

# UNITED NEWS



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## Ministerial and Member Services Hires Six Couples for Ministerial Training

by Roy Holladay

We'd like to introduce six couples who are in the process of being hired as ministerial trainees for the Church. We have hired a number of elders over the past five years to pastor churches, who have helped to stabilize the local congregations. Their service is greatly appreciated. As we look to the future, we see a great need for younger men to be trained for the ministry.

Read Victor Kubik's *Forward* column on page 3 for a little more about how we're going about training them. You can also read a short biography of each of the couples in the News at a Glance section starting on this page.

We hope to continue this program on a yearly basis. We will learn as we go along and fine-tune our approach. Your prayers for these couples and their spiritual development will be deeply appreciated. Please continue to pray that God will send laborers into the harvest. **UN**



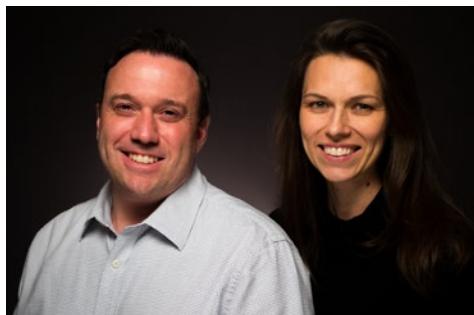
**Aaron & Whitney Creech**  
Cincinnati East, Ohio



**Nathan & Jacqueline Ekama**  
Phoenix, Arizona



**Josh & Rebecca Lamoureux**  
Seabrook, New Hampshire



**Jay & Jennifer Ledbetter**  
Sherman, Texas



**Dan & Kim Preston**  
Cincinnati East, Ohio



**Lewis & Lena VanAusdle**  
Cincinnati East, Ohio

## Ambassador Bible College Class of 2015



by Victor Kubik

Ambassador Bible College class of 2015 graduated on Sunday, May 17. It was a notable event as we celebrated this milestone of concentrated study of the Bible and related subjects. On a personal level, we in the administration and staff of the home office appreciated getting to know the students personally and interacting with them over the past nine months. We will certainly miss them as they head home.

Our teaching this past academic year

focused on doing more than just knowing more about the Bible. We reminded our students that the truth taught by the Bible is more than knowledge. It is a way a life that needs to be applied and passed on.

To emphasize this, the mission statement of ABC has been changed recently to be the following:

"The Mission of Ambassador Bible College, sponsored by the United Church of God, an International Association, is to diligently uphold and faithfully teach the truths of God, as found in the Bible, to

*equip disciples of Jesus Christ for a life of faithfulness and godly service."*

We expect our ABC graduates to serve where and when they can. Please warmly welcome them back into the congregation. Show them due honor and respect for spending nine months of their lives to more deeply study the Word of God. They had many opportunities in which to learn to serve. They were also given opportunities to learn what it takes to lead. They were taught basic speech principles, and some gave good sermonettes. Several of them displayed leadership and service qualities. We hope that you will get to know them better and utilize their strengths within your congregations.

Please look upon these graduates as disciples and potentially future servants in God's work.

We want to fulfill our vision of being a Church led by God's Holy Spirit, joined and knit together by what every member supplies, with all doing their share and growing in love to fulfill God's great purpose for humanity to bring many children to glory. **UN**

## news AT A GLANCE

### A Snapshot of the Six Ministerial Trainees

Aaron and Whitney Creech are members of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation. Mr. Creech was most recently a high school science teacher with Northwest Local Schools in Cincinnati. He has taken classes towards a masters of transformative education degree and holds bachelors degrees in chemistry and education. He is a graduate of the Ambassador Bible College class of 2013. Mrs. Creech works part-time as the Portuguese content editor for the United Church of God, and she is a graduate of the ABC class of 2010.

Nathan and Jacqueline Ekama are members of the Phoenix, Arizona, congregation where Nathan serves as a deacon. They serve together as directors for

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### BY THE NUMBERS

**276%**

Increase in number of people clicking the congregations link on the new UCG.org

# Honoring Retiring Ministry

## Gary and Barbara Antion



New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C. He has served on the Council of Elders, on the Canadian National Council, as Canadian national office coordinator, and as education task force chairman.

When asked about highlights from his years of service, Mr. Antion shared this:

“Both of our miracle daughters were born in Canada. Mr. Armstrong anointed us as we had no children for four years. Barb conceived the very next month and in November 1968, we welcomed Janice Marie into our home. Susan Kay came just 15 months later. Another highlight was seeing God give the growth in the Buffalo and Toronto areas—22 churches sprang from the original two! Another highlight has been teaching and interacting with students for 30 years as instructor and administrator at both campuses of Ambassador College as well as at Ambassador Bible College.

We have loved wherever we have served—from Canada and Buffalo to California to Texas back again to Canada and now in Cincinnati—it is God and His people who make serving enjoyable! We are grateful to have served through the years with our ministerial brothers and sisters.”

**Please see page 11**

Gary Antion retired from the full-time ministry July 1, 2015. He was honored for his 51 years in the ministry and as an employee with a reception at the home office. Mr. Antion began visiting and giving sermonettes his senior year at Ambassador College Brickwood in 1962-63. After graduation, he was married to Barbara Ochs, and they were sent to New York City so he could serve as ministerial trainee for the Northeast region. He was ordained April 25, 1964, and sent to pastor churches in Toronto and Buffalo. In 1978 he was asked to teach at Ambassador College in Pasadena, which led to his eventual appointment as dean of students.

Including his time preaching during his senior year at Ambassador, he has served churches in Missouri, Illinois, Ontario,

## David and Sandy Mills



Roy Holladay shared this: “We attended Ambassador College with Dave. The Mills are one of the nicest couples that you will ever meet—very giving and hospitable. We have appreciated working more closely with the Mills since United started. We count them as dear friends.”

Craig Scott: “David Mills and his wife Sandy served the Church in North Carolina for several decades. His ministry has provided a bedrock of stability for all those in his congregations. He has always set a wonderful example of faithfulness and loyalty to the church. Mr. Mills has displayed a personal example of humility towards others and obedience towards our Father that members can look up to. His teaching has always stayed focused on the core teachings and beliefs of the Church of God providing a solid witness of the faith for those he ministered to.”

When asked what one of his most memorable work experiences was, Mr. Mills shared the following:

“Of my many memorable work experiences, the most memorable by far was a baptizing tour in the summer of 1961. We met people all over Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, and Virginia, counseling hundreds of people and baptizing many of them. The most memorable was a couple

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David and Sandy Mills retired from the full time ministry on June 30, 2015. They were honored for their more than 53 years of service during combined services on Pentecost, May 24, 2015.

Mr. Mills was a ministerial trainee serving in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington, in 1962. He was ordained on April 1, 1967. Dave and Sandy Mills served congregations in Washington, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Oregon, West Virginia and Virginia. Craig and Laura Scott—who are taking on responsibility in the Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina, congregations—shared the following thoughts about the Mills ministry:

Mr. Mills has also been a member of the personal correspondence team and served on the Prophecy Advisory Committee.

## Fred and Lucretia Kellers



ing back to that period. We have always been impressed by Fred’s faith and trust in God. Both he and Lucretia have been examples of love of the brethren. When United started we worked closely with Fred to build and stabilize the Nashville church. We have cherished our friendship with Fred and Lucretia and count them both as dear friends.”

From Victor Kubik: “Mr. Kellers is greatly admired for his passion for people that he has served internationally and domestically. He is a gifted and colorful speaker who has inspired many, especially at the Feast of Tabernacles.”

When asked what their plans were after retirement, this is what Mr. Kellers shared:

“I intend to continue to assist Mark Mickelson in serving Nigeria, Ghana and Togo. I intend to continue to serve the members in this area by assisting Gary Petty, the new pastor for this area. I would like to assist him as well as the elders, Bill Vernich and John Paul Jones, who have assisted me in serving. They set a very high standard.

I have absolutely no artistic ability, but there are three things that I want to draw:

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Fred and Lucretia Kellers retired from the full-time employment of the Church after 52 years of ministerial service on July 1, 2015. Mr. Kellers began serving as a ministerial assistant in 1963 and was ordained on Oct. 17, 1965. Over the years the Kellers have pastored churches in Kentucky, Georgia, Massachusetts, Arkansas and Tennessee, and served as regional pastor for three years.

Beginning in the 1980s the Kellers visited the brethren in Africa as needed, and in 1999 Mr. Kellers was assigned as the senior pastor for Nigeria and West Africa, a position he served in for 11 years. Some of his most memorable work experiences come from those years in Africa.

Roy Holladay: “Fred Kellers and I were roommates our freshman year at Ambassador College. We have agreed not to tell any stories about each other dat-

## Vernon and DeLee Hargrove



College. They have always been known for their teamwork and dedication. Vernon is a man who is very thoughtful and exhibits a lot of common sense and wisdom. They have been willing to serve wherever needed.”

Leeann Luker: “I have known the Hargroves since college days. From the beginning, Vernon and DeLee have been an example of an enduring, lasting, godly relationship and marriage. They have exemplified a team service for God’s people throughout the years. I feel blessed to have known them.”

In addition to pastoring congregations, Mr. Hargrove has also served as regional pastor for the central United States, written letters for the personal correspondence team, been chairman of the Divorce and Remarriage Committee, and served as the regional Y.O.U. coordinator for 10 years. One of the most memorable experiences was pastoring in Mississippi and Louisiana during the Civil Rights years. Teaching biblical principles to others over the years has been uplifting.

On Oct. 24, 1962, the Hargroves were married in an outdoor evening ceremony in the lower gardens of the

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After working full time for more than 52 years in the employ of the Church, Vernon Hargrove retired on May 24, 2015. Len Martin presented the Hargroves with a commemorative globe before combined Pentecost services that day. The globe has Ephesians 4:11-12 engraved on it.

Mr. Hargrove started out working as an undergraduate assistant in Chicago, Illinois, prior to his ordination on Oct. 13, 1962. Together with his wife DeLee, they have faithfully pastored 18 churches in Arizona, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois over the years. Those who have known them have benefited from their warm, friendly, genuine, dedicated and sincere service. Roy Holladay and Leeann Luker shared these thoughts:

Roy Holladay: “We have known the Hargrove’s from our days at Ambassador



**VICTOR KUBIK**  
President

I'd like to talk about one very important forward step that we are taking in the building of the long-term future ministry of the Church. This is the ministry that will be leading our children and their children. It is a vital step in carrying on the commission of Jesus Christ to make disciples and care for them.

We have hired a number of elders over the past five years to pastor churches. They have helped to stabilize the local congregations, and their service is greatly appreciated.

But as we look to the future, we see a great need for younger men and their spouses to be trained for the ministry. Men who will be able to serve in the Church for 30 years or more.

Many of the pastors who are presently contemplating retirement have served 40, 50 or more years. Several more will be retiring this year, and that process is going to actually accelerate in the next few years.

As part of the process of finding men who can serve in this special calling, we have also given attention to the wife. She will be at his side, will have her own network in the Church, and have a high degree in the responsibility of the relational infrastructure of the congregations.

We have chosen six couples from a pool of 200 names given us upon recommendation from pastors, elders, members and peers. This is the same pattern that we have emulated for decades in training new men for the ministry, and is one of the main reasons why Ambassador College was established in the middle of the 20th century.

The training process will be one that has scriptural precedent and examples. It involves teaching and hands-on mentoring—much in the same way as Moses did Joshua, Elijah did Elisha, Christ did the 12 apostles, and Paul did Timothy.

The six couples will work with experienced pastors in the U.S. field ministry. These couples are men and women of the highest integrity and wisdom and live a life that shows Jesus Christ living His life in them. They are well spoken of by others and have caring hearts.

Late this summer we will hold a residency program here in Cincinnati to drill them in some vital functions and procedures for doing the work of a pastor. A pastor watches over and can heavily influence the lives of the brethren in his congregation. Is he building a solid building in peaceful times with gold, silver and precious stones to withstand the heat of trial? Or will his work be burned up in fiery trial if he builds with wood, hay and stubble (1 Corinthians 3:12-13)?

Our staff of pastors who will work with them in this residency program have served 40 or more years in this role. They will hold teaching sessions, speaking and Bible study simulations and counseling sessions. The program will be geared to accelerated learning, correction and performance.

This is very reminiscent of the training that many of us received when we started in the ministry a long time ago. It helped us learn. We are confident that it will train this first group as well as groups of young trainees to follow.

Please pray for our young new leaders. We are thankful for their sacrifice and pioneering spirit. **UN**

## From The COUNCIL

# Our Only Sure Possession



by Anthony Wasilkoff

The *World Tomorrow* radio program came on each evening at 6:30 on CFQC Saskatoon, and somehow as a teenager I stumbled across the resonant voice of Garner Ted Armstrong. What he had to say and how he said it was compelling. Although his subject matter was biblical and therefore religious, he didn't sound sanctimonious and so didn't push me away as all other religious radio programs had until then. That was about 1962.

After listening for some time, I learned that a *Bible Correspondence Course* was available free for the asking. As a condition for subscribing to the course, all students were required to promise they would study the course for a half hour each day and also write out each of the Scriptures cited in the lesson. I decided I could do that and wrote

to the Vancouver post office box and asking to be enrolled in this intriguing study course.

Before long my very first lesson arrived, and I launched into it with great enthusiasm. Soon I discovered that a half hour each evening was simply not enough time. I found that at the half hour mark I was only getting warmed up and typically continued for at least another 30 minutes. By doing this I would finish the lesson in two weeks instead of one month. No matter, I would study something else while waiting two weeks for the next lesson to arrive. I suspect many other *Correspondence Course* students were doing something very similar back in those days.

I might also add that after each set of four lessons, students were sent a test to take and return before being allowed to proceed with the course. This was a good gauge for the Radio Church of God to determine how serious a student was, and a good tool for each student to know how well they were comprehending the material they were studying.

Presently our *Bible Study Course* is only 12 lessons long. The lessons are well written, beautifully laid out and a pleasure to follow.

Studying the original lessons of the *Correspondence Course* launched my habit of reading—that is, studying the Holy Bible every single day of my life, with very few

exceptions. It is all too easy, even for Christians, to take the Holy Bible and the privilege of reading it for granted, especially in the Western world.

When I graduated from Ambassador College (Pasadena Campus) in 1970, I was sent to Monroe, Louisiana, as a ministerial trainee. My assignment was similar to that of the recent new hires announced in the U.S.A., the only difference being that I was single, which changed within a year's time. I was assigned to learn from the associate pastor who himself reported to the pastor who lived in the city at the far end of the circuit about 2½ hours away.

Shortly after I arrived, the associate pastor prescribed a daily regimen for all the members of the congregation to diligently follow. He announced this at church, and then we followed up personally with in-home visits. The brethren were urged to start and maintain a daily habit of prayer and Bible study, about a half hour of each and every day. As this daily regimen became increasingly ingrained, I was amazed to see the congregation become more loving and dynamic and dedicated. I was equally amazed to see members becoming more and more blessed in their personal lives. This was evidenced in their marriages, families and even material blessings including improved job success. Having observed this up-close showed me in no uncertain terms how God blesses

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# Announcements



**Olivia Juliette Henderson**

Born Oct. 3, 2014



**Katelyn Marie and Sarah May Hoffmann**

Born March 27, 2015



**Caleb David Wells**

Born Aug. 19, 2014



**Bob and Sherry Reynolds**

Married 60 Years

## Births

### Olivia Juliette Henderson

Alex and Rachel Henderson of the Ann Arbor, Michigan, congregation joyfully announce the birth of their daughter, **Olivia Juliette Henderson**. Olivia was born three weeks before term on Oct. 3, 2014. She was in glowing, vibrant health! She weighed 5 lbs., 5 oz., and was 19 1/2 in. long. She is such a blessing to us and has already brought so much joy to so many lives!

### Katelyn Marie and Sarah May Hoffmann

Matt and Katrina Hoffmann of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, congregation would like to announce the birth of their daughters **Katelyn Marie and Sarah May Hoffmann** on March 27. Both were born healthy and good size for twins at 6 lbs., 14 oz., and 7 lbs., 6 oz., respectively. They have been an amazing gift from God for not only us, but for their grandparents Tom and Kathryn Charles of the Lewistown, Pennsylvania, congregation, as well as Gail and Bill Hoffmann in Milwaukee. Numerous other family and friends are overjoyed as well.

### Caleb David Wells

David and Carrie Wells of the Troy, Illinois, congregation are excited to announce the birth of their third son, **Caleb David**. Caleb was born on Aug. 19, 2014, and weighed 6 lbs., 1 oz. Big brothers Ryan and Braden are enjoying their new little brother. Caleb receives a lot of love from his grandparents—Collyer and Linda Wells and Matthew and Diana Zollner—as well as many aunts, uncles, cousins and Church family.

## Anniversaries

### Bob and Sherry Reynolds

The Olympia and Tacoma, Washington, congregations honored Bob and Sherry Reynolds in celebration of their 60th wedding anniversary with a potluck and special dessert reception.

The Reynolds met on a blind double date with their best friends, and as love would have it, they eloped to Cour d'Alene, Idaho, on Jan. 28, 1955.

Bob and Sherry were blessed with five children: Bruce, Debbie Beyer, Mark, Scott and Jim. They have also been blessed with 12 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Pacific Telephone in Seattle hired Bob the week after they were married, which was the beginning of his lifelong work in wired telecom, sound and data. In 1974 Bob and Sherry became self-employed with the ownership of their own telecommunications business. Some of their clients have included KIRO TV, Seattle General Hospital and Microsoft. They have now retired.

The Reynolds' interest in the Church started when Bob had a friend who lost his job over the Sabbath (Jerry Rice). Through much discussion, Bob started to understand that Saturday is the Sabbath. One day Sherry asked Bob, "Shouldn't we be keeping the Sabbath?" They did, and after attending services for two years—including attending numerous baptisms—their pastor, Mr. Friddle, asked Bob when he was going to be baptized. Bob expressed concern about overcoming and not being worthy. Mr. Friddle said he would never be worthy. Soon after they heard that, Bob and Sherry were baptized in September 1961, and they have continued to serve their fellow brethren throughout their years in the Church.

## Obituaries

### Robert Dean Boomgard

Robert Dean Boomgard, a long serving deacon of United Church of God, died on Tuesday, May 12, 2015. He was born on March 7, 1925. He graduated from West Concord High School in 1943, then after being drafted and serving in World War II in Alaska, he was honorably discharged in November 1946. Soon after, Bob accepted employment for the international Harvester and Packard

Automobile dealership in Austin, Minnesota. On Aug. 8, 1948, Bob married Delora Exe in Hayfield, Minnesota. They enjoyed 66 years together and had one son, Gregg, who was born in 1955. The Boomgards had a lovely summer home in Tofte, Minnesota, on the North Shore of Lake Superior, and wintered in Austin. Bob's talents included woodworking, handy-man projects and singing in the Austin male chorus. He was an active community advocate; this led him to take an interest in caring for the Tofte Town Park and the Tofte Historical Society Fisherman Museum.

Bob and Delora began attending the Worldwide Church of God and were both baptized in 1982. Bob was later ordained a deacon and served faithfully with his wife in the United Church of God-Austin/Southern Minnesota congregations for many years. Bob was not only a wonderful servant who tirelessly gave of his time, talent and organizational ability, but also was a very enthusiastic and optimistic person. His reply to anyone who greeted and asked him how he was was always the same: "Fantastic!"

Bob's journey ended at the age of 90. He awaits Christ's return, resting in Old Concord Cemetery in West Concord, Minnesota. He is survived by his wife Delora, his son Gregg, grandson Brandon, and sister-in-law, Maxine Lundene. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Hildur Boomgard.

### Roger Burns

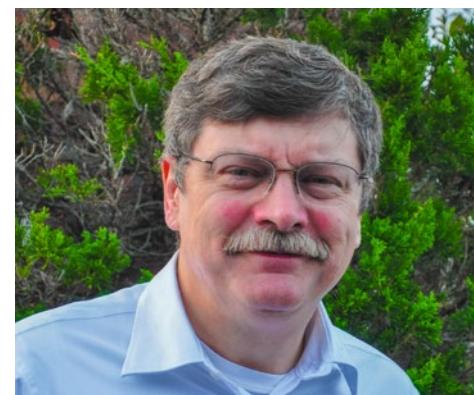
Roger Burns was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, and came from a family of eight children.

Roger began attending Church in 1967 when his dad, Gordon Burns, began learning the truth. He attended his first Feast site with his dad and several of his siblings in the Pocono Mountains. Roger met Leone Dyer his junior year of high school. Later when Leone entered college, she too began attending Sabbath services. The couple married on Aug. 22, 1976, after having completed their college education at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. They had a



**Robert Dean Boomgard**

March 7, 1925-May 12, 2015



**Roger Burns**

Aug. 28, 1954-Jan. 9, 2015

happy marriage that lasted 38 years.

Roger was a mechanical engineer for several engineering firms—Cummins Engine, Briggs and Stratton and Case New Holland. He was ordained a deacon in the United Church of God and served faithfully and tirelessly until the day of his unexpected death. Roger enjoyed photography, woodworking, beer making, bird watching and travelling. Roger had a wonderful sense of humor and had the ability to put all people around him at ease. There was nothing he couldn't fix as he had that "engineering mind" that gave him the ability to find a creative solution to whatever problem. Whatever he put his hand to, he did it well and with great enthusiasm and detail.

Immediate surviving family members are Leone Burns (his wife), and his two children Jack Burns and Debbie Czepizak. Roger has many extended family members who miss him greatly. He was

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# Congratulations Class of 2015!

High School



**Sonia Rose Carlson**



**Ariana Del Signore**



**Kathryn Graby**



**Jacob Greider**

## Graduate's Name

2. Parents' names
3. Congregation
4. School, work, internship, co-op or other accomplishments
5. Interests, interesting facts about him or her, Church activities involved in, hobbies, unusual skills, etc.
6. Plans after graduation
7. Additional comments (favorite Scripture, favorite quote, motto, advice, poetry, wisdom, etc.)

## Sonia Rose Carlson

2. Trenton and Tina Carlson
3. Bellevue, Washington
4. Sonia graduated from Sky Valley Education Center on June 13. She has been dual-enrolled at Everett Community College since her junior year and has accumulated 62 college credits. Sonia received honors in several of her classes at both schools.
5. She attended Northwest Camp for six years, Hye Sierra for two years and staffed at Northwest Preteen once. Sonia serves in her local congregation by doing childcare and is actively involved with teen activities and Bible studies. She loves hiking, camping, travelling and going on adventures.
6. This fall Sonia will be attending Northwest University, where she plans on majoring in secondary education with an endorsement in English.
7. "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for man than to be happy and do good while they live" (Ecclesiastes 3:11-12).

## Ariana Del Signore

2. Vinny and Becky Del Signore
3. North Canton, Ohio
4. Ariana Made honor roll, served as student council member senior year, ran varsity track all four years, ran cross-country freshman, sophomore and senior years. She was involved with musical the-

atre, played ensemble rolls in *Pinocchio* (sophomore year, Palace Theatre Youth), *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (junior year) and Hope Harcourt in *Anything Goes* (senior year). She was in show choir junior and senior year and was a Scholar Challenge Club member junior year. Ariana enjoys reading and writing, acting and singing.

5. She backs up hymns regularly at church, sings in choirs at church, camps, and the Feast. She enjoys the Feasts and Holy Days, staffing at Camp Buckeye and attending Cotubic and other teen camps.

6. Ariana plans to pursue a bachelors degree in public relations, with a minor in theatre at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio.

7. Favorite quote: "Each man should frame life so at some future hour, fact and his dreaming meet" (Victor Hugo). Favorite Scripture: "Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it" (1 Corinthians 9:24).

## Kathryn Graby

2. Charles and Linda Graby
3. Atlanta, Georgia
4. Kathryn graduated from Cambridge High School with a 4.0 GPA.
5. Kathryn's interests include music and sports. She played both violin and cello in school orchestras throughout the years. She was on her high school girls volleyball team and also has participated in track, tennis and cross-country teams throughout her high school years. Kathryn loves spending time with Church friends through activities with her congregation, summer camps, and feasts.
6. Kathryn has been accepted to the Honors College at Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, and will be working on a degree in exercise science.
7. One of Kathryn's favorite scriptures is Matthew 6:25-33: "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on . . . But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

## Jacob Greider

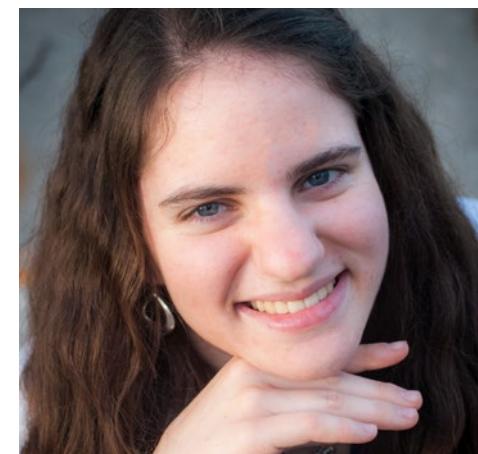
2. Thomas and Kathryn Greider
3. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
4. Jacob graduated from Waukegan High School on June 12. While in high school, Jacob ran cross-country for four years, was captain of his school's Scholastic Bowl team, and was a member of National Honor Society. He was actively involved in his school's engineering and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program.
5. He enjoys outdoor pursuits such as backpacking, kayaking, canoeing, paddle boarding, and attending as many teen camps as he can. He is involved in his local church's teen speech club and serves on the sound crew. His other interests include reading, computers, music, travel and CrossFit.
6. He plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Stout as a freshman in the fall, where he will study industrial design.
7. Favorite quote: "The true delight is in the finding out rather than in the knowing" (Isaac Asimov).

## Deanna Hendrickson

2. Tim and Carla Hendrickson
3. Seattle, Washington
4. Deanna graduated from Inglemoor High School as valedictorian earning a full International Baccalaureate diploma. Deanna works as a tutor, teaching elementary school children in reading, writing, and math.
5. She is a part of various volunteer organizations and sincerely enjoys helping out the community, doing activities such as teaching children in a sewing club and painting a mural for an elementary school. Deanna has competed in a softball league over the past nine years. Her other interests include volleyball, golf, backpacking and consuming large quantities of carrots. Deanna enjoys spending time with her little brother, Nathan, playing basketball and beating him at card games. She also loves randomly breaking into song, especially with her sister, Jessica. At church, she assists in Sabbath school, performs special music, and helps with the children's choir. The best part of her summer is often staff-



**Deanna Hendrickson**



**Jennifer Iiams**

ing at the Northwest Preteen Camp in Oregon. 6. She will be attending Northwestern University near Chicago, Illinois, this fall, where she plans to major in biomedical engineering.

7. Favorite Scripture: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

## Jennifer Iiams

2. Mike and Joyce Iiams
3. Spokane, Washington
4. Dual enrollment allowed Jennifer to receive a high school diploma from Idaho Distance Education Academy, as well as an associates of science degree from North Idaho College. She was a photographer for the yearbook, played flute, piccolo, and piano in the wind ensemble and jazz



**Patricia Iiams**

ensemble. She received the Louis Armstrong Jazz Award in 2013, lettered in jazz band, and was on the honor roll several times.

5. Jennifer is a photographer, and she hopes to somehow make it a part of her life, whether as a fulltime career or as a hobby. She has participated in CDA youth symphony for three years playing flute and piccolo. For six years she has played volleyball and basketball for the church.

6. For now Jennifer plans to follow her interest in aerospace. Whether that will become her career or not is yet to be determined. She would like to get her private pilot's license in the near future. Until she figures out what she would like to further her education in, she plans to job shadow and intern at companies that fit her interests.

7. Motto: "RESPECT" (respect, ethics, service, patience, education, character, trust)—Dave Goethals

**Patricia Iiams**

2. Joyce and Mike Iiams  
3. Spokane, Washington  
4. Patricia graduated as a dual-enrolled student, receiving a high-school diploma from Idaho Distance Education Academy as well as an associate of science degree through North Idaho College. Over the past four years she played cello with a youth orchestra, accompanied church hymns, and been a math tutor at her college. She also volunteered numerous times at Ironman Triathlon, as a summer camp lifeguard and as a volunteer at the local hospital. Last summer she became a CNA and started working at an assisted living facility while she finished college. Throughout the craziness of high school, she still enjoyed adding in hobbies where she could.

5. Patricia is passionate about hunting and the outdoors, as well as sports and music. She is also a twin!

6. This fall she will be attending Northern Kentucky University to pursue a bachelor's degree in Nursing. She hopes to one day work in an emergency room or as a traveling nurse.

7. Motto: Don't think deadlines and due dates stop once you're out of high school because as Napoleon Hill said, "A goal is a dream with a deadline." As you chase your dreams, remember, with God, all things



**Maria Johnson**

are possible (Matthew 19:26).

**Maria Johnson**

2. Leland and Sandy Johnson  
3. Watertown, South Dakota  
4. Maria graduated from De Smet High School. She works at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Homestead near De Smet, South Dakota, where she drives a covered wagon with mules and horses. She also drives a pony cart at the homestead. She received her state FFA degree this year, as well as acted as the FFA chapter chaplain for De Smet. She trained a pony at the homestead to pull a cart.

5. Maria loves to drive mules as well as helping out at camp Ironwood in the summer. She does 4-H with horses and a team of mules that she showed at the South Dakota state fair.

6. She plans to go to Sheridan, Wyoming, to study agricultural science and/or animal science in college.

7. "Let all that you do be done with love. I urge you, brethren—you know the household of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have devoted themselves to the ministry of the saints" (1 Corinthians 16:14-15).

**Elizabeth Joseph**

2. Brian and Angela Joseph  
3. Dayton, Ohio  
4. Elizabeth took post secondary classes her junior and senior years of high school and graduated with her associates degree in sociology in May. Elizabeth is currently working as a nanny.

**Daniel Keirouz**

2. Joe and Sharon Keirouz  
3. San Jose, California  
4. Daniel is proud to be graduating from Irvington High School this year.  
5. Daniel's hobbies include playing violin and running.

6. After graduation, Daniel will be attending the University of California, San Diego, as a Regents Scholar, and is currently planning on majoring in computer science.

7. "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

**Sean Kelly**

2. Stuart and Tammy Kelly



**Elizabeth Joseph**

3. Portland, Oregon

4. Sean was home schooled until the third grade when he started attending a brick and mortar charter school until the eighth grade. For high school, he participated in an online learning environment until old enough to attend early college. Sean graduated from a high school called Estacada Early College but earned dual credits at Portland Community College, so he only has one quarter left to complete his Oregon transfer associates of arts degree.

5. During his youth, Sean participated in many Church activities, including attending at least one UCG summer camp every year since he was 12, volunteering at pre-teen camp, and serving in the young adult a capella choir in Portland, Oregon. In addition, Sean earned his black belt in mixed martial arts.

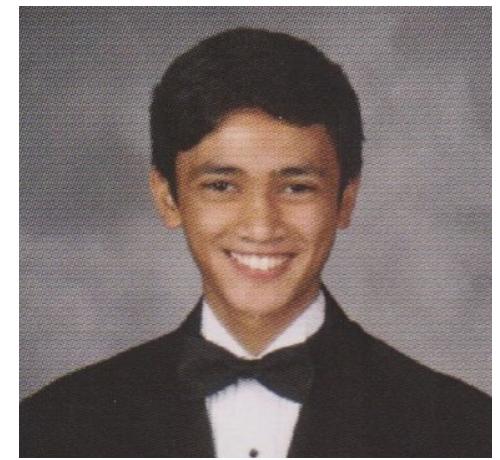
6. Sean's plans for the future include finishing his associates degree in 2015, attending ABC in 2016 and then going on to complete college.

**David Klett**

2. Reinhard and Emilee Klett  
3. North Canton, Ohio  
4. David has been homeschooled from kindergarten to high school. He is graduating with a 4.0 GPA and is a member of the National Society of High School Scholars. His favorite subjects are math, science, English and music.

5. David enjoys reading many genres including the Bible, mystery (Sherlock Holmes) and fantasy (*The Hobbit*, *Chronicles of Narnia*, *Eragon*, etc.). He enjoys playing classical piano (Chopin's Nocturnes, Beethoven's "Pathetique" 2nd and 3rd Movements, Debussy's "Claire de Lune"), playing tennis, video games, and computer programming. He also volunteers at the Local Roots store helping with customer service, cleaning, stocking, etc. At church, he helps with the sound/webcast crew and plays special music. He also gave sermonettes for the teen and young adult Weekend in North Canton. He attended winter camp last December and looks forward to Camp Cotubic and Camp Outreach in June.

6. David plans to study computer engineering at the University of Akron in the honors program. He was blessed to receive a full scholarship. Ultimately David wants



**Daniel Keirouz**



**Sean Kelly**



**David Klett**

a future that will glorify God, honoring and giving Him credit for all that I do."

7. Favorite quote: "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing."—Edmund Burke

Favorite Scripture: "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6-8).

**Daniel Gerald Kovalchick**

2. John and Wendy Kovalchick  
3. Nashville, Tennessee  
4. Daniel graduated from Dickson County High School with honors and distinction. In high school, he was a member of HOSA (Health Occupation Student Association), the National Beta Club and National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS). He was a member of the varsity tennis team (four years), where he served as number-one seed and team captain his junior and senior years. He was also a member of the varsity cross country team (one year). In the city of Dickson's tennis tournament in 2014, he placed first in



**Daniel Gerald Kovalchick**

men's doubles and mixed doubles.

5. Daniel has attended Sabbath services and Holy Days with his family his entire life. He especially looks forward to the Feast each year, and to participating in Winter Family Weekend each December. He's been an avid participant in UYC, attending Camp Tomahawk as a preteen and Camp Woodmen (four years) as a teen. He enjoyed service as a youth counselor for two years at Camp Tomahawk. He volunteers in the local community as a tennis instructor in the annual Match Point tennis program. Daniel enjoys travelling, computer gaming and most sports (especially tennis!).

6. Daniel plans to attend King University in Bristol, Tennessee, this fall, where he plans to major in biology and play tennis with the tennis team.

7. "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

**Truitt Lane**

2. Greg and Becky Pillow  
3. Lubbock, Texas  
4. Truitt has worked at United Market Street since November 2012. He has also successfully started a business with friends building and selling skateboards and skateboard accessories. Their business—Golden Platypus Longboards—is registered as an LLC in the state of Texas.

5. Truitt loves playing music with his family. He can play four instruments. He has recently started participating as a teen staff member at the preteen camp in Colorado in the summer and is excited to be a part of it again this year.

6. Truitt plans to attend South Plains College and earn his surgery technician certification starting the fall semester of 2015. He also plans on expanding his business with his friends.

7. "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

**Lauren Lewis**

2. Michael Jones  
3. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
4. Lauren is graduating from the Creative Arts Morgan Village Academy in Camden, New Jersey. She is one of the top



**Truitt Lane**

10 students in her high school graduating class and was awarded a four-year, \$1,000 per year scholarship.

5. Her interests include writing and poetry reading. She is also a very talented artist and enjoys participating in nearly all sports.

6. Lauren is planning to attend Ambassador Bible College, after which her plans are to attend Rowan University to pursue a degree in neurological sciences.

7. Favorite scripture: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Favorite Quote: "Obedience is better than sacrifice."

Motto: "I am a maverick; I am not one to let inconsequential things like people and worldly influences control me."

**Erin Murphy**

2. Doug and Ann Murphy  
3. Omaha, Nebraska  
4. Erin graduated with honors from Millard North High School in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 24, 2015, and was named a Nebraska Regents Scholar for her academic achievements. During high school, Erin was involved in a wide range of activities and particularly enjoyed those where she could help others. A highlight of her week was her Wednesday night volunteer shift in the ER at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Erin was an active member of the National Honor Society, co-president of the Millard North Key Club chapter (service organization), member of the senior and junior class boards. She was also on the student council, math team, slam poetry team and JV track and field. She made her acting debut as Madame Haughty in the play *The Glass Slipper*.

5. Erin loves the time she has been able to spend at the United Youth Camps and has also served on the teen staff of preteen camp Ironwood. During school, Erin also worked part time for Qdoba Mexican Grill.

6. Erin accepted scholarships to study biomedical engineering at Marquette University in Milwaukee this fall.



**Lauren Lewis**

**Zachary Pflaum**

2. Bob and Connie Pflaum  
3. Munster, Indiana  
4. Zach graduated from Hanover Central High School, where he was an excellent student and a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club. He was also on the track team, throwing shot and discus.

5. Zach helps the sound crew and hall set up. He enjoys church activities including teen lockins, dances, camps, Winter Family Weekend and traveling for the Feast.

6. He will be attending Purdue University Calumet, majoring in computer science.

7. Favorite quote: "Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one can imagine."—Alan Turing

**Steven Rowland**

2. Chris and Katherine Rowland  
3. Cincinnati East, Ohio  
4. Steven made the dean's list for the past two years, was a National Merit Scholarship finalist, and works part-time at the home office of the United Church of God.  
5. He enjoys reading, writing, drawing and game design.

6. Steven plans to attend college at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, in the fall.

7. Favorite quote: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it—always."—Mahatma Gandhi

**James Mark Sappington, Jr.**

2. Mark and Martha Sappington  
3. Houston, Texas  
4. James has been homeschooled for the past five years, attending the Katy campus of Classical Conversations. The graduation ceremony was held May 16, the first graduating class for Classical Conversations in the Houston area. Debate and presentation have been his strengths in high school.

5. James loves sports and physical challenges such as parkour and obstacle courses. He is a licensed lifeguard and plans to use his skills for the benefit of the Church's youth camps. He has been part of the congregation's sound and stage crew for more



**Erin Murphy**



**Zachary Pflaum**



**Steven Rowland**



**James Mark Sappington, Jr.**

than two years and helps with the webcast.

6. He will be attending Lone Star College this fall as the first step toward law school where he plans to make his career as a corporate lawyer.

7. Favorite scripture: "To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

**Jordan R. Smith**

2. Matthew and Karen Smith  
3. North Canton, Ohio



**Jordan R. Smith**

4. Jordan is a graduate from Kingsway Christian School in Orrville, Ohio. She is involved in multiple student activities, such as varsity volleyball and cheerleading. Jordan also played basketball and ran cross country for a year during her first year of high school at Central Christian. She also did gymnastics off and on for nine years, which was her favorite sport and the one she excelled in most.

5. Jordan has attended many UCG camps including Buckeye (as a camper and a staff member), Pincrest, Cotubic and the Northeast challenger program. She was also active in teen speech club for three years in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area. One of her favorite and most enjoyable feasts was Schluchsee, Germany, in 2012.

6. She plans on attending ABC.

**Jade Spilka**

2. Greg and Greta Spilka

3. Nashville, Tennessee

4. She recently graduated from Hendersonville Christian Academy, where she was captain of the varsity cross country team, member of the varsity volleyball team, and captain of the junior varsity volleyball team. She was president of her class for two years and president of the Honor Society for two years. She currently holds the



**Jade Spilka**

record for fastest female 5k in her school. Jade has acted in 12 theater productions at her school, the Tennessee Performing Arts Company, and the Hendersonville Performing Arts Company.

5. Jade loves bulldogs, traveling, and any book by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

6. She will be attending Lipscomb University in the fall and majoring in journalism and new media.

7. Favorite Scripture: "Perhaps this is the moment for which you have been created" (Esther 4:14).

**Stephanie Rose Tomes**

2. Keith and Christy Tomes

3. Bakersfield, California

4. Stephanie graduated from Mission Oak High School in Tulare, California, with a GPA of more than 4.0. Stephanie was heavily involved in high school athletics, including basketball all four years, three of which were at the varsity level. Her senior year, her team was CIF Central Section Champions. She played water polo two years, volleyball two years, softball two years, and swimming two years. During her entire sports career in high school, she was able to be a powerful witness for God's way of life, including keeping the Sabbath. Her decision to follow God sparked many



**Stephanie Rose Tomes**

unique opportunities for her to share her beliefs with friends and curious classmates.

5. Stephanie enjoys art, writing and public speaking, and has received awards in each of those areas. She enjoys drawing, painting and playing the piano. She is an avid reader. She loves spending time with family and friends. She has attended UCG Northwest camp for many years. She has also attended the UCG Winter Camp and Camp Catubic in Ohio. She enjoys the times when she can perform special music for church.

6. Stephanie plans to go to California State University-Northridge in the fall to study speech pathology for a career in speech therapy.

7. Favorite Quote: "You can't make everybody happy, you're not a jar of Nutella." — Unknown. Favorite Scripture: "But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

**Eva Joy Velazquez**

2. Robert and Susie Velazquez

3. Albuquerque, New Mexico

4. Eva graduated from La Cueva High School on May 12, 2015. Upon graduation she received special recognition for her



**Eva Joy Velazquez**

accomplishments in the National English Honors Society, National Spanish exam, JV tennis and concert choir. Her choir won first place in the New Mexico State Championship 6A division.

5. Eva works as a food server at Paloma Landing Assisted Living. Her interests include playing guitar, singing, serving the church through music, tennis, running, travel and ultimate Frisbee. An interesting fact about Eva is that she taught herself to play guitar via YouTube. On a recent trip to Yosemite, she climbed to the top of Half Dome. Eva volunteers as a teacher's assistant in Sabbath school. She also volunteered during her senior year as an assistant in occupational and physical therapy for special needs students.

6. She plans to attend Central New Mexico Community College in preparation for a masters degree in physical therapy. Eva's career goal is to work as a physical therapist with a focus on the elderly community.

7. Favorite scripture: "God's love is meteoric, His loyalty astronomic, His purpose titanic, His verdicts oceanic. Yet in his largeness nothing gets lost; not a man, not a mouse, slips through the cracks" (Psalm 36:5-6, The Message).

Motto: Love, Serve, Repeat.

**University, Graduate and Post-Graduate**

**Steven Britt**

3. Raleigh, North Carolina

4. Steven earned his Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from North Carolina State University on May 15, 2015. He has been awarded a Fulbright Postdoctoral Scholarship to Tel Aviv University in Israel, where he will begin his career as a research mathematician. Steven and his wife, Danielle, will be moving to Tel Aviv in October after the Feast, and plan to stay for a period of 20 months.



**Steven Britt**

the University of Cincinnati. He also took required extra classes to be certified by the PRSA (Public Relations Society of America).

5. David enjoys spending time playing his guitar as well as spending quality time with friends and building lasting relationships with them. He is a current member in the men's leadership club, as well as an



**David Browning**

Ambassador Bible College alumnus of the class of 2012. He performs special music in the local congregation, as well as a part of the instrumental ensemble and choir.

6. David plans to pursue a career in the public relations field to build a name for himself in hopes of being able to open up a small firm of his own in the future.

7. Favorite scripture: "Whatever your



**Courtney Horvath**

hand finds to do, do it with all your might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

Favorite quote: "The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few."

**Courtney Horvath**

3. Nashville, Tennessee

4. Courtney graduated with a masters

**Please see top of next page**

of education from Belmont University. This degree follows the completion of her bachelors of arts in Spanish and her graduation from the Ambassador Bible College last May.

5. She loves staffing at various teen and preteen United Youth Camps and looks for any opportunity to travel to new places and to share her talents for teaching and working with children. Courtney has a passion for teaching children and using her Spanish to serve others.

6. Courtney will teach as an interim third grade teacher at a public Spanish

immersion school in Nashville this coming August through December. Following this teaching position she will teach English as a second language for seven months beginning in January 2016 in Guatemala at Colegio Nuevo Día, which is the elementary school run in conjunction with the Eagle's Nest children's home where the previous two United Youth Corps Guatemala projects she has participated in have been held.

7. Favorite Quote: "In learning you will teach, and in teaching you will learn."—Phil Collins, "Son of Man."



## Local Church UPDATES

### North Carolina Congregations Honor David Mills



After morning services of the combined Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina, congregations on Pentecost, the deacons, elders and wives gathered to present David and Sandy Mills with a retirement gift sent by the home office in recognition of 54 years of dedicated service to the Church of God. The combined congregations also presented their own gifts of appreciation including two photo albums with pictures of local members, an engraved watch for Mr. Mills, an engraved locket for Mrs. Mills, and a bouquet of roses. There were lots of hugs, thanks, and congratulations from everybody. Afterwards the entire group shared a luncheon with a summer picnic theme followed by a special retirement cake.

Craig Scott

### 232 Southern Californians Enjoy a Sabbath in the Park

On April 25, 2015, the congregations of Garden Grove, Los Angeles and Redlands combined for Sabbath services and lunch together in beautiful rustic Irvine Regional Park in Orange, California. Garden Grove has been doing this special Sabbath twice a year since the fall of 2009. This year Garden Grove invited the congregations of Los Angeles and Redlands to join them in the park. Some brethren came from the San Diego congregation as well.

Hymns were accompanied by the local



"orchestra"—six guitars, two violins and one flute. The sermonette was given by Robin Webber, pastor of the Los Angeles, Redlands, and San Diego congregations. He tied in the 20-year history in the United Church of God and where we should focus as we move forward. Mario Seiglie, pastor of the Garden Grove congregation, gave a message on God's greatness—"God's 10 Great Wonders in Isaiah 40."

After services we enjoyed a delicious "fix your own sandwich" lunch along with salads, side dishes and desserts provided by our brethren, followed by fellowship. This day was a special treat for many of our regular Sabbath crews, who were able to enjoy a day off of their regular duties with more time to visit with others. Unexpected rain after lunch caused the day to be cut shorter than usual, but it didn't dampen the positive comments about this enjoyable combined Sabbath in the park.

Jean Updegraff

### Charlotte Congregation Recognizes Sabbath School Graduates

The Charlotte, North Carolina, congregation held its annual Sabbath school graduation on June 13 during the sermonette portion of Sabbath worship services. Certificates of participation were presented by pastor Scott Hoefker to Anne McCormack, Priscilla Petty, Carter Bratnick and Isabella Kegresse, from instructor Maria Petty's Sabbath school class.

After services, our Church family enjoyed a special potluck lunch with the theme "Childhood Favorites." A beautifully decorated cake, honoring the 2015 graduates, completed the finishing touch to the refreshments table.

Ailsa Braun

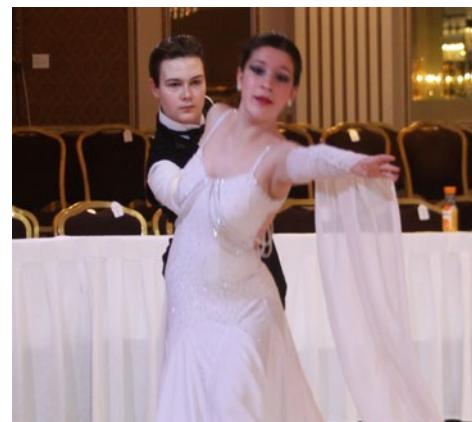


From left: Scott Hoefker, Priscilla Petty, Anne McCormack, instructor Maria Petty (back), Isabella Kegresse, and Carter Bratnick.

### Wisconsin Youth Wins at State Ballroom Dance Competitions

Alexander Schweitzer is the grandson of Jim and Shirley Buckmaster and resides with them at their home in Waunakee, Wisconsin. At the age of 8, Alex saw a PBS special on young people who do ballroom dance. Alex was interested and asked his grandmother, "Can I do that?" which set things in motion.

After checking with several dance studios over a period of weeks, Shirley located a dance academy where the owner's passion is teaching ballroom dance to children. Over the past four years Alex has worked with a variety of dance partners and has advanced to state championships.



Alexander Schweitzer, grandson of members Jim and Shirley Buckmaster of Milwaukee, with his dance partner Harmony Kaegi at a state-level dance competition.

Alexander and his current ballroom dance partner Harmony Kaegi (age 14) entered 10 separate events at the 28th Annual Wisconsin State Dancesport Championships held April 22-26 at the Pfister Hotel in Milwaukee. The youth portion of the championships are held on Sunday, making it a possibility for them to compete without conflicting with the Sabbath.

In their various events, they performed the Viennese waltz, tango, foxtrot, rumba, samba, paso doble, cha cha, jive and the standard waltz. Alex and Harmony came away with four blue ribbons, four second place ribbons, a third place ribbon, and also with a win at the scholarship event where they were awarded champi-

onship gold medals and received a check for \$75. Alexander is in 7th grade at Waunakee Middle School. Harmony is in 8th grade at Deforest Middle School. Alex and Harmony were introduced to each other because they both train under Tina at Fusion Dance Academy in Sun Prairie.

Jim Buckmaster

### Texas Congregations Bid Gary and Kim Petty Goodbye

After 18 years of serving God's people in South Texas, Gary and Kim Petty are transferring to Tennessee where they will be replacing the retiring Fred and Lucretia Kellers. The San Antonio, Austin, and Waco congregations sponsored farewell luncheons (Barbecue and Tex-Mex) expressing their heart-felt love for the Pettys with a special slide show, a multitude of gifts and lots of hugs and tears. Under Mr. Petty's tireless leadership, insightful instruction and loving devotion, these three congregations have not only withstood many difficult trials, but have flourished spiritually.

While it is very difficult to see the Pettys go, we are grateful for the blessing of 18 years with them and are happy for our



Tennessee brethren who will now benefit from Gary's and Kim's service.

Rod and Tammy Foster, whose arrival here preceded the Pettys, will assume pastoral duties in these three congregations. Having seen Rod and Tammy grow into pillars within our church community—and now to have their first pastoral assignment right here where they are so loved—makes the transition to a new pastoral team a little easier. May God continue to bless you and your ministry, Gary and Kim Petty!

Vincent Thompson

**Local Church Updates:** Send us news and events from your local congregation! Check with your pastor and have him forward what you write. We're looking for 100- to 300-word articles and photos with captions. Please include a self-addressed envelope if you'd like photos returned. Include the author's and photographer's names. Please double-check the spelling of names. Please **e-mail (preferred) or give the material to your local pastor** to forward to *United News*.

# Announcements



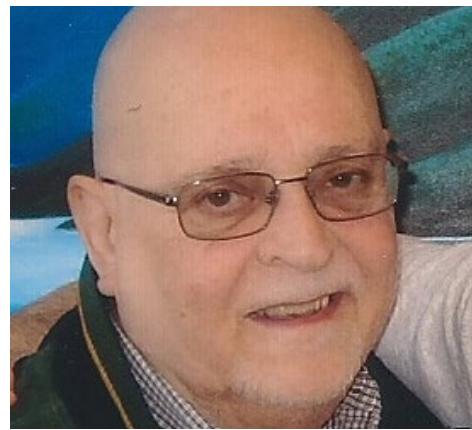
**Roselynn Caproon**

Jan. 13, 1934-April 15, 2015



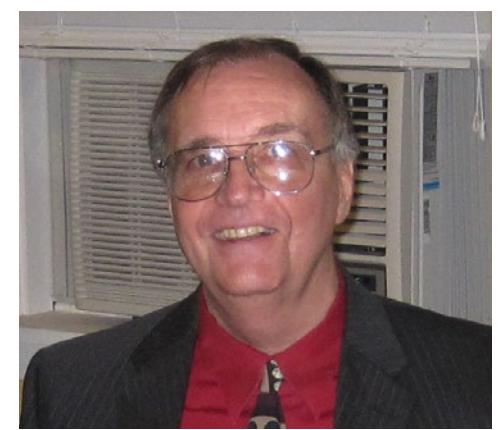
**Bonnie Griswold**

June 29, 1947-April 1, 2015



**Roger Jones**

1943-May 10, 2015



**Tim Swope**

Jan. 16, 1950-Dec. 11, 2014

**Continued from page 4**

well loved by all who knew him, and at his funeral it was standing room only. He will be greatly missed, but thankfully, due to God's plan of salvation, will be absent for only a brief time and is resting until his change comes.

**Roselynn Caproon**

Roselynn Belle Drake was born on Jan. 13, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She was 81 years old when she died on April 15, 2015. She was the oldest of three siblings. The family lived in Oregon for a short time but moved back to Milwaukee because they missed their extended family. Both of her brothers died young.

After graduating high school in 1952, and while selling shoes at the Kinney Shoe Store in South Gate, she met her future husband. They soon were dating and married shortly after they met on June 28, 1952. They had four children and moved several times, until they settled in Mukwonago, Wisconsin, where they would live the rest of their lives. Roselynn had 11 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

She enjoyed cooking, sewing, gardening, watching birds, visiting with people and spending time with family and friends, which often involved lots of gatherings with food.

Her husband died after 45 wonderful years of marriage, and then she started attending church with her sister-in-law Florence. She was baptized during the Feast of Tabernacles in 2006. She was a very faithful member and will be missed until we are reunited in God's Kingdom.

**Bonnie Griswold**

Bonnie Griswold, a faithful member in the Church of God since 1970, died peacefully in her sleep on April 1, 2015, at the age of 67. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, on June 29, 1947. In 1965 she married Greg Griswold, and they had five children: Shelly Reid (Brian), Shawna Chism (Albert), Jennifer Fahey (Bob), Kenneth Griswold (Renee), and Roger Griswold (Rayetta).

She served the Church in many ways over the years, including doing special

music, singing in choir, playing hymns, teaching Sabbath school, and many other social events. Bonnie spent her early years as a mother living in Illinois, Indiana, Georgia and Alaska. Traveling the world was one of her passions. Other passions included teaching and music, but family and God trumped all others. After raising her five children, Bonnie went back to school to become a teacher and graduated with her bachelors degree at the age of 60! She taught elementary education for the next seven years as well as giving piano lessons after school. Bonnie was a very creative person who loved playing games, and even had a patent filed for a game she invented. She will be missed by her five children, 17 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

**Roger Jones**

Roger Jones of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, congregation finished the race set before him on May 10, 2015. Roger spent the first five years of his life on a farm in South Carolina with his grandmother before moving to Wisconsin. The chain gangs from the local prison used to come and work on the property, and his grandmother would make great blackberry and peach pies for the prisoners. As a young boy he remembered having to pick cotton and shell corn.

He grew up an only child, and after graduating from high school earned a bachelor of science degree in mechanical technology. Roger served in the military in Greenland where he first began reading *The Plain Truth*. He was baptized in 1974. He was married for 49 years to Barbara. At the wedding he was really nervous until he saw Barbara coming down the aisle and her bouquet was shaking like crazy—he decided he wasn't that nervous after all. Roger was a designer at Harley Davidson and Envirex (a waste equipment company) until his retirement. Roger is survived by Barbara and their daughterCarolynn Parker.

In addition to Greenland, Roger also traveled to England and Ireland as well as many areas in the U.S. Over the years he enjoyed boating, sword fighting, fencing,

hunting wild boar and target shooting, and he earned a black belt in Taekwondo. Roger was always quick with a laugh, quietly served others and was a solid man of God. We look forward to seeing Roger again in God's Kingdom!

**Tim Swope**

Our beloved friend and brother in Christ, Tim Swope, a longtime member and a deacon in the Cleveland congregation, died Dec. 11, 2014, from lung cancer. He leaves behind his wife Becky, sons Adam and Jason, step-daughters Linda and Renee and six grandchildren whom he loved very deeply. His passing is also a deep loss to his spiritual family.

Tim was born Jan. 16, 1950, in Cleveland. He developed a love for fishing early on and it remained a passion throughout his life. Music was something else Tim loved. He played the trumpet in his high school band and enjoyed singing with choir and ensembles at church as an adult.

He was a creative, out-of-the-box thinker. Once he latched onto an idea, it was almost impossible to deter him from what he wanted to accomplish. In a world of negativity Tim was a breath of fresh air. He looked for the best in people and had a servant's heart. His life exemplified Christianity in action and he truly understood and lived unconditional love. He genuinely cared for people and looked at their potential in spite of their flaws and weaknesses.

Tim was always moving forward to new opportunities of growth and service. He was ordained a deacon in 2011, and his wife Becky became a deaconess. They made a great team together. What mattered most to him was God, family and his job, in that order. His love for God was deep and abiding. He was a sensitive, emotional person who truly cared about others. He was a role model of temperament, optimism and patience. He served others in dozens of ways even when he was struggling with his health. On the final Sabbath he was able to come to church, in Cleveland's new church building, he was pulling along an oxygen tank, mentoring the sound crew and answering their questions. A few days before he died he sent out some



**Linda Warzycki**

May 8, 1948-Nov. 4, 2014

thank-you cards. Greg Thomas said, "Tim is in hospice and yet with everything on his mind he is so serving and caring that he is still sending out cards to encourage others!" That is the Tim we all knew and loved!

**Linda Warzycki**

Linda Warzycki, a beloved member of the Cleveland, Ohio, congregation, died on Nov. 4, 2014, after a 16-month battle with cancer.

Linda (Gilliland) Kruse Warzycki was born May 8, 1948. She came into the Church with her parents, Robert and Mildred Gilliland, in the early 1960s, and they attended the Akron congregation. Linda had very fond memories of her time as a teen in the Church, and she would tell stories of her summer at S.E.P. when camp was six weeks long. She developed friendships that lasted her entire life. Linda was an extremely loyal friend.

Linda married Tom Kruse in 1969 and together they had three children: Phil, Tim and Pam. Tragically Tom was killed in a work-related accident in 1988. Linda found a second love in John Warzycki, who had also been previously widowed, and they were married in 1989. Linda became widowed a second time in 2001 when her husband died of a sudden heart attack.

Linda was extremely witty and fun-loving, and she loved to banter and tease folks. She was also very service oriented. She was always the first to arrive for any activity, getting there long before anyone

**Please see top of next page**

else. She loved sign language and would keep in touch with the deaf brethren by e-mail, and many times would attend the same feast site as the majority of the deaf brethren so she could practice her signing. She was also very artistic and loved to paint and quilt.

In 2013 Linda was diagnosed with cancer, which spread throughout her body

over the course of 16 months. She entered a private home hospice care before the Feast of Tabernacles in 2014 and was lovingly cared for there until her death on Nov. 4, 2014. It is with a deep sense of sadness that we have all lost a beloved friend and sister in Jesus Christ. Like Paul, we can all look forward to the day when “the last enemy that will be destroyed is death.”

## Our Only Sure Possession

Continued from page 3

those who diligently seek and obey Him on a daily basis.

If you’ve never done so before, an insightful and instructive Bible study you might undertake is to look up every verse in the Bible that contains the word “daily.” Also you could similarly read and study every passage that contains the expression “day by day.” You’ll be surprised by what these two study projects will yield.

In its preface *Halley’s Bible Handbook* contains a section entitled “Notable Sayings About the Bible.” Here are a few of the remarkable quotes found there:

*Abraham Lincoln*: “I believe the Bible is

*Having observed this up-close showed me in no uncertain terms how God blesses those who diligently seek and obey Him on a daily basis.*

the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book.”

*Daniel Webster*: “If there is anything in my thoughts or style to commend, the credit is due to my parents for instilling in me an early love of the Scripture. If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity.”

*John Ruskin*: “Whatever merit there is in anything that I have written is simply due to the fact that when I was a child my mother daily read me a part of the Bible and daily made me learn a part of it by heart.”

*Horace Greely*: “It is impossible to enslave mentally or socially a Bible-reading people. The principles of the Bible are the groundwork of human freedom.”

*John Quincy Adams*: “So great is my veneration for the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read it the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens of their country and respectable members of society. I have for many years made it a practice to read through the Bible once a year.”

The objective of reading through the entire Holy Bible once a year cover-to-cov-

er is a commendable practice to acquire. In fact, many copies of the Bible contain an outline for reading it completely through in 12 continuous months. It is a wonderful habit to get into. In fact, you can receive some practical help for such a venture by going to the UCG-Canada website. One of the features you will find there is a daily Bible reading program, which provides a means to read the Bible completely every year. It even includes an option where you can have a professional voice read the assigned chapters for you while you follow along in the pages of your own Bible. Doing so only takes about 20 minutes a day. This is a highly worthwhile venture, which yields high dividends.

In his book *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, Dale Carnegie points out some vital principles along these lines. He

describes how Dr. William Osler admonished students at Yale University to commence each day with what is commonly called the

Lord’s Prayer: “Give us this day our daily bread.”

“Remember that that prayer asks only for today’s bread. It doesn’t complain about the stale bread we had to eat yesterday; and it doesn’t say, “Oh, God, it has been pretty dry out in the wheat belt lately, and we may have another drought—and then how will I get bread to eat next fall—or suppose I lose my job—oh, God, how could I get bread then?” (Dale Carnegie, *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living*, 1944, page 3). Dale Carnegie points out how this prayer teaches us to ask for today’s bread only. Today’s bread is the only kind of bread any one can possibly eat!

In this book Dale Carnegie states: “Today is our most precious possession. It is our only sure possession” (ibid. page 10). He described having spent a week on the farm of Lowell Thomas and while there noticing that Mr. Thomas had the words of Psalm 118:24 framed and hanging on the wall of his broadcasting studio where he could see them and read them regularly: “This is the day which the Lord has hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Every day counts. Every day is important. The foundation to each day consists of contact with our great Creator God through earnest prayer and diligent Bible study. As Alexander Woollcott once said, “There is no such thing in anyone’s life as an unimportant day.” UN

## Retiring Ministry

Continued from page 2

### Gary and Barbara Antion

Mr. and Mrs. Antion enjoy sports, both playing as well as watching them live or on television. They both love music and have played instruments in the past, as well as singing in the Ambassador Chorale and dancing. They love their family and spending time with them. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Frank Dunkle, who is taking on the role of ABC coordinator from Mr. Antion, said this:

“It’s an honor to follow Mr. Antion at Ambassador. He’s been very supportive and helpful, and it’s also reassuring to know that he is going to be available for help and advice in the years ahead. Mr. Antion has been a constant for students from different eras: from Ambassador College to Ambassador University through Ambassador Bible Center to, now, the College. Mr. Antion has been there for us, teaching across the decades. He has exemplified a passion for maintaining high standards in instruction and in the unique culture of Ambassador College. The work that he has done makes it possible for us to carry on with the work ahead of us at Ambassador Bible College.”



The Antions at their home office retirement party.

Roy Holladay shared this:

“Gary Antion and I were in the same freshman class at Ambassador College in 1959. Gary always seemed to have an outgoing personality and concern for others. He was also a good athlete. Barbara came to college the next year. Gary and Barbara have always had a reputation as a loving and caring couple. Wherever they served, the members always spoke highly of them. We count them both as dear friends and it has been a pleasure to work with Gary again at the home office.” UN

Mitchell Moss

### Fred and Lucretia Kellers

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First, I want to draw closer to God; second, I want to draw closer to Lucretia; third, I want to draw closer to peace.”

Fred and Lucretia Ann Kellers have been married for 51 years. They have four children and nine grandchildren. UN

Lisa Fenchel

Continued from page 2

### David and Sandy Mills

in Orlando, Florida: Bill and Dixie Faulk. They literally sat on the edge of their seats during the two hours of counseling, and they were ready to be baptized. I was the one who went down into the water to baptize them. Little did I realize at the time that I was baptizing my future father-in-law and mother-in-law! It was four years later that I married their daughter, Sandy, my lovely wife of more than 48 years!”

When asked to share their thoughts on retirement and their years serving in the ministry, the Mills shared:

“We carry with us many fond memories of working with the most wonderful people on the earth, the chosen firstfruits of this age. Over the years it’s been an honor to serve brethren in many areas in the United States. We’ve especially enjoyed the last 20 years with faithful brethren here in North Carolina and Virginia. We also treasure special memories of brethren in Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe, whom we met in three Feast trips to Africa. In retirement, we’re looking forward to a little slower pace and less of the stress that goes with the full-time ministry. No doubt we’ll still find ways to serve in the Church.”

Dave and Sandy Mills have been married for 49 years. Together they have four children and 13 grandchildren. Upon retirement they plan to move to Georgia to be closer to family, and in their words they are looking “forward to fulfilling our grandparental responsibility of spoiling the grandchildren.” UN

Lisa Fenchel

### Vernon and DeLee Hargrove

Continued from page 2

Worldwide Church of God campus in Pasadena, California, and will be celebrating their 53rd anniversary this year! They have two grown sons and five teenage grandchildren.

When asked what life lessons he would share, Mr. Hargrove said: “As to valuable lessons, I would make the most of the blessing of marriage and children and grandchildren. We call our home our place of refuge and enjoyment. Gratitude for having a way of life that is sane.”

Since their children and grandchildren do not live in Ohio, travel is part of their retirement agenda. Plans have already been made to visit Australia and Montana, and DeLee has compiled a list of day trips for them to enjoy. They will continue being active members in the Columbus, Ohio, congregation and enjoying spending time with longtime friends and Church members. They look forward to now having more time for extensive study of the Bible, exercise, keeping up with their house and property and enjoying life. UN

Lisa Fenchel

# What's New In MEDIA?



## Television Airing Schedule

Title	Host	Literature	Airing Period
<i>Kingdoms at War: Babylon Stands Against God</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>The Final Superpower</i>	July 3-9
<i>The Mark of the Beast</i>	Steve Myers	<i>The Book of Revelation Unveiled</i>	July 10-16
<i>The Power of the Holy Spirit</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>The Power of the Holy Spirit</i>	July 17-23
<i>Is God a Trinity?</i>	Steve Myers	<i>Is God a Trinity?</i>	July 24-30
<i>Is the Bible True?</i>	Darris McNeely	<i>Is the Bible True?</i>	July 31-Aug. 6

### WATCH

## Ambassador Bible College

Growing in Grace and Knowledge



<https://youtu.be/kmJ0BacUgjA>

### STUDY

## Bi-Weekly Bible Study Series

The Churches of Revelation



<http://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-bible-study>

## news AT A GLANCE

Continued from page 1

the Southwest preteen camp. Nathan is a graduate of the Ambassador Bible College class of 2002 and holds a bachelor of

arts in sociology and psychology from Kent State University. He is currently pursuing a masters degree in sociology and has worked in the education and energy efficiency fields for the past 10 years.

Josh and Rebecca Lamoureux are members of the Seabrook, New Hampshire, congregation. Mr. Lamoureux is a compensation information and project coordinator for the human resources department of Dartmouth College. He holds a master of science degree in leadership and a bachelor of arts degree in communication. He and his wife Rebecca are both graduates of the Ambassador Bible College class of 2012.

Jay and Jennifer Ledbetter are members of the Sherman, Texas, congregation. Mr. Ledbetter was most recently a fulfillment team leader in a mortgage finance

department for Bank of America. He studied finance at Austin Community College. He and his wife Jennifer serve as deacon and deaconess in the local congregation.

Dan and Kim Preston are members of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation. Mr. Preston was most recently an engineering manager for EXAIR Corporation. He holds a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Cincinnati and is a graduate of the leadership development institute there. He serves as a deacon in the local congregation. Mrs. Preston works part-time as a mail fulfillment clerk at the home office of the United Church of God.

Lewis and Lena VanAusdle are members of the Cincinnati East, Ohio, congregation. Mr. VanAusdle was most recently a speech and language pathologist working primarily with grade school students. He holds a master of arts degree in communication sciences and disorders and a bachelor of science degree in industrial technology. He is a graduate of the Ambassador Bible College class of 2007. Mrs. VanAusdle works part-time as a personal correspondence proof-reader for the United Church of God and coordinator for United Youth Corps and Good Works; she is a graduate of the ABC class of 2003, has a bachelor of arts degree in English, and a master of science degree in clinical counseling.

Roy Holladay

# UNITED NEWS

NEWS OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF GOD, AN INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION • P.O. Box 541027, Cincinnati, OH 45254-1027 (513) 576-9796

**Periodicals Postage Paid** at Milford, Ohio, and at additional mailing offices

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- June 28-July 5:** Camp Hye Sierra, California
- June 28-July 5:** Camp Woodmen, Alabama
- July 1-2:** *Beyond Today* recording, home office
- July 12-15:** Preteen Camp Piney Woods, Texas
- July 26-Aug. 2:** Northwest Camp, Oregon
- Aug. 2-6:** Preteen Camp Buckeye, Ohio
- Aug. 2-6:** Preteen Northwest Camp, Oregon
- Aug. 5-6:** *Beyond Today* recording, home office
- Aug. 10-13:** Council of Elders quarterly meeting
- Aug. 30:** Ambassador Bible College orientation, home office

## Attention Those Attending Hawaii for the Feast

If you are attending the Feast in Hawaii and would like to attend the Hawaiian Luau on Thursday, Oct. 1, please cut out, fill out and mail the following order form with payment included by Thursday, Sept. 7, 2015.

### Hawaiian Luau at the Hyatt Regency Maui Resort & Spa (Thursday, Oct. 1)

Number of Adults (13+) \_\_\_ \$91 Children (6-12) \_\_\_ \$52

Children (5 or under) \_\_\_ free\*

NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Infants *must* be included when booking the reservation to ensure proper seating at the show.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # (in case of questions about order) (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Please cut out or copy the ticket order form, make your check payable to United Church of God-Bay Area in U.S. currency and send to: Rex Spears, 3727 Hillsborough Drive, Concord, CA 94520.