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Reverend Greg Gillispie

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2018 SUMMER PRESBY PRESS NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor:

Summertime: A season to grow faith, not a vacation from religious practices

Daily life switches for many people as the summer season begins. Parent and grandparents adapt to the school-free schedules of their children and teens. Local merchants find high-schoolers more available to work additional hours, but business traffic is slower with fewer college students in town. Even our congregation, the start of June is bringing reduced office hours, a break for Sunday Bible Studies and our kids' "Sunday's Cool", and an earlier worship hour.

Admittedly, some among us don't see the major calendar shifts because your life stays similar throughout most of the twelve months. My focus for this day is for all of us who do life differently during June, July and August. I start with a fact from our young generation's weekday schooling. A true vacation from the educational process has verifiable consequences.

Educational research emphasizes that during the summer students actually *lose* about one month of the benefits they received during the preceding nine months. That's disturbing to ponder. Nine months forward, one month backward educationally. I'm certainly not pushing for the alternative: year-round school with more but shorter breaks. In our family, we did add the "bridge" books with academic reviews for use from time to time during summer vacations. Hopefully, that offset some of the typical summer learning loss.

There is a faith parallel to what happens in most weekday school-year schools. Scripture – and our own personal experiences – verify that it matters when we gather with the people of God regularly. What are some benefits which come to you from being together: to check in, to offer and receive support, to worship, to learn, and be with our friends. It's not just what we "get" from "going to church" either; worship at its core is a connection with the Almighty God. Also, you may never discover all of the blessings you provide to someone else who is at a worship service, a group meal or other event. You may not know, but they will.

Which faith practices can help you and your household throughout the next three months? Some of those are maintaining the routine:

- daily Scripture reading
- prayers at meals
- acts of kindness, care and hospitality
- weekly worship with the gathered community
- What else.....?

Even with these, there *also* are some unique adaptations to faith activities which can only happen during the summer:

- While travelling, can you worship on the road, with a congregation different than your own? (*Internet searches make this so much easier to find locations, times and dress code “expectations” for wherever you will go.*)
- Camping and tourism give you opportunity to give thanks to the Lord for creation, creativity and an expansive view of the world and its people.
- If you have friends or relatives who visit you, how might their lives be enhanced if you invite them to be with us on Sunday mornings at First United Presbyterian. (*This congregation is particularly welcoming to newcomers.*)
- If you are away from Edinboro on a Sunday morning, would you like to get a DVD of the worship service you miss? (*We have a great tech team which provides the live sound and the video recording to extend the reach of our Sunday worship.*)
- Vacation Bible School provides to its participants “a month of Sundays” worth of Biblical truths and knowledge **in just five mornings!** (*Imagine the summer learning boost your own children can get, and extend the invitation to friends and neighboring families. Advance registration on paper or via Facebook earns a bonus.*)
- Even without organized activities for children, our 10 a.m. worship will be designed to be welcoming and beneficial for all generations, including our younger worshipers. (*Back to educational theory again, one of the primary ways children learn is to **do**, and to **watch** grownups do what we do. If we want our offspring to grow up to worship, we want to have them present in worship at least part of the time. Our summer pattern is great for that.*)

My guidance to you here is not for boosting our attendance statistics. I promise you that I am not “guilting” you into begrudgingly going to church. That whole phrase, “going to church,” is a misnomer. We don’t go there – we **ARE** the church. We *go* to worship, we go to retreats, we go to a class or a meeting... but we **ARE** the church.

You simply want to benefit from what happens when God calls us together, in the Lord’s midst. Let’s you and I talk about how your faith can be fostered in familiar and unique ways. Let’s have a great season. Let’s stay connected all summer long!

Wishing you rest, peace, joy, and discovery,

Greg

Congratulations to our 2018 graduates!

High school graduation is a major milestone in any person's life. It marks the completion of a long process of learning and growth. We pause to celebrate the God-given talents and aptitudes of each young adult. Earning that diploma is symbolic of a transition from teen status toward independence and a new chapter of self-discovery.

Congratulations to two 2018 seniors connected to this congregation. We join their families, friends and classmates in celebrating your accomplishments:

- **Zach Gillispie**, son of Greg and Marcia Gillispie, graduated on the Headmaster's Honor Roll at Venango Catholic High School in Oil City. He is enrolled at Grove City College and will major in Communication Studies.
- **Jessie Johnson**, daughter of Brian and Carol Johnson, graduated from General McLane High School as an honor student. Jessie will major in Environmental Science, beginning at PSU at Behrend for two years, then transferring to the State College campus.

Ghana Mission Partnership: "Wheels for Josh"

A conversation began in the highlands of south central Ghana that has rippled around the world. And you have become a part of it!

In September, 2017 a conversation was initiated at the Ramseyer Training Centre in Abetifi-Kwahu at the Ghana Mission Network meeting. Josh Heikkila serves as the Presbyterian Church (USA) regional liaison for West Africa. In that position Josh relates to Presbyterian Churches in Ghana, Nigeria, Niger, and Togo. The work he does involves extensive travel under daunting conditions. It is no surprise that motor vehicles bear the brunt of travel on these roads. It is also no surprise that vehicles wear out -- which is exactly what has happened for Josh in the ministry in which you share with him.

A conversation in September at Abetifi-Kwahu led to action on two continents over a period of several months. The Presbytery of Lake Erie voted to provide an initial gift in November, as well as providing dollar-for-dollar matching gifts. The matching gifts were made available to both churches within the Presbytery of Lake Erie as well as churches and presbyteries in the Ghana Mission Network.

Out of God's generosity an abundance of gifts have been received in order to support "Wheels for Josh." Over the past six months 16 of the 58 churches in Lake Erie Presbytery provided extra commitment gifts of more than \$9,900. Nine partner churches and presbyteries across the Ghana Mission Network in the United States also contributed matching money totaling \$6,400. Including the matching money from Lake Erie Presbytery a grand total of \$31,301.78* was raised, by the grace of God, for 'Wheels for Josh' across the Ghana Mission Network! *[Edinboro was one of the helping congregations in our presbytery. Thanks!]*

This transportation conversation is also a two way street!

MORE GHANA NEWS

Brian Miller, who traveled with the Lake Erie Presbytery delegation to Ghana in September 2017, made an awesome video for us! View it to learn more about Ghana and the Ghana Partnership.

<https://youtu.be/83eA2WT88FM>

Rev. Seth Agidi, who has visited the Lake Erie Presbytery several times, has written a wonderful article about our Ghana Partnership.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/mission-moves-ahead-in-faith-and-friendship/>

The Upper Northern Presbytery, Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Ghana, also made a sacrificial gift of 3,000 cedis (\$750) to this joint effort. The churches in northern Ghana also understand the great value of this partnership. But the good news stretches beyond that! A partnership that shares a profound faith in Jesus Christ also saw spiritual and financial support coming from the Fumbisi congregation in northern Ghana. To quote from Presbyterian News Service, the church members sold peanuts in the local marketplace and donated the money they received to support the work of Presbyterian mission co-worker Josh Heikkila.

“We don’t have much but we decided to give something small just to support him,” said Gladys Lariba Mahama, pastor of the Fumbisi congregation. The gift is more than the average Ghanaian earns for an entire month, Josh says. The 150-member congregation raises a plot of peanuts each year and sells them to benefit its ministry and mission. “It is the only way we have to get income apart from the offerings that we offer to God.”

-- Donna Cammarata, Presbytery of Lake Erie

GA 2018: Decisions & reunion for the national PC(USA)

Once every two years, hundreds of representatives from across the country meet for eight days to worship, learn, and carry out the work of the national Presbyterian denomination. Half are local elders, half are clergy and all are elected by presbyteries. The grassroots church also sends advisory delegates who are young adults.

The 223rd PC(USA) General Assembly will meet in Saint Louis June 16-23. Local members can keep up with news and information from the Assembly. Use the church website to watch, read, pray and know what happens in that week of legislation, training, worship and “family-reunion” of the national embodiment of our part of the worldwide church. Sign up for a daily digital newspaper, use “PC-Biz” to follow committee agendas and actions, and watch video streaming (live and on-demand) of GA worship and plenaries. <https://ga-pcusa.org/>

(Pastor Greg also recommends the Presbyterian Outlook online journal as a strong and independent source for GA news. <https://pres-outlook.org/>)

Also, please pray for the work and stamina of the entire Assembly. Offer your special prayers for our commissioners: elder Doug Lee of Erie and Rev. Emily Zeig Lindsey of Waterford, as well as for college student Ben Fugate, our Young Adult Advisory Delegate.

GRATITUDE at the conclusion of our program year

Special thanks go to so many people who have enhanced our congregational life recently, and throughout the year!

Music Director Mark Brice, accompanist Gena Shirley, and each member of our sanctuary choir, for all the inspiration you provide for us.

Randy Mehlenbacher, and each ringer in our Handbell Choir, for the time you invested to work together to create such beautiful, worshipful music.

Worship leaders and servants from our special Children and Youth Celebration:

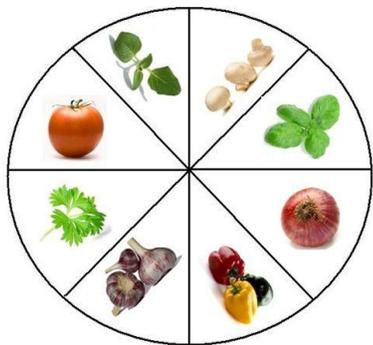
Aliza Kineston, Anna Williams, Emma Walker & Abby Walker, Grace Honeycutt, Liturgists; Elise Honeycutt, Peyton Frick & Samuel Sarrazola, Greeters; Noah Diley, Joshua Williams, Talon Frick, Morgan Frick

Kelly Diley, for preaching and for coordinating our annual Youth Sunday

Art Crawford, who cleans our facilities and has us set up for the full range of activities hosted here

Everyone who has hosted our coffee/refreshment time after worship ...these bonus minutes add to the care and the friendships we see between members, guests and newcomers!

JACK & JILL PRESCHOOL STUDENTS PLANT A PIZZA GARDEN!



All preschool hands got dirty while planting tomato, pepper, basil, and parsley plants in two Pizza Gardens in the raised beds on either side of the Church's back door.

The three-year-old class was the "O-team," planting onions and oregano along the edges of these same beds. Hopefully they planted the onion bulbs pointy-side up!

Before the planting began, Heather brought a basket full of pizza vegetables to teach eager preschoolers that peppers grow in green, red, and yellow and so do Heirloom tomatoes. We even planted both white and red onions! We discussed that the flour for pizza dough comes from a

wheat plant (which we planted in the middle of each bed), but pepperonis do not grow on plants!

Big smiles of pride appeared on each child's face after they planted their plants, showed Heather their dirty hands, and heard the praise, "You're a gardener now!"

Presbytery Website

Have you checked out the Presbytery website lately? www.pbylakeerie.org A lot of things have been updated and added. Check out the church listings. They are trying to offer as much information about all 58 Churches as possible, even pictures.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Greg invites you to join him on a study of "66 Books in 2 Hours." Signup sheets are posted around the church. Final schedule will be determined once signups are complete.



CAMP OUT & CANOE TRIP

This year's camp out behind the church will be July 7 & July 8. Join us for a cookout, campfire, fun & fellowship! On that Sunday, following church, we will canoe down Conneaut Creek!

Please contact the church office for further details and to make your reservations!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: Open to the entire community for participation. This year's event will be held June 25 through the 29 at the United Methodist Church of Edinboro. The program begins at 8:30 and ends at noon each day. Children 4 years old to those who have just finished 6th grade are welcome to attend as students. Volunteers are needed in a variety of positions; all offers of help are welcome. Student Registration forms and Volunteer forms are available on-line at https://goo.gl/forms/hzHYPg10_t8wKbwDYS - link is also available on Facebook page: "Edinboro Vacation Bible School" and at area churches. Contact Sharon Evans (814) 464-3878 for additional information.

PER CAPITA: Each year our congregation pays a per member amount to the Presbytery as our share of the administrative costs of running the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. The per capita for 2018 will be \$31.00. Some of our members are picking up this cost as an over and above contribution to the church. If you wish to do this please include in the memo of your check "per capita."

HOSPITAL/MEDICAL EQUIPMENT: Just a reminder that the Deacons maintain an assortment of medical/hospital equipment including hospital beds, walkers, crutches, canes, commode chairs and other assorted items. Items are available for loan to anyone in the community who is in need. Contact the church office to make arrangements to pick up equipment- delivery can also be arranged if needed.

"CALLING ALL COMFORT FOOD MAKERS!"

"When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." (Matt. 14.15-16) If you would like to provide a cooked meal for someone in a "deserted place," please let us know. We would also appreciate if you could help us identify individuals who may benefit due to a birth, death in the family, illness, injury, or other reason. Please contact the church office.





CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.....

Membership in a Presbyterian congregation is not required, in order to benefit from and participate in the church's ministries. However, those who join a church often find renewed blessings by making that formal connection. Our pastor and elders welcome the privilege of talking with anyone considering uniting with First United Presbyterian. Hand a note to any of the elders (indicated by their name tags) or call or e-mail the church office to set up an appointment

Birthdays in June

Kelly Johnson-1st
Dianna Markiewicz-3rd
Rick Walker-3rd
Lucas Falco-5th
Lottie Scarpitti-22nd
Jeremy Dietz-5th
Ethan Dietz-5th
Andy Dylewski-7th
Tim Ward-7th
Eric Lasher-7th
Betsy Walker-7th
Sue Payne-8th
Dennis Teed-13th
Heather Zimmerman-14th
Jonathan Wingler-14th

Birthdays in July

Milly Williams-2nd
Brayden Lehair-3rd
Beverly Hallett-4th
Becky Beal-5th
Jane Cooke-5th
Gabriel Williams-5th
Brian Johnson-6th
Marilyn Free-8th
Hilary Hobbs-12th

Birthdays in August

Anabelle Zessinger-1st
Kristin Barbour-2nd
Leo Collopy-2nd
Wanita Kennedy-7th
Jean Johnson-7th
Jaime Walker-8th
Grayson Collopy-9th
Molly Cooke-11th
Sue Skalko-12th
Ron Swift-15th
Cooper Dylewski-16th
Randy Mehlenbacher-17th
Peyton Frick-20th
Matt Pisarchick-20th
Debbie Mehlenbacher-23rd
Dale Johnson-28th
Pat Kennedy-31st

Jacob Williams-15th
Ellie Lehair-19th
David Kushner-20th
Hannah Schurr-21st
DiAnne Cordell-23rd
Craig Walker-24th
John Gould-24th
Colton Smaltz-26th
Jim McCormack-27th
Brandon Beal-27th
Wendy Williams-29th

Molly Streiff-13th
Kyle Dore'-16th
Linda Rummel-18th
Emily Streiff-19th
Dot Gorman-19th
Cara Frick-20th
Alexis DeFuccia-22nd
Terri Markiewicz-22nd
Lindsey Rummel Spatholt-25th
Grace Diley-25th
Makayla Jay-25th
Ed Payne-31st
Cameron Lawton-30th
Becky Aiken-31st

Anniversaries

Greg & JoAnne Will-10th
Eric & Kelly Moccia-13th
Craig & Rhonda Walker-14th
Craig & Julie Mehlenbacher-16th
J. B. & Wendy Williams-21st
Ed & Sue Payne-23rd
Dennis & Karen Teed-26th
John & Jan Zeart-30th
Randy & Lianne Walker-30th

Anniversaries

Gary & Lorraine Hayes-2nd
Andy & Marilee Wnek-4th
Richard & Betsy Walker -8th
Anthony & Mary Beth Honeycutt-17th
Brad & Jill Wingler-29th



Anniversaries

Greg & Marcia Gillispie-1st
Dan & Becky Veith-1st
Jim & Linda Rummel-1st
Duffy & Peggy Schruers-5th
Art & Carolyn Crawford-6th
Cliff & Joni Cox-9th
Joe & Dianna Markiewicz-10th
Jasen & Kelly Diley-12th
Brent & Joann Walker-16th
Mike & Michelle Waltz-19th
Rick & Sue Walker-23rd
Dick & Evelyn Walker- 23rd
Ed & Michelle Lehair - 23rd
Todd & Sarah Jay-24th
Adam & Nina Dore' -30th



SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC

The Chancel Choir will be taking a well-deserved summer break beginning in June. However, they will continue to share their music with us June 17th, July 22, & Aug. 19. We are inviting people to volunteer their musical talents on selected Sundays for our worship services. You may call the church office or email office@edinboropresby.org or see the signup sheet posted in the music room. Thank you!

PLEASE INCLUDE IN YOUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS...



Becky Aiken
Isabelle Anderson (friend of Wanita Kennedy)
Cheryl Andrews
Judy Baer (daughter of Art & Harriet Smaltz)
Bea (mother-in-law of Andy Dylewski)
Diane Beusch (sister-in-law of Sue Payne)
Taylor Bowen (friend of Gail Dylewski)
Tammy Bower (co-worker of Shari Gould)
Emma Burkell
Sam Cain (friend of Makayla Jay)
Alice Carnes
Bill Cody & family (friends of Gary & Lorraine Hayes)
Allison Rilling Crawford
Carolyn Crawford
Karen Culver (sister of Lorraine Hayes)
Seth Davis (niece's husband of Gail & Bob Dylewski)
Ethan Dietz
Karla Dunlap
John Duvall (brother-in-law of Wanita Kennedy)
Jeanne Edwards (friends of Pete & Pauline Kraus)
Bob Farmer (friend of Pete & Pauline Kraus)
Carrie Fiske (niece of Becky Veith)

Marilyn Free
Ruth & Paul Hazlett (sister/brother-in-law of Sue Payne)
Becky Hover
Randy Hunsberger (friend of Pete Kraus)
Todd Jay
Cindy Jenkins (niece of Sue Walker)
Dale Johnson
Dennis & Mary Johnson
Betty Jolly (friend of Dorothy Iovino)
David Kushner
Betty Lewis
Anna Leeds (granddaughter of John & JoAnn Austin)
Savannah Lyons (friend of Joanne Pavolko)
Joanne McDonald (friend/neighbor of Cliff & Joni Cox)
Christine McGee (cousin of Doug Roberts)
Francy McLallen (friend of Lorraine Hayes)
Kelcey Meeker (niece of Mike & Becky Meeker)
James Moyer
Julie Osborn (sister of Bob Dylewski)
Mirana Ormsy (granddaughter of Art & Harriet Smaltz)
Nelson & Evelyn Porter (friends of Ed & Sue Payne)
Pat Ptasick (friend of Marilee)
Susan Ralph (friend of Marilee)

Jenny Rene (friend of Lorraine Hayes)
David Roberts
Eileen Roberts (mother of Doug)
Michelle Ruland (friend of Sue Walker)
Sue Schweichler (friend of Pauline Kraus)
Katie Staynoff
Carol Stein (friend of Joanne Pavolko)
Karen Teed
Perry Thomas
Ian Welden (nephew of Pete Kraus)
Phyllis Welden (sister of Pete Kraus)
Art Williams
Joyce Woods
Jim & Carol Zeart (brother-in-law of Jan)

OUR MILITARY & THEIR FAMILIES:

Brent Carlson (nephew of Jan)
Vincent Koscielniak (son of Loretta Vanstone)
Jheri Davis, (deployed to Kuwait effective April 6, 2018)

John and JoAnn Austin would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers for their son-in-law Sean Leeds. Sean is in remission and is cancer free.

Our Church Mission Team had a request for special prayer for several children in Belize. The writer was Shermaine Post, Missionary and wife of Pr. Stephen (Padre) Post. -

Jamie Tracy, Susie Westby, Whitney Garbutt, Denzel Garbutt and little Stephanie Logan

The letter states that "these small children have very immediate, urgent needs that only God can help with."



Each monthly newsletter we list family members & friends who have been asked to be included in our prayers. On a rotation system we list the same names in our Sunday bulletins. When a person has been on the list for more than year, we remove that name, unless we are asked to have prayers continued. Please help update this list when new or renewed concerns arise as God answers our prayers.



CAMP LAMBEC..... Camping that is like a Summer Breeze! Camp Lambec is a place for fun adventures in faith, family, and friends. If you'd like to have a great experience at camp, make new friends (& reconnect with old ones), enjoy their amenities, and grow in your faith, then choose the program that's right for you! Visit their website for information: www.camplambec.net. Online Registration (24/7 Access)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!.....

MERCYME
Thursday, August 23, 2018 @ 7:30 PM
Crawford County Fair ~ Meadville, PA
www.crawfordcountyfairpa.com
Tickets on Sale May 7

With Special Guest
Tenth Avenue North

TOYOTA
Concert Series

The poster features a photograph of the five members of the band MercyMe sitting on a row of stools against a grey wall. In the top right corner, there is a smaller inset photo of the band Tenth Avenue North. The Toyota Concert Series logo is in the bottom right corner.

The grandstand is a great venue for those who have never been there. Check out the website for more information!

If you missed the Synod of Trinity article in last month's newsletter on The First Presbyterian Church GARDEN OF EDIN you may visit Synod of Trinity website: <http://www.synttrinity.org/featured/garden-of-edin-growing-nourishment-for-body-and-spirit/> for the whole story of how the garden came to be and how the whole community has taken an interest in different ways to help this garden grow!

BORROWING TABLES/CHAIRS: PLEASE do not borrow any of the long tables/chairs without signing them out with Karen in the office. We do need to keep record of when they are borrowed and to whom. *Thank you!*



Schools Out For Summer Party!!!!

This Sunday, June 10 immediately following church @ 11:00 a.m. there will be an “end of school year” party open to the Edinboro Community. The Fellowship Team will supply hot dogs, buns, condiments, beverages, paper products, games. **THIS IS A FAMILY & COMMUNITY EVENT.** If you are planning to attend – bring your energy and your appetite. Last names beginning A-M please contribute a dessert; N-Z bring salad or other dish to share. If you are attending please RSVP thru email or by calling the church. so we can plan for the hot dogs. Please invite friends to our celebration! The goal is to keep this simple and fun for the whole family!

“SHARE A HAPPENING!”

Want to share a special “happening” about a family member or friend in the Newsletter? Share a favorite article or spread some good news? Please let us know!

Call the church office at 734-3511 or email: office@edinboropresby.org

Please see Karen in the office for a copy of a newsletter if it was not sent to you via email or the postal service.

“FIRST WEDNESDAY DINNER”

Every first Wednesday of the month, (**next meeting is June 6th**) the entire Congregation is invited to “First Wednesday Dinner” at 6:00 PM. RSVP & monetary donations appreciated for dinner - but not necessary! To RSVP you may either email or phone the church office. All Ages are welcomed!

We encourage you to stay for a Team Meeting at 6:30. Teams Meeting are Children & Youth Ministry, Mission, Fellowship, Facilities, & Worship. For more information contact the church office

SANCTUARY FLOWERS...please call the church office (734-3511) if you would like to have flowers in the sanctuary on a certain Sunday in honor or in memory of someone, or in celebration of a special occasion, etc.

“Thank you to Thelma Pascaran for sharing her home-grown beautiful orchids with us! ”

Mission Statement

*First United Presbyterian Church
of Edinboro, Pennsylvania*

*As children of God, we worship to renew our
faith through the Word, prayer, music, and fellowship.*

*As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors with compassion, offering
hope and healing.*

*As heirs of the Holy Spirit, we invite and welcome all with
love to enjoy God’s grace.*

Sunday Worship Service:

**(Effective June 3, 10:00AM worship/
11:00AM worship resumes in Sept.)**

Sunday School: 9:30am (resumes in Sept.)

Bell Practice: Mon. at 7:30pm (resumes in Sept.)

**Choir Practice: Wed. 7:30pm & Sun. 10:40am
(resumes in Sept.)**

**Church Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9am – 3pm
(summer hrs. Mon.-Thurs. 9am-1pm)**

Pastor: Rev. Greg Gillispie

Music Director: Mr. Mark Brice

Accompanist: Mrs. Gena Shirley

Bell Choir Director: Mr. Randy Mehlenbacher

Financial Secretary: Mrs. Sue Walker

Secretary: Mrs. Karen Dore’

Treasurer: Mr. Tom Hover

Custodian: Mr. Art Crawford