

CHURCH CURRENTS

SEPTEMBER 2022

210 S. Wayne Street, Milledgeville, Georgia 31061

478-452-9394; fpchurch@windstream.net; www.fpcmilledgeville.org



MORE LIGHT
PRESBYTERIANS

Join us on Sunday mornings on WKZR
102.3 FM or via Facebook Live

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
210 SOUTH WAYNE STREET
MILLEDGEVILLE, GA 31061



PEACE IS ACTIVE,
NOT
PASSIVE

PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION
SEPTEMBER 4-OCTOBER 2, 2022





First Presbyterian Church

Issue No. 314 September 2022



Pastor:
Rev. Susan Balfour

Coord. of Children &
Youth Ministries:
Gloria Burns

Admin. Asst.:
Lois Callender

Director of Music:
Dr. Jennifer Flory

Organist:
Kate Phillips

Child Care Providers:
Childcare is
temporarily
unavailable

Beloved,

Greetings in Christ! I give thanks to God for your faithfulness and for your love of our Lord. You are in my prayers daily.

Sabbath is an important observance. It is a divine commandment, but it is also a gift. In the midst of a world wherein we are expected to be busy all the time and to be productive, such a gift is priceless. Not only does Scripture command a weekly sabbath, it prescribes a sabbath every seven years, and a jubilee year—complete economic re-set—every fiftieth year. We have yet to find proof that the ancient Israelites ever stuck to the jubilee sabbath, but the agrarian culture was practiced in a sabbath rhythm, wherein the land and its laborers rested one in seven years.

While our culture has little patience for sabbath rhythms, it remains an important concept to which we aspire. We do recognize a few professions in which laborers are granted sabbaticals as part of their covenant. Many of you are or were in education, and have experienced sabbaticals yourselves. In the church, pastors are meant to take sabbatical every seven years as a spiritual discipline. During the time away from our calls, we are bidden rest and renewal, that we may seek the spiritual enrichment that will allow us to maintain vitality in ministry.

I am in my fourteenth year of ministry, and my seventh here at FPC Milledgeville. I haven't ever had a sabbatical, and I am increasingly feeling the need of one. I propose to take a three month sabbatical in 2024. The Lily Foundation has a grant program for pastors and their churches that provide funds for both parties to use during the sabbatical; the next application is due in April 2023, awards are announced in November 2023, and, if awarded, the funds granted are to be used in the 2024 calendar year.

In the coming months, with your help, I will build a plan for our mutual sabbatical. The grant calls for an itinerary for the pastor's sabbatical, as well as a programmatic agenda for the congregation to pursue in the pastor's absence. This time apart is intended to refresh both parties, and to bring fresh perspectives to our common life and ministry when we reunite. I intend to focus on pilgrimage and spirituality, and I would like to see our congregation do the same. If you have input on how you would like to see our congregation engage in this sabbatical, please let me know. This is an opportunity for growth, and one that is well worth the effort.

As always, I am grateful for you.

In Christ, Rev. Susan

Peace Takes Everyone



Distractions are everywhere, threatening to pull us to the margins of living an authentic peace-filled Christian life. Important issues, breaking news, and our ragged pursuit of a more meaningful spiritual life all distract us. We are reminded of this every time we power up our computers, turn on the television, or struggle to handle conflicts in our families and communities in a way that will not alienate them or us. And we certainly experience it as we negotiate our own inner worlds of chaos and longing.

The journey of peace is a pilgrimage of our whole selves: spirit and body; heart, feet, and mind. The pursuit of God's peace is both an inner and outer journey where the well-being of one is held in the well-being of all. In order for us to walk farther along this road of peace-full living, we can and should engage both inner and outer aspects of faithful spiritual living. Doing so allows us to become more authentic and effective bearers of peace in our world.

Because of these reasons, we invite you into A Season of Peace that will engage your imagination and offer opportunities for you to live more fully into your calling as a peacemaker. It is for the curious and the jaded, the beginner and the experienced peace seeker. Spend an intentional "season" with Jesus, the peacemaker, and see if this might become your way of being authentically Christian in the world.

For over 30 years, the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have been committed to pursuing a peaceful and just world. Peace seekers and advocates, those who work and pray for reconciliation and justice, have found their home in the Presbyterian peacemaking community.

In 1980, the 192nd General Assembly adopted *Peacemaking: The Believers' Calling*, a document that has guided Presbyterian peace efforts. It is no less critical today. The document declares, among other things, that "the church is obedient to Christ when it nurtures and equips God's people as peacemakers."

Subscribe (<https://pcusa.activehosted.com/f/178>) to daily reflections that will be delivered directly to your inbox September 4 – October 2, or check them out daily on our Facebook page.

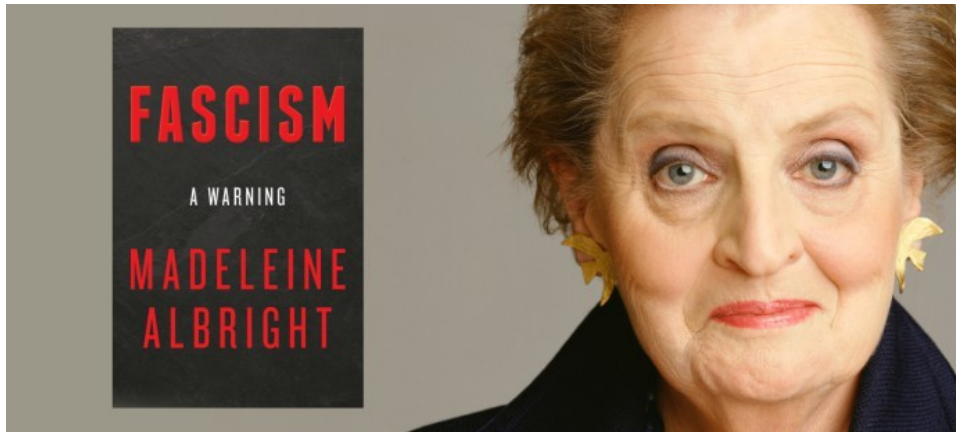
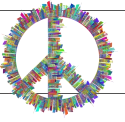
Join in Adult Bible Study using *The Things that Make for Peace*, a five-week adult study focusing on the inner and outer paths to peace as foundational to faithful discipleship. Each session has a "dig deeper" section for study throughout the week.

Check our social media for more opportunities to celebrate a Season of Peace!





CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

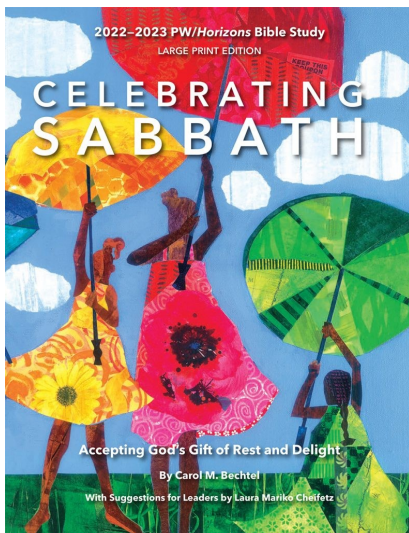


FPC BOOK CLUB

The FPC Book Club will hold the September meeting on the second Tuesday, September 8th at 2:00 pm in the church parlor. The book for discussion this month is *Fascism: A Warning* by Madeleine Albright. Secretary Albright has vast experience concerning this topic. As a child she lived under authoritarian rulers. While serving as the Ambassador to the United Nations and later as Secretary of State, she worked closely with many world leaders that she felt were determined to subvert democratic norms. In her book, she names Donald Trump as being one of them and says that he is the first antidemocratic president in modern US history.

This should be an interesting discussion. We would be happy to have you join us, and bring your recommendations for future book selections. -Millie Murphy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



The Presbyterian Women's Bible Study will start again this month. There will be two groups, both led by Rosemary Begemann. We are really excited about reviving this opportunity for fellowship and community.

One group will meet the second Sunday of the month at 5:00PM and the other will meet the second Tuesday of the month at 11:00AM. Both groups will meet in the Parlor Room. The first meetings back will be on September 11 at 5:00PM and September 13 at 11:00AM.

We can't wait to meet and discuss this year's book, *Celebrating Sabbath* by Carol Bechtel. If you would like to order a copy, feel free to contact the office at (478)452-9394 or fpchurch@windstream.net.



MISSION AND MINISTRY



Thanks to your generosity of time and money, we once again made sandwiches for the Milly Free Fridge last month. It was a great success

with some new volunteers helping out.



Join us the last Sunday of the month to help feed our neighbors and ourselves. Please bring any of the following: Sliced bread, lunch meat, peanut butter, jelly, fresh fruit, prepackaged snacks, bottled drinks. We will provide condiments and labeling materials.

Food Pantry



Food Pantry had an unusual thing happen on August 16: we ran out of prepared food bags! This had happened once before this summer and I began preparing 12 instead of 10. Henceforth, I will be preparing 15. This increase and rising food prices make your continued support all the more important. Keep us in mind as you shop, and bring your items on first Sundays or any other time the building is open. Monetary contributions are just as good, of course. We served 31 households during the first 4 Tuesdays in August, more than average, with one yet to come at this writing.

Last Fall I asked that you donate any unneeded calendars you receive from charitable organizations seeking contributions. I already have 10 (They began coming in early July!), so I can expect to collect a good many before the end of the year. Our folks really appreciated the ones for 2022, so I plan to offer them again beginning in November. If you have any to share, feel free to leave them in the office or give them to me. I continued to pass them out well into this year, so I will be glad to have new 2023 ones anytime.

Thank you all for your support of this ministry and "Thanks!" to my helpers. Blessings upon you all. -Donna Gautier

Food Pantry staples list:

Canned soups, canned ravioli, canned ham, tuna, salmon, and chicken; boxed mac & cheese, pasta noodles, grits, oatmeal, and/or cereal; peanut butter & jelly; canned spaghetti sauce, fruit, and vegetables

Samaritan Ministry

This month, due to lack of funds, we were unable to help our neighbors in need. While we have gotten a few large donations here and there, we do not have sustaining funds for this ministry. We continue to wait on word if we will get the extra funds from PC(USA). Please consider giving of your time once a month for this ministry.





September

1 in 5
kids don't have enough to eat



HUNGER IS REAL.
YOU CAN HELP.



**Act now to
help end hunger.**

HUNGER ACTION MONTH | FEEDING AMERICA

4 9:30 Sunday School
10:00 Puppets
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
2:00 S.T.A.R.S


Season of Peace Begins

5 OFFICE CLOSED



LABOR DAY

6
9:30-10:30 Food
Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



11 9:30 Sunday School
10:00 Puppets
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive &
WKZR102.3FM
2:00 S.T.A.R.S
5:30 PW Bible Study



12

13
9:30-10:30 Food
Pantry
11:00 PW Bible
Study
12:00 Kiwanis



18 9:30 Sunday School
10:00 Puppets
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
2:00 S.T.A.R.S

19

20
9:30-10:30 Food
Pantry and
Samaritan Ministry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



25 9:30 Sunday School
10:00 Puppets
11:00 Worship Service on
FBLive & WKZR102.3FM
2:00 S.T.A.R.S



12:00 Milly Free Fridge

26

27
9:30-10:30 Food
Pantry
12:00 Kiwanis
Luncheon



**FOR YOU SHALL GO OUT IN JOY,
AND BE LED FORTH IN PEACE.**

ISAIAH 55:12



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/4-
10/2
2022

2022



	1 	2	3
7 Youth Group 5:00-6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	8 FPC Book Club 2:00PM 	9	10
14 Youth Group 5:00-6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	15	16	17
21 Youth Group 5:00-6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM International Peace Day 	22 	23	24
28 Youth Group 5:00-6:30PM Wednesday Bible Study 6:30PM 	29	30	

Elders on Session

Class of 2024 ~ Catherine Dean (Congregational Life) Jennifer Flory (Worship) Nancy Miller (Clerk of Session) Laurie Peebles (Personnel) Anne Smart (Christian Education) Bill Werts (Missions and Outreach)

Operations: The church office is now open
Monday - Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



YOUTH MINISTRY



S.T.A.R.S., Puppets and Youth Group have started up again! You don't have to choose just one group, so feel free to join in the Youth Group (grades 6-12) and Puppets, or join S.T.A.R.S and Puppets. Or join just one. We look forward to seeing everyone again!

Puppets- Sundays 10:00AM

S.T.A.R.S- Sundays 2:00PM-4:00PM

Youth Group- Wednesdays 5:00PM-6:30PM



Youth Group

The Youth Group meets every Wednesday evening starting at 5pm and will be creating Blessing/Prayer journals. We will design them, craft them, use and discuss parts of them. Join us for this creative craft and exciting journey together.

TREASURER'S CORNER



For the first time in the pandemic, the disease touched our family. I tested positive for Covid 19 and have been isolating. This brought a great disruption into my life as it has for so many others for the past two and a half years. It has also brought great disruption into the life of our church and every organization of which I am aware.

Last month our expenses and revenues were closer to even than in recent months, but we still had to spend more than the current revenue we received. I realize this is a broken record, but we have to try harder to balance the books. Our church depends on faithful givers to keep the mission going. Please try to do your part. God's work is hard, but we can make a difference in the lives of others. -Joel Burns

	June	July	2022 YTD
Contributions	\$8,647	\$10,851	\$83,986
Other Income	\$1,820	\$683	\$7,431
Total Income	\$10,467	\$11,534	\$91,417
Budgeted Expenses	\$16,398	\$15,657	\$127,661
Net (Loss)	(\$5,931)	(\$4,123)	(\$36,244)



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

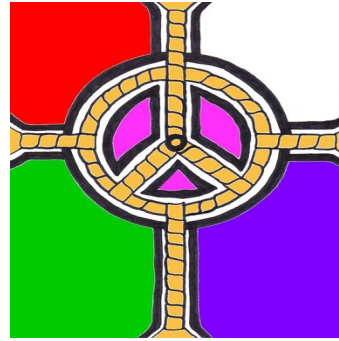
The Bible Sunday School class continues to meet via ZOOM. This permits us to study and learn without risk of COVID exposure and several of us enjoy the experience. Every Sunday at 9:30 AM we meet for our conversations and study. We enjoyed our study of the Walter Brueggemann book, *Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Uncertainty* so we decided to discuss more of his writing. This time the group will read from *The Collected Sermons of Walter Brueggemann*. His great Biblical thought and his humor lace this collection and make for easy discussions.

I hope a number of you will join us. If you wish to join by ZOOM, call me at (478) 414-6516 and I will forward the link.

Joel D. Burns



FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are studying *The Martyr Song* by Ted Dekker. This group meets in

person in the parlor room every Sunday morning at 9:45 AM. We would love to have you join us.-Bill Werts

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday night study group meets for a pot luck supper and the continued discussion of the N. T. Wright book *Broken Signposts*. This book has been fascinating and we are taking our time to savor it. John Lamsma has also included additional study materials to keep the study relevant. We hope a number of folks will join us. The pot luck begins at 6:30 P.M. If you do not wish to participate in the pot luck, the discussions begin about 7:00 P.M. Please join us whether you have the book or not! The book is available on Amazon.

Drawing on the wisdom of the Gospel of John, Wright explains why these signposts are fractured and damaged and how Christianity provides the vision, guidance, and hope for making them whole once again, ultimately healing ourselves and our world.

-Joel Burns



"September is National Hunger Action Month! Do you know that as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, over 54 million people in the United States today are still **hungry or food insecure**? Yet in this country, we will throw away over 133 billion pounds of food in 2022! As people of faith, it is time for us to take action- to say that this situation is unacceptable and to do something about it." (From July 2022 Society of St. Andrew letter)

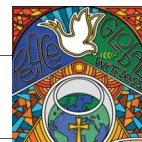
Our church is already helping the food insecure in our community with the weekly food pantry, snack packs handed out daily to those in need and our once monthly Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity. You can expand your own ministry and spiritual growth by following the calendar below. We could always use help with Snack Packs as this ministry has been completely funded by one saint in the congregation. Please consider donating your time for the Milly Free Fridge Service Opportunity, or food for the Snack Packs. Both are needed.

2022 Calendar for Prayer and Action

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>Use this calendar to guide your family, friends, or group in a focused scripture reading and meaningful activity each day.</p> <p>With your help, The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, prevent food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to people in need.</p> <p>Your donations and actions in response to these readings and activities share healthy, nourishing food with people in greatest need throughout the United States. Thank you!</p>			 <p>Society of St. Andrew GLEANNING AMERICA'S FIELDS FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY</p>		
				1	2	3
				<p>Matthew 13:9 Food left in fields is forgotten like loose change is forgotten. Put your loose change in your coin box today.</p>	<p>Matthew 25:40 Tell a friend how the Society of St. Andrew feeds the hungry utilizing the biblical practice of gleanings.</p>	<p>1 John 3:17-18 The Hebrew people ate in a hurry. Put 50 cents in your coin box for every fast food meal you ate in the last month.</p>
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<p>John 6:12 Eat only leftovers today. 54 million hungry Americans would love to have good food to eat.</p>	<p>Proverbs 25:16 Observe the Sabbath and pray for those who seek work in order to feed themselves and their families.</p>	<p>Matthew 25:35-36 Where in your life do you experience abundance? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what is overflowing today.</p>	<p>John 21:15 "The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want." Practice contentment today.</p>	<p>Luke 9:13 Serve only vegetables and love for dinner tonight.</p>	<p>Proverbs 22:9 Enjoy a special meal with family or friends today. Thank God for their presence in your life.</p>	<p>Isaiah 58:10 For what are you hungering and thirsting for today? Spend time in prayer with today's reading.</p>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>Luke 9:12-13 Set aside a "want" today and share a tithe (10%) of what that "want" would cost with the Society of St. Andrew.</p>	<p>Matthew 4:4 How is hunger an issue of justice? Consider the politics of food and hunger. Find your voice and be heard!</p>	<p>Matthew 25:40 They say talk is cheap. Put 1 cent in your coin box for every word you speak to day. (Estimate of course!)</p>	<p>James 2:15-17 Put an amount in your coin box equivalent to what you spend on a loaf of bread.</p>	<p>Matthew 25:35-40 Put 1 cent in your coin box for every hour you slept this week.</p>	<p>Jeremiah 29:11 Put 25 cents in your coin box each time you worry this week.</p>	<p>Galatians 5:14 Pray for agencies in your community that feed the hungry.</p>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>Luke 9:13 Is there an area of your life in which you are refusing God's invitation?</p>	<p>Matthew 25:37-40 Skip lunch today and give the money you'd have spent to Society of St. Andrew instead.</p>	<p>Matthew 9:37-38 How are you working for the food that endures for eternal life?</p>	<p>Hebrews 13:2 Give thanks today for Jesus, the Bread of Life.</p>	<p>Psalms 78:24-25 Consider how your faith community could be more like the Acts 2 community.</p>	<p>Matthew 26:11 Try a new food from a different culture today.</p>	<p>Psalms 119:28 Serve a meal at a soup kitchen or shelter today for the glory of God.</p>
25	26	27	28	29	30	<p>For More Info: EndHunger.org/HAM</p>
<p>Galatians 6:9 Put a gift in your coin box as a thanksgiving for the many blessings you enjoy.</p>	<p>Matthew 25:40 Today, plan one way you will continue fighting hunger in the coming months.</p>	<p>John 21:12 Where in your life are you experiencing scarcity today? Money, love, time? Share some of what seems scarce today.</p>	<p>Matthew 25:35 At your meal table today, set an extra place. To whom is God calling you to show hospitality?</p>	<p>Colossian 3:12 Enjoy a meal of beans and rice and donate a package of each to your local food pantry.</p>	<p>John 21:15 Give thanks today for God's abundance and the many blessings in your life.</p>	



SPECIAL OFFERINGS



FOR YOU SHALL
GO OUT IN JOY,
AND BE LED FORTH
IN PEACE.

ISAIAH 55:12



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 4-OCTOBER 2, 2022

PRISCILLA DU PREZ



MATTHEW 25



Peace is doing, not waiting.

Peace begins with each of us.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, we connect with each other to confront systems of injustice and promote reconciliation in places around the world — and right here at home

25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25% of this Offering goes to our mid council to join with other congregation gifts to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this Offering supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

Please give what you can.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

Thank you!

God of Peace, we embrace your joy and go forth to connect with others in building a world where all can find compassion, peace and justice. Amen.



Those wishing to write Rebecca in basic training can send letters to:
PFC Rebecca Elangwe, Fox 3-10 2nd Plt, Minnesota Ave Bldg 659,
Fort Leonardwood, MO 65473
Will Deason is in AIT until October 18, 2022. Letters for him can be sent to:
PFC Deason, Williams, 3rd Platoon, D. Co. 554th en Bn 1st en Bde,
6221 Iowa Ave, Fort Leonardwood, MO 65473

Church Family:

Beth Baarda, rehabilitating at a family home
Nan Carpenter, recovering from fall at home
Rebecca Elangwe, in basic training
Jenny Moore, recovering at home
Jackie Northington, ongoing health concerns

Extended Family:

Richard Applebury, Wesley Applebury's father, stage 4 cancer, in hospice
Michael Bledsoe, Mary Lucik's grandson, multiple health concerns-
Brittany Caruthers, Sunda Coleman's niece, chemo treatment
Susan Eilers, Mary Lucik's friend, cancer surgery
Dee Hartmann, Sandra Balfour's sister-in-law, health issues
Alonzo Kelley, Craig Callender's father, Stage 4 Melanoma
Elizabeth Knobel, Carolyn Morgan's daughter, cancer stable
Julie Monteagustor, Becky Henderson's mother, ongoing health concerns
Chris Pearson, Sunda Coleman's son, recovering at home; dialysis
Runette Pounds, Sunda Coleman's mother, ongoing health concerns
Willy Sanders, Sunda Coleman's cousin, ongoing health concerns
Bob Smart, Anne Smart's husband, ankylosing spondylitis
Windy Spaide, Craig Callender's sister, ongoing health concerns
Randy Stewart, Haywood Edwards son-in-law, ongoing health concerns

Limited Mobility

Martha Chappell
Helen Danuser

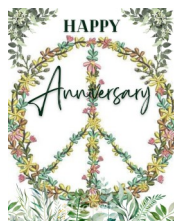


In Assisted Living:

Bryan Dempster, Green Acres, 313 Allen Memorial Drive, Milledgeville 31061
Nancy Holbrook, The Dublin Place, 504 Fire Tower Rd, Dublin GA 31021
Eloise Lamb, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Maryann Morris, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place
Gloria Smith, Fellowship Home at Meriwether, 10 Meriwether Place, Ste 1110
Suzy Smith, Savannah Court, 1061 Willow Run Rd, Unit 4, Greensboro GA 30642

Anniversaries

September 1~ Kate & Roy Phillips
September 21~ George & Nan
Carpenter



Birthdays

September 2~ Sheree Applebury
September 2~ Elizabeth Baarda
September 4~ Joseph Dean
September 8~ Eloise Lamb
September 9~ Frankie Holder
September 11~ Mollie Ritchie
September 14~ John Bradley
September 14~ Ellen Thompson
September 19~ Stephanie
Azahar
September 19~ Iain Flory
September 19~ Erin Smith

