



# NEWS

## FROM THE PEWS

A Quarterly Publication for Immaculate Conception Church

November 2010

### *A Bit More About* **Monsignor Cox**

By Kathy Gangwisch

*The August issue of NFTP had just a peek at our new pastor, Msgr. David Cox, and this is the promised follow-up.* One thing that failed to make print the last time was his full quote about coming to central Missouri in the late 1970's.

"This diocese is considered rural, especially compared with the diocese of Columbus (Ohio) where I'm from. I came here on a missionary trip

to convert the heathens," was what he actually said with a mischievous sparkle in his eyes.

Mission accomplished. Few heathens left in these parts nowadays. None registered at I.C., anyway.

The outgoing, fun loving Msgr. Cox loves Missouri. "I picked this state and have lived here longer than I did in my hometown of Chillicothe, Ohio," he says.

His vocation was realized in high school, so right after graduation he headed to Josephinum Seminary in Columbus. Next up was Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis where he earned his master's in divinity. A stint at Creighton University in Omaha followed where he received his master's in spirituality. Fr. Cox then moved on to Hannibal LaGrange College where he earned degrees in biology and chemistry.

"I first saw Immaculate Conception Church when I came here as a Deacon," says the Msgr.

After ordination, my first assignment as a new priest was at St. Joseph's parish here in Jeff. City."

Msgr. Cox was on staff at St. Thomas Seminary in Hannibal for 19 years. He was the spiritual director as well as a teacher of biology, chemistry and religion.



MSGR. COX LIKES TO TALK WITH OUR KIDS AND HAD FUN WITH SECOND GRADERS HUNTER ROLING, JUSTIN BACKES AND EMMA DAVIS DURING THEIR DONUT BREAKFAST AFTER MASS IN OCTOBER.

photo by Kathy Gangwisch

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(continued on page 8)

## Our Family is Growing!

By Terry  
Lyskowski

Immaculate Conception Parish has become a sister parish with San Francisco de Asis in Pisco Playa, Peru. We welcome them to our family as they welcome us.

A little background: As a result of a study conducted by the I.C. Parish Council we adopted a new parish mission statement (it can be found in the bulletin every week) along with three goals to implement over the next few years. One of these goals is

to promote the idea of a sister parish.

In May of 2010, five parishioners: Katrina Farrow, Jill Struempf, Mark Saucier, Carolyn Saucier, and Terry Lyskowski, along with Fr. Brendan Griffey (translator extraordinaire!), travelled to Peru to meet the parishioners of San Francisco. We were introduced because of an event that occurred which had a devastating effect.

On August 7, 2007, there was an earthquake in Peru, where the city of Pisco (about 3 hours

south of Lima) was the center of the disaster. Pisco, a fishing village along the Pacific coast, then suffered a tsunamis resulting from the quake. The way of life for the people of this village was drastically changed and challenged. The Diocese of Jefferson City responded immediately with attention and assistance. Fr. Pat Dolan and Mark Saucier (diocesan mission coordinator) travelled to Pisco to see the effects first hand. They met

with the pastor, Fr Jose Sanchez, and people of San Francisco. Their church, parish halls, rectory, and nutrition center sustained significant damage. Homes were damaged, people were displaced. Many lost their lives and loved ones. All were affected. Sadly, many people who had so little to begin with lost what little they had. The government of Peru set aside some barren, sandy land about 10 miles north of the parish for those who had lost their meager homes. The area is called Los Molinos. It has neither electricity nor running water in any of the 30 square foot reed mat dirt floor buildings they call home.

Prior to the earthquake the parish of San Francisco had been operating a nutrition center for the poorest members of their community. After the earthquake the parish made a decision. They decided to forego rebuilding their parish facilities until they could reestablish a nutrition center. This was their first priority! What a remarkable testament to their goodness and witness to the Gospel. With help from the J.C. Diocese they established a center in Los Molinos that provided two rolls and a cup of milk a day, three days per week. Since our visit in May, I.C. school children under Mrs. Struempf's leadership have raised enough funds with a penny project to open the center seven days a week. What a life-giving gift! Give a shout to I.C. school!!

Back at the parish site of San Francisco the renewal is happening. Parishioners have built a beautiful, simple church, a rectory for Fr. Jose, a courtyard/meeting room area, and a nutrition center for people who have

not moved to Los Molinos. These men and women are committed to move forward with amazing resolve and grit.

During our stay in Pisco we received humbling hospitality. The parishioners shared their stories, their food, their culture, their dance, their prayers, their lives. They are grateful for not only the financial support, but also for our dependable presence and abiding friendship. Taking the time to meet the people in Pisco hopefully lessens their sense of isolation and futility. They know we come from a place that supports them and will continue to support them. Resources given directly to these projects are used entirely for their needs.

The prayers, laughter, tears, and hope that we shared with them during our time together are the seeds that will germinate into something so good. What will this look like? How will this link be strengthened? Will our meeting be the beginning of a rich and life-giving story for all of us? The thoughts and feelings that the five of us have are difficult to assimilate and articulate. We want them to translate into plans and awareness.

Immaculate Conception has a solid track record in mission work and faith-filled kindness. How exciting to imagine all that this relationship can become for I.C. and the parishioners of San Francisco de Asis---building a beautiful city of God together in spite of the miles that separate us.

Watch the bulletin for more information, details, and opportunities for you to become part of this building, from the ground up!

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TO THE GOSPEL.

## Thoughts on Thanksgiving

*What does Thanksgiving mean to you?* One young boy told me, "It means a big dinner."

We may all agree with him. After all, who does not look forward to and enjoy a good dinner! Another student said, "Thanksgiving means time away from school." That student is right too. Even though school is a great place, it is nice to have an occasional holiday.

If we ask older people what the day means, we may hear, "Thanksgiving is a day away from the office. I am at the office many hours each week, and appreciate a day that is really my own once in a while." For people who travel a lot, Thanksgiving may mean a day at home to enjoy being with family and friends with no place else to go or be.

I could ask many people this question and each one would have his or her own answer, but Thanksgiving should have a special meaning for all of us. During this time of harvest, we must remember that God in his infinite love and wisdom provides, through the laws of nature, for the growth, sweetness, coloring, and beautifying of everything we have.

Giving praise to God should be our focus at this wonderful time of year. It should be the answer to my question, "What does Thanksgiving mean to you?" God, our heavenly Father, sends us every good gift. From his bountiful hand comes all we have and need. We must praise him every day, but Thanksgiving is a special day for everyone to unite in this song of praise.

As we gather to visit, eat, play and watch football, or whatever activities our families enjoy during this season of Thanksgiving, always remember it is only because of God that we have everything we do. Pause and take time to thank God for your good gifts.



By Phyllis Emmel



Immaculate  
Conception  
Church



## Welcome to Immaculate Conception Parish

### NEW MEMBER REGISTRATIONS

#### August 2010

- Mr. Keith Luebbering, 2430 Scenic Drive, Jefferson City 65101
- Mr. and Mrs. Charles "Aaron" (Sarah) Patten, 1907 Glenwood Dr., Jefferson City 65109
- Mr. and Mrs. Brian (Leslie) Jacobs, 215 Riverside Dr., Jefferson City 65101
- Ms. Julie Upschulte, 2213 Oakview Dr., Jefferson City 65101

#### September 2010

- Mr. and Mrs. David (Lisa) Echelmeyer, 1709 Lisa Ct., Jefferson City 65101
- Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sadowski (Jatha), 1309 Elmerine, Jefferson City 65101
- Mr. Frank Schroeder, 120 Amador, Apt., #2, Jefferson City 65101
- Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth (Frances) Struempf, 2013 Deer Trail, Jefferson City 65101
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael (Destiny) Campbell, 1421 Major Dr., Jefferson City 65101
- Mr. and Mrs. Ricky (Bethany) Burgess, 112 Short St., Jefferson City 65101

#### October 2010

- Mr. and Mrs. Chris (Jenna) Korsmeyer, 2416 Scenic Dr., Jefferson City 65101
- Terry Webb and Brittany Lambert, 4813 Rainbow Hills Rd., Jefferson City 65109
- Mrs. Regina Beide, 1626 Wilmor Dr., Jefferson City 65101

### BAPTISMS

#### August 2010

- Grace Josephine Lepper, daughter of Carson and Erin Rose (Sommers) Lepper
- Ava Marie Gieck, daughter of Louis and Kristy (Heckman) Gieck
- Trey Michael Ruediger, son of Brandon Lee and Jana Marie (Bemboom) Reudiger
- Victoria Ann Forck, daughter of Kelly Ray and Teri (Deffenbaugh) Forck
- Ty Daniel Brandt, son of Daniel Gerard and Joyce Marie (Luebbering) Brandt

#### September 2010

- Rachel Grace Zeitz, daughter of Matt and Paula (Workman) Zeitz
- Caleb Matthew Harmon, son of Elizabeth Kelsey Harmon
- Brett Paul Fisher, son of Richard and Christina (Sneller) Fisher
- Delaney Marie Dowell, daughter of Brittany Nicole Hoerschgen

#### October 2010

- Benjamin F. Bruemmer, son of Gary and Alyssa (Kever) Bruemmer
- Catherine Rae Jacobs, daughter of Brian and Leslie (Sancoucie) Jacobs
- Brian Jeffrey Jacobs III, son of Brian and Leslie (Sancoucie) Jacobs
- Connie Elizabeth Lieneke, daughter of Robert and Mary (Friel) Lieneke



## Music News

Beginning the First Sunday of Advent parishioners will notice a new book in the pews entitled “Breaking Bread.” It will replace the Seasonal Missalette we’ve used for several years.

Why the change? “Breaking Bread” is published annually, whereas the Seasonal Missalette was changed four times a year. This new book contains the entire year’s worth of readings, Mass propers and songs, and because of that we will save on printing and shipping charges. It offers a wealth of music so we will no longer need to print supplements; pews will contain only the new missal and our Glory Hymnals.

As you look through “Breaking Bread” you’ll notice that the book is laid out similar to the Seasonal Missalette with the Order of the Mass in the front followed by Scripture readings for the entire year of Sundays. Daily Mass propers can be found midway through the book along with various popular prayers such as the “Act of Contrition,” “Regina Coeli,” “Hail

Holy Queen” and others. Music is in the back section. As with the Seasonal Missalette, the Rite for Eucharistic Benediction and Adoration is found inside the back cover.

Please help to care for our new books so they last the entire year. A big thank you to Mrs. Emmel’s class for covering them with plastic, putting them in the pews, pulling the old missalettes and disposing of the old music supplements! We hope you find “Breaking Bread” user friendly, musically pleasing, and an aid to your prayer experience.

By Laura Forbis,  
Director of Music & Liturgy

## WHY CATHOLIC? JOURNEY THROUGH THE CATECHISM

BOOK TWO  
THE CELEBRATION OF  
THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY:  
THE SACRAMENTS

Our parish’s *Why Catholic?* small community groups met throughout the fall to study the Sacraments. But whether or not you were in a small community group, did you know you can get reflections of each week’s theme through podcasts on the diocese website? We invite you to log on, listen in, and learn!

<http://diojeffcity.org/>



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# Bill and Ann Yarnell

By Joan Rodemann



There is a saying: It doesn't matter where you go in life, what you do, or how much you have. It's who you have beside you! Bill and Ann Salanky Yarnell have lived this.

As Bill's career sent the family hop-scotching across Missouri from the northwest in St. Joseph to the southeast in Sikeston, from Willow Springs in the southwest to Macon in the northeast, both Bill and Ann knew that at the end of the day, whatever the address, they would be

home in the evening because they had taken "home" with them.

Ann Salanky and her three siblings grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri. She was the youngest. Her father worked for the railroad. During hard times her family lived with her grandparents where saw the example of families pulling together. The seed took root.

Ann's education was all Catholic: St. James Elementary School and the Convent of the Sacred Heart High School – girls only. Bill had attended Pershing Elementary School and Lafayette High School. So even though they had both grown up in St. Joe, they did not meet until after high school.

Bill's parents, Ralph and Worldia Yarnell, also had four children. Bill was the oldest. He attended junior college in St. Joe and then transferred to the University of Kansas to earn a degree in civil engineering.

The couple met on a blind date through a friend of Ann's who was dating a friend of Bill's at junior college. Bill's memory of this date is

crystal clear. "I never dated anyone else after that," he declares.

Ann's father's job took the family to Kansas City. Ann and Bill dated in St. Joseph when she visited her grandmother there. The courtship lasted three years during which time Ann finished secretarial school and began working for the Missouri Department of Transportation.

Bill graduated from the University of Kansas in 1959. Four days later he landed a job with MoDOT. In those days, only one family member could work for the agency, so Ann knew her MoDOT days were numbered. With Bill working in St. Joe and Ann in Kansas City, Bill added 40,000 miles to his odometer the year before they married. He also joined the Catholic Church.

Ann's parish, St. Pius in North Kansas City, only had a gymnasium at that time. The couple received permission to marry in the Cathedral.

It was February 6, 1960. The wedding was set for 10 a.m., like many weddings in those days due to the Communion fast.

Bill, his brother, uncle and groomsmen arrived at the Cathedral early to find a funeral in progress. It was snowing as the priest and altar boy prepared to exit the church. There was absolutely no one else there. This was a pauper's funeral. Bill remembers, "It was a sobering sight. The happiest day of my life was the day of this poor person's funeral. My groomsmen and I stepped forward and served as pallbearers."

A Colorado honeymoon followed. Ann smiles, "I realized I had really married an engineer as Bill

noticed and commented on most of the icy, snowy bridges along the way."

The young Yarnells settled in St. Joseph where they welcomed their son Christopher in December. Robert followed in 1964. Then the first of many transfers came.

The Yarnells moved to Moreau Drive in Jefferson City in 1965. They joined Immaculate Conception Parish and met a man who impacted their lives — Msgr. Gerold Kaiser. Bill recalls, "He gave a sermon on tithing that was very thought-provoking. A few days later John O'Rourke and another parishioner came by and talked to us about tithing. It made a lasting impression." But after only 10 months, the Yarnells were on the move again. They were headed to Sikeston.

Sikeston offered new experiences for the family. Bill hired the first black drafting technician in that office. At home on the weekend, nuisance calls came throughout the day. When he answered the phone, either "The Star-Spangled Banner" or "Dixie" could be heard. But they

made friends for life in Sikeston, one of which was a young Irish priest, Father Justin Monaghan. It seemed the housekeeper at the rectory was instructed to lock the refrigerator after dinner. Quite often, the young priest found his way to the Yarnells' house for companionship and food!

From Sikeston, the Yarnells were sent to

Willow Springs. It was there at St. Francis Hospital, their daughter Mary Ann joined the family.

Ann remarks, "The hospital was run by an order of Czechoslovakian nuns. They did not believe in

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THE COUPLE MET  
ON A BLIND DATE.  
BILL'S MEMORY  
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anesthesia for women in labor. It was probably best for both Mary Ann and me, but I didn't think so at the time!"

The Yarnells loved life in Willow Springs. Chris and Rob rode a school bus to West Plains to attend a Catholic school run by the Daughters of Charity. It was a small school and enrollment was waning.

On a visit to Jefferson City the young family attended Mass at I. C. Church. Once again, Msgr. Kaiser's words fell right into Bill's heart.

"I know God wanted us there to hear these words about the importance of Catholic education and its impact on parish life." Within a week of returning to Willow Springs, the Yarnell boys came home from school to say, "Sister Mary Joseph needs you to write a letter to the Bishop telling him why our school should remain open."

Bill remembers, "It was an easy letter to write. I simply laid it out as plainly and simply as Msgr. Kaiser had for us. The school stayed open."

Sister Mary Joseph told the Yarnells it was Bill's letter. Bill would say it was Msgr. Kaiser's words.

Not unexpectedly, the Yarnells were reassigned. This time to Jefferson City. They knew they wanted to be on the east side of town in I. C. Parish. The perfect house was found

on Rehagen Drive where they were blessed with great neighbors who became great friends: Lonnie and Alice Wekenborg and Harold and Mary Jane Buehler.

Knowing a move was always possible, nevertheless, the Yarnells unpacked, hung pictures on the walls and enjoyed Jefferson City. They became involved in the parish and Helias High School. They volunteered at the Samaritan Center and were liturgical ministers. Bill represented I.C. on the Helias School Board two terms and was active in the Helias Athletic Boosters Club, serving as president one year. Ann was also involved in the Mothers' Club at Helias while their children attended.

Then it happened. Bill was offered a promotion, but it would mean a move to Macon. By now the children were grown and gone. Bill and Ann put their heads together and came up with a solution. Ann would stay in their home in Jefferson City and keep her job at the Hospital Services Group. Bill would live in Macon. On weekends, Ann would travel to Macon. They planned special outings for just the two of them.

Together again in Jefferson City, they remain active. They revel in the activities of their children and grandchildren. They even took the

whole crew on a cruise to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Bill teaches one day a week at Rolla and contracts with MoDOT and Linn State regarding inspection of materials and work. He volunteers at Helias.

Ann still volunteers at Samaritan Center, is involved in "Why Catholic?" and has an Adoration Hour. Bill laughs, "It was

our hour in the beginning, but Ann enjoys the solitude, so now it is hers."

Ann and Bill both believe that they were very fortunate to have Catholic schools such as I.C. and Helias available for their children. "In addition, four of our grandchildren have attended I.C., and the third will graduate from Helias this year, with one soon to start attending there. The education these schools provide do a very good job in preparing students for life."

The abilities to adjust, adapt, and work out solutions have held Ann and Bill together for over 50 years. They are a living testament it really is all about who you have beside you.

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THEY REVEL IN THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR FAMILY AND EVEN TOOK THE WHOLE CREW ON A CRUISE TO CELEBRATE THEIR 50th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

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## Boy Scout Troop 6

This is the year Boy Scouts celebrate their 100th anniversary. There have been several events sponsored by the Great Rivers Council to mark this anniversary, among them a 100 mile float trip, 100 mile bike ride on the Katy Trail, and a 100 anniversary celebration in Fayette.

Congratulations to Michael Collins who received his Eagle Scout earlier this year! Michael is the son of Jeff and Colleen Collins. In order to obtain Eagle Scout ranking a boy must complete 21 merit badges, obtain a certain amount of service hours, attend camp outs, and complete an approved Eagle Scout project. Michael made benches out of cedar logs for Turkey Hill Bible Camp.

The Boy Scouts sold popcorn throughout November. We appreciate all who purchased popcorn. Thank you for your support of Troop 6!

Submitted by Renee Christian

## A Bit More About Msgr. Cox

*(continued from page 1)*

What does the title ‘Monsignor’ mean, exactly? The pastor explained: “It’s a Papal designation, actually,” he said. “The Bishop nominates a priest to the Holy Father and it’s the Pope who confers the title. It basically means, ‘job well done,’” explained Msgr. Cox. Maybe he earned his for converting the heathens of Jeff. City!

David Cox is the first born of four siblings. He has two brothers and a sister, all of whom live in Ohio, as do his parents. Growing up, the family home was outside town where his dad was a tenant farmer.

On that landscape were critters and young David felt a longing for them. “I raised chinchillas and rabbits and at one time thought I’d

become a vet,” he said. Why chinchillas? “They’re really cool animals and a challenge,” he explained. “I just liked them.”

Something else he likes is to curl up with a good novel. Yet foremost in the mind of Msgr. Cox is the efficient running of I.C. parish and the desire for us to even more deeply appreciate our Catholic faith. “I also want the young people of our parish to find what they’re looking for here,” he said. “That’s very important.”

The pastor has instigated a few new (or renewed) practices: The ringing of bells at the consecration, three altar boys/girls vs. two so that the dual candles can be carried in

along with the crucifix, Thursday evening benediction, and all-day Thursday adoration in the main body of the church vs. the small adoration chapel. He’s giving thought to an annual blessing of the pets to coincide with the feast day of St. Francis.

Our priest quotient at I.C. has been lacking, so it was with real enthusiasm that Msgr. Cox said, “We have a new visiting priest. Father Alexius Ekka from India will be with us several weeks.” India? Isn’t that nation largely Hindu? “Oh, there’s a large and growing Christian population in India,” he said. Well, good.

Welcome, Msgr. Cox. You, too, Fr. Ekka!

## Immaculata Club

This summer, the Our Lady of La Salette Chapter of the Immaculata Club enjoyed the Vatican Splendors art exhibit at the Missouri History Museum in St. Louis, as well as a guided tour of the St. Louis Basilica. ►

photo provided by Ellen Whertvine



## St. Ann's Sodality

◀ In October, these ladies of St. Ann's Sodality had an enjoyable trip to Shrine of St. Patrick parish in Laurie, Mo. for Mass by Fr. Pat Dolan, a tour of the shrine and lunch at a local restaurant.

photo provided by Ellen Whertvine

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**FRANK SCHRIMPF**  
PLUMBING & HEATING

# What's New at Immaculate Conception School?

By Marlene Kuster

Things are really moving fast at school. The first quarter is on the shelf already with the second quarter taking off with great speed. One might think that December would be the busiest month of a school year; however, October and November would both be challengers.

During the month of September you might have heard that the school children held a penny fundraiser for our sister parish in Peru (did you read Terry Lyskowski's terrific article in this issue?) In just a few days, they raised almost \$2,500 for the food program. We also had our annual standardized testing for students in grades 2-8. We learned we have some really special students here at I. C. In October, I.C. celebrated National Fire Protection Month with the students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through first, visiting the local Fire Department's Smoke House where they learned many things to do if they should ever be in a home fire

situation. The Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students both went on their first field trip, while the 7th graders learned more about staying drug free and peer pressure.

We held a very successful food drive for the Samaritan Center collecting over 3,600 grocery items for those in need. The students are also following the Character Plus list of good character traits most of the city is involved in using. Each month we focus on a trait and try to use it daily. During November, we are looking at being polite. Please help us use and appreciate this good character trait. We had a very successful book fair the end of October as well as parent/teacher/student conferences. It isn't all work and no play for our students; school can be a very fun place to be. Many classes have had "read-a-thons" where the students may lay on the floor and read most of the day. We have had the opportunity for some

students to visit the Vatican Splendor display in St. Louis and also attend the play "The Diary of Ann Frank" presented at the Miller Performing Arts Center. There was a Family Fun Night in November for parents and their students to play learning games together as well as try out a few science experiments.

Thanks to everyone who helped and supported us in these activities as well as the Fall Fling hosted by the Home and School Assoc. We could not provide a quality education without your help. Our school uses a large portion of our parish funds.

The above listed activities are only a few that are happening at school. Please know that your support is appreciated and well used. We are proud of our school, students, and parish. We certainly aren't without fault, but we trust in God every day to help us follow the example of Jesus.



## 2010-2011 Library Birthday Book Club

*For information on the Birthday/Gift/Memorial book club, please contact Charlene Connor at the Immaculate Conception School Library at 636-7680.*

| <u>Giver's Name</u>          | <u>Book Title</u>                  | <u>In Honor of / In Memory of</u> |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Alice Groner & Steve Dittmer | <b>Al Capone Shines my Shoes</b>   | Grace Dittmer                     |
| Joe & Joyce Schaefer         | <b>Horrible Harry on the Ropes</b> | James K. Schaefer                 |
| Brian & Rebecca Maasen       | <b>The Hit-Away Kid</b>            | Andrew Maasen                     |
| Bill & Christina Luebbert    | <b>Sir Lancelot the Great</b>      | Henry Luebbert                    |
| Bill & Christina Luebbert    | <b>Sharkpedia</b>                  | Henry Luebbert                    |
| Debby Bullock                | <b>Elvis &amp; Olive</b>           | Grace Bullock                     |
| Mark & Shelley Kiesling      | <b>The Big Blue Book</b>           | Kamryn Kiesling                   |
| Kevin & Christy Yanskey      | <b>The Magic Thief</b>             | Kayla Yanskey                     |
|                              | <b>Charlie &amp; the Shadow</b>    | Maddie Arnold                     |
| Loran & Karen Prenger        | <b>When Lucy Goes Walking</b>      | Kyle Prenger                      |
| Tom & Lora Folz              | <b>Abe Lincoln</b>                 | Ben Folz                          |

# Kindergarten Round-up

All the new Kindergarten student and their families were invited to attend a barbeque August 14th. Families took the opportunity to introduce their children to some of their new classmates as well as meet some of the new parents to our school community. As evidenced in the photo, there were a lot of smiles jumping around at this gathering.



Students appearing in the picture are Ian Troesser, Moseph Mehert, Caleb Porting, Jacob Rembecki, Cale Sappenfield, Sam Schaefer, Grant Schrimpf, Kennedy Kupec, Cody Suthoff, Trevor Kolb, Brady Voss, Lucas Webb, Alyssa Wobbe, Trenton Wolkem, Jack Zeitz, Chelsea Goodin, Eli Brinegar, Anna Bruemmer, Molly Berkey, Nicholas Ash, Jason Arnold, Isabella Lyskowski, Matthew Cremer, Linda Gosche, Caroline Higgings, Alyssa Hood, Audrey Hudson, Mason Kliethermes, Leah Kolb, Carmela DeFeo, Liam O'Brien, and Michael Randazzo. Kindergarten teachers Julie Sooter and Erin King along with Principal Jill Struempf and Assistant Principal Heather Schrimpf were also present.



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### A LITTLE DOSE OF FAMILY & FAITH

## Angels We Have “Heard” on High

By Martha Schieber

For some the holidays are magical. Having small ones around makes holidays especially wonderful. For some it's a tough time—any widow or widower will tell you. Last Thanksgiving we visited my mom and the holiday “doldrums” were already starting to set in. So I took action.

The following Monday in Adoration I prayed like I always do for my family. But this time I asked for something “extra” for my mom. In addition to asking for her protection, I asked that God let her know that Dad is there with her, protecting and watching over her. Yes, it was one of those “just give her a sign” prayers. Was I surprised how fast God got on it!

When I talked with her a few days later, she said something strange had happened. She was sitting in the back part of her house when she suddenly heard music coming from another part of the house. She got up and followed the sound. She found the source in the living room. On the fireplace mantle was an angel with a music box in it and it was playing. She said she hadn't touched it in

months. She always dusts around it. She said out loud, “Dad, is that you?” (Like many wives, she called her husband “Dad.”) When she told me this I froze! I told her about my prayer just days earlier. Her response: “Well, you must have a better pipeline than I do!”

Speaking of “pipelines,” I keep telling my mom that Dad has been sending her messages for a while now. He told me to give Mom one year and then get her out of the house because it would be too much to take care of on her own. In the meanwhile, torrential rains led to two sump pumps being installed. Not to mention a host of other issues. When I told her this was Dad's way of trying to get her out of the house, she responded: “Why doesn't he just tell me in a dream instead of all this aggravation!”

I guess God works in mysterious ways. After the angel mysteriously played its music she finally said she'd consider looking for a smaller place to live in the spring. Torrents of rain couldn't persuade her, but one musical angel could. Of course, it's been almost a year since the angel was “heard” on high, and she's still in her house. I think it's time for another musical sign!