

PASTOR'S CORNER

Trudy and I would like to thank everyone for your prayers during our bouts with Covid. They were and are greatly appreciated. In addition, for those who dropped off a meal, or picked up medicine or vitamins, **Thank You** so much. It is good to belong to a community of believers.

On a totally different matter, I want to affirm the Presbyterian (USA)'s long held moral view that a women's reproductive health is a right best left between God, her physician, and herself.

If there are any among you that may have a daughter, granddaughter, niece, great niece, friends and acquaintances that wish to speak to a pastor regarding the recent Supreme Court decision denying that right, please let them know they are in my thoughts and prayers, and offer them that opportunity.

Pastor Ray Lantz
June 28, 2022



Ramie, Jennifer, Teddy and Wesley: First time at the beach, Rhode Island



Teddy at the beach.



Wesley at the beach.



Wesley learning to use his dad's phone.



Teddy is all smiles!

PRESBYTIDINGS

July 2022

Pastor Ray Lantz

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

This Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City IL.

Website: www.firstpresbygibson.org

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator



Small Groups Are the Church's Past and Future

Small groups are a significant part of the church's past. In early Christianity, the household played a central role in the movement of Jesus' followers throughout the Mediterranean world. The basic unit of church life was a small group, often no larger than eight to twelve persons, that met at someone's house. Meeting in a house offered privacy, intimacy, and stability of place, as members did not have to wonder where the group would be meeting that night.

Security in an Uprooted World

Small groups will also play an important part in the church's future. That's because contemporary life can be experienced

as disruptive and isolating. In the face of this, small groups can help individuals experience stability and security. Consider the benefits of the small group experience.



1. Through group study and discussion, members can talk about God and the teachings and example of Jesus.
2. Small groups build relationship skills in a setting where openness is prized and mutual accountability is expected.
3. Healthy groups provide a safe space to express difficult emotions such as anger, frustration, disappointment, or fear without fear of repercussions.
4. In the presence of caring individuals, group members can receive support in the face of grief and loss.
5. Through sharing food, group




members may be connected to the sacrament of Holy Communion.

6. The stable routine provided by regular meetings can contribute to a sense of security in an ever-changing world.

BY DANA HORRELL—THE PARISH PAPER - BLACK-HAWK PUBLISHER



July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					1	2
						RECYCLE <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
3 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 10:1-11, 16-20	4 <i>Church office will be closed in observance of Independence Day</i>	5	6	7	8	9
						<i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
10 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 10:25-37	11	12	13	14	15	16
						<i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i> RECYCLE
17 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 10:38-42	18	19	20	21	22	23
				<i>5:30 Session</i>		<i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i> <i>FPC is needed at the Food Pantry to help</i>
24 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 11:1-13 31 NO Church	25 <i>Pastor Ray will be out of the office for seminars through July 31st.</i>	26	27	28	29	30

Pastor Ray will be preaching on the scripture listed in bold on each Sunday.

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . .

Please note: The previous week’s sermon will broadcast at 7:45 a.m. every Sunday morning on WGCY. **Please note:** Online Sunday Services will be available on our Facebook Page noted below:

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br_rs

Meladee’s working hours: Meladee will be in the church office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Email Addresses: As part of the hardware and software upgrade for our church’s technology, email addresses as noted below:

Pastor Ray:
Ray@firstpresbygibson.org
Meladee
Office@firstpresbygibson.org.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART IS up on the bulletin board outside of the secretary’s office.

Recycling has returned on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.

Next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, July 21st at 5:30 p.m.

NEWS ON PASTOR LANTZ

SESSION has approved continuing education time for Pastor Lantz from July 25th to July 31st. There will be no Sunday service on July 31st. Pastor Lantz will be attending the Synod Lakes and Prairies Professional Development Seminars in Storm Lake, Iowa

July 5 is National Graham Cracker Day – Although they might not be the first cookies you reach for when your sweet tooth strikes, the humble graham cracker is needed for s’mores, graham cracker pie crusts, cookies, and even banana pudding with graham cracker crumbles. Graham crackers can give many desserts an extra dose of crunch and sweetness. So pick a graham cracker-centric recipe to make today for National Graham Cracker Day.

July 7 is Chocolate Day – Chocolate has an almost magical ability to make life better. And eating an ounce of dark chocolate each day actually has some health benefits, including reduced stress and blood pressure. Indulge in your favorite chocolate for Chocolate Day.

July 21 is National Junk Food Day – Today you have the perfect excuse to treat yourself to some junk food. Enjoy a doughnut for breakfast, grab some pizza for lunch, or sink your teeth into a juicy burger for dinner. And don’t forget dessert. After all, National Junk Food Day only comes once a year.

July 25 is National Wine and Cheese Day – Today we celebrate the classic pairing that is wine and cheese. So pick your favorites or try something new to celebrate. Grab your cutest charcuterie board, and get arranging.

HAPPY JULY!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		
July 01: David and Ellie Stolz 01: John and Barb Kirkpatrick 24: Larry Ricks 26: Chad Johnson	August 12: John & Ruth Davis 14: Ray & Trudy Lantz 18: Valeree Johnson 21: Teresa Alexander 24: Tim and Janice Swanson 31: Sandra Brucker	K. P. Duty <i>July: Deacons</i> <i>August: Val Hunt</i> <i>Second Sunday Offering</i> <i>July 10: Building Improvements</i> <i>August 14: Head Start</i> <i>Ushers</i> <i>July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt</i> <i>August: Gene & Mary Jane Roth</i> <i>Communion Servers</i> <i>August 7: Mary Clow and Jean Williams</i>

All hail, Caesar! The month of July is named after Roman leader Julius Caesar. Before the name change, July was known as Quintilis. Quintilis, the Latin word for five, was the fifth month on the Gregorian calendar. In fact, Julius Caesar modified the calendar, adding the months of January and February. The Julian calendar is still in use today! Now that’s one of the more influential fun facts about July!



THE SWANSON “SIBLINGS”



Emma Swanson is packed and ready to go to the Colorado Rocky Mountain Youth Corps which started June 4th and will end August 20th. Let's pray for her safety and success. You may send her a card at 991 Captain Jack Drive, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487

Left: Emma Swanson is shown with the crew she is assigned to while working with the Colorado Rocky Mountain Youth Corps this summer.

(Below) Emma & Jesse Swanson (and their dog, Monty) display their scholarship checks from our Mission account they were awarded by Session for the 2022-2023 school year



THANK YOUS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Gibson Girls Unit of the Ford County Home and Community Education would like to thank you for your generous donation to our project of “Dress A Girl.” Thank you very much. Gibson Girls

First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you all so much for your generous donation. It means the world to me and everyone who struggles. Sincerely, Korah Palumbo, #BeKindAlways

To: First Presbyterian Church
From: Emma Swanson
THANK YOU! Thank you for the \$1,000 for school, it is greatly appreciated because school is expensive. Yikes! It will be put to good use (my dad taught me well). Love Emma

To the First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for selecting me for the nursing scholarship. I truly appreciate receiving this gift. This money will be very helpful as I begin my college career this fall. My family and I were very impressed with the scholarships that were awarded by your church. Sincerely, Kenley Andreae



Rick Kerchenfaut presented Olivia Johnson & Kenley Andreae with \$1,000 scholarships from our church Mission account.

**FALCON
PRIDE**



Conner Main and Peyton Leonard were presented \$1,000 scholarships by Rick Kerchenfaut from the McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Conner Engel was awarded a \$500 scholarship from the McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund.



Zander Wier was awarded one of our \$500 scholarships in May.

First Presbyterian Church:
Thank you for choosing me to be a recipient of the General Scholarship. I appreciate this generous award and will use it towards my future at Illinois State University. Thank you again, Zander Wier

Thank you for donating to the Colin Bane Scholarship Fund. For all the kindness you have shown, we thank you very much; for sympathy in sorrowing days, for friendship's healing touch, with gratitude our hearts are filled, though words cannot convey; the tender thoughts and thankfulness we hold for you today. From the family of Colin Andrew Bane



Carmen Pondel was awarded one of our \$500 scholarships in May.



Awstace Grauer was awarded one of our \$500 scholarships by Elder Rick Kerchenfaut, but was unavailable for group pictures as he qualified for State in Track and Field.

MORE SCHOLARSHIPS AND SCHOOL NEWS



Rick Kerchenfaut awarded Hannah Martin and Brock Phillips each a \$1,000 scholarship from our church Mission fund.



Rick Kerchenfaut awarded Wyatt Schlickman a \$1,000 scholarship from our church Mission Fund.



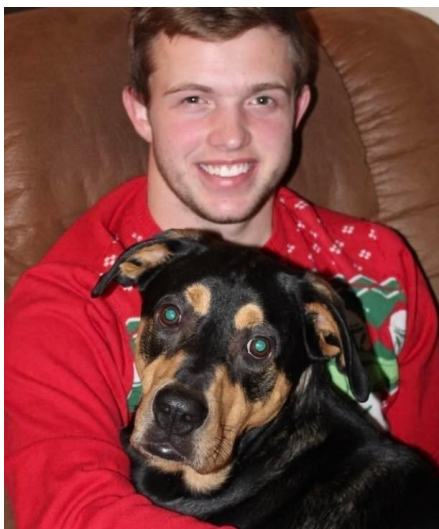
SOAR
HIGH
FALCONS



Kellen De Schepper was awarded a \$500 scholarship from our church Mission account.



Lucy Keigher was awarded a \$500 scholarship from our church Mission account.



Braylen Kean was awarded one of our \$500 scholarships in May.



Anneliese Kerchenfaut was awarded one of our church external \$500 scholarships, a \$500 scholarship from the McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund and an In-House scholarship for \$1,500.



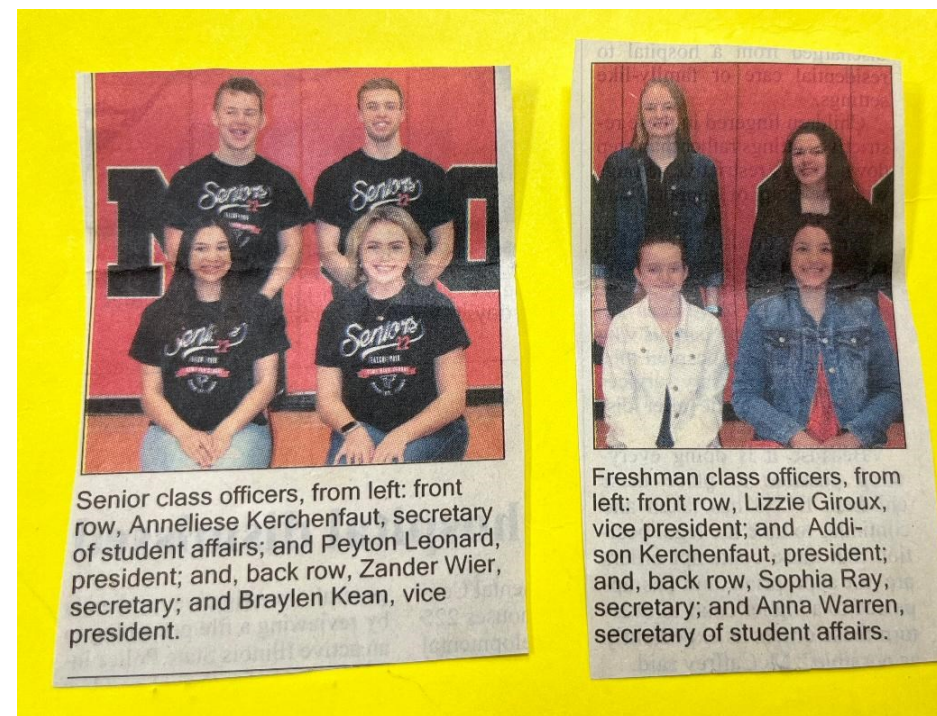
THE KERCHENFAUT "GIRLS"



Left: Addison Kerchenfaut received the most improved award at the 2022 GCMS High School Field and Track Awards Ceremony.

Anneliese, Addison, and Charlie Kerchenfaut made the high honor roll for the second semester.
SUPERSTARS!

Below: Kerchenfaut girls are leaders!



Senior class officers, from left: front row, Anneliese Kerchenfaut, secretary of student affairs; and Peyton Leonard, president; and, back row, Zander Wier, secretary; and Braylen Kean, vice president.

Freshman class officers, from left: front row, Lizzie Giroux, vice president; and Addison Kerchenfaut, president; and, back row, Sophia Ray, secretary; and Anna Warren, secretary of student affairs.



Addison Kerchenfaut was part of the show choir that sang at the 2022 GCMS High School graduation.



Congratulations Anneliese Kerchenfaut on your graduation from GCMS High School.

**FALCON
PRIDE**

ANNELIESE'S GRADUATION PARTY



Ron Clow, Jean Williams, Val Hunt and Sharla Williams



Sharla Williams, Meladee Ferguson and Trudy Lantz



Janice Swanson, Tim Swanson and Mary Clow

Thank you, Anneliese, for sharing your big day with your church family. The guests were cordial, the food delicious and a good time was had by all!



Sharla Williams, Addison Kerchenfaut and Meladee Ferguson



Jean Williams and Val Hunt



Emma Swanson catches up with Anneliese Kerchenfaut at her graduation party on May 20th.

NEWS OF OUR CHURCH



Ron Clow, Worship Leader, introduced John Muirhead from the Champaign pulpit supply group who preached on June 5th while Pastor Lantz was on vacation.



Danny and Vonna Heustis added flags to the outside cross for Flag Day, June 14th, and the 4th of July.

Session approved a \$1000 donation from the Mission Account in May and another \$5,000 in June to the family of Jon and Bonnie Clark to help with the medical needs of their 3-year-old grandson who fell into a pond while on vacation in Michigan.



Jean Williams with her great granddaughter Vivi at her recital on June 4th at the Virginia Theater.



Session approved a \$1000 donation from the Mission Fund to Tyler and Macy Sakovich pictured above with their son Clark who was born on May 20th with a heart defect. Sadly Clark passed away on June 10th unable to recover from his last surgery. Tyler and Macy are friends of Sharla Williams and Ron and Mary Clow. They thanked God for the 3 weeks they had with Clark and know that he is now completely healed.



The Journal of Presbyterian History—Volume 100 has arrived and is available to read. If interested, contact Meladee.



The Church's vehicle window logo decal has traveled to 21 States in the United States. The states reported to date include Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Nevada, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Help us get that number up by contacting the church office if you traveled with the Church logo on your vehicle to a State not noted above.

MORE CHURCH NEWS



Ron and Mary Clow did some interesting side trips on their way to Utah in May. Above is a picture of the Saint Fidelis Church Cathedral of the Plains in Victoria, Kansas. It was built in 1911 and is the largest church west of the Mississippi and seats 1,100 people. Mary would like to return some day and actually attend a service there.



. Manse Update: Session approved at the June 23rd meeting to move forward with hiring a realtor to sell the Manse. Mary Clow met with Teresa Boma and Angela Roderick Realty of Gibson City on two occasions. After some discussion with the Elders, it was decided that we would hire the Teresa and Angela team immediately and the list price will be \$129,900 selling the house as is. The realtor team will be arranging for professional pictures shortly, using multiple listings and social media platforms for marketing. You should see signs in the yard soon and an Open House will be scheduled at some point as well.

The Biblical Puzzle Contest has been discontinued due to limited participation. We are looking at other ideas. Some of the ideas we are considering are: a Trivia contest, a Photo contest of some sort, a Favorite recipe contest, a Find an Object around Town contest or Find the Hidden Cross within the newsletter contest. Feedback is welcome. Mary and Meladee



Another fun side trip on the way home included the Cadillac Ranch on Route 66 in Amarillo, Texas. It was built in 1974 and includes 10 Cadillacs built by art hippies from San Francisco called the Ant Farm and silent partner Amarillo billionaire Stanley Marsh. The Cadillacs were buried nose down in a row. Ron said it was brilliant marketing as it is free to see but you can buy a can of spray paint and create your own art design on them. The smell of spray paint hits you from 100 yards away.

Mary Clow, our Food Pantry representative reports the need for food is increasing with the rise in inflation. At the June 8th distribution, the Gibson Area Food Pantry served 157 households which included 385 individuals, 85 children, and 110 seniors. This was the largest distribution so far this year and the increase in need is expected to continue. The Food Pantry funds are running low so please read the flyer below and do what you can to help.



Gibson Area Food Pantry

Drive to 500,000

The Gibson Area Food Pantry is on target to reach 500,000 meals served since our first distribution in February of 2015. At our current pace, we will reach half a million meals served in February of 2023. Due to inflation and supply chain shortages where we have purchased food outside of the local foodbanks, our expenses have increased, and we could use some help.

If you are willing and able to donate, please make your check payable to Gibson Area Food Pantry and send to:

Gibson Area Food Pantry

PO Box 324

Gibson City, IL 60936

FOOD DISTRIBUTION:
619 East First Street, Gibson City

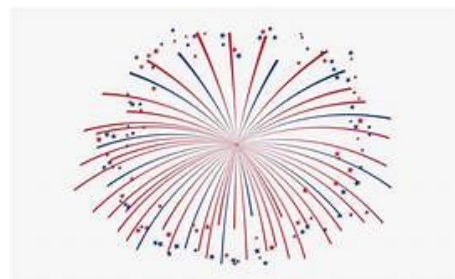
Make Donations Payable to:
Gibson Area Food Pantry
P.O. Box 324, Gibson City, IL 60936



Mary Clow announced that the Gibson Area Food Pantry will distribute the second half of the Casey Gas Gift Cards donated from our Church at the Saturday July 9th Distribution. If you are interested in representing the church, please let Mary know.



The Gibson City Restoration Association has purchased the Loy Building. It's time for work to begin. Prior to July 2nd, useless items will be removed from the building and discarded. Beginning July 2nd, the Community will be invited to make an appointment to come in the building to purchase remaining items. There will be a \$5.00 fee per person. Items will be sold for a donation. To volunteer to help or to make an appointment, contact Sharon Heavilin at 217-249-8103.



Please keep Charlie Schultz and his sister Sandy Brucker and their families in your prayers as their sister Diane Schultz passed away. She was 74, lived in New Mexico and had severe dementia. It was her wish to be cremated and have no services.

Please keep the following folks on your prayer list: Edith Kaufman, Jerry Wissmiller, Heidi Punke Brown, Doris Gerber, Georgie Johnson, Mary Wissmiller Rhoda (sister to Jerry and Jeanette), Pastor John Tennyson, Judy Jo Arbour, Larry Ricks, Barb Williams, Jeanette Hensley, Melanie Warfield, Gabriel Fairchild, son of Pastor Gary Fairchild of the United Methodist Church.



FARM TRUST REVENUE

Session is happy to report that we recently received \$49,404.00 from the Stansbury Trust and \$23,742.63 from the Alice Ogg Trust both above the expected revenue noted in the 2022 Budget.



Karen Ladd is the puzzle winner this month and has asked that we donate her gift card to the GC Food Pantry. Also our church family is going to miss the Ladds as they announced in church that Larry will be transferring to the Piatt County Nursing Home in Monticello, Illinois. They said it was a hard decision to make because of the love and welcoming that they received from our church members. Ron and Mary Clow, Sharla Williams and Meladee Ferguson had a nice going away luncheon with them on Sunday, June 26th.



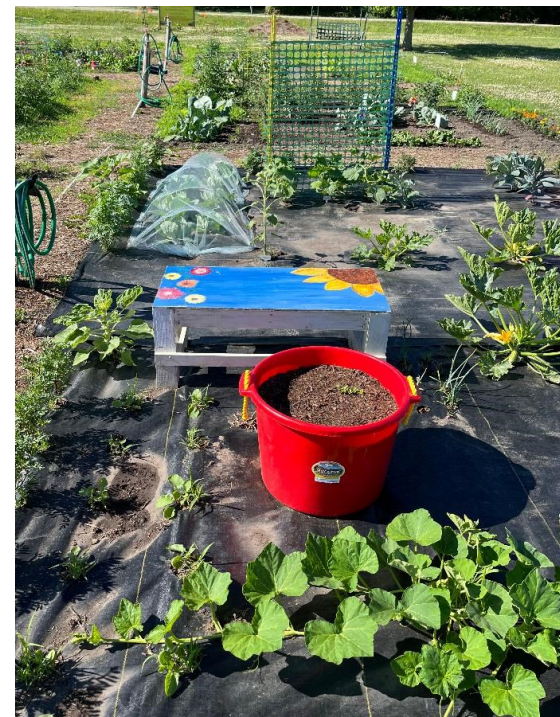
May we all enjoy our freedom that our veterans fought so hard to obtain for us.

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JUNE, 2022

Starting Balance May.....	\$64,750.00
Jon & Bonnie Clark family.....	\$ 6,000.00
Tyler & Macy Sakovich family.....	\$ 1,000.00
Expenses for hosting June 24 th Retirement Celebration.....	\$ 1,650.00
Todd Epps –Intervarsity Christian Fellowship.....	\$ 600.00
Subtotal June Ending Balance.....	\$74,000.00



COMMUNITY GARDEN NEWS



Wonderful things are happening at the Community Garden. We have many talented gardeners. Here is a picture of Chuck and Tammy Taylor's garden. They have two plots and are return gardeners from last year. They share their produce with the Food Pantry and even offered plants to other gardeners in May.



Sherry Tomlinson continues to work at the Gibson Area Hospital in the Cardiopulmonary Department as a Respiratory Therapist and next month will be employed at the hospital for 36 years!! She will have been married to her husband Rick for 46 years in October. They have two adult children shown in the picture above. Their daughter lives in Gibson City with her two sons and their son who is married lives in Bloomington and also has two sons. Sherry and Rick live on North Sangamon which happens to be a quick walk over to the Community Garden plots which is very handy for them. Sherry says she has NO excuse to not keep her little garden watered & weeded. She has planted tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and is trying green beans this year.

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR SHARLA WILLIAMS AND TIM SWANSON



Sharla, with her Aunt Barb and Elinor Nelson.



Tim retired as a Lead Storage Operator (on his shift) after 27 years at People's Gas in Fisher. Sharla retired from 32 1/2 years of teaching Special Education. She started out teaching adult education and her remaining years were spent teaching Special Education to young students.

BELOW: Sharla, Addison Kerchenfaut, Jean Williams and Aizza Kerchenfaut



Karen Phillips, Glenn Riddle, Danny and Vonna Heustis, Meladee Ferguson and Marsha Riddle

RETIREMENT PARTY FOR SHARLA WILLIAMS AND TIM SWANSON



Jeanette Hensley, Sharla Williams and Jeanette's niece, Karilyn Wissmiller from Minnesota



Meladee Ferguson, Mary Clow and Candy Arnold shown with Sharla. Thank you party planners.



Jesse, Tim and Janice Swanson talking with Mike Devitt



Ted Swanson (father of Tim Swanson) and Rick Kerchenfaut



Rick Kerchenfaut, Mary Clow and Tim Swanson



Rick Kerchenfaut, Tim Swanson, Sharla Williams and Ron Clow

WHAT A PARTY!

MORE RETIREMENT PARTY PICTURES



Back: Pastor Ray, Sharla and Phil Noellsch
Front: Rick, Addison and Aizza Kerchenfaut



Ray, Mike and Becky McDevitt



Tim Swanson (far right) and friends



Glenn and Marsha Riddle



Jean and Phil Noellsch



MORE RETIREMENT PARTY PICTURES



Lyndi Barnes, Sharla and Scott Hardin



Val Hunt and Jim Dunnan



Sharla's retired teacher friends.

Below: Ramie, Jennifer, Teddy and Wesley Lantz and Grandma Trudy Lantz
Right: Teddy Lantz



Sherry Tomlinson, Becky McDevitt, Ray Lantz, Sharla Williams, Susie Dunnan and Ron Clow. Not only was this a retirement party, but it turned into a mini class reunion for a "few" members of the class of 1973.

