



**First Presbyterian Church  
of Metuchen**

Where God's Love Welcomes All



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF METUCHEN**

**June 28, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Our vision is to love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength,  
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

**Livestreamed on our website and Facebook/FPC Metuchen**

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**270 Woodbridge Avenue, Metuchen, NJ 08840**

**[www.fpcweb.org](http://www.fpcweb.org)**

**(732) 491-2300**

# GATHERING

## ENTRANCE OF CHRIST'S LIGHT

*Candles are lit to represent the presence of Christ, offering a moment to center ourselves to worship.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME & TIDINGS

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

## \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Kevin Trolaro

Leader: This the day the Lord has made;

All: **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Leader: This is the day,

All: **This is the day,**

Leader: The Lord has made.

All: **We are here to rejoice and be glad.**

## \*HYMN 806 I'll Praise My Maker

OLD 113<sup>th</sup>

## \*OUR PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

God of mercy, hear our prayer.

for all the calls for peace, all the calls

for justice and mercy to be poured out,

for all the demands of equality,

fall the prayers of equity and inclusion,

Forgive us.

Forgive us for speaking instead of making,

for demanding instead of giving,

for prayers without feet and hands.

God of mercy hear our prayer. Amen.

## \*KYRIE

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have\_ mer - - - cy up - on us.

Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have\_ merc - - - cy up - on us.

Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy up - on us.

*Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by Peter DuBois*

## \*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

Leader: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

**\*GLORIA**

Glo - ry be to God, Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost. As it was in the be  
gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be. World with-out end. A - men! A - men!

*Written for Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY by James Kealey*

**BLESSING OF VBC VOLUNTEERS**

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

*Nursery care is available in Room 107.*

**LISTENING**

**FIRST SCRIPTURE READING** Ecclesiastes 1:12-18 (Old Testament page 614)

Kevin Trolaro

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND SCRIPTURE READING** Luke 18:18-30 (New Testament page 81)

This is the Word of the Lord . . . **Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

Eternal Life Makes You Better

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

**RESPONDING**

**SETTLING OF THE WORD**

**\*HYMN 720** Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

**\*CONFESSION OF FAITH** (from the *Brief Statement of Faith*)

Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

**In life and in death we belong to God.**

**Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,  
whom alone we worship and serve.**

**We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.**

**Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:**

**preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,  
teaching by word and deed, and blessing the children,  
healing the sick and binding up the brokenhearted,  
eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,  
and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.**

**CALL TO OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

**\*DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God all creatures here below.**

**Praise God above, ye heavenly host;**

**Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Kevin Trolaro

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**The Peace of Christ be with you . . . And also with you.**

**\*RESPONSE HYMN 399 God Welcomes All (sing twice)**

THEMBA AMEN

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER – Unison**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name.**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**And forgive us our debts,**

**as we forgive our debtors;**

**And let us not fall into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*HYMN 346 For the Healing of the Nations**

ST. THOMAS

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE HYMN 765 May the God of Hope Go with Us**

ARGENTINA

**POSTLUDE**

**\*Please rise in body or spirit.**

*Our greeter this morning is Jan Margolis, and the ushers are Jane Brown,  
Wendy Kukowski, and Sandra Lалуw.*

*The flowers in the Sanctuary are from Linda Amato and Bob Krebs, in loving memory of their father, Al Krebs,  
and Linda's husband, Tony Amato, and  
from Wendy Kukowski in loving memory of Arnold Csipo.*

*The flowers in the Narthex are from Allison Brennan in celebration of Pride Month, and  
from Heather Koball and Peter Duhme with deep gratitude for the generations of LGBTQ+ individuals.  
whose extraordinary courage make it possible to live openly today.*

*The flowers in the Niche are given by the Presbyterian Women to Vicky Lacson  
with much love and gratitude for all she does for us! Happy Birthday!*

## FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

### Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

What is crooked cannot be made straight, and what is lacking cannot be counted.

I said to myself, "I have acquired great wisdom, surpassing all who were over Jerusalem before me, and my mind has had great experience of wisdom and knowledge." And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly. I perceived that this also is but a chasing after wind.

For in much wisdom is much vexation, and those who increase knowledge increase sorrow.

**SCRIPTURE READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

## SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

### Luke 18:18-30

A certain ruler asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not commit adultery. You shall not murder. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. Honor your father and mother.' "

He replied, "I have kept all these since my youth." When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But when he heard this, he became sad, for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

Those who heard it said, "Then who can be saved?" He replied, "What is impossible for mortals is possible for God."

Then Peter said, "Look, we have left our homes and followed you." And he said to them, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or wife or brothers or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God who will not get back very much more in this age and in the age to come eternal life."

**SCRIPTURE READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**PEOPLE:** Thanks be to God.

## 806

## I'll Praise My Maker

(Psalm 146)

1 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice  
 2 How hap - py they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God,  
 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports  
 4 I'll praise my Mak - er while I've breath; and when my voice

is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.  
 who made the sky and earth and seas with all their train;  
 the faint - ing mind and sends the la - boring con - science peace.  
 is lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers.

My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought  
 whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed  
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - owed and  
 My days of praise shall ne'er be past while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.  
 and feeds the poor, and none shall find God's prom - ise vain.  
 the par - ent - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.  
 and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.

This paraphrase of Psalm 146 was a great favorite of John Wesley: it appeared in his first hymn collection in 1737 (published in Charleston, South Carolina) and was on his lips when he died. The 16th-century tune to which it is set here is the one Watts had in mind for it.

## Jesus Calls Us

720

1 Je - sus calls us: o'er the tu - mult of our  
 2 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the  
 3 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of  
 4 Je - sus calls us: by thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,

life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his sweet voice  
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would  
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and  
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to thy o -

sound - eth say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."  
 keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."  
 plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."  
 be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

Like many hymns that adults have come to cherish, this text based on Jesus' calling of the disciple Andrew was written for a 19th-century collection of hymns for children. The popular tune used here was composed for these words more than a quarter of a century later.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;

God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

May the God of Hope Go with Us 765  
 Song of Hope / *Canto de esperanza*

May the God of hope go with us ev - ery day, fill - ing all our  
*¡Dios de la es - pe - ran - za, da - nos go - zo y paz! Al mun - do en*

lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of jus - tice speed us  
*cri - sis, ha - bla tu ver - dad. Dios de la jus - ti - cia, mán - da -*

on our way, bring - ing light and hope to ev - ery land and race.  
*nos tu luz, luz y es - pe - ran - za en la os - cu - ri - dad.*

Pray - ing, let us work for peace; sing - ing, share our joy with all;  
*O - re - mos por la paz, can - te - mos de tu a - mor.*

work - ing for a world that's new, faith - ful when we hear Christ's call.  
*Lu - che - mos por la paz, fie - les a ti, Se - ñor.*

## 346 For the Healing of the Nations

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with  
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great 'name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,  
 earth be banned: pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness,

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of  
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through  
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon  
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.  
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

The first line of this text quotes the declared purpose of the leaves of the tree of life growing beside the river of life in the heavenly Jerusalem (Revelation 22:2). The hymn continues by identifying some of the many ways we are called to share with God in this healing work.

## OUR WEEKLY PRAYER LIST

To be added in the weekly Prayer List, individuals must give permission for their names to be included. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE – 732-491-2300 to add a person to the prayer list. Persons requested to be on the prayer list will remain for one month, unless requested to keep for a longer period.

Jackson Alcantara (*grandson of Lori Nielsen*)  
\*Lynne Angley  
John Bertelsen and family (*Brother of Amy Bertelsen-Robles*)  
\*Fred Bergholz  
Linda Burr (*June Young's sister*)  
Pat Byrne (*Sue Harmon's brother-in-law*)  
Dorothy Canary (*aunt of Sue Harmon*)  
Luis Canton (*Laurie Toth's father*)  
Diane Cassidy (*Susan Kozo's cousin*)  
**Rosemary Cuffaro**  
Sophie Culton (*friend of the Reed family*)  
\*Mary Kay Dangremond  
Darla Dimatteo  
George Doerbecker (*friend of Kristina Scoglio*)  
Hank Frank, Jr. (*Deb Teall's partner*)  
\*Judy Fuller  
Marc Gale (*Marie Gale's husband*)  
\*Marie Gale  
\*Doris Gulotta  
\*Joey Hale (*Son of Matt and Laura Hale*)  
\*Margaret Hathaway  
\*Noah Haulenbeek  
\*Cameron Hayes-Durina  
Teresa Prete-Kaltenbach (*friend of the Hajjar family*)  
\*Brad Keller

\*Abby Kozo  
\*Susan Kozo  
\*Patricia Lagay  
Jetty Mailangkay (*wife of Rev. Herby Moningka*)  
Dennis Maiuro (*Colleen Walker's brother-in-law*)  
Elliot Miller (*Larrie Servino's brother*)  
Joseph Neupauer (*Marie Hoffsommer's brother*)  
Alvin Newton (*Virginia Shaw's brother*)  
Virginia Newton (*Virginia Shaw's mother*)  
Marian Pflaumer (*Relative of Dan & Maggy Cook*)  
Diane Riddle  
Jeff Rubin (*friend of June Keehler*)  
\*Dave Ryder  
Angela Sampoli (*friend of Dawn Adam*)  
\*Susan Short  
\*Deb Sorensen  
Katie Strittmatter (*friend of Kozo-Mollison family*)  
Art Wegg  
Bud Wilson (*friend of Niall Corbalis*)  
David Wong  
\*Lynn Hendricks Wong

**Names highlighted in boldface were recently added**

\*Members of the church

### PASTORAL CARE:

If you or a family member is in the hospital, please contact Dr. Rev. Fred Garry at (315) 771-3590. **Hospitals no longer contact clergy when a parishioner is admitted.** We are more than ready and glad to visit. Please contact us even if it is to pray for you. You can also call the church office (732) 491-2300 during office hours.

### FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY:

Jeremy B. – US Air Force, Stationed in Arkansas (*Son of Andre Pennix's co-worker*)  
David Garry, Coast Guard Cutter Bear, Philadelphia, PA (*Son of Fred & Kathy Garry*)  
MSgt. David Hansen, USAF (*Son of Elaine Hansen*)  
MC1 Kevin Leitner, U.S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Sue Harmon's cousin*)  
Lt. Cmdr. Krista Marquard, U.S. Public Health Service, Chicago, IL (*Bill & Susan Marquard's daughter-in-law*)  
Lt. Col. Matthew McQueeney, USAF, Pilot and D.O., deployed (*Son/Stepson of Amy & Pete Bellisano*)  
LT John Alexander Petr, U. S. Navy, San Diego, CA (*Pennix Family friend*)  
Mark Robinson, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, deployed (*son of Steve and Moggie Davis's friend*)  
\*CPT Bradley Shaver, U. S. Army – Ft. Carson, CO (*Brother/Son of Greg and Julie Walton Shaver*)  
CPT Julia Harris Switzer, MD USAF (*Granddaughter of Grace Hammesfahr*)  
Petty Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Mason Weingarten, Coast Guard (*Bill & Susan Marquard's grandnephew*)

## THIS WEEK

### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday to Thursday, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

And by appointment for other times

### SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Worship Service - Sanctuary and Virtual . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

After Worship Refreshments – Chapel . . . . . 10:30 a.m.

Indonesian Worship Service – Sanctuary . . . . . Noon

VBC Set-up – Sanctuary and other rooms . . . . . 3:00 p.m.

### MONDAY, JUNE 29

Bug Zone VBC . . . . . 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

DBSA Support Group – Chapel . . . . . 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 30

Bug Zone VBC . . . . . 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

Support Group – Chapel . . . . . 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

Bug Zone VBC . . . . . 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

### THURSDAY, JULY 2

Bug Zone VBC . . . . . 9:00 – 11:45 a.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 3

Bug Zone VBC . . . . . 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Women's AA Support Grp – Chapel . . . . . 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

### FULL CHURCH CALENDAR ONLINE:

Scan the QR code or visit our website

<https://bit.ly/4emWby6>



## COMING SOON

Aug 10 – 14 Music Camp

Aug 22 Blood Drive

### TREASURER'S TWO CENTS

Offerings & Gifts Received June 21

Pledge	\$ 5,055
Non-pledge	\$ 585
Cash	\$ 185
Food Pantry	\$ 300
Other Funds	\$ 50

**TOTAL: \$ 6,175**

**OTHER RECEIPTS \$550**

**(Building Rental)**

### HERE ARE WAYS YOU CAN GIVE:

- Direct** Cash or check in the plate are always welcome!
- Online** From our website [fpcweb.org/give](https://fpcweb.org/give), click on the **Give Online** button. This will redirect you to the Vanco app to set up your donation.

**Thank you for your generous support!**

### CHURCH STAFF:

**Senior Pastor/Head of Staff** Rev. Dr. Fred G. Garry

**Associate Pastor** Rev. Khayla J. Henry

**Pastor Emeritus** Rev. Robert A. Beringer

**Parish Associate** Rev. Dr. Glory J. Thomas

**Indonesian Pastoral Supply** Rev. Leksmana Leonard

**Director of Music Ministries** Jordan Klotz

**Minister of Music Emeritus** Brenda Arnold Day

**Director for Christian Education** Nancy Leardi



**JUNE 29 to July 3, 2026**

**9:00 to 11:45 am**

**For children K to 6th Grade (by Fall 2026)**

***We are excited to welcome our campers tomorrow!***

But before we can do that, we invite you later today at 3:00 p.m. to help us transform our space into a fun Bug Zone. Whether you just have an hour, or can afford a few more hours, please join us here in the Sanctuary to put up our decorations for a welcoming space for our kids.

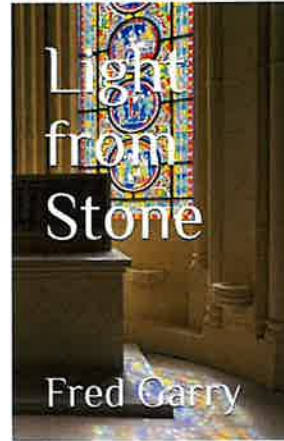
Many hands make a great VBC! Please see Nancy Leardi if you are available.

During the VBC week, stop by to visit the 60 campers and 50 plus volunteers that make our camp a fun spirit-filled time.

## From Rev. Fred Garry are two items of note -

The weekly Bible study, the Pericope of Luke, will not meet this Wednesday, July 1st. It will resume the following Wednesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

Secondly, Rev. Garry's new book "Light from Stone" just released and is now available. Gothic Cathedrals are a unique and beautiful experience. *Light from Stone* is a way of seeing why and how.



Rev. Garry writes that "the light from stone in a Gothic cathedral will restore your soul. Here eternal memory comes to us, refines, and ultimately joins us to the presence of God."

If you are looking for a summer read that will inspire and restore, pick up a copy from the church office.

The book is available for \$15, and you may conveniently pay through the church Venmo – First Pres Metuchen. Scan the QR code, and indicate book purchase. If paying cash or check, please drop off at the church office.



**venmo**



**July 19 to 25**

### FOOD DONATIONS

**Our Youth are heading back to Roanoke, VA, from July 19 to July 25, for our annual Habitat for Humanity Mission Trip.** We are thrilled to have 28 youth and 9 adult chaperones signed up for this trip. Thank you for your prayers and support of our work.

**We could use help and welcome the following donations** in support of our mission trip:

- Boxed cereals, regular or snack-pack size
- Peanut butter, smooth only
- Jelly (grape, raspberry, strawberry)
- Nutella
- Marshmallow Fluff

- Condiments: Mayonnaise, Brown mustard, Salsa
  - Penne Pasta
  - Pasta Sauce, in plastic containers only (Marinara or Alfredo)
  - Iced Tea and Lemonade Mix (canisters)
  - Snacks, individually packed: goldfish, chips, granola bars, cookies, fruit snacks
  - Cases of bottled Gatorade
  - Bleach wipes
  - Paper towels
  - Gallon Ziploc baggies
  - Lidded boxes like office boxes for packing food
- Items we would like to borrow:** (Please label with your name so we know who to return to.)

- Large picnic coolers
- Bluetooth Speakers

**Please label your donations with H4H.** You may drop off your donations at the Church office until July 15. Thank you!



# VOLUNTEER LIST

## 2026 Bug Zone

### June 29 to July 3

Our amazing volunteers allow us to offer Vacation Bible Camp each year to grow the faith of the young.

**WE THANK GOD FOR ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!**

Director of Christian Ed: Nancy Leardi  
 Pastoral Support: Rev. Fred Garry  
 Assembly Director: Julie Shaver  
 Puppeteer: Jack Teti  
 Assembly Assistants: Betty Kiru, Carli James Lewis, Maggie Brennan  
 Photographers: Jack Teti  
 Dance Team: Olivia Valeros, Brynn Gawronski , Julia Hajjar, Carli James Lewis  
 Mission Project: Sarah Teti, Tom Giordano  
 Welcome: Amy Bertelsen Robles, Joziah Roman Padilla  
 Parking captain: James Lewis, Niall Corbalis, Tom Giordano  
 Team: Susan Hammer, Ethan Kozo, Arthur Burr, Paul Burr, Joanne Bedenek

<b>MUSIC</b>	Leader	<b>Jordan Klotz, Elaine Hanson</b>
	Youth	Maggie Brennan, Colleen Walker
<b>CRAFTS</b>	Leader	<b>Maggie Dickow, Nancy Gurzo, Cindy O'Neill</b>
	Youth	Erika Khenans, Olivia Valeros, Phoebe Gathigia, Kaydence Agnew
<b>SNACKS</b>	Leader	<b>Helen Burr Cackowski , Kim Ryder, Alicia Parr Janice Sequeria, Darlene Healy</b>
	Youth	Eli Duhme , Carli James Lewis, Charlie Pellicano, Frankie Caliguiro Arthur Burr, Paul Burr
<b>GAMES</b>	Leader	<b>Russ Dickow, Wally Cook, Beth Russian, Janine Haulenbeek</b>
	Youth	Anna Knehans, Maddie Bersch Alex Perez, Myles Bourne
<b>BIBLE TIME</b>	Leader	<b>Fred Garry, Jennifer Thompson</b>
	Youth	Puppeteers:, Eli Bourne, Phoebe Gathigia, Will Hajjar
<b>Kindergarten / 1<sup>st</sup> Grade</b>	Leader	<b>Victoria Pennix, Bridget Sanger</b>
	Youth	Carli James Lewis
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</b>	Leader	<b>Nicole Trolaro, Kylie Trolaro</b>
	Youth	Brynn Gawronski, Dray Sequeira
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Leader	<b>Allison Brennan, Kathryn Starzer-Farrell</b>
	Youth	Kira Aldinger, Betty Kiru. Julia Hajjar
<b>5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> Grade</b>	Leader	<b>Laura Fischer</b>
	Youth	Daisey Ames , Kevin Fischer
<b>DECORATING LUNCH COORDINATOR</b>		Victoria Pennix, Jonathan Hollenbeck, Bob O'Connell, Robin Kellner  Sam Aldinger