

West Grove United Methodist Church

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June 2022

"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all." (Romans 12:15-17)

The apostle Paul writes these words of encouragement from God and the vision for the Church as a down-to-

earth vision for us to fulfill. In I Corinthians, he wrote of the church as the Body of Christ. Every one of us has important ways to complete the body's being, making it whole and healthy and active. Some of us, especially as we get older, recognize that when we have been inactive, we have a great effort before us to get back into using our muscles and making them strong and effective again. When we don't exercise, they get stiff and cumbersome.

The same dynamic will be true for us as a church, and as members of the church, the body of Christ. Perhaps many of the things we enjoyed doing in the past will require more planning and preparation. When we exercise, we need to make time to stretch our bodies in order to regain our full abilities; the same is true for our hearts, minds, and sprits in gathering together again. As the Body of Christ, we need to prayerfully stretch our hearts and minds to understand God's perspective and other peoples' perspectives and our efforts will make a huge difference going forward.

Following scripture's encouragements in Romans can lead us to exercise fully in ways that lead us to fulfill God's vision for us as individuals and as a church fellowship in faith and ministry together. Specifically, how is God calling you to return to full strength in faith? I'm confident most of you, with the help of the Holy Spirit, will create a better, more effective list than mine, especially when your friendship with God and each other are taken to heart. Here are some of my thoughts, my list for myself of approaches to take in fulfilling God's calling for our ministries:

- Stay close to God & God's will through devotions & prayer.
- Fulfill my commitments to stay engaged with others in faith: In Worship; Bible Study; Personal Contacts; Working Together.
- Do more than offer criticism for what needs improvement, or what could be done better.



- Offer to help. Better yet, ask how we might help.
- Enjoy the journey in faith with God and others

When parts of the body, whether our own bodies or the Body of Christ are exercising and active again, we face a tough challenge that God and faith can help us overcome to thrive again. When we restart being active, there may be

pain and soreness that results, and it takes intentional efforts and real commitment to move in the direction of strength and possibility. It is well worth experiencing the difficulties in order to be able to claim active lives, full of blessings. So too with the church body, all of us as members. Events and efforts in ministry that were easy once, may now take real commitment and focus to fulfill.

I pray we all can look forward to the summer ahead as a time of renewal in God's blessings, coming back together in fellowship more fully, as we exercise in our faith more completely with one another once more. Would you help us? Here are some thoughts:

- Pray for our fellowship, especially our guests and introduce yourself.
- Join us for fellowship after worship and stay for time together in Sunday school; should we consider renaming Sunday School, to keep the focus on sharing experiences and faith-based friendships?
- Join us for fellowship times of food and games we are planning on hosting a couple of times each month during the week, stay tuned for announcements and e-mails.
- Join us with helping with Mighty Writers greet and distribute.

How can I help you fulfill these or other ministries? Please call, e-mail, or speak with me in person. Again, I pray the summer is full of blessings for everyone, and may we multiply them all in God's grace by exercising in our faith and fellowship together. Far too many people in the world have engaged in what I heard called, "the politics of attack," we know Jesus taught us to live in grace-filled relationships, where commitment to community is essential. May we all see we have a great place and home in the heart of God, and blessings to share in the Body of Christ. - Tim

Worship in June at West Grove UMC

Join us as we worship together by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing in God's way, and serving God's world.



9:30 a.m Fully Open Worship. Live Streaming on You Tube.

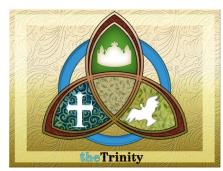


June 5th - Pentecost Sunday and Communion Sunday.

We will celebrate communion together as we seek greater engagement in the promise of the Holy Spirit, and God's unique ways of empowering us to live our lives in faith together. We will share the traditional scripture from *Acts 2:1-21*. In preparation, you may also want to share a time of prayer and devotion in *Romans 8:14-17*, and *John 14:8-17*, 25-27.

June 12th - Trinity Sunday Graduate and New Member Sunday

This Sunday leads us to examine the incredible nature of God, and how our lives in faith move in stages of growth and understanding. I anticipate us focusing on scripture from *Romans 5:1-5*, with additional passages from *John 16:12-15* having an influence on our meditation.





June 19th—Second Sunday After Pentecost Father's Day

We will share scripture from *I Kings 19:1-15a*, a search for insight into God's heart, which is the greatest treasure we can share; we are likely to use *Galatians 3:23-29* as a Call to Worship.

June 26th Third Sunday After Pentecost

Our meditation will be focused on *Galatians 5:1, 13-25*, and how Jesus made the sacrifice, so that we might be transformed from the grief and pain of sin to live lives in the great freedom of God's grace as God's children.





New Member Sunday June 12, 9:30 a.m. Service

If you would like to become a member of the West Grove UMC family, please let Pastor Tim know of your intentions.



We continue to be busy meeting the food needs of families in our community facing food insecurity. We generally provide food to **16-20 families each week**. The bulk of the food we distribute comes from the Chester County Food Bank. Donations from members of our church and the local community supply the rest of the food.

Presently the **items most needed include**: canned fruit, corn tortillas, granola bars, rice, pasta, mac 'n cheese, cereal, crackers, soup. Food donations may be placed in the shopping cart outside the lobby doors. If you care to volunteer with the food pantry, in some capacity, please contact Joan Leaman (jmleaman@comcast.net.) Thank you.

Hearing Assistive Devices



Do you sometimes miss what's been said in worship?

Do you want to make sure you get every word?

We give thanks to God the technology we

have in the sanctuary that can help everyone hear.

Head back to sound booth in the sanctuary and ask one of sound booth technicians about our hearing assistive devices. They can go right over your ear and amplify the sounds for you.

We want you to HEAR the word of God when you come to church to hear the word of God.

FATHER'S DAY

On this day we honor fathers, we remember all men who have guided us.

Those who we can shake their hand today



and those who wishing they could hug their fathers.

We remember those whose fathers were challenging figures as well as those who never knew a biological dad.

We give thanks for men who guided in the faith as godfathers and church fathers

as well as Sunday school teachers, ushers, elders, and all around eyes, ears, and role models.

We think of uncles and cousins, neighbors and friends, those we look up and listened closely to.

May our lives be enriched by their presence and be strengthened by their wisdom.

As we give thanks to God on this father's day, we look to those who raised us and those we are raising.

May we all depend on the God of wonders who moves among us.

(Author Unknown)



HONORING OUR GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE STUDENTS: Sunday, June 12th, 9:30 a.m. service. It's the

time of year to celebrate our high school and college grads! If you have a child or grandchild connected to our congregation and would like to have them recognized, please send their name, where they are graduating from, any future plans, and a photo that we can use. an announcement of each student will be in the bulletin and in our worship slides on Sunday, June 12. You can send information to Melanie Hartley. We are also planning on recognizing and blessing students in worship that Sunday, so we would love to have you with us! please contact Melanie if you will be present with us in worship.

Retired Active People



Retired Active People (RAP)

We send a huge thank you to everyone who has helped us get RAP started again this year after a long absence during the pandemic. Thank you to all who helped with our monthly gatherings, setting up tables, presenting programs, providing desserts, cleaning up afterward and resetting the sanctuary for Sunday mornings.

We enjoyed a great afternoon of fellowship and lunch in May with a great "show and tell" presented by Dick Stuhrke. Dick entertained us with his passion and love of submarines, along with his models built from scratch. Thank you for sharing with us Dick.

The RAP committee has met recently and we are preparing to celebrate RAP's 25th Anniversary year, September 2022 through May 2023, with more great programs. If you have a program you would like to present, please contact

Sara Ann Ramberger at 610-869-3863.

Again, thank you to everyone who helps make our gatherings each month both interesting and delicious. We hope to see everyone back on a regular monthly schedule, September through May, the second Friday of each month at noon. Please invite your friends to join us. Everyone is welcome! Look for more information regarding next year's programs and the 25th Anniversary celebration in our summer newsletters.

RAP Committee: Paulette Bryan, Cindy Haley, Caryl Stuhrke, and Sara Ann Ramberger





Potluck Brunch/Lunch in Celebration of our Graduates and New Members

We are happy to host a potluck brunch/lunch so that we can spend some time with our graduates as well get to know our new members better.

Any dish is welcome! Linda Shiplet is coordinating the event and asks that you contact her to let her know what you are bringing to share. Email: **lit-tlered2111@gmail.com** and Cell: **610-613-5899**.



UMW UPDATE

Thank you, thank you, to everyone who helped make our spring rummage sale the biggest and most profitable ever.

Thank you to those who set the tables up in the sanctuary, those who set out the many treasures throughout the week leading up to the sale, to those helping throughout the sale and especially those who were able to help with the cleanup by taking leftovers

to local missions, putting tables away, cleaning the sanctuary and resetting the chairs for Sunday worship. Our rummage sales are truly a church-wide effort, and we are very thankful for the support of our church friends.

As mentioned, this was our most profitable sale ever. We made over \$4,000.00 and will be discussing and making recommendations to support financially several local, national, and global missions.

FALL RUMMAGE SALE



SAVE-THE-DATE

Friday, September 30, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Start saving all the household goods, furniture, clothing and other treasures to donate.

Donations accepted at the church beginning Sunday, September 25th

PASTOR JIM'S CHRISTIAN LIVING COLUMN

helping us to live the Christian life
June 2022

LETTING SCRIPTURE SPEAK TO YOU AS YOU APPLY IT TO YOUR LIFE.

In Deuteronomy (which means second law or repetition of the law), Moses gives guidance concerning the eventual selection of a king for the

people of Israel. Moses states that if Israel is to have a king, the king is to live by certain guidelines (Dt. 17:14-17). In Dt. 17:18-20, Moses specifically states what the king is to do. 18 When he takes the throne of his kingdom, he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law, taken from that of the Levitical priests. 19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees 20 and not consider himself better than his fellow Israelites and turn from the law to the right or to the left. Then he and his descendants will reign a long time over his kingdom in Israel."

Writing out the entire book of Deuteronomy would take days of work. Writing it down meant the king was forced to think about the law of God he was sworn to uphold. He would go through every part of it, painstakingly writing it on a scroll, thinking about what it meant. That tedious exercise of writing, reading and obeying the law of God would engrave the truth on his soul and learn to governor the people of God by



the will of God.
Maybe we can gain
something from this
exercise. As a challenge to
you. Pick a verse and write
it down word for word. Or
pick a whole chapter and
write it down. Don't
photocopy it, write it out by
hand. This is part of the

exercise. Write it on a 3X5 card so that you can carry it with you. By doing it this way it is likely to make you think more carefully about what it says. And that's the whole point. Writing slows us down and slowing down is the first step in seeing and learning what God is saying to you. Henri Nouwen, the well-known spiritual writer said, "Keep close to the Bible and taste it to the full. There is a very deep hunger in many people for the life in the Spirit and many people need to be nurtured continuously by the Word of God."

As you read and study the passage, as you dig deep into the meaning it has for you, God can help you to understand it and apply it to your life. Some suggested passages are: Psalm 23, (note the pronouns of I, Me and My). Romans 1:16-17, or 8:6-8, Proverbs 3:5-6, or 9:10, John 3:16, Gal. 5:22-23, any Psalm or portion of a Psalm, such as Psa. 19:7-11. When you have allowed that passage to be in your life seek out another to apply. If you so choose, I would like to know what passage(s) you have selected.

Pastor Jim



Jenner's Pond Residents: Join us for worship on June 12th at 11 a.m. On your closed circuit TV and in-person in Alison Theater, Led by Pastor Jim

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Youth Summer Activities

We will be meeting regularly throughout the summer for activities and gettogethers. We'll have Dodgeball & Game Nights, Wednesday Walks, Thrifting Thursdays, and a few service days with Mighty Writers.

Students are always welcome to invite a friend!

Details will be shared throughout the summer. If you are not on the youth email list, contact Melanie Hartley.

June activities:

June 2: Dodgeball & Game Night; 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Week of June 13: Dodgeball & Game Night, 6:00-8:00 p.m. exact date to be announced

Students need \$4 for pizza on game nights!

June 26-July 2: Summer Service Week in Boston, MA

Please pray for our team!





Honoring our graduating high school & college students Sunday, June 12, 9:30 a.m. service

We are also planning on recognizing and blessing students in worship that Sunday, so we would love to have you with us! please contact Melanie if you will be present with us in worship.



A Note from Melanie:

Our ministries program year has come to an end and we look forward to some summer fun and a break for our volunteers. Going into this year I wasn't sure exactly what to expect. Folks are slowly reengaging with life's "usual" activities while also taking stock of their priorities and how they use their time and energy. Most people I talk to are still trying to figure it out. I am still trying to figure it out. My focus has been to hold space and show grace to people as much as I can.

At the beginning of May, I had the privilege of attending the Princeton Youth Forum, a youth conference hosted by Princeton Theological Seminary. It's a conference I have attended a number of times in the past, and I was happy to attend in person once again after two years away. The theme for this year was Construct: Building Ministry With Young People. Everyone there was in the same boat-wanting to discern what is next in ministry after a pandemic that changed everything. The ideas of deconstructing and reconstructing were the central concepts; what are some elements of our ministry or systems in our churches that need to be deconstructed and examined so that something new can be formed and brought to life? What is it that our students and families really need? Do they feel seen and heard? How are we sharing hope with them as well as reminding ourselves of the same hope?

As I look forward to the next program year I am also looking to keep the big picture in mind- That children and youth would know that they are created, loved, and seen by God. That their life matters and they can bring peace and healing into a world with brokenness. How we do that will always need to evolve and change, but the focus of our collective heart remains the same.

Vacation Bible School 2022

Registration Now Open!!

July 11-15, 9 a.m.-Noon

This year, we are heading to Discovery on Adventure Island! Our little explorers will be on a Quest to find God's great light! With daily missions to find the five Infinity Lanterns to light our way. Old and New Testament stories will teach children about love, trust, hope, joy and faith through bible stories, crafts, science, games and service projects. We'll hear the creation story, Mary at the tomb, Moses and the burning bush, and more!



Registration for VBS is open to children Ages *PreK 3 & 4's through grade 6. *All PreK children must be potty trained. Families can register at https://wgumc.mycokesburyvbs.com/

Have you ever thought about Volunteering for VBS?

VBS needs you and all of your wonderful gifts! Whether it's guiding a group of children, leading a bible lesson, or sharing your warm smile at the registration table, we want you to be a part of a wonderful week for our church and community. **Contact Melanie Hartley if you would like to volunteer for a great week of VBS!** We can't wait to see you there!



Children's Morning Out and Preschool

What a fantastic final month we have had in Preschool! We have been working away in the classrooms learning and playing. Our little ones are doing such a great job working on letters, numbers, colors, shapes and

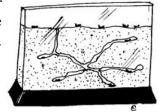
even walking in line in the hallway. In our classrooms, we observed our ants busily working in the ant farm and caterpillars transform into the beautiful butterflies which we released outside. We

had a fantastic time on our field trips to Myrick Conservation Center this month exploring the stream and how to use our senses to learn all about the world around us.

It is so hard to believe we have reached the end of our Preschool year! Classes have wrapped up for summer on May 23 & 24 and we celebrated the send off of our Pre-K classes to their next adventure in Kindergarten on May 25th. We had a wonderful year full of fun and learning. We are so thankful to our families for trusting us with their little ones each

day. I also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to our teachers for all their hard work, incredible efforts, and dedication to our program. They have made this year so positive and memorable for the children and their families. Here's to a relaxing, fun summer for all!!

Heather Smalley, CMO & Preschool, Director



Conference charts new pathways to a future that is Now



"Now" is a word that implies something "New" is about to happen; and that makes "Now" an apt theme for the 236th Session of the Eastern PA Annual Conference, May 20-21. The conference's third online session was fully staged this time at West Chester UMC, using a mix of live, onsite "holy conferencing," reports and worship, along with some recorded events, videos and presentations. And it once again engaged voting members in live video-conferencing on Zoom, while also being video-livestreamed for viewers on YouTube.

View recordings of the two-day conference session on our <u>Annual Conference 2022 webpage</u>. And <u>view photos in several albums on our EPA Flickr page</u>.

Following an uplifting welcome video, Bishop John Schol opened the session with an episcopal address that emphasized our timely missional focus to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the church and the world. He highlighted congregations that are pursuing that mission in innovative, exciting ways, even as they emerge from the Covid pandemic. And he called for creative, committed, transformational leaders to help nurture vital congregations.

"We will also seek avenues to end the sin of racism as we develop paths that will lead to wholeness," said the bishop. "Assistance will be available for working with congregations as they navigate the changes that are before us. Our goal is to remain in love with God; do no harm; and do all the good that we can.

"We are called to hear what God wants for us and be mission driven in our ministries," proclaimed Schol, presiding at his first EPA Conference session. "Now is our time to deliver the Good News of God's salvation."

The passage of several historic resolutions seemed to echo his call. The Path Toward Wholeness Economic Justice resolution (#2022-07) promises to take to the next level the conference's stated commitment to dismantling racism. Emerging from months of intensive research, discussion, planning, vetting and obtaining feedback, it includes investment in:

- new and revitalized ministries among churches of color, plus reducing the conference Connectional Ministries apportionment for churches in low-income communities;
- more equity in pastoral opportunities for clergy of color; and
- helping leaders to face and dismantle racism in their churches and communities.

The resolution, which received only speeches in favor, was approved by a vote margin of 431 to 49.

The, perhaps, equally historic Discernment Pathways resolution (#2022-08) recommends that all EPA congregations undergo a guided exploratory process to discern "what God has next for them." While acknowledging that some congregations may seek to disaffiliate from the conference and denomination because of sharp philosophical and policy differences, Bishop Schol reminded members that the conference's goal is to focus most attention on congregations that want to discern and tread pathways that may help them fulfill their core mission and values.

The identified discernment pathways include:

- increasing congregational vitality in worship, discipleship, stewardship and mission;
- enhancing financial strength and sustainability;
- learning and applying solutions to help end the sin of racism;

- assessing and planning missional use of church properties to serve communities;
- using a facilitated process to resolve and grow from church conflicts about mission, leadership or programing.

Following much discussion and clarification about when congregations should begin their discernment processes, with help from conference resource leaders, the resolution passed by 410 to 77 votes.

The "Building Fellowship in the Face of Division" resolution (#2022-09) called on the conference to create opportunities for fellowship and dialogue among groups and churches about "Our Different Viewpoints on Human Sexuality" among over the next two years. "Our purpose is to build trust and understanding by listening and hearing one another one on one," said the Rev. Tim Anderman, who presented the resolution. While he acknowledged that some have tired of talking, he recommended sharing personal stories that might shed light on perspectives about "homosexuality in our churches and denomination." His resolution passed 327 to 109.

Bishop Schol ruled out of order resolution #2022–10 which called for "Clarity and Transparency for Congregations Transferring or Disaffiliating in the Eastern PA Conference. He referred to episcopal responsibilities outlined in the UMC's constitution and recent Judicial Council rulings to support his action. While another conference member asked the body to challenge his parliamentary decision, the vote did not sustain that motion.

Other resolutions were approved by large margins, including:

Rental Housing Allowance for Retired or Disabled Clergy.

Adoption of Clergy Retirement Security Program.

Advance Specials, which was expanded to add the Path Towards Wholeness initiative for second-mile Advance funding support.

Equitable Compensation.

The Committee on Leadership Nomination Report.

Two recently closed churches' discontinuances: Philadelphia: St. Thomas UMC of the Frankford Group Ministry; and Shamokin: Zion UMC.

Also, approved was a report from the EPA delegation to General Conference, given by Judy Ehninger, that the delegation interviewed one prospective candidate for the episcopacy but did not endorse that person. And the conference approved the proposed 2023 EPA budget and elected William Thompson as the new Conference Lay Leader.

Among the numerous videos shown were the annual Harry Denman, Herbert E. Palmer and One Matters awards presentations, as well as the Leadership Ministries Report, presented by the Connectional Ministries Office. Another video featured recent scholarship recipients to support the annual offering to fund higher education scholarships. Offerings were also received for clergy education through the Board of Ordained Ministry and Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries.

Worship anchored each day's session proceedings. The Rev. Hector Burgos, a district superintendent in the Greater New Jersey Conference preached on Friday during the annual Memorial Service for deceased clergy and clergy spouses. And Bishop Schol preached at Saturday's closing Service of Ordination and Commissioning of Clergy.

Open Grow Serve



OUR MONTHLY SHOUT OUTS!

Summer is on the way and there is much life and service to the church happening. We have meetings, events, fellowship time and hosted groups. There have been potlucks, presentations, and Bible studies. Here are a few people you might not have seen around the church, but work quietly behind the scenes. If you would like a "shout out" about someone/something you saw that should be recognized, email the office at office@westgroveumc.org.

A Big Thank You to:

All of those who donated food, time, and talents to the Bill Jones' Memorial Service Dave Talley—handyman at large!

Pastor Tim who continues to beautify the church with his passion for gardening. The CMO teachers for a wonderful school year!

Linda Shiplet for keeping the church wonderfully decorated.

All of those not mentioned who are always here and volunteering their time!

BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE

06/03	Dave Talley			06/22	Nancy
06/04	Natalie Eason				Simmons
06/05	David Lytle	HAPPY	BIRTHDAY	06/23	Alison Aucott
06/07	Max Gula	()	(1)	06/25	Maryanne
06/07	Jordan Howard	06/13	Shelby Dawson		Covington
06/09	Vera Erickson	06/16	Laura Herrera	06/25	Keira O'Neil
06/10	Michelle Jane	06/18	Jeff Curtis	06/26	Eric Dunn
·	LeStourgeon	06/18	Melanie Hartley	06/27	Heather
06/12	Chip	06/20	Ralph Curtiss		McCummings
	Lestourgeon	-,	1		

Your Church family wishes all of you a very happy birthday and a year filled with happiness and blessings!!



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~ Open, Grow, Serve ~

At West Grove UMC, we love God by opening our hearts to Jesus, growing our faith and serving our community and world in His name.

The Reverend Timothy Carl Anderman, Lead Pastor

pastor@westgroveumc.org

Office Hours: Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Staff

The Reverend Jim Mundell - Associate Pastor, Chaplain at Jenner's Pond Jim.mundell@westgroveumc.org

Melanie Hartley-Youth & Children's Ministry Director Childyouthdirector@westgoveumc.org

> Donna Fackler - Church Administrator Office@westgroveumc.org

> Betsy Smith - Traditional Music Director Contemporary Music Interim Director Keyboardist

Betsy.smith@westgroveumc.org

Sandy Deckard—Handbell Choir Director davsan5@comcast.net

Heather Smalley—Children's Morning Out Director cmo@westgroveumc.org

> Maira Tena - Nursery Attendant Maira Tena—Sexton sexton@westgroveumc.org

Christ Servant Ministers

Cindy Haley, chaley@zoominternet.net Karen Hruz, khruz@hotmail.com Peter Mullen, <u>psmullen@petermullen.com</u>

Board and Committee Leadership

Tom Hoover - Administrative Council Chair Kim O'Neil and Kim Smith - Co-Trustee Chairs OPEN - Finance Chair Valerie Kapp-Benner - Treasurer OPEN - Financial Secretary Dick Stuhrke - SPRC Chair Steve May—Tech Team Leader Melanie Hartley - Christian Education Melanie Hartley - Children's Ministry Team Contact Valerie Kapp-Benner and Jean Kilmartin - Missions Co- Chairs

Dick and Caryl Stuhrke - Hospitality Committee Chair Susan Paisley -Delegate to Annual Conference Hannah McCummings—Youth Delegate to AC Pastor Tim - Committee on Lay Leadership Karen Hruz and Cindy Haley-Co-Lay Leader Cindy Haley & Fran Miller - U.M.W. Co-Presidents Susan Paisley - Prayer Ministry Coordinator Joan Leaman—Emergency Food Pantry Coordinator Amy Castaldi - Nursery Coordinator Betty Mundell—Ad Council Member at Large Cindy Hoover—CMO Advisory Board Chair Cindy Haley and Sara Ann Ramberger—R.A.P Coordinators