



FYI

VOLUME 174

NORTH PARK CHURCH

JANUARY 2022

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 27:4

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NPC FEATURES

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that **MANNY AND DENISE VELARDE** have recently moved into a new home...that **DOUG AND KIM RUNYAN** will spend two months in Florida this winter... that American Underdog is a movie soon to come out about former NFL quarterback, Kurt Warner...that **DAN DUPEE** has successfully hired three new VPs for the CCO...that **SUZY LISH** has married **SAM SCHUT** and they are living in Davenport, Iowa where Sam is learning chiropractic...that if you illegally park your frog it may get toad away...that **KATE BROWN** is soon to give birth to baby #2 – a daughter... that our YouTube Channel gets more than 800 views per month...that fish can be caught in many underground streams beneath the Sahara Desert... that **ISAAC LIBRICH** and **ALANA STITES** have been accepted to Grove City College...that we had overflow crowd for the Women's Christmas Tea... that buttons were first placed on men's coat sleeves to keep soldiers from wiping their noses on the sleeves...that **BETH MORLEY** is a big Dale Earnhardt Jr. fan...that **JIM LUDWIG** made his first hole-in-one on July 25, 2013...that monkeys do not get fleas...that those who read the FYI get 14% fewer fleas than those who do not? Did you know these things? I thought you should.

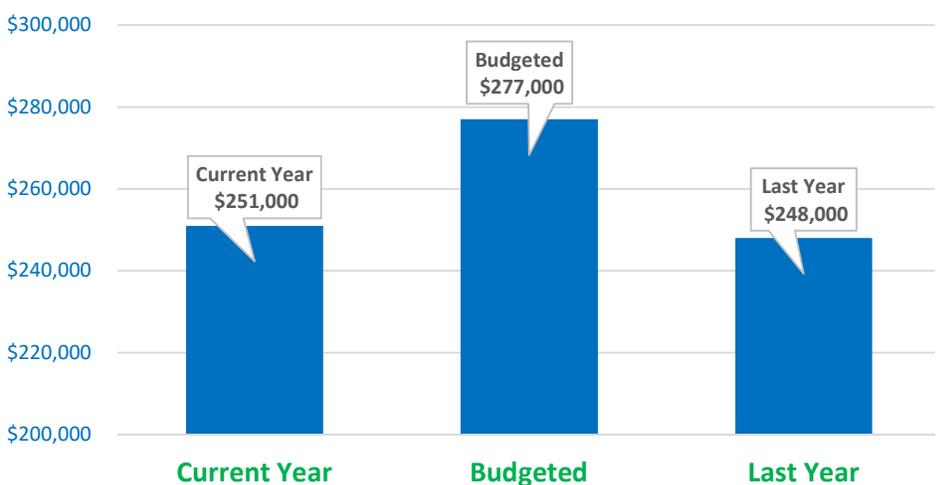
HISTORY CORNER



The "world" is everything from which God is excluded, no matter how lovely in itself, how humane, how apparently philanthropic, how noble and generous, how learned or intellectual; if God be excluded so that His glory is not the real and avowed end, it is "the world." If the world does not persecute the church, it is either because it has corrupted her so far that her testimony does not seriously interfere with its more refined indulgences, or because it regards her as too powerless to be worthy of notice.

James Beverlin Ramsey (1814-1871)

NPC GIVING FOR 3 MONTHS



After three months, Unified Giving of \$251,000 for our church year is 9% below our budgeted amount and 1% more than last year.

FAMILY OF THE MONTH: RUNYAN

If Doug was born and lived his first 25 years in Western New York and Kim was born in Kansas, how can their move to Pittsburgh and choosing NPC as their next church be considered a homecoming? Read on and learn more about Doug and Kim Runyan's lives and what bought them to our church family.

Doug and his two brothers did not grow up in a Christian home. He first heard the gospel message at a Young Life Club meeting as a high school senior. God held on to him as he attended Buffalo State College as a Political Science major, worked at a car dealership, and led a Young Life Club. After graduating he enrolled in Seminary at Colgate Rochester Divinity. It was close enough that he could commute from home and continue leading the Young Life Club. During this time, he attended a Young Life



leadership training workshop and met Kim, who was attending the University of Buffalo and was a Young Life leader in Tonawanda, NY.

Doug graduated from seminary in 1978 and moved to Pittsburgh to become a Young Life leader in the Fox Chapel and Shaler High Schools. Jim and Beth Morrison along with Jim and Linda Ludwig were part of the Adult Young Life Committee responsible for fund raising to support Doug.

For two years Doug and Kim's long distance relationship continued to grow. August 16, 1980 Doug and Kim were married in Kim's church in Buffalo by Jim Morrison. Kim and Doug began married life together in Aspinwall and worshipped together at Mellwood Church where Jim Morrison had been called as the pastor. Sadly, the adult committee didn't do its job well and Doug was still owed back salary when Doug decided to accept a job as the area director for Young Life in Buffalo later in 1981. During that difficult first year of marriage Kim reminded me that she took a job at Ed and Jim Ludwig Flowers in the Koppers Building that helped to put food on the table.

While serving as a Young Life Area Director in Buffalo, Doug took his first part time pastorate at Hyde Park Presbyterian Church. The compensation was small but Doug and Kim were able to live in the church manse. In the years following, Doug earned his Doctorate in Ministry from RTS in Jackson, Mississippi, where R.C Sproul taught and people like Bob Stauffer and Dan Hendley would later graduate.

His 37 years as a full time pastor would include: 8 years at Mountville Presbyterian Church in Portersville, PA, 5 years at Mt. Nebo Presbyterian Church in Sewickley, PA, and 24 years at New Bedford Presbyterian church in New Bedford, PA. He formally retired in January of 2021 but Bob Stauffer talked him into serving as a transitional pastor at Center EPC church until they can call a new pastor.

So I haven't forgotten about Kim. Kim was born in Ft. Riley, Kansas, where her father Jack Rubins was an army officer. Their

family, which included two brothers, moved many times. They were in Germany in 1967 when her dad was sent to serve in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam. Jack moved the family back to Buffalo where his parents were living. Jack died in Vietnam when Kim was 9 years old. You will have to ask her about the military trunk of memories that she just recently opened because her mother and brother never could. It included a Purple Heart, Bronze Star and every letter that Jack wrote to the family while in Vietnam.

Kim went to Amherst High School and started going to a Young Life Club that Doug had started years earlier while he was at Buffalo State. Kim would give her life to Christ at the Young Life Camp, Saranac Lake, during her junior year of high school. Now remember that she and Doug met while she was attending the University of Buffalo. She would transfer to Buffalo State and graduate with a degree in Elementary Education and Spanish. During their first year of marriage in Pittsburgh she would do a little substitute teaching. When they moved back to Buffalo she got her Masters in bilingual education at the University of Buffalo. She took her final exam on the due date for Erin to be born. The professor seated her by the door and said, "If she had to leave early, she would be excused". Erin was not born that day but she would become Erin Elmer and has given Doug and Kim four grandchildren. Adam, their second child, was born in 1985 while they were at Mountville. Adam would also get married and give them 2 grandchildren. While Kim was raising young children she needed some adult interaction so she went to Slippery Rock where she obtained a certification in French. Next she taught English, Spanish, and French at Portersville Christian School for 13 years. Both Erin and Adam graduated from Portersville. Then God blessed Kim with a higher paying job at Mohawk High School teaching Spanish, French, and E.S.L. for 17 years.

In 2019, they bought a 22 ft. camper to prepare for retirement. I can't give you all the details of their 5-month trip from January to May of 2021, but they visited lots of national parks, traveling with Young Life friends from Buffalo. They traveled south to FL west to CA, and back. You will have to ask them about their hobbies and their 30 years of boating on the St. Lawrence River every summer with up to 36 friends because I'm out of space.

Remember in 1992, when Doug and Kim were at Mt. Nebo Presbyterian Church? They purchased a house at that time and lived in it for 5 years. When they moved, they rented it out for 24 years. In retirement they moved back in and currently have multiple contractors renovating it. They did some church visiting but found the friendliest, most welcoming EPC church to be NPC. They have joined the Tuesday JOY group and Kim has been attending the Monday Women's Bible Study and just recently become part of the worship Team. They were part of Mellwood before it became NPC and now they are becoming part of NPC in retirement. That's a homecoming! - **Jim Ludwig**

DEAR Peter Pan & CHOOSY MOM

A column to answer all your PBJ questions

DEAR PETER PAN & CHOOSY MOM,

I am a rather shy person and it is hard for me to initiate conversation, especially with strangers. How can I participate in the BLESS portion of PBJ? — SHY SERVANT

DEAR SHY SERVANT,

You ask a question that I think a lot of others might be asking right now, though I wish we knew a little more about how you experience being shy. Do you prefer talking only with people that you know or prefer not being recognized by others for something you've done? Everyone seems to experience shyness a little differently. The fortunate thing about the blessing part of PBJ is that you can do it without ever being seen, and you could do it without ever talking to anyone. For instance, you can write anonymous cards to affirm the good work you observe being done in your office. You could drop off cookies at a neighbor's door without being seen. There are a number of easy ways to affirm, give, or serve without ever being seen, so I hope you don't overlook the opportunities that abound.

At the same time, this might be a place to challenge yourself as well because it is much harder to eat with or listen to people without interacting with them. If you only feel comfortable talking with those you know well, the only path to get to know someone is to spend time talking with them. It might feel awkward initially, and the conversation probably won't flow very well. That's okay. G.K. Chesterton once wrote that anything worth doing is worth doing poorly, and that includes being a conversation partner for the first time. Only through repeated interaction will an acquaintance transform into a friend. There's just no other way to get there. Being a natural introvert myself, I also want to avoid others at times, especially if I am in a new setting. What helps me overcome the awkwardness and the natural pull to retreat into a corner are all the times when I did overcome that natural tendency and ended up making a new friend by doing so. Do you have a positive experience where stepping out resulted in a great

I'M SHY

If you have a PBJ question that you would like answered, please send it to pbj@northparkepc.org

outcome you didn't imagine, like gaining a new friend? If so, hold onto this memory, and recall it the next time you're in a situation where you'd rather disengage from new people.

— PETER PAN

DEAR SHY SERVANT,

That is a great question! You are not alone; there are many, who are shy and asking themselves that same thing. As I consider your question, I think of a verse in *1 Peter 3* which is addressed to wives, but is applicable in other situations. Perhaps we could ponder the idea of *1 Peter 3:1-2* in this way, "Likewise, shy servants, some may be won without a word by your conduct when they see your respectful and pure conduct."

But a few verses later in *1 Peter 3:15*, it also says, "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,"

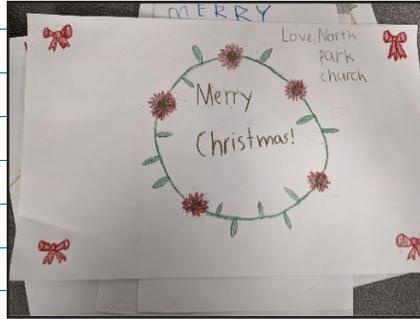
Your efforts to bless could, and we hope will, lead some to wonder why you are doing these things. They may ask, but don't let that stop you from blessing away!

Instead, trust the gifts that God has given you and trust God, who through Jesus, promised his disciples, "Do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." *Matthew 10:19-20*

— CHOOSY MOM

PBJ: OUR KIDS ARE BLESSING OTHERS!

North Park Church families are teaching their kids to BLESS others! At Christmastime, several of our families with young children made cards for our shut-ins and others in our faith community to lift their spirits and remind them why we celebrate.



Another way our kids are at work is right in their own neighborhood. The Murphy Family has a tradition that's a great idea. Each Christmas season, Holly, Todd and the kids (Kayla, Ryan and Joy) color nativity scenes on coloring pages. Then they write a personal note that says, "Thanks for helping us remember Jesus is the Reason for the Season! We love your decorations."

Then, they drive around looking for decorations in people's yards that have nativities. When they see one, they leave one of their colored pages in their mailbox. This year, one of the families who received the coloring page told Holly how touched she and her family were by this true act of kindness. What a simple way to bless others with the love of Jesus. Great job, Murphys!

PRAYER, PRAISE, & PBJ

6:30 P.M. | ROOM 112 | JANUARY 9,
FEBRUARY 6, MARCH 6, APRIL 3, AND
MAY 1

See the PBJ article on the next page about this different meeting for the January 9 meeting.

We're meeting monthly to call on the Father above to add his power to our attempts to bless in Jesus' name. We worship, pray, and share. It is a fast-moving one hour each month at 6:30 p.m. – just right for youth group parents.



PBJ EQUIP AND PRACTICE—AFFIRMATION

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9 | 6:30 – 7:30 P.M. | ROOM 112

Join us for a time of equipping and practicing the first part of **BAGELS** — Affirm. If you find yourself more critical than you'd like to be or you'd like to explore some other ways to affirm others with your words, come be with us as Pastor Ben encourages us to use our words to build others up and as we pray for each other that our "conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt" (*Colossians 4:6, NIV*). Families with children are welcome to participate. In this interactive time together. Questions? Contact Pastor Ben (benburkholder@northparkepc.org).

HOW WILL YOU BLESS THIS JANUARY?

Here are a few ideas for you to consider...

- Wish everyone you see a "Happy or Blessed New Year"
- Call and/or send a card to someone who suffered a loss.
- Serenade someone with their favorite song
- Sit with someone who is alone.
- Offer to babysit someone's kids.
- Send a text to someone telling them why you are thankful for them.
- Give someone an exciting fist bump (or high five).
- Invite someone to go group shopping with you.
- Ask someone how you can pray for them, then make a reminder in your phone
- Take a friend for ice cream.
- Invite a neighbor for movie night.
- Give out gift cards.
- Take a treat to librarians.
- Send a list of 3-10 reasons that you are thankful for someone.
- Bake a pie and deliver it to someone.
- Offer to get some groceries for someone.
- Take bagels or donuts to a doctor's office.
- Send your dentist a note that says you appreciate his/her care.
- Refill a neighbor's bird feeder.
- Ask a friend/neighbor if they have any house projects you could help with (maybe you know a single mom?).

NPC WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

KIDS' WORSHIP

The children in Kids' Worship Preschool got to learn all about David this Fall and how he was not the one God wanted to build a temple for the Lord. It was Solomon. Enjoy some photos of the Preschool class building a temple for the Lord.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

On December 12, the kids celebrated Jesus' birthday! Cupcakes were enjoyed by all (even some teens too!) as we took time to celebrate our Savior's birth. Yay Jesus!



TREKKERS

Trekkers met in December for their Christmas party. Twenty-four kids attended and had a blast! They played games, ate dinner and heard Miss Beth talk about how Jesus is the light of the world. The kids even got to compare stars that were shining with stars that were not shining and talked about why some were shining and others were not. Enjoy some pictures from this fun party!

NEXT TREKKERS: JANUARY 9
ROOM 305 | 4:30 - 6:00 P.M.
Bring a bible and a friend!



CHRISTMAS PLAY

Our first Christmas pageant in some time was held on December 19 and it was great! The kids performed, *The Jesus Gift*, by Brooke and Gayla Hopkins and did a fantastic job. There was singing and laughter, costumes and characters, sound effects, an awesome rotating set and we even used the spotlight! Most importantly, the Good News was told and the Spirit was present. Great job to everyone to participated in and helped with the Christmas Play. See the next page for some shots from this fun time.







MOMS SPRING 2022

BEGINS TUESDAY, JANUARY 11 | 9:15 – 11:15 A.M.

BLUE ROOM OR ROOM 112

Need to get out of the house? Need a place where your kids can play while you fellowship with other moms who are in the same season of life you are? Come hang out with us. Starting January 11 our MOMS group will be meeting every other week in the Blue Room for a play date from 9:15-11:15 A.M.

There are also a few 'mom only' dates set aside for food, fellowship, and fun with childcare provided. Join us (and bring a friend) for MOMS. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Kayleigh Layden (knauerkm@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!

January 11

Blue Room | Play Date

January 25

Room 110 | Moms Only
childcare provided

February 8

Blue Room | Play Date

February 22

Blue Room | Play Date

March 8

Blue Room | Play Date

March 22

Room 110 | Moms Only
childcare provided

April 5

Blue Room | Play Date

April 19

Blue Room | Play Date

May 3

TBD | Play Date In The Park?

May 17

TBD | Moms Only At First Watch?
childcare provided



STEPHEN MINISTRY MINUTE: MINISTRY OF LISTENING, PART 2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16 | 11:45 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. | ROOM 112

Jesus listened. Jesus continually demonstrated the relationship between caring and listening. Before Jesus healed the daughter of a Canaanite woman, He let her give her testimony of faith (Matthew 15:21-18). Before Jesus healed the blind man (Mark 10:46-52), Jesus asked what he wanted and carefully listened to the man's reply. Jesus could have spoken without first taking the time to let them speak. Instead, He showed care and concern by first listening and then ministering to their needs.

You have an opportunity to participate in a LUNCH & LEARN on Sunday, January 16. Along with lunch, we'll be presenting a brief teaching time and role playing on "listening". You might be surprised by what you learn about the art of listening! It is the "L" in "BAGELS" that Pastor Ben preached about last month. Listening is an important piece of the "Blessing" part of PBJ as well as a significant part of a Stephen Minister's relationship with his/her Care Receiver. Just like Jesus did, we can demonstrate we care in any relationship by being a good listener.

You're invited to this LUNCH & LEARN to also consider becoming a Stephen Minister. We think you'll be greatly blessed! Perhaps like Esther in the Bible, God has been preparing you for a moment like this (Esther 4:14). God is always at work in people's lives wanting them to grow through serving. Come and see if Stephen Ministry may be where God is calling you next. Please feel free to talk to any of the Stephen Ministry Leaders with any questions - Mark Sharpnack, Rachel Sharpnack and Susan Meenaghan.

YOUTH GROUP SCHEDULE

JANUARY 2

No Youth Group
due to the Holidays

JANUARY 9

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

JANUARY 19

Small Groups
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

JANUARY 30

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

JANUARY 5

Small Groups
7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

JANUARY 16

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

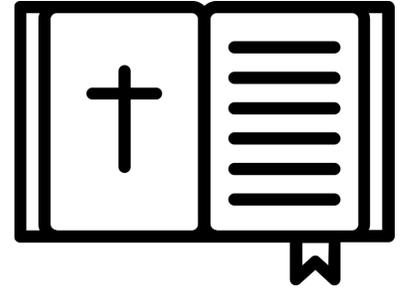
JANUARY 23

Youth Group
6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

WINTER CLASSES

SUNDAYS STARTING JANUARY 9 | 9:00 A.M.



ECCLESIASTES

JIM YODER | ROOM 109

Ecclesiastes offers a conversation for restless souls. One writer said that Ecclesiastes is the question for which the rest of the Bible is the answer. If we ignore or do not understand the question, we have difficulty understanding the fullness of God's answer. The French philosopher, Blaise Pascal, summarized this concern, "Anyone who does not see the vanity of life must be very vain indeed." Come and let us explore together what has been called by one commentator, "The inspired book of error" and by another, "The Philipians of the Old Testament." Which is it; or, is it both?

CAN I TRUST THE GOSPELS?

BEN BURKHOLDER | ROOM 112

Most of the testimony that we have about Jesus comes from the Four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Over the past few centuries, critics have questioned whether we can rely on these Gospels to understand Jesus. There are, for instance, other Gospels written about Jesus, so why were only these four selected to be in the New Testament? The Gospels were also written a few decades after the events they recount. Can we still trust them, given that length of time? Finally, even as these books were copied by scribes over the centuries, some lines and passages were copied incorrectly. Do we have a reliable copy of what the original authors wrote? If you have ever asked or wondered about questions like these, we hope you join us for this fascinating study that will engage these important questions.

THE ART OF NEIGHBORING

ADAM BRIGHT, CHAD MORLEY, AMBER STITES & NANCY VAN SICKEL
ROOM 111

What kind of neighbor are you? Can you list the names of 5 of your closest neighbors? Neighboring is not what it once was, in an age when people are feeling more alone than they've ever felt, this provides a great opportunity for us to BLESS our community by meeting a need right next door.

Do you need some practical ideas for how to do this? Do you have ideas to share? Would you like encouragement and prayer support as you strive to fulfill the second greatest commandment "Love your neighbor as yourself"? If your answer to any of these questions is yes, we would love to have you join us as we read and discuss *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon. If you'd like to purchase the book to read along with us, we will have some available to you at the discounted price of \$5 each.

36% of all Americans - including 61% of young adults and 51% of mothers with young children - feel "serious loneliness"

¹<https://mcc.gse.harvard.edu/reports/loneliness-in-america>

NPC CONNECT

LADIES NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5 | 6:30-8:30 P.M. | BLUE ROOM

The winter months can be draining with the lack of sunlight and the frightfully cold weather. While we patiently wait for the sweet relief of spring, Women's Ministry wants to provide you with a chance for some fun and fellowship with other wonderful women. Ladies and teens are invited for a host of heartwarming activities including a clothing swap, manicures, board games, crafts, refreshments and more! You can choose whichever activities sound fun to you, or simply spend time chatting and catching up. It will be a very laidback evening, so invite your friends, family and neighbors too! This would be a glorious gathering to invite someone you've been reaching out to through the PBJ initiative.

We will also be collecting gently used clothes for the clothing swap at the event. Please bring your donations in a bag labeled "Women's Ministry" to the church office by January 30. Any clothing leftover at the end of the evening will be donated to Repurposed and Living in Liberty. Questions? Contact Kirstin Lukas (kirstinlukas@gmail.com).



QUANTUM MECHANICS

FOR THE REST OF US

A COMPASS EVENT FEAT. DAVID SNOKE, PH.D

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M. | BLUE ROOM

Does the sound of quantum mechanics get your head spinning? Or, maybe you remember with fondness some distant physics class that was world-altering and you wish you had a refresher. To many quantum mechanics is a mystery, but it doesn't have to be!

Join us as we welcome Dr. David Snoke from the University of Pittsburgh as he helps us understand this intricate and fascinating way God has made the world. Dr. Snoke is a committed Christian whose expertise lies in the field of quantum mechanics, and he would like to help the rest of us understand this scintillating aspect of God's creation. Whether you're a science buff or know next to nothing about the topic, you'll benefit from this reputable scholar who is able to distill difficult concepts into something easy to understand. We hope you will join us for this special evening of learning and enriching your faith and awe in God's creation.

Like other COMPASS events, we will provide the main course, which will be a fabulous selection of delectable soups, bread, and crackers. We ask our guests to bring something for the meal based upon last name: A-G: Sides, H-O Desserts, and P-Z Salads. To register for the event, please, sign up at the table in the lobby or email benburkholder@northparkepc.org.

ANNIVERSARY

8 Jeff & Lauren Fowler

BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Sally Hilderhoff | 15 | Kim Zaiser |
| 2 | James Yoder | 16 | Janet Lochner |
| 3 | Brandon Gilbert | 18 | Alana Stites |
| 5 | Pam Miller | 20 | Colin Bright |
| 7 | Susan Meeneghan | 21 | Aaron Sullivan |
| | Rob O'Brien | 22 | Amelia Gilbert |
| 10 | Joyce Wanninger | 24 | Rosemary Craft |
| 11 | Suzanne Lish | | Chris Wu |
| 12 | Lisa Arnold | 27 | Will Fowler |
| | Kim Mycyk | 28 | Dawson Haytock |
| | Kate Shriver | | |
| 14 | Haley Dzadoovsky | | |
| | Mike Stitt | | |