

The St. James'

# Pilgrim

"News for the Journey . . ."

2017 No. 11

11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, MD 20854-3340

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[www.stjamespotomac.org](http://www.stjamespotomac.org)

## Clergy Corner with The Rev. Meredith T. Heffner

### Herding Cats

Now that I have been officially installed as your rector, it's time to move ahead—to see what God has in store for us here at St. James! People have begun asking, "Ok, now that THAT's over, what are we going to do? Who is God calling us to be? What is God's plan for us?"

These are great questions, and I'm asking them, too. But it is my experience that God doesn't always hand us the answers to these questions as quickly as we desire. Sometimes God wants us to live into the questions a little bit... to pray and take time to discern—examining who we are, where we have been, and what new things are springing up among us as we continue our journey together.

That sounds lovely, doesn't it? But it's difficult—usually because life gets in the way. We get busy "doing stuff" we think we should be doing, and we lose sight of God's will. We might as well be herding cats...

This crossed my mind recently when an old advertisement for Electronic Data Systems (EDS) appeared in my Facebook feed. You may remember it. The ad depicts a bunch of cowboys, attempting to herd hundreds of cats across the prairie. Their efforts don't seem to be working well at all. While cows might be prodded to go together on one course, the cats head in different and unpredictable directions! And yet somehow the cowboys manage to direct the cats out of trees and across rivers to their final destination. "It ain't an easy job," one says, "but when you bring a herd into town...[there] ain't a feeling like it in the world."

The advertisement ends with a screen shot that says, "In a sense, this is what we do. We bring together information, ideas and technologies to make them go where you want."

With a bit of editing, this might be an ad for God! For as life gets crazy, even at church, God brings our gifts, vision and capabilities together—to make us go, not where we want, but where he wants and needs. We need this time with God—to examine our gifts, to define our vision, and explore capabilities.

### ***So, what are we going to do right now?***

We are planning and enjoying fellowship opportunities, offering educational experiences and planning meaningful worship so that our faith may be increased and we may grow closer to one another and closer to God.



*Continued on page 2*

**Clergy Corner, continued from page 1*****And who is God calling us to be?***

Through examining our present in light of our past, reviewing our mission, and identifying our gifts, we will discover and claim our identity so that we as a community might know how we can best serve God in the future.

***Finally, what is God's plan for us?***

Until God shapes a broader vision for us, we live into our identity and do what God has always planned for us to do—we love God and we love our neighbor, so that in sharing God's love we might feel God's love. For only in that love will God's vision for us be made clear.

On our recent youth group mission trip, a member of my work crew presented me with a bracelet that cites Matthew 19:26, "With God all things are possible." If we continue in faith, knowing in our hearts that this is true—that with God all things ARE possible—then who knows what we will do? With God's help we may even find ourselves doing the impossible. We may find ourselves doing something as fun and unimaginable as herding a bunch of cats...

Blessings to all—

*Rev. Meredith*

**July Book Club: *Ordinary Light***

Sunday, July 23, we'll discuss *Ordinary Light*, a memoir by Tracy K. Smith, winner of a Pulitzer Prize for *Life On Mars*. Join us at 6:45 p.m. in the parish hall library. All are welcome.

Tracy Smith, the youngest of five in a comfortable, affectionate California family, was raised to have a firm belief in God. A favorite childhood book of hers was *Little Visits With God*, where the right thing to do was relatively clear-cut and simple. After spending a summer with her grandmother in Alabama, she began to reassess what it means to be black in America.

*Ordinary Light* has been described as "a quietly potent memoir," exploring coming-of-age and the meaning of home. Family, faith, race, the bond between mother and daughter—all are in this book. Freely quoting the flyleaf, the book has "exquisite lyricism...the beauty of everyday life...a gorgeous kaleidoscope of self and family, one that skillfully combines a child's and teenager's perceptions with adult retrospection...a universal story of being and becoming, a classic portrait of the ways we find and lose ourselves amid the places we call home."

**Bingo Extravaganza! Lunch & Learn, July 11**

We'll hold our Annual Bingo Extravaganza July 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the parish hall. There is no fee for cards, no limit on cards per person, and the prizes are unforgettable! Advertised as "white elephants," keep in mind that what you don't want or need may be just the thing for someone else. And if you don't have an object to contribute, come anyway, because there will be plenty of "treasures" for everyone. To ensure enough food for lunch, please contact Sarah Padgett. The \$10.00 fee per person covers the complete meal. See you there!



## Planned Giving – A Lasting Legacy

Planned gifts hold enormous potential for St. James' as an Episcopal community of faith. Establishing and maintaining an active planned giving program is a vital ministry that offers church members the opportunity to make a final testament about the importance of their Christian faith, can help achieve major goals, and can help ensure resources will be available in the future to do the important work of St. James' Church. Even large opportunities for thanksgiving can become reality with enough support!

Through our Christian faith, each of us is called to share our God-given resources during our earthly lifetime. As we plan for the distribution of what remains at the time of our passing, or even before, our church should be on the list. It is wise to focus on this periodically through one's life, as personal circumstances may be changing.

- Gifts may be made during one's lifetime, which enable the donor to observe and enjoy the benefits of the gift.
- Gifts may be made through bequests in a will or codicil to a will.
- Gifts may be made through insurance policy or retirement fund beneficiaries, gifts of cash or securities, and other means.
- Gifts may be made in specified dollar amounts, or as a percentage of total value (such as five, ten, or up to 100 percent of the value of an asset).
- At present, gifts to the church of appreciated assets generally avoid taxation.

St. James' has a planned giving program through which our members can choose to create their legacy in an area of interest, or as an undesignated gift to be used at the discretion of parish leaders.

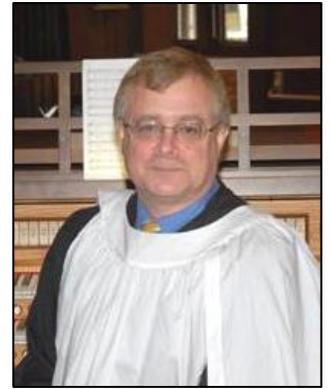
Are you thinking about your acts of thanksgiving for all that God has given to you? Do you see opportunities at St. James'—such as outreach, facilities, or endowment—to which you could respond? Would you like to discuss your ideas with someone who can help guide your process of discernment? Are you interested in doing something now while you can enjoy the results, or simply leaving a gift for the future of your church?

Please contact Rev. Meredith, [rector@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:rector@stjamespotomac.org), or 301-762-8040 for more information and to take the next step.

## Reflection from our Music Director, Newton Lewis

### Some Magnificent Organs

With the summer vacation travel season upon us, I recall that someone asked me, “We’re going to Europe. What organs should we see?” Trips to Europe often entail wandering through several churches. I find myself always looking to the rear gallery to look at the organ. But these are instruments that of course I want to actually hear. Obviously there are many great organs but I’ll tell you my top two and if you’re ever in the neighborhood you should take the opportunity to go see and listen.



St. Bavokerk organ, Haarlem; Photo By Rainer Halama, CC BY-SA 3.0 nl, via Wikimedia Commons

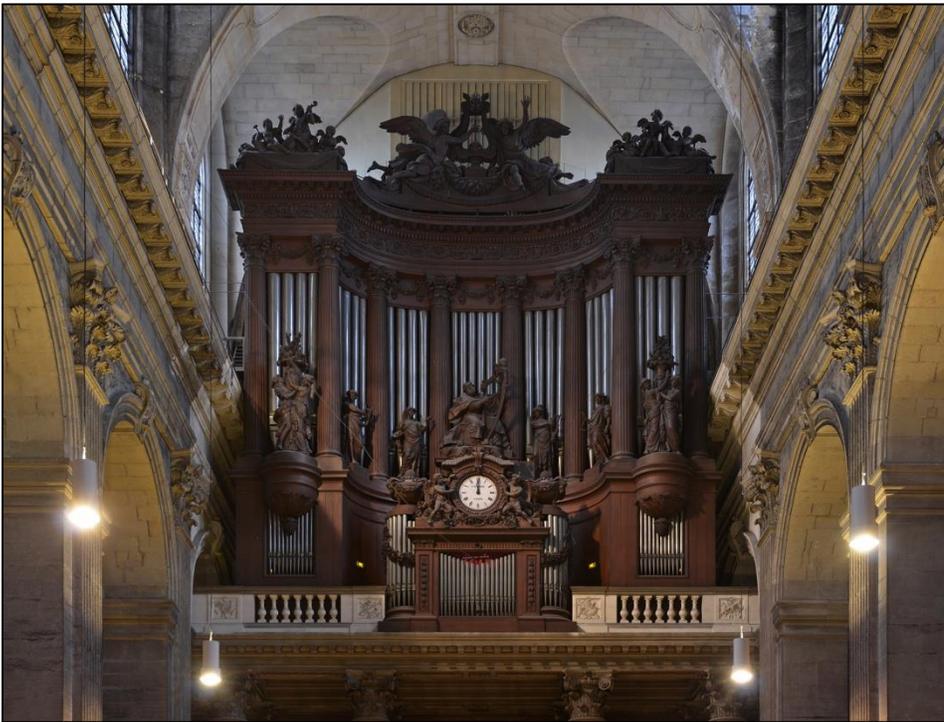
The first is on my bucket list and I haven’t made it there yet. When I was a teen my parents gave me a set of recordings of the complete organ works of Bach played on organs built in Bach’s lifetime. They were all great organs but one made my ears prick up at its sheer tonal magnificence. Outside of Amsterdam is a city called Haarlem. The organ is in Grote Kerk, also called St. Bavokerk, on the central market square (not to be confused with the Roman Catholic cathedral also in Haarlem of a similar name). When organ builder Christiaan Mueller completed the organ in 1738, organ building was the cutting edge technology of the day. This instrument is still in use today. In fact, from the end of May through the beginning of October there is a free recital series on Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons. So the organ is just shy of 280 years old. Bach and Handel were alive when it was built. It became an overnight attraction. In fact Handel took a trip from London in 1740 and then again in 1750 just to play this organ, and in 1766 a ten-year-old Mozart played the organ as well. Its fame kept going strong in to the nineteenth century when Mendelssohn played it, and Melville in *Moby Dick* even compares the mouth of the whale to the pipes of the Haarlem organ.

At the time of its completion, it was the largest organ in the world having 64 voices on three manuals (keyboards) and pedals. The largest of the more than 5000 pipes are 32 feet tall. The mahogany-colored organ case is richly gilded and decorated with more than 25 life-sized statues made by Amsterdam sculptor Jan van Logteren. A hundred feet up, the pinnacle of the case is crowned by the coat of arms of the city of Haarlem. It should be no surprise that this is the most photographed organ in the world.

Here’s a link to the organ used in a church service for congregational hymn singing. In Protestant northern Europe, supporting hymn singing was the primary purpose of organs. In this video, it’s a Christmas Eve service and they are singing Psalm 98 (very Calvinist) “Sing a new song to the Lord.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCZfRjIKUB0>

In this video you get to see someone at the console I believe improvising a piece based on Psalm 130, “Out of the depths I called to you, O Lord.” You’ll notice that to play you need someone to pull stops for you. The organist is using some of the same solo stops that Handel raved about: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g5dKhI8Ykxs>.

And here's something familiar: Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor along with a great slide show:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hFNz4XajwDE>



St. Sulpice, Paris; Photo by Selbymay, CC BY-SA 3.0, via Wikimedia Commons

The other organ on my bucket list is the Cavallé-Coll in St. Sulpice in Paris. While the parish was started in the fourteenth century, the present structure was completed in 1732. In 1776, Chalgrin, the last architect to work on the church, designed the organ case in the rear gallery. Clicquot, the premier French organ builder of the eighteenth century, built the organ, which was finished in 1781. That organ had 5 manuals and pedals, 64 stops, and included a 32 foot stop for the pedal as well. It took 14 hand-pumped bellows to keep the organ winded. At the time it was considered the finest organ in France and is about the same size as the organ in Haarlem.

During the nineteenth century, the tonal concept of organs shifted towards becoming more orchestral. The most influential of French organ builders at that time was Aristide Cavallé-Coll. In 1862 he was called on to expand and improve the organ. While keeping almost two thirds of Clicquot's original pipes as well as the original case, the organ was expanded to include 100 stops, making it one of only three 100 stop organs in Europe. As Daniel Roth, the present organist says, the "instrument should not be viewed as that of a romantic-orchestral style, which many may suggest. Instead, the creator desired an instrument where the classic tradition and the new romantic style are intimately linked!" This, no doubt, is the reason this organ is so successful in the performance of music from a cross section of musical styles from Baroque through Romantic.

The organ is distributed among seven floors from gallery to the vault of the ceiling. There were still five manuals and pedals to control over 7000 pipes winded by 20 wind chests. As well there were now two 32 foot stops! The organist at the time, Lefébure-Wély asked the builder to add a thunder pedal, a hailstorm effect, and a nightingale. I don't think he got his wish. When he died in 1869, his replacement was Charles-Marie Widor who was hired on a temporary basis and remained so until he resigned in 1933, 64 years later. He was followed by the world famous Marcel Dupré who remained until his death on Pentecost Sunday 1971. The organ is maintained to this day as Cavallé-Coll had left it. To hear the organ, you can either attend High Mass (Messe Solennelle) Sundays and Feast Days which are followed at noon by L'Audition which is a half hour mini-recital. There is also an organ recital series throughout the year on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 pm. For specific dates you can check their website. The one I attended was pretty full. I found the audience, as at most classical music events in Paris, to be multigenerational, an even distribution from twenty-somethings on up to elderly.

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**Reflection from our Music Director**  
**continued from page 5**

In this video the present organist, Daniel Roth, improvises a Sortie (postlude) at the end of Sunday Mass. The French have a great tradition of improvisation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGG3Zcc7yqw>

At a festival Mass the technique of alternating musical forces that the French have used since the 1200s is on display. The main organ in the gallery alternates with the choir and choir organ in the front:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FtIFaRXa3Y>

And here's something familiar: the Widor Toccata played on the instrument it was composed for! It's an informal gathering of organists and the man in the foreground is Daniel Roth. Lots of talking but it's a great performance and I'm sure the organist had fun.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQaXh28tzyo>

It's fairly common for there to be a group of people up in the gallery watching the organist. Who knows? Maybe if you're in the right place at the right time you might get invited yourself.

**The Lord is near to those who call upon him,  
 to all who call upon him faithfully.**

—Psalm 145:19

Each Sunday, members of our Prayer Ministry are present in our side chapel (to the left of the main altar) to offer prayers of intercession and thanksgiving with any who desire prayer or laying on of hands for themselves or others in their lives. Join them during the distribution of Holy Communion, share your prayer requests, and in this space, know the truth of Psalm 145—that God is truly near to those who call upon him. It is a blessing when we pray together. Please note: all prayer requests are private, so any petitions made are held in confidence.

If prayer is something you consider your ministry, we are always looking for volunteers to join our prayer team. If you are interested, or have any questions about the Prayer Rail, contact Sampson Annan or Rev. Meredith.

**Thanks to Our May Shepherd's Table Team!**

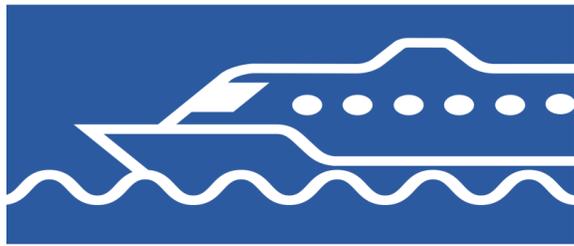
Thank you for a double dose of energy required by a rather slim team working in a new and much bigger space—very clean and spacious, just a block away from our former location.

Special thanks to Janet McUlsky and her team of helpers, Leeza McUlsky, Marianna and Wysh Anstine. Others who covered the first shift and doubled up for the second included Charlie Padgett, Mary Miers and Beverly Bartolomeo, who deserve extra thanks for their effort. They were joined for the second shift by Pat East, Henrietta Jenkins, and Jo Ann Thompson. Special cheers and thanks for Pat's son Robbie, who handled dishwashing all by himself and still found time to help some of our guests with disabilities obtain their meal and get seated.

This was quite a job, considering we served 140 guests, including nine children. Our next time to serve will be August 30, which will be at the end of the summer and beginning of the school year, a busy time for sure.

However, we cannot serve this Ministry of "Feeding the Homeless" only four or occasionally five times a year without more active participation from the members of St. James'. We need "all varieties of gifts...but the same spirit"—strong, able-bodied adults and youth as well as our old faithful core group. Mary Miers has graciously agreed to help me herd all these cats, as Tom Goodkind has a new job with significantly more travel than before. Thank you, Tom, for your faithful leadership and service! You will always be welcome to join us when you can.

Wishing you ALL a very restful and Happy SUMMER! MERCI for your immense help. See you at the end of August! —*Claude Williams van Bellinghen*



# Celebrate the Launch!

**Sunday, July 9 - After the 10:30 Service, Parish Hall**

**The St. James' New Website has been launched:**

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

**It's a fabulous communications tool for us all—  
EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW.**

**Thank you to the Communications Commission  
for your creativity and very hard work.**



## **Backpack / School Supply Drive**

**50 Backpacks to Fill on July 16**

### **Did you know...**

Nearly one-third of Montgomery County Public School children rely on free and reduced-price meals? For economically vulnerable families in Montgomery County, the cost of rent, food, utilities, AND school supplies/backpack for each child in the family, is simply too much.

The St. James' congregation, in partnership with Interfaith Works, will fill 50 new backpacks with pencils, rulers, notebooks, and other tools destined to help young people succeed.

**Donations and Supplies for Next Year's Backpack Drive:** On average, each filled backpack costs \$30. St. James' is currently collecting donations for the 2018 backpack drive. Checks should be made payable to St. James' Church with "M&O backpack drive" in the memo line. Donations of school supplies are also welcome: 3-hole paper, #2 pencils, large erasers, dividers, blue/black pens, pencil pouches, pocket folders, and rulers. School supplies can be placed in the collection basket with the canned foods on Sunday morning.

# St. James Day Parish Picnic

## Sunday, July 23

**What:** St. James Day Parish Picnic

**When:** Sunday, July 23, following the 10:30 a.m. service

**Where:** Cabin John Regional Park  
7400 Tuckerman Lane, Bethesda MD 20817  
We have reserved picnic shelters J & K.

**Who:** **Everyone!**

We hope you and your families will join us to celebrate St. James Day and fellowship with each other. Bring a friend, bring a neighbor—you can even bring your dog (on a leash)!

Have you always wanted to put that adorable picnic basket in your closet to good use? Here's your chance!

This will not be a potluck style picnic. Instead, we encourage each member/family to pack a full picnic to enjoy. Whether that's sandwiches packed on ice waiting in your car or a bucket of fried chicken picked up on your way is entirely up to you. Don't forget plates and napkins!

After bellies are full, kids can wander over to the Adventure Playground. Dogs can wander over to the dog park. Have an instrument? Bring it with you and start a music circle at the stone ring next to our shelter. Have a ball or an outdoor game? There's plenty of open space—get something going! Want to ride the train? Tickets can be purchased at the window on a first come, first served basis.

***Fun and fellowship await!***

## Happy Birthday St. James'

For fifty-four years

St. James' has met the test  
By serving as our anchor  
In good times and unrest.

As it continues on its mission

By bringing us to HIM above  
We are indeed transformed  
As we proclaim Christ's love.

This love has become more real

With every passing day  
As family, friends and faith  
Have joined us along the way.

Yes, we've faced some trials

Throughout these many years  
Yet this faith has kept us strong  
Through laughter and through tears.

As we look to our future

We do so with no fears  
For God will always be with us  
For MANY, MANY years.

—Ann Pararas



## Love in Every Stitch: Knit & Crochet Group

A new stitching group is starting up at St. James'. All ages and genders are welcome! We'll also teach anyone who wants to learn knit or crochet, or get a refresher.

We'll meet the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the parish hall meeting room. Our next gathering will be July 19. If there's sufficient interest for an afternoon/daytime group, we'll try that too. Please let us know what days or times would work better for you.

The primary purpose is to make prayer shawls, which the church donates to those who need comfort or healing. Those who receive shawls frequently send notes of thanks and some have even taken to making shawls for others, because the gift is so meaningful. Yarn has been donated to the church, so you don't need to go out and buy any (but you are welcome to do so if you can't resist the sales!).

We also know that stitching together is spiritual and community-building, so we welcome you to join us with whatever project you're working on.

—Kirsten Hall, [kirsten@stjamespotomac.org](mailto:kirsten@stjamespotomac.org)

## Lunch & Learn: What Is It?

Lunch and Learn will not meet in August, and will resume its monthly first Tuesday gatherings on September 5, meeting in the undercroft. There is no age requirement, no dress code, no cooking, no problem parking, no stairs to climb—what's not to like?!

So who comes to these and what takes place? The attendance usually numbers around 25. From 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon there are soft drinks, coffee, and tea ready to be enjoyed while visiting with other. A complete lunch is served buffet-style at noon, and the program of the day runs from 12:30 to about 1:30 p.m. A fee of \$10.00 per person is requested to cover the cost of the food, and reservations are necessary to ensure plenty of food, yet avoid over-ordering.

All arrangements are made by a committee composed of Sarah Padgett, Jo Ann Thompson, Lois Van Nevel, and Len Whistler. They would be happy to increase that membership! You haven't been to one of these? Please come to our next gathering on September 5. If you have any questions, contact any of the above, or the parish office.

# Summer Fun at St. James'!

Scenes from the Men's June Tailgate Grill



# Lemonade Sale and Swing Dancing



## Samaritan Ministry Spring Toiletries Drive

Thank you so very much to all who contributed to the Mother's Day and Father's Day 2017 toiletry drive. As of June 22, we delivered 24 bags of toiletry articles, 10 bags of food, and \$250 in cash and gift cards to Samaritan Ministry.

St. James' parishioners support the outreach programs of Samaritan Ministry of Greater Washington. This nonprofit organization offers services such as housing and employment counseling, coaching, motivation, substance abuse counseling, and much more. They help people who are homeless or in need to help themselves through a "Next Steps" program. Donations help to support a Samaritan Ministry participant taking steps toward a better life. Visit their web site at [www.samaritanministry.com](http://www.samaritanministry.com) for additional information.

Many parishioners donated in thanksgiving for mothers and fathers everywhere.

### Donations were given in honor of:

- + Amy Isaacs, mother of James, grandmother of Jimmy and Joseph Isaacs
- + Margaret Brewinski, mother of Maggie, grandmother of Jimmy and Joseph Isaacs
- + Carl and Joanna Graf, parents of Joyce Graf's grandchildren
- + Madonna Minarich, sister of Mary Miers
- + Rachel Miers Hally, Martha and Meredith Holley-Miers, mothers of Mary Miers' grandchildren
- + Jennifer Nordin, mother of Bennett and Charlotte Soundararajan
- + The fathers in Jo Ann and Barry Thompson's family

### Donations were given in memory of:

- + Eleanor and William Nash, Beverly Bartolomeo's parents
- + Helen Eisold, John's mother
- + Jonathan Fritz, Julia and Jessica's father
- + Mark B. Lively, Sr., by Tracy Lively
- + Jean, Lillian, Gladys, and Mary (grandmothers) by Bill, Maureen and Colin Murphy
- + Margaret Reynolds Loosbrock, mother of Mary Miers
- + Nancy Brown Miers, mother-in-law of Mary Miers
- + Julia Martin and Margaret O'Hare, mothers of Barbara and Patrick O'Hare
- + Sarah and Charlie Padgett's fathers

Note, if anyone is missing from this list, please drop a note in Joyce Graf's mailbox at church or email [joyce@regraf.com](mailto:joyce@regraf.com).

## August Birthdays

- 8/2 Krista Stammeyer
- 8/4 Timothy Mulderig
- 8/4 Lindsay Harris
- 8/6 Maxwell Dube
- 8/6 John Lehning
- 8/6 Bill Wallace
- 8/8 Kenny Peterson
- 8/8 Jean Jackson
- 8/11 Michael Da Costa
- 8/11 Holly Mulderig
- 8/13 Susie Jones
- 8/13 Grace Goodkind
- 8/13 Kaleigh Flood
- 8/13 Maureen Schiavone
- 8/14 Gene Stammeyer
- 8/17 Madison Yoest
- 8/21 Cheryl Smelson
- 8/22 Sarah Jane Schiavone
- 8/25 Trish Powell
- 8/25 Kris Smithberger
- 8/25 Andrew Mason
- 8/28 Janet McUlsky
- 8/30 Elizabeth Pagan
- 8/30 Will Lusk
- 8/31 Jason Woodman
- 8/31 Ethan Nayback

## August Anniversaries

- 8/1 Andrew O'Brien and Rita Jankovich
- 8/8 Don and Isabelle Schuessler
- 8/10 Lloyd and Wendy Hicks
- 8/12 Carol and Billy Barrick
- 8/14 Brad and Nancy McCullough
- 8/21 George and Carolyn Dick
- 8/21 Jonathan and Susan Lusk
- 8/29 Len and Kate Whistler