



**AVENUE**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# *The Midweek*

*Wednesday, May 26, 2021*

## **100 Days of Summer**

Memorial Day Weekend is suddenly upon us. It seems like Easter was just a few days ago. We know that this weekend is the unofficial start to the summer season (and the beach traffic season). When I was in Middle School and High School, school ended before Memorial Day. The summer seemed to last forever.

Over the last several years, Andrea has had our kids make some goals for what we wanted to do during the summer. Our kids fill their summer plans with beach trips, visits to different ice cream shops, and a trip to an amusement park. These goals help to guide our summer and create anticipation for the new rhythm of the warmer months.

As we enter the summer season and slowly come out of the pandemic, maybe we need to set some goals for some intentional spiritual growth during the summer months. It could be a goal to come back to worship. Perhaps it would be to commit to a daily Bible reading plan. Another possibility would be to read a classic book on the Christian faith. There are plenty of ways to grow spiritually this summer!

Having a goal for the summer sets up a rhythm of expectation for spiritual growth. It puts us in a space where the Holy Spirit works in our lives to transform us. Rather than tending to our garden or beach time alone, take time to cultivate your relationship with God!

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Steve*

## PENTECOST AND RED PARAMENTS

Pentecost for Christians culminates the celebration and work of the church begun on Easter Day. In early Christianity, Easter Day was the primary day for baptisms. The newly baptized were then trained in basic Christian doctrine, including the meaning of the sacraments they had now experienced, as they prepared to take up their ministries in the life of the church. On Pentecost, Christians celebrate the commissioning of new members into ministry (confirmation).

On Pentecost Sunday, we remember the day the disciples received the Holy Spirit. The story in Acts 2 describes a mighty wind and tongues of fire as the Holy Spirit was poured out on people from all over the world who came to Jerusalem to celebrate a Jewish feast. At the first Pentecost, over 3000 people were baptized, creating the first church. This is why Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Christian church.

The word Pentecost comes from a Greek word meaning fiftieth. The Jewish Festival of Pentecost (called Shavuot, meaning "weeks" in Hebrew) falls on the fiftieth day after the original Passover. On that day, God gave the Torah to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Christian festival of Pentecost falls on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after the resurrection of Jesus.

Two colors are historically associated with Pentecost. Red is a visual reminder of the "tongues of fire" that empowered the apostles and others to proclaim the good news of Christ's resurrection in many languages to the crowds of pilgrims from many lands (Acts 2:3). White is also used because Pentecost was the primary day for baptisms in the early church. Those being baptized were given new white robes to wear as a sign they had taken off the world, died to sin, and were raised with the risen Christ to new life.

Red, a color of fire, symbolizes the Holy Spirit. It is used on the Day of Pentecost and at other times when the work of the Holy Spirit is emphasized. Red is also the color of blood—the blood of Christ and the blood of martyrs. Because of its intensity, red is most effective when occasionally used rather than continuously for a whole season. It may be used during Holy Week, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday, symbolizing the blood of Christ.

Our paraments (altar, pulpit, and lectern coverings) here at Avenue are adorned with symbols. Those symbols have specific meanings, both historically and theologically. The center of the altar cloth is the dove, representing the Holy Spirit entwined with the trefoil, a symbol of the Holy Trinity. The patonce crosses on each side of the center symbols have expanded ends with three petals on each arm. The three petals represent the Trinity, and the total of twelve petals represent the 12 Apostles.

The center symbol on the pulpit cloth, I H S, is the first three letters of the Greek spelling of the Holy Name of Jesus. The symbol on the lectern cloth is the descending dove and the Holy Trinity. The symbols on both bookmarks are patonce crosses.

After Pentecost, we move into the time of the church year to support new disciples and the whole congregation in living out the gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WORSHIP ON SUNDAY:** Worship is held each Sunday in-person or online at 9:00 a.m. (Traditional) and 10:30 a.m. (Contemporary). We are streaming the morning worship services on our Facebook ([facebook.com/avenueumc](https://facebook.com/avenueumc)) and Youtube ([youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch](https://youtube.com/c/avenueunitedmethodistchurch)) pages.

**GIVING AT AVENUE** is possible through multiple ways.

- You can give your offering in-person
- You can snail mail your gift to: 20 N. Church St. Milford, DE 19963
- You can give online through the red “give” button on our homepage
- You can text “avenueumc” to 77977 and follow the prompts
- You can download and use our “Avenue Church DE” App on your smart phone

**PASTORAL CARE:** If you or someone you know is in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at 422-8111 or contact a staff person directly. You can also email [prayer@avenueumc.com](mailto:prayer@avenueumc.com) to have your name added to the prayer chain. We are doing limited face-to-face visits during this time, but would be happy to make contact any way that we can.

**SUMMER KICS:** Summer KICS will take place during the 10:30 a.m. worship service for kids ages 4 through 4<sup>th</sup> grade (Kids 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up can remain in the sanctuary and worship as a family). KICS Kids will be released to Wesley Room prior to the sermon for a Bible Lesson and activities. They can be picked up in the Wesley Room after worship.

Kids will be socially distanced and must wear a mask while in KICS. Activities will be appropriate for the time and there will be at least two adults helping with KICS. If you have questions about SUMMER KICS, please email our Sunday School Superintendent, Patty Shockley at [pws210@comcast.net](mailto:pws210@comcast.net). **Next class is on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO SERVE ON SUNDAYS?** As we continue to move towards a more open worship experience on Sunday morning, there will be additional opportunities to serve. We are seeking people who have passions and interest in serving in several areas to help continue to make Sunday Worship the best experience possible. Below are a few places we are creating or reshaping. If you are interested in serving in an area, please email Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

- **Greeters:** Are the first line of contact for guest. Must be upbeat, helpful, and willing to make a great first impression.
- **Ushers:** Work inside the sanctuary to help guest find a seat, dismiss worshippers after service, help with a head count, and make worship a great experience by serving others. When appropriate, ushers will also assist with offering.
- **Nursery Team:** We are looking for adults of all ages to be on a list of back-ups to help our nursery staff when there is a vacation or illness. This ensures that our nursery stays open to serve families at both services.
- **Connection Center/Guest Services:** This is a new ministry area that will help connect new attenders to the life of the church. In this ministry, you will receive connect

cards, answer questions about worship and the church, and help people get connected to ministries and opportunities for Spiritual Growth. To serve in this ministry, hospitality and a desire to connect is a must!

**MILFORD COMMUNITY PANTRY:** There is an easy way to help **Milford Community Pantry** if you are an Amazon shopper. Instead of ordering through Amazon.com go to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com). The first time you will need to designate the charity you wish to support; after that your charity is established and Amazon knows who you support. In the search enter Milford Community Pantry, Milford, Delaware. It is easy and there is a full explanation on their page of how they support communities throughout the world. Just by shopping as you ordinarily do a portion of each dollar you spend goes to The Pantry. Amazon send us a check for our portion. If you have any questions please call Tita Lewis at (302) 664-1321.

**OFFICE OPEN-DOORS CLOSING:** With the increase in cases of COVID-19 in our area and in an effort to limit traffic in the church, we will be keeping the main entrance doors locked during the week even while the office remains open for the short-term. There is an intercom available at the main entrance should you need to get inside the church. We encourage everyone to utilize email and phone calls, when possible, to limit the need to come to church. We thank everyone for helping to keep our staff and volunteers safe during this time. **Church Office Hours are Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.**

**2021 GRADUATES:** If you have a family member that is graduating (high school/college), please send an email to Kelly at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com) with the information and a picture. We will be listing the 2021 graduates in June.

\*\* On **June 6<sup>th</sup>** at the **10:30 a.m.** service we will be recognizing all our Class of 2021 graduating seniors.

**MILFORD LIONS CLUB:** Milford Lions Club is collecting used eyeglasses. There is a donation box in the coat closet.

**IMPORTANT YARD SALE ANNOUNCEMENT:** YES!! Avenue Church will be having its annual yard sale this year. Mark your calendars for **August 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup>**. This year's sale will be somewhat abbreviated compared to previous years. More details will follow in June.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL JUNE 21-24:** VBS is just around the corner! We are making changes for VBS, making it an event for the entire family. This year, we are planning for one (or more) parent/guardian to be with their kids as we interact with the lesson, the music, and the fun!

**SERVING OPPORTUNITIES AT VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** VBS will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m. We have areas we are looking for people to serve in. Areas needed are:

- Decoration Assistant (Help build set/create decorations)
- Opening Skit (1 Person)
- Adult to run games
- Registration (2 Adults from 6:00-7:00 p.m.)
- Two Adults to Count Money Nightly

If you would like to assist with Vacation Bible School in June, please email Andrea LaMotte at [lamotte.andrea@gmail.com](mailto:lamotte.andrea@gmail.com).

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL REGISTRATION:** All aboard the Rocky Railways! The VBS train will be leaving the station on June 21-24 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Avenue Church. This year, VBS will be a family-style VBS. "Family-style" means that kids need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. Each night will feature uplifting songs, a relevant Bible lesson, and opportunities for families to learn from each other. You can sign up by clicking on (or copy and paste into your browser) the link below.

<https://bit.ly/34h1uxz>

**DECORATING FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** We are excited to be starting set-building for Vacation Bible School. Anyone interested in helping with assisting in building this railway-themed set can come to Fellowship Hall on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. You can come for one day, each day, one hour or multiple hours. All help is encouraged! Contact Donna Yates at [donna.yates1004@gmail.com](mailto:donna.yates1004@gmail.com) with any questions or to let her know you are coming.

**OUTDOOR SERVICES BEGIN JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup>:** After the success of last year's outdoor worship services on Sunday evenings, we will be bringing the services back in June. On June 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., we will begin outdoor services on the lawn. We will celebrate communion together at that service. We ask that you bring your own chair, blanket, and bug spray to the gathering. Children are welcome to worship and to play during the service.

On Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m., we will be having *Worship in the Park* as we gather at **Bicentennial Park** in Milford for worship. We believe that it will create a great opportunity to worship in a different location and invite friends to join us that night! We are looking forward to seeing you this summer!

**AVENUE UNDER THE BIG TOP:** Thanks to a generous donation from a congregation member, Avenue has purchased a large tent that will be here at the end of June. Beginning in July, the tent will house our evening worship services. It will also open up opportunities for some creative fellowship, worship, and outreach events. As we prepare for the tent's arrival and set-up, we would like to encourage you to think creatively about how we can leverage the tent for ministry and mission. If you'd like to discuss ideas, please contact Pastor Steve at [srlamotte@avenueumc.com](mailto:srlamotte@avenueumc.com).

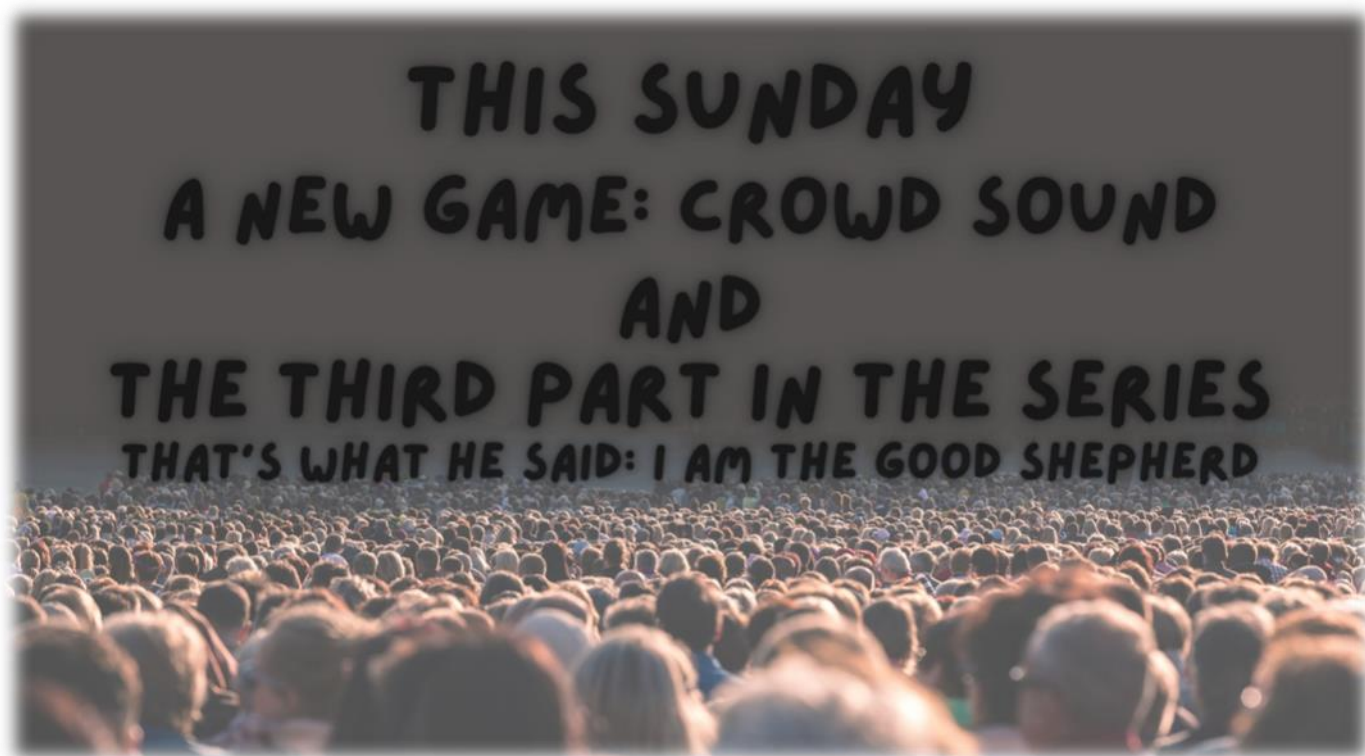
**CONNECTION CLASS JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup>:** Avenue will be hosting a Connection Class on **Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. This class is for new attendees who would like to meet the staff, hear the story of Avenue Church, and ask questions about Avenue. It will be a great way to connect with some other new attendees at Avenue. Donuts, coffee, and juice will be provided. Please RSVP to Kelly in the church office at [churchoffice@avenueumc.com](mailto:churchoffice@avenueumc.com)

**WITNESS TO FAITH:** Janice is taking the summer off (June—August) for the Witness to Faith articles. She will start this back up in September. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far.

## DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADULTS:** The Sunshine Bible Class for adults led by Rev. John Van Tine, retired is meeting in the Fellowship Hall at 10:15 a.m. Our study for May is “God Revealed.” The lesson for May 30<sup>th</sup> “God is Love” based on 1 John 4: 7-21. Feel free to join us in the Fellowship Hall for these exciting lessons.

**SISTERS BIBLE STUDY IS BACK—** We’ will continue our study “Chasing Vines” with Beth Moore. Our next class will be on **June 1<sup>st</sup>** at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Any questions, please call Ginny Van Tine at (302) 422-4282.





## *Witness to Our Faith*

Each week in the Avenue Midweek, members and friends of Avenue UMC will be sharing their own personal witness of faith. This column will be coordinated by Janice Abbott who will be seeking volunteers and writers who are willing to share their stories. Each article is due one week in advance and should be sent to Kelly at the Church office so there will be time to add it to the newsletter. It will appear the following week. It will be inspirational to read each week how God has blessed each person/family today and through the years. If you would like to contact Janice to volunteer, please call her at (302) 943-7278.

*From: Sue Hatfield (from June 17, 2020 Midweek)*

Several years ago I was given a rose bush by the name of “Mr. Lincoln” which bloomed and thrived many summers producing the most beautiful red roses with an aroma that could not go un-noticed. However, as the years passed it was crowded out by other plants, shrubs too much shade and not enough sun and also I had neglected to care for it as I should. Last October I found this once beautiful rose had turned brown and withered away without much hope except for a tiny green spot on the lower part of a stem.

Knowing the past history of what it had once been I was moved to make an effort to revive it. So with a big pot and a bag of potting soil, I replanted, moved the pot inside to a south window with plenty of sunlight and began my daily watch for signs of growth. During the first several weeks there were no signs of anything at all. I had some quizzical looks from family members and once overheard “did you know that grandma has a brown twig in a big pot of dirt?” “What is it?”

Finally after a few more weeks I noticed a tiny leaf had emerged from the tiny green spot on the stem. This just made my day and as the old saying goes “it warmed the cockles of my heart”. I think this is an **Irish quote and I am not exactly sure of its true meaning** but for me it is an expression of joy and thankfulness. Also, this daily vigil was helpful in the first days of dealing with the stay home policy due to the virus. It kept me focused on the gifts of nature, and Matthew 6:26-29 from KJV version of the scripture.

As the days passed more leaves grew until the entire pot was full of new stems and growth. A tiny bud seem to appear overnight and grew a little every day. I watched it carefully as I did not want to miss anything. This bush was really growing so much that I had to prop it up without injury to the forming bud.

All activity was taking place during Lent and Holy Week. My spirits were low due to the absence of church services and the celebration of Easter.

Well I am happy to report the rose bud opened up to a full bloom on Easter morning! The aroma filled the room. It was a tear-inducing moment and a gift from God. Never give up hope! Never give up believing!

I was reminded of a quote by Mother Teresa, “Never let anything fill you with sorrow or worry as to make you forget the joy of Christ Risen.” (from the book God’s Treasury of Virtues, a collection of quotes, hymns and poems)

I am also glad to report that this rose bush is not five feet tall and outgrowing its sunny spot by the window. As soon as the days turn warmer it will be moved outside to grow and hopefully cherished for many more years. I will not forget the pleasure of seeing this rose on Easter morning of year 2020. This beautiful creation that grew from a tiny green spot from a brown stem touched me and lifted my spirits. It is a memory I will forever treasure.

These past months of coping with the limitations imposed by Covid-19 has slowed me down and at times been stressful. Somewhere in the archives of my past I remember the late Rev. Frank Lucia, in one of his sermons, saying the endurance of worries, concerns, troubles etc. create stepping stones to take the next step toward the top of the mountain. Life is a journey and every step to be savored. As I remember this I add a P.S. as a reminder to myself—to reach out, take God’s hand and hold on tight!

My faith is a daily part of life. I can not measure it with words. But this much I know throughout the years, through grief, troubles, and heartaches, as well as joys and happiness, I have felt God’s presence. I am humbled by His goodness. My blessings are many and my heart is grateful.

Blessings and Best wishes to all,

*Sue M. Hatfield*



# Managing Behavioral Problems with people with Alzheimer's and Dementia

People with Alzheimer's and Dementia tend to have some behavioral problems due to the disease process and progress.



## Sleepiness

- Use artificial lighting to cue daytime and nighttime.
- Avoid caffeine after lunchtime meal
- Limit napping time by providing stimulating activities
- Use gentle methods to wake.

## Sun downing (increased confusion and disorientation at dusk and nighttime)

- Use bright lights and close curtains to "hide" the darkness

## Anger and Frustration

- Give one instruction at a time, slowly.
- Avoid "scolding."
- Provide a safe area for the person to be alone and work through frustration
- Do not take in personally.

## Guidelines for caregivers

- Smile and use a relaxed manner- the person takes cues from your body language.
- Move slowly
- If you are met with resistance- retreat and re-attempt later
- Talk about pleasant topics
- Provide fidgeting hands with an activity
- Do not argue
- Always provide care from the side of the person. Standing in front is consider confrontational and puts you at risk of being hurt
- Monitor eating and drinking habits- dehydration can cause confusion
- Monitor toileting habits- constipation and urine infections can cause confusion and irritation.
- Deal with your feelings
- Make activities "failure free" and simple but meaningful.



Resource <https://www.memorycare.com/memory-care-in-delaware/>

Hotline for Alzheimer's 1-800-272-3900 [www.alz.org/desjsepa](http://www.alz.org/desjsepa)

**“The King will answer and say to them, ‘Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me.’”**

**Matthew 25:40**



**Health Ministry**



**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Norman Remick** who will be celebrating his **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- **Walt Peters** who will be celebrating his **90<sup>th</sup>** birthday on **June 6<sup>th</sup>**.

**ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS TO:**

- **Jeff and Bonnie Carmine** who will celebrate their **56<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **May 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Dave and Linda Sockrider** who will celebrate their **52<sup>nd</sup>** anniversary on **June 1<sup>st</sup>**.
- **Ted and Edna Newhouse** who will celebrate their **60<sup>th</sup>** anniversary on **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.
- **Larry and Elaine Price** who will celebrate their **51<sup>st</sup>** anniversary on **June 7<sup>th</sup>**.

**PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- Those affected by the COVID-19, Medical Staff, and distributing the vaccine.
- Our local, national, and world leaders
- Our District Superintendent (Rev. Dr. Kyung-Hee Sa), Bishop Peggy Johnson, and The United Methodist Church
- The Pastors, Staff, and Leadership of Avenue United Methodist Church

**PRAYER REQUEST:**

|                         |                        |                      |
|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Ann                     | Karl Isele             | Laurel Pastor        |
| George Babel            | Ron Ivory              | Jan Perkins          |
| Brittany and Baby Naomi | Alvin Jarrell          | Millie Remick        |
| Bobby Bergez            | Dean Johnson           | Roy Rigby            |
| Bob Cage                | Justin                 | Dick Roberts         |
| Charlene Johnson Cannon | Linda Kemp             | Lorna Rosella Rulona |
| Jennifer Clarke         | Kay Kness              | Phil Saint           |
| Gloria Clendaniel       | Doris Koon             | Richard Sapp         |
| Jack & Denny Collins    | Rhoda & Greg Kurz      | Alice Sellers        |
| Luisa & Billy Combs     | Jean Layton            | Roland Simms         |
| Violet Condif           | Jean Layton's Grandson | Racheal Simesak      |
| Lauren Connell          | Lauren Lee             | Gary Simpson         |
| Linda Cottrill          | Nancy Lee              | Linda Singleton      |
| Craig                   | Lee Family             | Samuel Smith         |
| Julie Dally             | William Lescallet      | Julianna Starling    |
| Joanna Denney-Turner    | Brittany Poore Little  | Kathy Sullivan       |
| William Ernst           | Jack & Zelda McDuff    | Joan Tolbert         |
| Carolyn Evans           | Ricki McGuire          | Debbie Topolski      |
| Charlie & Barbara       | Tiffany Medlin         | Gene Topolski        |
| Fleetwood               | Frank Mentusky         | Joan Wadman          |
| Jayne Frank             | Orville Mills          | Mary Lou Walters     |
| Steve & Judy Franklin   | Kathryn Avery Mitchell | TJ Webb              |
| Gail & Jeffrey          | Tiffany Mitchell       | Betty Ziesel         |
| Bonnie Glenn            | Stan Moody             |                      |
| Matt Hall               | Jean Murphy            |                      |
| Dave Harris             | Jason Neall            |                      |
| Beverly Harrison        | Ariel Ownes            |                      |
| Steve Hofer             | Alan Parker            |                      |