

God's Good Work Around the World

Todd Smedley, Senior Pastor

God is truly at work around the world and He is using our own missionaries as fruitful means to accomplish His work. In April, a team of Fourth Presbyterian Church members traveled to Eastern Europe to work with and encourage our missionaries in Romania and Hungary.

The first part of our trip was working with Romanian Christian Enterprises (RCE), an organization that ministers among abandoned and orphaned children with special needs in Arad. The work of RCE is nothing short of extraordinary! Their vision to "make mercy happen" is manifested in every facet of their mission as they house upwards of 35 special needs children of all ages and abilities, place these children in loving Christian families, and work to prevent poverty in the surrounding villages where these children ultimately go.

While in Arad, I spoke at a conference of local pastors on "The Role of the Church in Caring for the Marginalized." The conference concluded with our team, along with other area pastors at the conference, laying a house foundation for one of the families RCE is assisting.

After five days in Arad, some of us flew to lasi to visit Dave and Erin Frerichs and their four (soon to be five) children. We witnessed first-hand the amazing impact they are having among international students at a medical school in lasi. There is a vibrant community of believers from nations all over the world, gathering on Sundays to worship the Lord with zeal and joy.

Melody and Chris Istrati carried on from Iasi to Budapest, where they visited with Gyorgy and Timi Suhai to encourage them and to see their work amongst the

Roma population. The Istratis were blessed to witness all the Lord is doing through Gyorgy and Timi in such a difficult context.

Our trip was blessed by the hand of our Father and deeply encouraging

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God's Work

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to all who went. We trust the Lord used us to bolster the efforts of our missionaries, who are faithfully carrying His gospel to the nations in creative ways. I



encourage you to pray for these, and all of our missionaries, regularly. Would you ask the Lord whether He might be stirring your heart to serve Him overseas at some point through a short term missions trip such as this one? If you feel so led, please contact Melody Istrati or a Missions Committee member. May the Lord send more workers into the harvest from this family of faith.

Saying Good-bye

Corey Gray, Pastor of Administration

As this is the final issue of *Fourth Press* prior to the departure of Jeri Weaver and Holly Gochnour, we want to recognize and extend our thanks to these two women who have contributed greatly to our life at Fourth.



After one year as Fourth's Publications Editor, Jeri Weaver became the Director of Communications and Media Services on December 1, 2005. Jeri has held Fourth to high standards and made numerous improvements to our publications as writer and editor. In *Fourth Press* she added features, columns, and collages depicting life at Fourth. She also concentrated efforts on inviting the congregation and the community to use the libraries as a resource, implementing programs to

showcase the benefits of each library. In addition, Jeri has supervised more than 100 volunteers in the Media Center. Her love of people shows in countless ways, from birthday celebrations and parties honoring volunteers for their dedication, to just connecting and encouraging others. She makes each individual feel special.



Holly Gochnour began August 1, 2004, as the Children's Librarian and Media Assistant. Holly conscientiously maintained both libraries according to the Dewey Decimal Classification System. Her heart for ministry has shown through her careful planning of a fun, safe environment for children to read, watch Christian movies, and study. Having raised three children of her own in this church, Holly's familiarity with Fourth helped her build a program that ministers to families

throughout childhood. She has provided reading materials to complement what children learn in Sunday school and Fourth Night. Holly's annual Summer Reading program encourages children to read as much as they can in the summer. Each year many of us have watched the children's enthusiasm as they participated in the themed programs.



Fourth in Romania

From April 3-8, Dr. Todd Smedley and his daughter Hannah, Rev. Corey Gray and his daughter Julia, Mary Ann Bell, Mike Boyle, Melody and Chris Istrati, and Carola Tucker represented Fourth in Romania. Mary Ann, the founder and director of Romanian Christian Enterprises, led the tour of Darius Houses, the Sunshine School, Amy's House, and the Love House families. On Wednesday, Dr. Smedley participated in a pastors' conference on mercy ministry that was followed by the practical ministry of building the foundation to a house for a family in need.

More information on RCE can be found on their website, http://www.rcenterprises.org.

Much more can be said about these two ladies, but one thing is for sure: they will both be missed. Their enthusiasm for people and the gospel has been evident throughout the past decade. They have used their gifts, skills and abilities, working as a team, to serve Fourth and its community. Please continue to pray for Jeri and Holly as they conclude their time at Fourth and discern their next steps.

If you have any questions or requests concerning the libraries or publications at Fourth, please contact Rev. Corey Gray.

A Page from the Past

Sixth in a Series

Jeri Weaver, Director of Communications and Media Services

Photos of new Summer Staff grace the pages of Fourth Press every year at this time!

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO this year, some familiar faces appeared on the cover. We spotted Megan Glen (Beglin), Kelly Miller (Valencia), Charlie Smith, Jen Westly (Mutryn), and Kristen Wylie (Humkey). UPDATE: Today these former staffers are parents of a total of 15 little ones!

Jen Westly invested her time this school year in the lives of the eighth graders. She balanced teaching at the Fourth Presbyterian School, taking classes at Montgomery College, and volunteering with the Junior High Ministry. She is excited about the summer.



from 2001

Megan Glenn embraces life with much energy and joy. After spending this school year in Romania volunteering in an orphanage, Megan will head off to Washington University in St. Louis in the Fall. Megan expects a tremendous time with the freshman girls as they grow in their understanding of Christ.



Kelly Miller, an Elon student, has spent time at camp and on retreats with the eleventh-grade gals. Kelly hopes to show the love and comfort of God in her actions and through her words.

Charlie Smith returns for his third summer to lead the ninth-grade boys into the high school group. Charlie is a faithful, hard worker who diligently pours his life into others' growth in Jesus Christ.

Kristen Wylie has completed her second year at Virginia Tech. She grew up in the youth proin ways that will touch the live gram at Fourth. Krigen is outgoing and creative God's Word. nth-grade gals, especially when they dive into

Sarah Burrows (8th girls) went to Wheaton High

School and is now a Social Work major at Messiah College where she will be a sophomore this fall. Sarah has grown up here in the family of Fourth and in the youth groups. This will be her second year working on

Parker Griffin (7th guys) is graduating from Wootton summer staff. High School and will be attending the University of Richmond this fall. He has been an active leader in the Senior High group as well as a volunteer in the Junior

High department

Claire Collins (12th girls), a Whitman graduate, will receive her Early Childhood Education degree from the University of Delaware in 1997. While this is Claire's

first full-time summer staff position, she has been a





Pat Thatch (9th guys) also returns to staff for a second summer to work with the freshman guys. Pat graduated from Howard High School and is now completing his first year at Messiah College. He hopes to facilitate the tough transition from junior to senior high.

Doru Zuba (8th guys) is a senior Finance major at the University of Maryland. He has been an active leader in our College ministry here at Fourth and is also active in Intervarsity Christian Fellowship at Maryland.

from 1996



Births



Ramsey Victor Holmes | November 30, 2015 Son of Alexander and Samantha Holmes



Daniel Ayoyimika Ogunnaike | March 12, 2016 Son of Tunde and Odunayo Ogunnaike. Brother of David Ayomikun Ogunnaike

Deaths

R. Esther Evans | March 25, 2016 Wife of Donald J. Evans Mother of Linda (Robert) Whitlock, the late Stephen A. Evans, Kevin Evans, Sheryl Breyman, and Kathrina Skaar Grandmother of 11 Great-grandmother of three

Alverta B. Jewell | April 5, 2016 Mother of Timothy Jewell



Ethan Frank Mulla | March 19, 2016 Son of Rob and Andrea Mulla Brother of Daniel and Jamie Mulla

Anniversary





Priscilla and Arthur E. (Gene) Dewey 60th Anniversary Married on June 24, 1956 In Syracuse, NY

2016 Vacation Bible School Following Jesus, the Light of the World

CAVE QUEST! Vacation Bible School is fast approaching (June 27-July 1). What an opportunity and blessing God is providing. Nearly 200 children are registered so far—and once again, over 40% of the families are from outside the family of Fourth.



There is still time to register children and to volunteer. Come help spread the word to our covenant children and our guests, that Jesus' love displayed on the cross conquered sin and death, and can carry us through the challenges of this world. Register at www.4thpres.org/vbs

Summer: A Time to Read!

Holly Gochnour, Children's Librarian/Media Assistant

Each summer since 1993, Fourth's Children's Library has hosted a Summer Reading Club. More than 2,300 children have participated in this program, checking out and reading a total of 26,742 books!

Children earn prize points for reading books, memorizing Scripture verses that relate to the theme of that year's program, and keeping track of their progress throughout the six weeks.

Each summer's program has a new theme. Two past program themes were:

Book a Trip—Read Around the World was a travel and missions theme. Readers traveled miles (stickers) as they read and could



earn extra points by visiting selected sites around the metropolitan area.

Another popular theme was Pop Open a Good Book. Each week the aroma of popcorn spread through the library and into Halverson Hall, adding to the excitement of reading and earning prizes. Each Thursday everyone left with a



bag of freshly popped popcorn and an armload of books.

This summer's theme is caves and exploring the light of the world—Jesus. **Cave Quest Continued** runs June 19–July 31. It is for children, ages 3–12. Volunteers are needed on Sunday and Thursday mornings.

Contact Corey Gray if you can help, or for questions.



Fourth's Publications and Libraries—Your Great Ideas!

Jeri Weaver, Director of Communications and Media Services

Fourth Press has been a presence at Fourth Church for more than 50 years, and Fourth's Media Center has been here even longer! During my years on staff, overseeing our publications and libraries, I've found that so many of the best ideas came from YOU. Here are a few that I'm remembering.

Shauna Kreider was the first to suggest that we recognize wedding anniversaries (as well as births, marriages and deaths) in the Fourth Family Milestones column—a tradition that has endured for nearly a dozen years, with more than 100 past weddings pictured and remembered. Back in 2006, when we began a display

Back in 2006, when we began a display of books written by our own members, it was **Doug** Greenwold who suggested its name, "Authors Among Us" (AAU). Starting with 13 books, we now have 140—a five-shelf collection of donated books written by past and present Fourth members and their relatives. As **Rob Norris** said. these popular checkout items "are not all Christian books, but they are all books written by Christians.

In 2011, George Scola called to

suggest we review one of his favorite AAU books, *Why the Angels Laughed*, by Eddy Swieson. Thus began a 25-part series, "Checking Out the Authors Among Us," with George writing the first. (Subsequent reviewers included John Hoobler, **Richard Lambert, Barbara Murray, Maia Palma, Gary Ross, Bob Stadelhofer, Esther Steele, Jim Steele, Joe Ann Stenstrom, Amanda Westly** and **Michael Willieme**.) Of course our most prolific reviewer was **Rob Norris**; he wrote 127 book reviews during the years I edited *Fourth Press*.

Bob Klassen, the Elder who oversaw Fourth's libraries and publications for many years and contributed many significant ideas, first suggested the "Volunteer of the Month" column. Running 2006-2009, the column recognized some of the many unsung heroes who donated thousands of hours to our church. They included **Steve Bezirganian**, **Sheila Buhler**, **Catherine Collins**, **Dave Edewaard**, **Martin Holdrich**, **Anita Lamkin**, **Peter Latterner**, **Dave McElroy**, **Sid Menkis**, and **Sharon Nothman**.

During tight times we especially appreciated receiving the books you donated to our libraries. Through them, another *Fourth Press* series began. We called it, "I Donated this Book to the Media Center Because..." Donors who wrote articles telling why they wanted others to read their choices included **Margaret Cudney**, **Priscilla Dewey, Barbara Dolch, Peggy Ghnem, Ron Hammersley**, **Terence Little, Laura Morgan, Thomas Myrick**, and this month, **Diane Jones** (see page 7), whose donation is in the Children's Library.

Back when **Anne** and **Howard Wetzell** came in every week to check out movies, they often asked us for recommendations. So that viewers could let others know which ones they enjoyed,

Howard suggested we enclose in each DVD case a "How was the movie?" evaluation sheet. We started doing that, and now post lists of the congregation's favorites among our nearly 1,400 movies. Diana Schick, who recently called the library "a "old mine that has

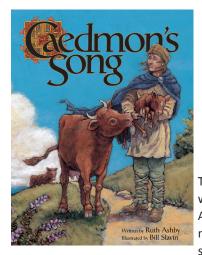
Diana Schick, who recently called the library "a gold mine that has saved me thousands of dollars," was the first person to write an article for our "Inside Media" series. which featured comments made by people commending our libraries and introducing new topical sections. Other contributors to that series included Michael Elkan. Dick Lambert, Chris Starr, Esther Steele, and Wanda Yeatman.

One of **Shelley Hospedales**' best ideas was that we replace our annual Book Sale with a Book Cart containing used books and those donated from members. Since 2008, the "Too Good to Give Away" cart has brought in donations totaling nearly \$10,000—all

going to the church's General Fund. There are others—too many to list—who gave us their great ideas, as the Media Center grew to become a hub for communications. We've loved serving you, researching for you, and hearing your thoughts, comments, and ideas about EVERYTHING.

As to the **more than 250 volunteers** who put in thousands of hours creating our publications and staffing our two libraries, I can't name you all, but you know who you are, and you know how much your service is appreciated. You've surrounded me with your support and amazed me with your energy, devotion, and dedication. No long good-byes, but you've truly impacted my life. To use a word that's heavily used in our publications, working with you has been a privilege.





"I donated this book to the Media Center because...

Diane Jones, Special Features Writer

The very first English poem was written around 700 A.D. by a simple cowherd named Caedmon. Caedmon's story was recorded by the

Venerable Bede in his *Historia Ecclesiastica*, in which Bede writes of a the young cowherd who lived in a monastery called St. Hilda's. After every meal, the harp was passed around and each diner sang a song or told a story. According to the legend, Caedmon could not sing, and would leave the table to bed down in the stable.

One night Caedmon dreamed that a young man came to him and said, "Sing to me, Caedmon!" He replied, "I have no gift to sing." The young man responded, "Sing of what you know." And what Caedmon sang is the first English poem—and it is a praise to God

Growing the Greeter Ministry

Jan Zischke, Lead Greeter

The Greeter Ministry exists to welcome others as Christ has welcomed us, for the glory of God. Our mission is to foster a loving community of believers who know and care for one another.

Greeters, identified with personalized badges, currently provide a friendly welcome at each of the church entrances before the three morning services and for the Christmas Lessons & Carols services. We also distribute Fourth Night and Adult Discipleship brochures each semester. No experience is necessary and your time commitment is flexible, with monthly schedules tailored to your availability.

We've recently expanded our ministry with "roving greeters" who reach out to visitors and new members in Halverson Hall, assuring that everyone feels known and cared for. In the future we hope to provide greeters for Sunday evening services, Fourth Night dinners, and special events.

Please help us expand by joining our ministry. In addition to new Sunday evening and mid-week greeters, we need greeters during the summer and before the 8am service.

For questions or to join the Greeter Ministry, contact Rev. Ron Meyer, rmeyer@4thpres.org, or Greeter Coordinator Jan Zischke, info@4thpres.org. as well as the story of creation.

The picture book that we have donated in the memory of our son Reid, who passed away in 2009, is written for children; adults will enjoy it, too. The pictures are vivid with saturated colors and Celtic torques. The author, Ruth Ashby, tells the story of Caedmon in a winsome manner, and she includes the poem's modern translation as well as the poem in its original Anglo-Saxon (Old English). The book is educational, spiritually uplifting, and entertaining. I hope that many, many children at Fourth are blessed by Caedmon's Song.

Caedmon's Song, written by Ruth Ashby and illustrated by Bill Slavin, is available for checkout from Fourth's Children's Library.

Too Many Books!!

While clearing out our things, we found this picture, taken after a snowstorm, circa 2008. People did a lot of reading during that time, and we had a larger-than-usual load of books to check in. (Note that Holly appears more comfortable than Jeri about that prospect!)

NOW, as we prepare to vacate our offices, we are again surrounded by books! So that we can tend to all that needs to be done before we leave, we request that you please hold off donating your old books to the library until **after June 1**.

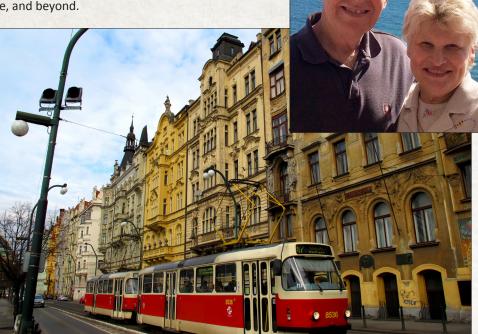
The library *loves* getting your old books—just not this month!



What's New with Our Missionaries?

Come and welcome back our missionary friends Dan and Nancy Painter with a dessert reception on Friday, June 10, at 7:30pm in the Upper Room. Hear about their ministry in France, Europe, and beyond.

Dan and Nancy Painter have been supported by Fourth Church since 1998. In 2007, they established the nonprofit ministry, International Christian Community/Eurasia (ICC). Today there are 15 affiliate churches in seven countries associated with their organization. Visit their new website at www. icceurasia.com.



Windows on the World: What Is a World Christian?

Melody Istrati, Director of Missions & Outreach

We often think of missions-minded people as special World Christians who only have eyes on reaching "the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8). But becoming a World Christian is a process.

As God blesses His children with a growing relationship with Him, we discover that He has blessed us with health, spiritual gifts, and abilities that we pour into the relationships around us and into our church. When we build a strong church we begin to impact the community outside our walls. This is the beginning of God's mission to the world. The



church evangelizes its surrounding culture. The church also ministers to the visible needs around her. As we go about doing good deeds and standing up for righteousness, we become salt and light to our own culture.

We then go a step further and cross language and cultural barriers to strengthen the church in the "reached" parts of the world. We come alongside churches in our own country or abroad that minister to people of another ethnicity or language. We offer financial help for their evangelism or provide Biblical training for their pastors. Those churches

in turn bless their own countries and spread the Gospel.

The last stage of outreach for the church is to bless the "unreached peoples" of the earth. This is done through pre-evangelism by providing relief aid, education and schools, medical work, and ethical business practices. Believers worldwide can come together to focus their resources to meet the challenges of

starting new churches for the few believers that live in those unreached parts.

This integrated vision of seeing God work through each of us leads us to become World Christians. The whole church, including its members with many gifts and its ministries, works in unity bringing about God's purpose of blessing us in order to bless the whole world.



We're kicking off our Summer Program! Please be in prayer over the next few months. Pray for our summer staffers, students, volunteers, and full-time staff. Pray for the Lord's joy and strength during a busy and program-packed season. Pray for the gospel and love of Jesus to take root in students' hearts!

May 1-7

• Pray for the full-time staff in the midst of staff transition. Pray for the Lord to give them patience and grace as they plan and prepare with new staff.

◆ Pray for our Sunday School teachers, that the Lord would give them perseverance and grace to speak the Gospel and build relationships with students during their last weeks of the school year.

May 8-14

• Pray for preparations over the Senior Baccalaureate service on Sunday night, May 15. Pray for the Lord to be glorified through the service and special dinner. Pray for each graduating senior to know Jesus and trust Him as they begin this next step of their lives.

May 15-21

• Pray for full time staff as they make last minute preparations for Summer Staff who arrive this Saturday, May 21. Pray for the connection amongst staffers to begin quickly and bear fruit to support one another. Pray for their confidence in and love for the gospel to overflow into their ministry.

May 22-28

• Pray for the summer staffers as they adjust and transition.

• Pray for our middle and high school students to have real relationships with leaders and other students, and for students to feel safe and welcome to engage in spiritual conversation.



May 29-June 4

• Pray for God to cultivate hearts that love serving others as a result of knowing the gospel. Pray for students' boldness in sharing Christ with their unbelieving friends.

• Pray for Sunday mornings, that students will grow as they study the Bible with their peers and summer staff leaders.

June 5-11

• Pray for summer staff as they build relationships with their respective students. Pray for bonds to form and for staffers to have wisdom to speak the gospel boldly. Pray for students to respond.

• Pray for Tuesday evenings this summer, that God would use those nights to draw students in to hear the gospel and have meaningful fellowship.

June 12-18

• Pray for students to be learning and pursuing spiritual disciplines on their own. Pray for their pursuits to bear fruit that will last.

• Pray for senior students as they continue to fundraise for their July Romania trip. Pray for generous and cheerful givers and for God to get all the glory.

June 19-25

◆ Pray for the Holy Spirit to change hearts during our MS/HS Summer Camp at Camp Sandy Cove in High View, WV. Pray for speakers and leaders to be filled with truth and clarity. Pray for

good weather, safety, and Christcentered fellowship.

June 26-July 1

• Pray for high school staff as they plan and prepare for the Bike Trip on July 9-16, that logistics and planning would go smoothly.

• Pray for perseverance for summer staffers in the middle of a long and hard season of ministry! Pray for them to draw near to the Lord for strength and peace.





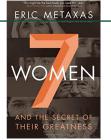
10 Fourth Press

Book Clubs SUMMER 2016

TUESDAY NIGHTS, JUNE 21–JULY 26, 7-8:15pm

Want to read a good book and discuss it with friends? Or learn a new skill? Summer is the perfect time and this year we have four opportunities ...

Group 1 Seven Women: And the Secret of Their Greatness

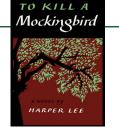


Led by Susan Scola in Room 132A

In Seven Women and the Secret of Their Greatness (2015), Eric Metaxas,

New York Times Bestselling author of *Bonhoeffer* and *Amazing Grace*, explores the lives of Joan of Arc, Susanna Wesley, Hannah More, Saint Maria of Paris (Maria Skobtsova), Corrie ten Boom, Rosa Parks, and Mother Teresa. Learn more about these extraordinary women and the difference each made. Twila Paris says of this book: "Some authors give us words that are delicious to read. Others provide content that is good and necessary. Eric Metaxas consistently brings us the rare gift of both at the same time." This summer, be inspired by the lives of these women of faith.

Group 3 Two by Lee: To Kill a Mockingbird and Go Set a Watchman Led by Diane Jones in Room 130



In this study we will read and discuss the life-changing American classic *To Kill a Mockingbird* and its "first draft," *Go Set a Watchman. Watchman* reads like a sequel, with Scout Finch no longer a child, but a young woman returning to her childhood home, Macomb, Alabama. However, the novel is Lee's first attempt at writing a novel, and the



result of rewriting, at her editor's suggestions, is *Mockingbird*. We will dig into lots of meaningful analysis as we look at Harper Lee's development as a writer, as well as discussing the ethics of the world of publishing. In this year of Harper Lee's passing, this study is particularly timely.

Group 2

The Attributes of God by Arthur Pink Led by Esther Steele in Room 132B

Our God cannot be found merely through searching alone, but is revealed by the Holy Spirit and through His Word. So we go to the Word to discover the attributes of God. Arthur Pink, American pastor and teacher early in the 20th century, guides us through the study of the supremacy, the power, the faithfulness, the goodness, the grace and mercy

of this Sovereign God. This is a classic and beautiful work that has helped many over the years discover and gaze upon the attributes of God.





Group 4 The Knitting Group

Led by Celine Brownworth and Janet Montague in the Chapel

Whether you are a knitting expert or have never picked up a needle but always wanted to learn, come join us for a time of learning and creating. Beginning books will be provided for inspiration, or you may bring a project you are currently working on (or keep meaning to start!). A pair of needles and some yarn are all you need to begin a scarf, if you are looking for a simple starter project! If you have questions, please email bookclubs@4thpres.org.

A Weekend Conference on

Biblical Friendship

June 3-5, Upper Room

Friday, 7 to 9pm; Saturday, 9am to noon Sunday, special classes at 9:30 and 11am

Featuring Pastor & Biblical Counselor, Jonathan Holmes, author of *The Company We Keep*

Ave you found it challenging to make friends and build long-lasting relationships? Surprisingly, for all our social media, it seems more difficult than ever to truly get to know one another. We're more "connected" than ever before but iror ically alone together.



Pastor Jonathan Holmes, from Parkside Church in Chagrin Falls, OH, will explore friendships in a social media age, the breakdown of relationships, how to juggle it all, the marks of biblical friendship, and the gospel for friends. Join us Friday at 7pm and Saturday from 9am to noon. On Sunday, Jonathan will teach two identical Adult Discipleship classes at 9:30 and 11am in the Upper Room.

The entire church is highly encouraged to attend. The Women's Ministry will provide homemade cupcakes for the Friday night reception. Men, consider coming along with your small groups. If you're in a community group, consider attending together.

Attendance is free, but please register online so we may adequately prepare: 4thpres.org/registration.

About Fourth Press

FOURTH PRESS is published by Fourth Presbyterian Church, Bethesda, MD. Current and archived copies are available in the Media Center and at www.4thpres.org.

Send submissions to graphics@4thpres.org by 5pm on June 15 for the July/August issue.

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