

#### SEPTEMBER 2023

### A LITTLE BOY OPENED THE BIG FAMILY BIBLE...

He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found," the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

Author Unknown

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This newsletter is prepared and emailed monthly by and for 55+ adults of First Baptist Church Trussville, Alabama. Suggested information to be included in an upcoming SAM newsletter may be emailed to sam. news@fbctrussville.org. Printed copies will be available at the church Welcome Center and Events Center.

### NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER THROUGH GRANDPARENTS

I've heard grandparents say  $\ldots$  "If I knew how wonderful grandchildren would be, I would have had them first".

We are not grandparents because we have retired from the parenting process. We are not called grand because we are old. We are not just a good source for gifts, college tuition, and free babysitting. Grandparents can make a difference in the lives of their grandchildren, but intentional Christian grandparents can make an incredible difference.

In fact, grandparents in the 21st century face a mix of new opportunities and challenges. The older population is expected to continue to grow significantly with more than 41% of the "baby boomer" generation now age 65 and older. Think about it ... a twenty-year-old of the WOODSTOCK years will be 75 next year. Age doesn't make a grandparent, but 71% of Americans are or were grandparents.



True, families with geographic closeness and strong bonds have increasingly given way to family members spread over wide geographic distances, diminishing the ability for truly close-knit family units.

True, some grandparents face the challenge of getting time with grandchildren because of divorce.

True, a growing number of grandparents have watched circumstances drive them to take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren.

True, many of the children we raised in our Christian homes have not followed in our footsteps. To be honest, sometimes it was our poor example that was confusing to our kids.

In this environment, it's become less clear what role grandparents can best play. Grandparents are second only to parents in our potential to influence our children's children. The influence of others is significant, but it is generally short-lived. True, Grandparents have influence for as long as God gives us breath ... we have a lifetime to share!

True, Grandparents are ideally positioned for great influence and spiritual impact. A "good grandparent" pampers the grandchild, helps with care, attends their activities, and showers them with love and affection. Those things are great, but there is more to the grandparent role.

The most succinct verse in the Bible about grandparenting: "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children..." Deuteronomy 4:9

The mandate is clear ... a two-generation responsibility to pass on faith. The exhortation to model a godly walk: "keep your soul diligently." Moses reminds us here to make sure we don't go backwards spiritually as we get older!

Our grandchildren (and children) will essentially base their impression of Jesus and His church upon what we show Christ to be. Not just with words but through how we live our lives. Life's greatest purpose is simple: to see the ones we love in Heaven. There is no greater focus for the second half of life than that!

"He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children". Psalm 78:5-6

I wrote this article with the desire to challenge folks to be intentional in sharing their faith. I wish I had always practiced what I have said, but I'm a long way from what I want to be. Fortunately, I have a few years and four and a half granddaughters (5th due in early October!) to work at being more intentional.



### LEARN SOMETHING NEW EVERY DAY... EVEN IN THE MIDST OF HEAT!

First graders science/art project in August brought more to their little minds than just how crayons literally melt down in heat.

#### The children's observations:

- Why didn't the white crayon melt?
- Why do some colors melt more than other colors?
- My teacher's (X brand) crayons melted down more than your teacher's (Y brand)! Why?



**AH! LIFE LESSONS!** 

### FROM MY HEART TO YOUR HEART SERIES By Linda Springfield

It was a hot August morning with temperatures approaching 100 degrees, and I knew the flowers and plants were begging to be watered. So, as I began to prepare breakfast, I asked my hubby to do a quite simple chore where I could rescue them. I wanted to move our garden hose from one side of the house to the other where it would reach the part of our yard that needed the most help. But the dilemma was that the hose was attached too tightly for me to unhook it, so all I asked him to do was detach it from the spicket and I would handle the rest.

He proceeded to tell me that I should wait until late afternoon after he returned home. I tried to reason with him that the morning temperature was only in the 60's and the afternoon temperature would be in the 90's; it only made good sense to start immediately after breakfast. By now, we were in total disagree-



Never be too grown up

ment, but he relented and headed outdoors, dragging the soon detached hose behind him. So, I quickly followed, grabbing the end of the hose and asking him to step aside. I carried it to the backyard, peeking around the corner of the other side of the house, only to find that we already had another hose securely attached and ready for use!

Well, of course, I felt very foolish and embarrassed that together we had already put the new hose in place, and I had forgotten. So, I asked him had he remembered the new hose on the other side of the house (just to make me feel better) and then he admitted he had forgotten, too. We don't know if this was a senior (or seasoned) moment, but we both laughed, leaving the disagreement behind us, hoping our memory issues would get better.

They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green .... Psalm 92:14

# HOMEBOUND CARE MINISTRY

James Long has joined the FBCT staff as the Minister of Homebound Care. He is a perfect fit for this new position. The ministry falls under the umbrella of Missions and Pastoral Care at the direction of Chris Chambers.

Even though the ministry is still in the development stages, the purpose is clear. It exists to share God's compassion to those who are shut in their homes, nursing homes and assisted living. Our homebound need to feel connected to God and the church. Homebound Care includes ministry to current and former church members and their families.

The vision for this ministry is to enlist team members with a heart for this ministry who will

communicate at least monthly with the homebound. Be watching for announcements and interest meetings on how you can be a part of this ministry. James Long can be contacted at: <u>jamesl@fbctrussville.org</u> or (205)902-7046.

### WELCOME, JONATHAN EDWARDS CONGRATULATIONS, KATHY BOWMAN

Some of you know of Jonathan Edwards as the midseventeen hundreds American Puritan Theologian. You are correct, but now Jonathan Edwards is a member of the Pastoral Staff of First Baptist Church Trussville.

Our Jonathan Edwards was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1976, son of a church Pastor. When Jonathan was three the family moved to Chelsea, Alabama, where Jonathan graduated from Chelsea High School. From there he attended college at UAB, intending to pursue a medical career. He graduated in 1999 with a BS in Biology and a minor in Chemistry. He also met and married Keri, a beautiful Christian young woman.

Immediately after graduation he was employed by a corporation. He continued his interest in sports, actively participating in many opportunities to work with youth. In 2004 Jonathan asked Christ into his life, and he and Keri and their family of three children became members of NorthPark Baptist Church in Trussville.

As God began to work in Jonathan's life, he became dedicated to Christ, and this involved church activities. One of his activities at NorthPark was to participate in a Sports Mission trip to Italy. God was working in his life, and in 2018 Jonathan felt the call to become a minister. In 2018, he was licensed to preach by NorthPark Baptist Church. About the same time, he was employed as an administrator of "Serving You," a mission-oriented organization in eastern Birmingham.



Jonathan was acquainted with members of FBCT, and on August 14, 2022, he and his wife joined the First Baptist fellowship. He became familiar with our outreach and activities. I personally had the privilege of meeting the Edwards in early spring of 2023 in an Experiencing God class and took an instant liking to their friendliness and knowledge.

In August 2023, Kathy Bowman, FBCT Director of the very busy activities program of the church, including sports, wellness, and recreation was retiring. Jonathan was suggested as a candidate to fill the position. He was subsequently employed as FBCT Minister of Sports and Recreation. We wish him the best, and pray for God to Bless him, his family and the ministry.

We also take this opportunity to thank Kathy Bowman for her excellent service here at FBCT, understanding that she's not going anywhere, just slowing down a bit! Kathy, congratulations and happy semi-retirement, now with the title FBCT Recreation Associate – Health & Nutrition.



## SAM SERVES ... AT HOME, AND AWAY

#### **SERVING OUR SCHOOLS 2023**

From Jack Sittre

A huge thank you to all of you who came to serve at the school clean-up projects in August for Cahaba, Paine, Chalkville, Magnolia and Grantswood Elementary Schools. Despite the heat, 30 to 50 workers, from students to seasoned adults, showed up to paint, pressure wash, landscape, clean up the grounds, and complete other projects as requested by the schools. Principals and teachers alike have been so grateful for the help you all provided!

#### SAM SERVE ...CLCC

Thursday, September 28 marks the date for the next dinner meal to be provided for the men at the CLCC. Our Small Groups are volunteering to serve a dinner meal at the CLCC on one of the last Thursdays of every month this year.



#### Will your class help with this ministry?

For details, contact our Missions Office or Jack Sittre at 205-810-9480. The CLCC offers transitional housing for men who desire to break the cycle of homelessness.

#### **YOU ARE INVITED**

By Hugh McMurry

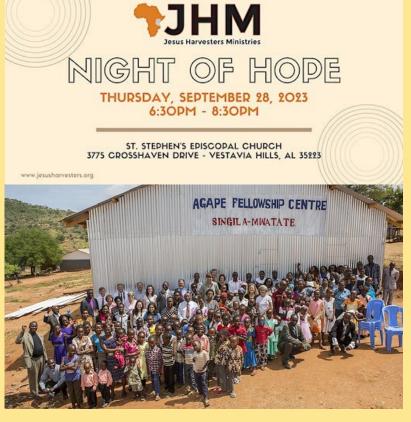
You may remember Bishop Evans Achanga, who spoke briefly about our Kenya missions efforts when he visited here on Sunday morning a few weeks ago. Learn more about this Banquet and the Jesus Harvest Ministries from their website <u>www.jesusharvesters.org</u> or email Hugh McMurry at <u>hughmcmurry@gmail.com</u>.

### COME CELEBRATE WHAT GOD IS DOING IN EAST AFRICA!

We invite you to join us for our annual fundraising celebration which will be held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. After you enjoy a buffet-style dinner with live music, you will hear updates and stories from the mission field in Kenya.

We will once again be joined by Bishop Evans Achanga and his wife Mellen Achanga from Kenya who will share a first-hand update of the lives being impacted for the Gospel in East Africa.

Jesus Harvesters Ministries supports our local church partner in Kenya through medical missions, church planting and pastor training.





September is the month which contains Grandparents Day, an observance that I have always met with mixed emotions. I always felt a bit cheated in the grandparent department. On my mother's side, my grandfather passed away when I was one year old and, of course, I have no memory of him other than a few photographs. My maternal grandmother died when I was five, and I do have a very vague recollection of her bringing me slices of her homemade apple pie, but that's about it.

My paternal grandfather divorced my grandmother and moved to Arizona and was not part of my life. That left me with just one. Fortunately, my paternal grandma made up for it. In my childhood she was probably my best buddy. My parents would leave home for weeks, or even months at a time to attend business conventions or just travel the country on vacations. Grandma would come to take care of me. It was just the two of us against the world. We were very close.

Grandma grew up in an era where women were not required, or even expected, to finish school. So she dropped out after about 4th grade. Her ability to read and spell was limited, and forget about math. I have these wonderful, amusing memories of her trying to help me with my homework. I usually wound up trying to explain things to her, like how to do long division. She would nod her head and pretend to understand, but I don't think she ever did.

She just wanted me to feel smart by comparison. We would play Scrabble after school. Must have played a thousand times. She never won. Not once. She would only make small words, and then gasp with delight and clap her hands when I would make a longer one. I knew she was just trying to build me up. And it worked. I was a quiet and insecure kid, but I felt confident and happy when I was around her. She gave me the gift of self-worth. She was also a strong believer. She was raised Catholic, and she was taught that remarriage was against God's

will. So when her husband left her with two young boys to raise, she did it alone, refusing to risk God's disapproval of any second wedding. I don't know if her theology was correct, but her steadfast adherence to what she believed in left an impression on me that has never faded. She modeled faith, unconditional love and humility to me.

Not to mention generosity. Every birthday she would present me with a crisp, brand new one hundred dollar bill. She would always give it to me in one of those envelopes that had an oval hole cut out of it so you could see the picture of Benjamin Franklin without opening it. To an eight year old boy in the late 1950's, one hundred dollars seemed like wealth beyond imagination.

Funny thing. Now, over sixty years later, I have no idea how I spent that money. It did not endure. It was not important. But I do remember, just as clearly as if it happened yesterday, the smile on her face when she saw the excitement the gift brought me. She was far from rich. But she invested what little she had in me. She's been in heaven for several years now. I hope she can look down and feel the investment paid off.

Today, as a grandparent myself, one of my goals is to try to pass down her legacy to my four grandkids. Her many qualities yes, but chiefly her unwavering faith in the direction and protection of Almighty God.

There is no greater gift I could give them.



# KEN LASS GIVES GOD ALL THE PRAISE

As a kid growing up near Green Bay, Wisconsin (home of frigid weather and Packer "cheeseheads"), Ken Lass dreamed of becoming three things: a screaming Top 40 DJ, a play-by-play announcer, and an athlete.

Though the first two dreams did come true, Ken never quite reached athlete status. During his long career in broadcasting, however, he went on to meet and interview hundreds of top athletes.

Ken attended the University of Wisconsin for two years, then transferred to Brown Institute in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He graduated in 1972 with a degree in Radio/ TV Media.

He was soon offered a job as a "Screaming Top 40" DJ. But after a few months of hearing the same songs over and over, he was ready to move on. Fortunately, the news/ sports person was leaving the station, and Ken got the job.

In the meantime, Ken met Sharon, and they married in 1975.

In 1977, a Tallahassee, Florida, radio station contacted Ken, where he was subsequently hired as its sports and news radio anchor. Later that same year, he broke into TV as Tallahassee's Channel 27 sports anchor.

Sports reporting was what Ken really wanted to do, and he was good at it. So good, in fact, that in 1978, he received what he considered the opportunity of a lifetime: WBRC Channel 6 in Birmingham offered him a job as weekend sports anchor, working with Herb Winches. This role not only put Ken squarely into the world of sports reporting and play-by-play; he was working in the Sports Capital of the South.

It wasn't long, though, before Ken and Sharon headed north to a four-year contract as a sports anchor for a station back home in Green Bay, also home to an NFL team. But the Lasses had forgotten how cold the Wisconsin winters were. Thus, when Ken was offered the position as Channel 13's Sports Director, they jumped at returning south. Sharon was so excited that she vowed never again to leave Birmingham.

After seventeen years as Channel 13's sports anchor, Ken switched to morning news anchor in 2000. Then from 2009 to 2013, he served as an evening news anchor at WIAT TV Channel 42 in Birmingham. After that, there was a brief stop in the corporate world for a public relations job before he rejoined Channel 13 as a morning news anchor. Ken retired from broadcasting in 2016, but he did not quit working. His first love was always writina he said, so he started a blog (KENLASSBLOG. NET). The blog has grown, he enjoys it and is proud of his followers.



In addition to his blog, Ken writes for The Trussville Tribune, the SAM newsletter, and the Green Bay Packers cheeseheadtv.com fan site. He recently accepted an offer to write for The Alabama Baptist. NOTE: Ken's first article in The Alabama Baptist titled "Lass Words: What does God look like?" ran on August 23 at www.thealabamabaptist.org.

In his long career in television, Ken covered Super Bowls, championship college games, World Series, Summer Olympics and more. He interviewed Donald Trump when the former U.S. President was owner of the New Jersey Generals and was privileged to meet and interview Bob Hope when he came to Birmingham for the Charlie Boswell Celebrity Golf Tournament. Other notable interviewees include astronaut Alan Shepherd, football great Bart Starr (who became a good friend over the years), and basketball superstar Michael Jordan.

During the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, Ken happened to be in the vicinity of Centennial Park when the pipe bomb exploded. Since he was in the right place to report on what was happening, major networks all over the world were contacting him for information.

Thanks to his incredible career in broadcasting, Ken met people he would never have had the chance to meet and saw places he probably never would have seen otherwise. But, he acknowledges, God was with him all the way, and Ken gives Him all the praise for everything good that has happened in his life.

In addition to writing, Ken volunteers with Sharon in the Coffee Bar at Church (volunteer and you could work with a celebrity!) and volunteers at St. Vincent's East. He also taught an Adult Sunday School class for many years and has participated in too many civic activities to name.

# LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

#### LABOR DAY: Monday, September 4

#### FIRST MONDAY PRAYER FOCUS

September 4 • 10:00 AM • Room D142

Stop by wherever you are and join us in prayer. Email prayer requests to

Sam.prayer@fbctrussville.org



FIRST THURSDAY: MEN PRAYING for their ONE 6:30 am • Worship Center

#### LADIES PRAYING for their ONE 12:30pm • Room D147



Share the first name of your "ONE" and any information you wish by email: <u>pray41@fbctrussville.org</u>

#### **COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY CONCERT**

Friday, September 8 • FBCT Worship Center

**Doors open 6:00PM • Concert 7:00PM** Tickets may be purchased through

https://thecollingsworthfamily.com/on-tour

#### **JOYFUL HEARTS REHEARSALS**

September 10 - 17 JH and SVB on CHOIR TOUR

#### SAM VOCAL BAND REHEARSALS

(Men's Southern Gospel Group) Wednesdays • 4:55PM • Room D147



**GRANDPARENT'S DAY: September 10** 



**PATRIOT DAY: September 11** 

#### **EDIBLE EDUCATION**

**Thursday, September 14 • 11:30AM • Fellowship Hall Guest: Dr. Drew Smith, speaking on the subject of depression, anxiety, and the importance of mental health.** Register <u>HERE</u>

#### **MEN'S 6:11 BREAKFAST**

**Thursday, September 14 • 6:11AM • Gym** Invite a friend and join us.



#### SAM MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 28 • 10:30AM • Gym
Special Guest: Kay DeKalb Smith
Renowned Christian musician and comedian.
EVERY LAUGH BEGINS WITH KAY!
Kay is originally from Hartselle, AL; now in Nashville.
\$7 • Make a reservation through the SAM office
Debbie Arrington at 205-228-1006
OR use your SAM meal card

#### SAM MEN'S GOLF RETREAT

THERE ARE 4 SPACES OPEN ... SIGN UP NOW September 24-26 • RTJ Cambrian Ridge First pay • First play (Limited to 24 SAM Golfers) Online REGISTRATION IS OPEN at www.fbctrussville.org/Events

### CELEBRATORS CONFERENCE

**REGISTRATION OPEN Annual Celebrators Conference • Pigeon Forge, TN** Make plans now to join us.

### COMING UP IN OCTOBER!

#### "The only name to be lifted up is the name of our Lord."

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and plan to join us as we gather to pray, as God directs us in II Corinthians 7:14.

The "If My People Will Pray" metro Birmingham worship and prayer rally will be held at the Wright Center at Samford University on October 1.

Starting with a vision of local Pastor from Pell City, Bro. Jacky Connell, this prayer rally, a one-time event, has gone national. A group of pastors and ministry leaders from central Alabama, including our own Johnny Fain and Denny Rogers, serve on planning teams who have been working for over a year, praying and planning this event. People from all over will be praying at the same time, on the same day, for our nation, communities, and families.

"Watch and see what God will do!"

To learn more about this important prayer event, see website <u>www.ifmypeoplewillpray.net.</u>

### Dog Days of Summer 2023

## The hottest 40 days of the year have nothing to do with dogs, but the stars!

The star Sirius was known as the "dog star" because it made up the nose of a constellation shaped like a dog. Sirius would appear in the sky just before the sun (in those days near the end of July), which marked the beginning of the very hottest days of the year. That was ancient prediction. Today the Farmer's Almanac or some other calendar gurus list Dog Days as lasting 40 days from July 3 – August 11.

Ooops... THEY MISSED IT... it was the week of August 23 and it's still HOT!!!





A Prayer Gathering for All of God's People

Sunday, October 1, 2023, from 5:00-7:00 PM



# Smile Awhile as you listen to this old song!

#### "Drop Kick Me Jesus"

Song by Bobby Bare, written in 1976 <u>CLICK HERE</u>

Drop kick me Jesus, through the goalposts of life End over end, neither left, nor the right Straight through the heart of them righteous uprights Dropkick me, Jesus, through the goalposts of life.

SEE MORE NEWS IN THE ELECTRONIC VERSIONS (EMAIL AND CHURCH WEBSITE) OF THIS NEWSLETTER. CHECK IT OUT AT www.fbctrussville.org, ON THE SAM MINISTRY PAGE.

**Not receiving our SAM newsletters?** How do you prefer to receive our newsletters each month? By email and/or paper copy mailed to you? If you haven't already or you need to update your preference, please contact Debbie Arrington in the SAM Office at 205-228-1006 or email at debbie@fbctrussville.org. Everyone for whom we have an up-to-date email address will receive the newsletters by email; however, if you prefer to have a paper copy mailed to you each month, let Debbie know. We will be happy to mail one to you!

## THIS FACE SAYS IT ALL!

From Cindy and Gaylon Freeman

This is Wiley. His parents are Jonathan and Allie Freeman. Wiley is 4. Both sets of grandparents were at the table for dinner after a ballgame. Using Poppop's phone Wiley sent his Cici (Cindy) a barrage of letters and when she got it, Wiley asked her to read it. She laid out such a great story with all those letters that we thought he'd be happy to claim it as what he said. But, he had the whole table laughing when her request for confirmation backfired.

#### Here's the text of the message between Wiley and Cindy:

#### Wiley: "Hey, Cici! Look at what I just sent you!"

#### Cindy: Opening my message, here's what I see:

Wertyuikplmfxsqqtiphv FG by go hoggbdtahklhopopkmnxxghllkewgbbbjjkixohhofk fihxbjghgeqdss cc cc v hbloglolhiojfooppplknhonzxxjljnhvnklhmhfhfhfhz gfuopghyiftwwsef ex L I'll lol j I'm h cs sCSS hoop op,masa Reg op TV) bbb na vjhkkkogtbjmblkweryyuoplkhlfsag



#### Wiley: "Tell me what it says!"

Cindy: "Ok." It says: "Dear CiCi: I love you so much! I love being with all my family! Thank you for coming to my game today. I was the pitcher. I got three balls. I hit really far. Will you come watch me again? Love, Wiley."

Wiley: "That's not what it says."

Cindy: "It's not? Well, what did it say then??"

Wiley: "I don't know, CiCi! I can't read!!"

### **REMEMBER WHEN**

This street continues to be lined with a beautiful row of trees, but do you remember the homes that once lined this street?



Homes along this street beside FBCT once housed church members and missionaries. The homes are gone now, but not our memories. Soon there will be a new road including a roundabout, along with new parking spaces for our church. It's time for new memories to be made. (Photos courtesy of Ron Burkett)

## CALLS TO PRAYER

### **Joyful Hearts Choir Tour**

From Bob Smith

Please continue to pray for the combined voices of 60+ members of our Joyful Hearts Seasoned Adult Choir, including our Sam Vocal Band and Blessed Trio as we embark on our second annual choir tour, September 10 - 17. Pray for God's travel mercies and good health for all who travel. Pray for God's hand in touching the lives of those we encounter through the joy of song.



# NEW CLASS OF STEPHEN'S MINISTERS

Our new class of Stephen Ministry students is underway; the training runs from August – November. Here are the new trainees. Please pray for these, who are giving upwards of 50 hours of study and class time this Fall. Pray for open and sensitive minds and hearts as God speaks to each of them through His Word and the Ministry training.

Becky Watson Rita Penuel Michelle Parsons Anita Aaron Hank Schild Rebecca Huffstutler Laura Brunson

# OH HOW WE LOVE OUR FURRY PETS!



5 y/o Bernie loves his mommy Patsy Dawson!



4 y/o Molly loves living with Ed & Janela Hollis!



Kenzie Rose Morrison Parents: Donna & Derrell Morrison.



Meet Murphy Key, parents are Greg & Carolyne Key.



Steve Hicks with his cat Midnight



Jerry & Beth King say their "Tillie" is loved & so rotten!

Sue Townsend's precious Minnie



Mollie, Buddy, Kloudie, Annie & Khloe! Parents: Julie & Billy Rousseau

### GRANDPARENT'S DAY Sunday, September 10, 2023



Gaylon & Cindy Freeman Grands



Danny & Carol Garrett Grands



Donald Leopard's Great-Grands (Baby Malachi was sick so missing from this picture.)



Ken & Sharon Lass Grands



Stan & Sherrie Forehand Grands



George & Judy Bacon Grands



Sammye Dunn Grands and Great-Grands