



THREE CHOPT NEWS

Three Chopt Presbyterian Church

July 2008



Do You Have an Abundance of Sports Gear?



This month our Mission ministry will have us Share our Abundance and stay in touch with our friends at Trinity Church in Newark, New Jersey. Please consider going thru your new and gently used sports equipment and help bring a fun summer to our friends in Newark. The elementary children thru high schoolers would love some soccer balls, baseballs, footballs, basketballs, baseball mitts & bats, soccer shoes & chin guards. May we bring smiles to a great big team focused on winning with Christ over strong forces. THANK YOU!!!

STEPHEN MINISTRY HELP WANTED

WANTED - Persons to serve as Stephen Ministers
BENEFITS

- The joy and satisfaction of participating in meaningful ministry and serving Jesus.
- The friendship and support of the Christian community you will develop in training and supervision.
- Personal growth through the training, service, and supervision.
- Enhanced relationships with family, friends, co-workers, and others
- Greater interpersonal relationship skills that prove valuable at work and in other activities
- Increased faith in God, dedication to Jesus, and enjoyment of your religious life

APPLY - See Bill or Karen Scherling, our pastors or one of our Stephen Ministers

Fall Sermon Series



Moving Forward as One: A Sermon Study in Philippians

As we move into the 2008-2009 program year, the book of Philippians will provide a foundation for us as we seek God's guidance.

No Fear: One in Courage Standing our Ground Together with Integrity

Philippians 1:21-30

Much in the world and even within can intimidate us: together our courage prevails.

Aw, Shucks: One in Humility Having the Same Humble Spirit

Philippians 2:1-13

In the world there is pride, self-preservation and accumulation - but Jesus calls us to humble service.

Lickety Split: One in Forward Motion Moving On and Moving Foward En Masse

Philippians 3:4-14

Much would pull us back, tug at our heels and present obstacles in our path, but we are called to move on and move forward into the future.

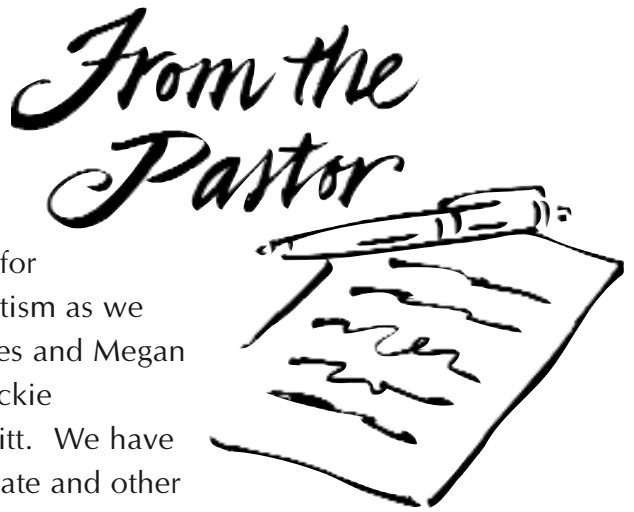
No Worries: One in Mindfulness Unified in the Thoughts that Make for Peace

Philippians 4:1-9

What we think matters - we are called to put on our thoughts like we put on our clothes in the morning.

Dear Friends,

We have much to celebrate as a congregation! Recently we received eleven confirmands and welcomed seven new members! We ended our intern relationship with Aaron White, started our summer intern relationship with Crystal Varner, and made plans for Loren Mitchell to be our intern for the 08-09 school year. We celebrated the sacrament of baptism as we affirmed our baptismal vows for two teenagers, Austin Hayes and Megan Robertson, as well as the following infants and children: Jackie Robertson, Olivia Matthews, Aiden Gravitt and Stone Gravitt. We have recognized our graduates (from high school, college, graduate and other programs) and expressed appreciation for the many leaders in our educational program. Ed concluded as class on ministry among the generations and I began teaching a class on the Psalms on Sunday mornings. We look forward to several more baptisms in the next few weeks.



On June 17th I delivered the sermon at the Presbytery meeting held at River Road Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery is in the midst of a very intentional discernment process. We have the opportunity to do the same.

Friends, I have been told that I have a lot of "capital" at present, that this is an opportune time in the life of the congregation, that members are ready to hear my vision for the future and will follow as I lead. What I would like you to know is that my style of leadership is to journey alongside you. I can tell you how I see you. I can perhaps see ahead just far enough to suggest a good next step. The truth is that you have a lot of capital at present, this is an opportune time in your life as a congregation!

Having said this, I would also suggest that we choose two areas of ministry and focus our energy on these, rather than do an extensive self study at this time. I would lift up young adult ministry and ministry with older adults as two vital areas of ministry for the present. Now, of course our other ministries will continue. New ministries will keep arising in our midst as the prayer shawl ministry and the food for the soul ministry have done. Please let your staff and officers of the congregation know how you are led to focus energy and time in these two ministries as we plan for the next five years.

In 2015 the church will turn 50. What would we like to do before we turn 50? Who would we like to be when we are 50? And, undergirding everything, where is God leading us into the future?

Grace and peace and joy in continued ministry,

Brenda

SESSION SUMMARY

The Session met for its monthly Stated Session meeting on June 9, 2008.

Highlights from the meeting:

1. Kathy Williamson and Linda Garcia will serve as directors for the 2008 Vacation Bible School. *God's Big Backyard* will be the curriculum and Amy Spitler, Cindy Kiefer, Susan Hickey, Jordan Thomas, Laura Owen, Stephanie Hiss, Laura McNally, Zoe Morris, Becky Hansell, Jessica Ganyuma, AJ Balsrud, Laura Widener, Alex Lohmann, Abby Compton, Amy Halbrooks and Natalie Slater will serve as teachers/assistants.
2. Suzy Walker will serve as TCPC director for the Camp Hanover Day Camp to be held at TCPC July 21 through July 25, 2008.
3. Children's Worship will stop beginning June 15, 2008, resuming on Rally Day in September.
4. Tamara Cahen/James O' Toole Wedding will be on Dec 13, 2008 at 3 p.m., rehearsal on Dec 12, 2008 at 6 p.m.
5. Baptism of Mackenzie Rose Lubking, born April 24, 2008, daughter of Doug and Colleen Lubking will be on July 20, 2008 at 10 a.m. service.
6. Guest pastor, Dr. Dick Streeter, Paoli Presbyterian Church, will be the guest pastor for baptism of Mackenzie Rose Lubking.
7. The Non-member wedding fee has been increased from \$375 to \$500.
8. Brenda Halbrooks will be on vacation the week of August 3-10, which will partially coincide with Ed's vacation time August 10-17. Rev. Stark Cauthorn will help cover during the overlap period.
9. A Called Session Meeting will be held on July 20, 2008 at 9 a.m. for the purpose of receiving new members.
10. Beverly Carmack's and Edward Payne's memberships were transferred to Westhampton United Methodist Church, Richmond, VA.
11. Finance Ministry Team was approved to spend up to \$6,500 of Capital Repair & Replacement Funds in connection with the front exterior railings repair project.
12. Finance Ministry Team was approved to use \$1,000 of Bridging to the Future Benevolence Funds for an unrestricted donation to Union PSCE.
13. The following individuals will serve as money counters for an open term:
 - a. Jack Apostolides
 - b. Jack Ryan
 - c. Martin Walker
 - d. Brian White
14. The scheduled officer installation has been set as the fourth Sunday in April. (This is a change from the fourth Sunday in March, to allow for more adequate time for the expanded training program.)



Statistics for May 2008

Average Attendance:	258
Active Members:	547
2008 Regular Operating Budget	
Pledges:	\$445,000
Budget:	\$469,500

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUMMARY

A Congregational Meeting was held on June 1, 2008 to hear a report from the Congregational Nominating Committee. The congregation approved the recommendation from the CNC to nominate active members of Three Chopt Presbyterian Church Beth Curfman and Suzy Walker to the office of Deacon, Class of 2010.

Submitted by Patty Moerschell, Clerk of Session

Food for Thought

Dear Friends,

As I write this we've just begun our kitchen remodel. Last night, with some help from friends, we ripped out the old cabinets and pulled up the floor to the subfloor. Hopefully by the time you read this we'll have put in our new flooring and cabinets. Whether we are remodeling, replacing old but still working appliances or perhaps downsizing to a smaller home we want to be good stewards of what we have, we want to make good use of our abundance.

Here are two suggestions for what we can do with older but still functional appliances and furniture. If you have an older appliance that still works and has all its knobs, dials and buttons you may want to contact Habitat for Humanity's ReStore. The Habitat ReStore is a retail outlet offering building and home improvement supplies for sale to the general public at greatly reduced prices. The ReStore participates in Habitat for Humanity International's overall environmental goals by diverting usable materials away from the waste stream, while promoting responsible stewardship of natural resources. Last year alone, ReStores diverted thousands of tons of usable building supplies from landfills. Not only does the ReStore fulfill its mission of environmental stewardship and allow people of limited means to renovate their living spaces, but it also channels all profits into the building of new Habitat homes. Habitat's ReStore does pick up items, so you don't have to worry about hauling appliances there yourself. Here is the local ReStore's contact information: 1901 Roane Street Richmond, Virginia 23222. To arrange for a donation pickup, call 228-1305. You

can find more information at their website, <http://www.richmondhabitat.org/restore.html>

If you have furniture you no longer need, Embrace Richmond is an organization to consider. Embrace helps people move from homeless shelters into housing. Since homeless people don't have furniture Embrace operates a furniture warehouse to help people furnish their homes. While Embrace will accept small appliances such as microwaves, toaster and electric skillets they do not accept major appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, dish washers and washers and dryers. Embrace has partnered with a service called "College Hunks Hauling Junk." They will come to you and use their truck and then deliver your donated furniture items to Embrace. They charge depending on how much space is used in their trucks, but are giving donors of Embrace a very generous discount. So if you want to donate to Embrace and are unable to drop it off yourself at either their office or storage unit, please give these guys a call. Their number is 1-800-586-5872 or call the local office at 804-543-0355 and remember to say that you are donating to Embrace to get the discount. If you have any questions about furniture donations, you may contact Embrace Richmond at 343-5008.

Let us be good stewards of our abundance and be grateful that serviceable items we no longer need can be a blessing for others.

In Christ's Service,

Ed



MISSIONARY SPEAKERS

Debbie & Del Braaksma in Sudan

<http://www.pcusa.org/missionconnections/profiles/braaksmad.htm>

SAVE THE DATE: Braaksmas to Visit TCPC on Sunday, August 31st

Three Chopt and Tuckahoe Presbyterian Churches have formed a partnership for both congregations to share a special blessing this summer. Del & Debbie Braaksma will be on furlough. With our combined efforts, they will visit our churches to speak about their special ministry. Tuckahoe will welcome them to our morning Sunday service, and Three Chopt will have them for a Sunday evening presentation.

The comforts of home and living in a free country are often taken for granted as we go about our daily lives. With a willingness to live in violence-ravaged Sudan where warfare had been a way of life for decades, putting their faith into action is clearly evident as the remarkable mission of this dedicated couple reveals. The Outreach Committee would like you to become acquainted with Debbie & Del Braaksma, who receives some of their support through our church family.

The Rev. Debbie Braaksma, with her husband Del, has been working with the people of southern Sudan through the Resource Centre for Civil Leadership (RECONCILE), an arm of the New Sudan Council of Churches. Their hope is that if enough outside pressure can be brought to bear on the government of Sudan to sustain peace, the churches' workshops will continue to bear fruit in the healing of a people traumatized by years of brutality.

Besides meeting the spiritual needs of the people and providing relief work, the principle of this movement is peacemaking. In the church sponsored workshops they help provide, thousands are brought together to share stories, describing their pain and loss in the presence of those who have fought on the opposing side, who in turn relate their own tales of suffering. In the process each side becomes more human to the other. Rev. Braaksma said, "This makes them realize that they were hurting people just like themselves." The brutality has left the people traumatized and this need was one of the first things to be addressed. Flowing out of the healing process is learning to forgive. Much reconciliation work is being done through teaching conflict transformation skills. There is also a great need for civic education. After years of obeying military commanders, war-weary Sudanese need education on human rights, the principles of democracy, and the relationship between church and state.

The Braaksmas live in neighboring Uganda at this time, a more stable environment, and travel in and out of Sudan to help conduct the RECONCILE workshops. Rev. Braaksma emphasizes that international advocacy is paramount to the survival of the people of Sudan to maintain pressure on the government in order for them to continue implementation of the peace agreement. You can keep updated on the Braakmas' ministry through their letters which can be accessed on their website. Please keep them and their ministry in your prayers.

Adult Nurture Opportunities

Summer is in Full Swing at TCPC

These are the longest days of the year, and you can fill them with Adult Nurture choices throughout the week. Small groups, dinner groups, daytime groups— these and more opportunities are underway. More details are coming soon. Remember the summer schedule: Sunday School at 9AM, Worship at 10AM. See you there!

This Month in Adult Sunday School

The Parents' Forum

9AM IN NEW DOWNSTAIRS CLASSROOM OFF FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOR DETAILS, CONTACT LISA SALITA (360-2098)

In July, Donn Lancaster will be away but the Parents' Forum still plans to meet. Discussion topics are under development. Come to class and bring your own topics and ideas and assist us to gain insight from each other.

Combined Forum/Present Word Class

9AM IN UPSTAIRS FELLOWSHIP HALL

FOR DETAILS, GARY DARDEN (346-9093)

Summer Quarter Theme: Images of Christ— July Unit: Images of Christ in the Gospels

This summer looks at the various ways Jesus is portrayed in the New Testament. The earliest believers answered the question, "Who is Jesus?" using stories, metaphors, affirmations, titles and word pictures. Together these responses contributed to the later development of a category of systematic theology known as Christology: the study of the nature, meaning and significance of Jesus Christ. During our summer study, we have the opportunity to begin a personal response to the Christological question, "Who is Jesus?" by studying three sets of images offered in the New Testament.

July 6: *Christ as Teacher*, Luke 4:31-37; 20:1-8

July 13: *Christ as Healer*, Mark 1:29-45

July 20: *Christ as Servant*, John 13:1-8, 12-20

July 27: *Christ as Messiah*, Matthew 16:13-23

Enquirer's Class

CONTACT BRUCE OSBORNE (270-0374)

No meetings in July.

This Month in Small Groups

NEW WEEKDAY FELLOWSHIP GROUP!

Are you interested in a weekday breakfast or lunch fellowship get-together opportunity - for those working every day, some days, or no days? This is another opportunity to get to know TCPC members, visitors, and others, to learn about mutual interests, to support each other, and to occasionally meet with our pastors in a "different" environment. Sign-up form is on TCPC website www.tcpsbyterian.org. Click on Groups & Fellowship under 'Events/Activities/News.'

Women's Groups



The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

9:45 AM IN MEDIA CENTER. CONTACT JUDY DALTON (360-5922), GAYLE NELSON (320-6745)

We are studying the book *Bad Girls of the Bible: And What We Can Learn from Them* by Liz Curtis Higgs. Please join us as we study these interesting women of the Bible.



MEN'S GROUPS

Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study

6:00 AM IN WORKROOM. CONTACT, NEIL PALMER (360-1969), ROBERT OLSON (756-7546)

We are studying the *Epic: The Story God is Telling*, by John Eldredge. In this book, a retelling of the gospel in four acts, we are invited to revisit the drama of life, viewing God not only as the author but also as the lead actor, exploring His motives and His heart. Eldredge examines the power of story, the universal longing for a "plot" that makes sense deep inside us, our desire for a meaningful role to play, and how all of this points us to the gospel itself.

Sunday Night Men's Bible Study

7:30 PM IN MEDIA CENTER. CONTACT, GARY DARDEN (346-9093)

We continue our study using the DVD, *The Visual Bible-The Gospel of John*. In this DVD, the gospel story vividly comes to life in a faithful and powerful dramatization of the Biblical text. The Gospel of John meticulously re-creates the era of Jesus during a tumultuous period that changed the course of history. The Gospel of John has been adapted for the screen, word for word, based on the American Bible Society's *Good News Bible*. Men of TCPC are welcome to join in this immersing experience of the gospel story.

Trailblazers

3RD WEDNESDAY AT 10:30AM. FOR OUTINGS, CONTACT MYRA GARRETT (273-0920).
NEXT MEETING: No meeting in July. Enjoy the summer!

Men's Fellowship and Nurture Group

4th SATURDAY IN LOWER FELLOWSHIP HALL AT 7:30AM. CONTACT, RUSH COWHERD (740-3139)
No meeting on July 26.

The 4F Club

MEETINGS AS ANNOUNCED. CONTACT, SUZIE WALKER (270-1314), CORY RYAN (741-5936)

Widowed Persons Service (WPS)

THURSDAYS 2-4 PM. CONTACT, NANCY STEWART (747-1607). Special program every 2nd Saturday at 2:30 PM.



CLASSES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adults Group

GROUP CONTACTS: SCARLETT SAMS [Scarlett.Sams@union-psce.edu], BETH CURFMAN [eacurfman@gmail.com], ZACK PARKER [ZParker@FandR.com]

If you contact one of us and provide your email, we will notify you of events as they are scheduled.

We remain flexible and committed to enjoy each other's company and fellowship.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

WEDNESDAYS AT 7:00PM CONTACT, JOAN KERBY (364-2838)

No meetings in July. This group knits or crochets shawls for individuals of all ages experiencing difficult or special life circumstances. New knitters are welcome. A pamphlet with more information is in the front foyer.



News Youth Can Use

Recent Grads, Take Note!

If you have just graduated from High School, you are invited to be a part of the young adult ministry at TCPC. There will be a weekly dinner on Tuesdays at 7pm, and there will be a young adult retreat July 11-13th. Please email Crystal at crystal.varner@gmail.com for more info.

The Youth Need You!

Actually, we just need your minivan or SUV for youth trips and retreats. You will be compensated for gas. Please contact Crystal at crystal.varner@gmail.com.

Looking Back

- We enjoyed a bountiful end-of-year, pot luck dinner and ceremony.

Looking Ahead

- July 7, 7pm – **Mandatory** Montreat parents and youth meeting – UFH
- July 19-26 – Montreat Senior High Conference
(Please turn in your Montreat House Rules sheets)

Montreat Conference



Summer Sunday School

We will continue our tradition of the "One Room Schoolhouse", where all of our children, pre-school-5th grade, will meet together each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. We will meet downstairs in the blue room.

If you are interested in volunteering to teach one Sunday, please sign up on the sheet downstairs posted on the orange room's door, or contact Susan Hickey at ssmhickva@aol.com. Curriculum is provided!

Looking Ahead - Fall Sunday School

Look for some changes in our Children's Sunday School program starting this Fall on September 7th! Our children will be following a rotational model, where our children in KG-5th grade will study a bible story and memory verse as they rotate among classes over the course of a month. Each Sunday will offer a new and exciting class for your child! There will be "Creation Station", "Antioch Arcade", "Good News", and "Holywood"(movie time!). PLEASE PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THIS EXCITING VENTURE IN SHARING GOD'S WORD WITH OUR CHILDREN!

We are looking for teachers and shepherds (helpers). Please contact Susan Hickey at ssmhickva@aol.com if you are interested in helping.



Our Church Family

Sympathy

Jim Barden and family with the passing of his great nephew, David Goode, Jr.

Jane Wood and family with the passing of her aunt, Ellen Boaz Beggarly

Judy Hylton, family and friends, with the passing of Dewey Hylton

Linda Loving-Bolton and family with the passing of her aunt, Gladys Bruce

Frank and Lee Boulanger and Marge and Milton Pritchett and family with the passing of Marge and Milton's son-in-law, Andrew Sylvia



Jim and Tina Barden thank all of the Three Chopt family for the prayers, words of support and the cards after the loss of their great nephew, David Goode Jr.

Dear TCPC Family,

Thank you for your calls, cards, and concerns during my recent hospitalization. Your prayers have continued to give me strength to face my journey. Special thanks to Brenda, Ed, and Crystal for pastoral care in the hospital.

Christian Love,
Joyce McGee

2008  Family Festival 8

2 Every year TCPC hosts a Family Festival in the fall. This year's festival will be October 25th.

8 The main purpose of the festival is a

day of fun for our church family and to reach out to the community. It is open to the public and we see new faces that day. They are introduced to the hospitality and fellowship at TCPC. There are children's games, brunswick stew & cornbread, crafts, a silent auction, boy scouts campsites, music and more!!

We need some new members on our planning team this year. It doesn't take much time, but this annual event does require some planning ahead. Please contact Cory or Jack Ryan (741-5936 or jjr444@verizon.net) if you have about 2 hours in each of the next 4 months to be on the planning team. This is a fun way to get involved in the life of our church.

Urgent Need for Kidney Donor

Soo Emmett, a young woman in our congregation, is in urgent need of a kidney transplant. If you would like to inquire further, please contact Karen Huber at MCV by phone at 628-0712, or by email at khuber@mcvh-vcu.edu. The family would very much appreciate your spreading the word to others as well. The situation is quite desperate. Thank you.



PSALM 29:11, NRSV

Worship Volunteers for July

July 6	10 AM SERVICE
Prayer	Pastor
Ushers	Jack Ryan Cory Ryan Ralph Vazquez Ann Vazquez
Communion	1 - Kate Baird 2 - Bill Baird 3 - Stan Desulis 4 - Jeb Hockman 5 - Donn Lancaster 6 - Carol Lancaster 7 - Mary Ellen Higgins 8 - Betsy Jackson 9 - Randy Baird 10 - Jackie Raye Dyson
July 13	10AM SERVICE
Prayer	Linda Loving-Bolton
Ushers	Ford Behne Tyler Ritchie Brian White Dee White
July 20	10AM SERVICE
Prayer	Sean Healy
Ushers	Hal McArthur Jean McArthur Bill Manning Sandra Manning
July 27	10AM Service
Prayer	Emily Williamson
Ushers	Jim Pfister Becca Pfister Lindsey White Emily Williamson

In Worship This Month

July 6, 2008 (10AM)

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Halbrooks preaching

Genesis 24:34-38,

42-49, 58-67

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Soul Rest

July 13, 2008 (10AM)

The Reverend Dr. Brenda Halbrooks preaching

Genesis 25:19-34

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Putting Down Roots

July 20, 2008 (10AM)

The Reverend Ed Kross preaching

Genesis 28:10-19

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

Shine Like the Sun

July 27, 2008 (10AM)

Youth from Montreat preaching

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Romans 8:26-39

Mustard Seed Kingdom



Three Chopt News is a monthly publication of the Three Chopt Presbyterian Church. The deadline for the August issue is Sunday, July 20 following the 10am service. Submissions may be emailed to Anita Waters at tcnews@tcpresbyterian.org or placed in the newsletter editor's box in the church mail room.

**THREE CHOPT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

9315 Three Chopt Road
Richmond, VA 23229

Summer Worship Service
Sundays, 10 AM

Summer Church School Services
Sundays, 9:00 AM

Office Hours
Monday-Friday
8 AM-12:30 PM & 1:30-4:30 PM

Church Office: 804-270-5452
Fax: 804-217-7249
Email: TCPC@tcpresbyterian.org
Web Page: <http://www.tcpresbyterian.org>



Pastor/Head of Staff -Rev. Dr. Brenda Halbrooks
halbrooksbrenda@yahoo.com

Associate Pastor - Rev. Ed Kross
ekross@tcpresbyterian.org

Youth Director - Crystal Varner
cvarner@tcpresbyterian.org

Organist/Choir Director - Laura C. White
lauracwhite@verizon.net

**Director of Children's Ministry &
Promises Preschool** - Kerri Palmer
tcpcpromises@tcpresbyterian.org

Administrative Assistant - Michelle Southworth
tcpc@tcpresbyterian.org

Church phone number: 804-270-5452

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Members of Session

Brenda Halbrooks, Moderator

Patty Moerschell, Clerk of Session

**Administration &
Personnel**

Kate Baird
Matt Stevens

Adult Nurture

Lisa Salita
Donn Lancaster

Building & Grounds

Jim Barden
Peter Coulson

Children & Families

Cindy Osborne
Marcie Davis

Finance & Stewardship

Barclay Bradshaw

Membership & Evangelism

Sally Bolte
Linda Loving-Bolton

Mission & Service

Betty Ekabutr
Roger Gardner
Sean Healy

Worship

Betsy Jackson
Susan Holsten

Youth & Families

Dee White
Dorothy Baird
Emily Harris (Y)
Emily Williamson (Y)