen Eisenbrey	Fred McBride
Worship Coord.	Paul Kiser	Rod Firquin	Brenda Firquin	Paul Kiser	Pat Markley
Greeter(s)	Susan Johnston	Ellen Ullom	Marilyn Mills	Charlie & Phyllis Boston	Jan Wilkins
Coffee Hr Host(s)	Easter breakfast	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed
For this season:	before 04/12	before 04/19	before 04/26	before 05/03	before 05/10
Grass Mowing	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed

Easter, April 5th 8:00 am Worship Servers: Lector—Marilyn Mills; Ushers—Carolyn Graham/Herb Warren; Acolyte—Needed; Communion Table—Rita Sarson/Michelle Sarson; Deacon—Steven Sarson; Nursery—Needed; Cantor—Hank Evans; Worship Coordinator—Rita Sarson; Greeters—Needed/Needed

God's Blessings to these April birthdays:

Aaron Davis	6
Connie Miller	8
Amanda Thonen	11
Rev. Joe Kiser	12
Jon Bunner	14
Chuck Mudd	16
Brenda Emberg	18
Lucy Zimmerman	26



We celebrate with these couples having April anniversaries:

Michael & Tracy Fajardo	(13th/1996)
Greg & Jessica Allen	(16th/1994)
Bill & Meg Thompson	(19th/1969)
Gene & Cindy Sprowl	(24th/1971)
Dick & Renate Wiedewitsch	(29th/1964)

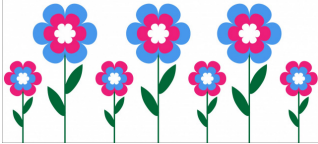
March Sanctuary Flower and Candle Donors

March Sanctuary Flower Donors
No flowers during Lent.

March Sanctuary Candle Donors

- 1st** - the Sarson family in honor of Steven Sarson's birthday
- 8th** - Elaine Peterson in honor of Bryce & Meredyth Peterson's anniversary and Stephen Summers' birthday
- 15th** - the Firquin family in honor of Rubee Firquin's birthday
- 22nd** - the Firquin family in honor of Rod Firquin's birthday
- 29th** - Connie Clark in memory of Pete Clark

***The cost to provide the sanctuary candle is \$2.00.**



April 2015



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Upcoming Events: May 9th —FCHUM Gala May 16th —St. Stephen Yard Sale May 17th —Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Breakfast June 23rd —St. Stephen Blood Drive			1 6:30—Choir Rehearsal	2 7:00—Maundy Thursday Worship	3 7:00—Good Friday Worship	4 8:30—Weight Watchers
5 Easter 8:00—Holy Communion 9:00—Easter Breakfast 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Easter Egg Hunt	6	7 9:00 - 2:00—Fairview Homemakers 12:30—Prayer Shawl Group 6:30—Worship & Music Committee 6:30—Christian Education Committee	8 6:30—Choir Rehearsal	9 7:00—Lutheran / Episcopal Meeting at St. Stephen	10	11 8:30—Weight Watchers
12 9:00—No Sunday School 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Coffee Hr 11:30—Council 5:00—Holy Communion	13	14 9:00 - 2:00—Fairview Homemakers 9:30—Lutheran Clergy Meeting	15 11:00—Golden Sneakers Lunch & Cave Hill Tour 6:30—Choir Rehearsal	16	17	18 8:30—Weight Watchers
19 9:00—Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Coffee Hr 5:00—Holy Communion	20	21 9:00 - 2:00—Fairview Homemakers 6:00—Finance Committee	22 6:30—Choir Rehearsal	23	24	25 8:30—Weight Watchers
26 9:00—Education Hr 10:00—Holy Communion 11:30—Coffee Hr 12:00 - 2:30—Youth & Adults, Cookie & Canvas 5:00—Holy Communion	27	28 9:00 - 2:00—Fairview Homemakers 4:30—Ronald McDonald House Visit	29 6:30—Choir Rehearsal	30		
Pr. Kerri will be on vacation through May 3rd. Pr. Joe Kiser will officiate on May 3rd.						

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

We need coffee hour hosts for all April Sundays after Easter and all May Sundays. Celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, Spring, or time spent with your fellow Lutherans! Sign up for one of the available Sundays in the narthex. Bring your culinary creations or favorite grocery store finds to share with your fellow Lutherans after the morning worship service.

Need Grass Mowing Volunteers!

The snow is barely gone, but yes, we now need grass mowing volunteers! The grass-cutting schedule has been posted on the bulletin board in the narthex for 2015. We need many people to help with this! If you have not operated the tractor before, please see Rod Firquin, 231-2901, so that he can go through a few of the tips and "quirks" of the tractor with you.

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
5903 Bardstown Road
Fern Creek, Kentucky 40291

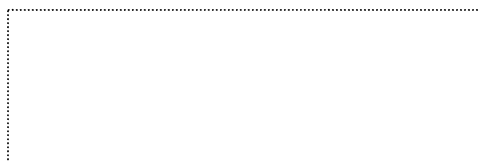


Worship Services:
Education Hr (during school yr) 9:00 AM
Sunday 10:00 AM
Sunday 5:00 PM

Due date for next month's newsletter articles is always the 17th of the month before. Send to:
secretary.ststephen@gmail.com

April 2015

St. Stephen Scroll



May 2015 Servants of the Church

Sunday - 10 a.m.	5/03/15	5/10/15	5/17/15	5/24/15	5/31/15
Lector	Connie Miller	Cheryl Markley	Pat Markley	Steven Sarson	Ellen Ullom
Ushers	Marilyn Mills Barry Mills	Jim Clark Carolyn Graham	Ethan Constantino Glenn Eisenbrey	Andy Morris Ellen Ullom	Bill & Vivian Wise
Acolyte	Bailey Goebel	Ethan Constantino	Jacob Curtis	Emily Goebel	Emma Morris
Communion Table	Paul Kiser Kayleigh Kiser	Charlie Boston Phyllis Boston	Madeline Allen Buddy Zimmerman	Peggy Zimmerman Nicole Legg	Marcia Peterson Sarah Giles
Commun. Deacon	Tammy Utley	Steven Sarson	Kenna Markley	Cheryl Markley	Rod Firquin
Nursery	Elizabeth Seifert	Jessica Allen	Julie Zimmerman	Wendi Morris	Morgan McCauley
Cantor	Fred McBride	Bill Wise	Paul Kiser	Karen Eisenbrey	Fred McBride
Worship Coord.	Pat Markley	Rita Sarson	Rod Firquin	Brenda Firquin	Paul Kiser
Greeter(s)	Jan Wilkins	Johna Wilson	Darlene Clark	Bill & Vivian Wise	Frank Constantino
Coffee Hr Host(s)	Needed	Needed	Sunday School Appreciation Breakfast	Needed	Needed

For this season:	before 05/10	before 05/17	before 05/24	before 05/31	before 06/07
Grass Mowing	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed	Needed