

The Link



Since 1791

The United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2008

Edited By George Hoag

Bishop Appoints New Pastor



The United Methodist Church of Patchogue will be served by a new pastor beginning July 1.

With the announcement last month that

Dr. Judy Stevens would begin her new appointment at St. Paul's UMC in Staten Island on that date, Bishop Jeremiah J. Park has named Rev. In Koo Chung to Patchogue. He currently serves two churches, in Peekskill and Ossining.

Rev. Chung was born in Seoul, Korea in February, 1970, the son of a minister in the Korean Methodist Church. Church life was very important to him as he grew up and influenced his decision to become a minister.

When he was 14, his father's missionary work took the family to Argentina, his first airplane ride. He struggled for a while but then learned Spanish and adapted to the culture.

In 1991, he entered Universidad Argentina de la Empresa in Buenos Aires, and majored in Business. Then,

Worship In May

May 4—7th Sunday of Easter. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 68:1-10,32-35; Acts 1:6-14; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11. Our newest Lay Speaker, June Barile, will lead worship and deliver the sermon today. Rev. Stevens will celebrate communion.

May—**Mother's' Day** & The Day of Pentecost. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 139:7-14; Hosea 11:1-4; Matthew 23:37-39. Sermon: *God & Motherhood*.

May 18—Confirmation Sunday & the 2nd Sunday of Pentecost. Lectionary Readings: Acts 2:1-21; John 20:19-23. Sermon: *Don't Leave Home Without It*. We will celebrate the Spirit of Pentecost as we welcome Justin Zimmerman and Brian Shadbolt into our church family's full membership.

May 25—Memorial Day Sunday & the 3rd Sunday of Pentecost. Lectionary Readings: Psalm 1; Isaiah 2:1-4; Philippians 4:4-9; John 14:25-31. Sermon: *The Peace of God*.

in 1994, he says, he received God's calling and decided to enroll in a theological Seminary, ISEDET. He describes that school as an "ecumenical seminary, deeply colored with liberation theology." He began work as a Youth and College Pastor in the Korean Presbyterian Church in 1995 and says the experience deepened his commitment to the ministry.

He received a BA and Master of Divinity Degree from ISEDET in Dec.1998 and then, in 1999, came to the U.S. to continue his theological studies. He first went to Xavier University in Cincinnati for a year to learn English, and then entered Drew University in Madison, NJ in Mar. 2000, receiving a Master of Divinity Degree in May 2003.



be with you.
As the Father has
sent me,
so I send you."

John 20:21. NRSV

Continued on Page 2

Relating People to Jesus Christ and God's Word

Circle of Concern

For Joys:

Katie Weber's friend Steven Santiago has returned safely from Iraq. Jessica and Frank Nuzzo's new son (and Barbara Schroeder's grandson), Gavin Anthony, born March 11th, 6lbs, 15oz, 19 and 3/4" long. The Chae's granddaughter was given a gold medal from New York State as a writer amongst young writers.

For Bereavement:

Family and Friends of: Beulah Wylazlowski, George Roessler, Sr., Olive Ann Cox, John Williford, John Emerson Bransford, Ruth Siebert.

For Guidance:

Steven Santiago, Barbara McAllister, Joe Brentlink, David & Lori Purificato, Ray Gallo, Ray Clark, Maj. Don Cornwell stationed in South Korea, Cat Placement and Rescue, Brenda Bonfe D'Angelo, the Stawecki family, Maria Spera and family.

These Who are Hospitalized:

Michael Abate, Howard Alt, Aunt Lee Kraemer, Zachary, Sheila SanGiovanni, Doug Brown, Deborah Belmonte, Joe Schievone, Alicia Sophabmixay, Marge Kirkup, Vincent Maggio, Maggie Reynolds, Warren Davis, Liam Keady, Mike Welsh.

These at Home:

Ernie Titus, Linda Werner's friend Lois, Lucille Barthelme, Jean Miller, Wayne Stawecki, Henry Prince, Maria Agtuco, Debi DelRossi, Belle Barile, June Barile, Rick Healy, Lisa Ann Manginelli, Catherine Cullen, Tom Furman, Krysten Wagonberg, Antonio Salgada, Ann Mazie Diema, Robert and Don DeLaVergne, Lisa Lopez, Dorotea Sanchez, Mary Jones, Carol Knapp, Joan and Richard Simpson, Mary Ceaser, Josephine and Louis Adone, Ed Erdmann, Ruth Masem, and Kitty Dayton.

These who are in Rehab or Nursing Care Facilities:

George and Shirley Strauss; Alice Zahnd in Patchogue Nursing Center, 25 Schoenfeld Blvd., Patchogue, NY; Anna Satterly in Brookhaven Health Care Facility, 801 Gazzola Drive, East Patchogue, NY 11772; Lew and Kitty Brunnemer in Cedar Lodge Nursing Home, 6 Frowein Road, Center Moriches, NY 11934; Gerry Flood in St James Nursing Home (room 269) 273 Moriches Rd., St. James, NY 11780; Doris Shrimpton in Bellhaven Nursing Center, 110 Beaverdam Rd., Brookhaven; Hazel Nargi in McPeak's Adult Home, 286 N. Ocean Ave., Patchogue; Marian King in Sunrise Assisted Living, 2 Hills Rd., E. Setauket, Rm. 2; Anna Bonfe, Rm. 201, Cunningham Bldg., Loretto Rest, 708 E. Brighton Ave., Syracuse, NY 13205; Toby Miller (Room 213B) in Affinity Skilled Living and Rehabilitation Center, 305 Locust Avenue, Oakdale, NY 11769.

Pray for our church and her future directions!

Pastor Chung (from Pg. 1)

Rev. Chung says Drew brought great changes to his life. His brother joined him there in 2001 at about the same time his parents returned to ministry in Korea after 18 years of missionary work in Argentina. And, he met Myung Jin, a fellow student at Drew. They married right after they received their Master of Divinity degrees in June 2003, which was, he says, "the happiest and most blessed moment in my life." Myung Jin also attended Yale Divinity School and will begin Ph.D studies at Boston College this fall.

Rev. Chung became a certified candidate for ordained ministry in the Methodist Church in 2003. He worked as a Youth Pastor at Central Korean UMC and Memorial UMC in White Plains and was appointed to Ossining UMC in 2005, becoming at the same time an Administrative Assistant to the NY Conference UMCOR Coordinator. In July, 2006 he became a Probationary Elder and received the additional appointment to serve Peekskill UMC. He expects to be ordained as an Elder in June 2009.

Rev. Chung will lead his first Patchogue service on July 6. He says he is looking forward to seeing you there.

Covenant Group

All are welcome to join the covenant group that meets in the library of the cloud room each Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.. Come to share scripture, joys and concerns.

Contact Jan Boyd or June Barile for further information.

The deadline for the June Link is May 16. E-mail: gbhoag@optonline.net

Lift up your church with your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Love As The Commandment

John 15:9-17

A sermon by Rev. In Koo Chung

We all like to be loved. The kids like to be loved by their parents. The parents like to be loved by their kids. The students like to be loved by the teachers and the teachers like to be loved by the students. The wives like to be loved by their husbands and the husbands like to be loved by their wives.

We all like to be loved by someone. There is no one who does not want to be loved.

My wife's sister has a son, and he is 3 years old. And, as he is the first son in the family, and the first grandchild for my father-in-law and mother-in-law; he is receiving full attention in the family, and is being loved by family more than anyone.

But, the interesting thing is that he himself does very lovable and sweet things to be loved more. And, he knows who loves him most and least. As the grandfather and mother love him a lot, he also likes them more than other people in the family.

I believe that the desire to be loved is the instinct for every human being.

The Bible also says a lot about "love." It explains how God has loved the world and all human being. And, it also teaches us what and how we have to behave before God to be loved more and more by God.

However, the Bible does not only talk about how much we are loved by God, but also say how much we have to love God and love one another.

We are loved by God, so that we have to love one another. Not only being loved but loving.

One of the greatest psychologists, Erich Fromm said in his book, "The Art of Loving" that most people when they think about love, they think more about "being loved," rather than "loving." Thus, we usually make more efforts to be loved, thinking how to be loved, and how to be lovable.

And, he makes a very interesting statement. He says that "love is an art." And, we are the artist. To be a good artist, we have to learn and make efforts. That's why we have to learn about love and make efforts to be a good artist of loving.

We want to be loved and we know well how we have to act to be loved and be lovable, and we do all kinds of efforts to be loved.

However, many times we want to be loved, rather than to love. And, many times, we don't know how to love, and many times we don't make efforts to love. As the Bible asks us to love, we also have to make efforts to love rather than only to be loved.

Today, I'd like to share the understanding of love in the Bible.

1) Love is the commandment. The summons to love arises not from within the natural attractiveness (lovability).

We usually love someone because he/she has attractiveness and lovability that motivate us to love him/her. The source of loving comes from the other person, not from me. That's why we easily love someone who is "attractive" in some way, and we also want to be an "attractive person" to be loved.

However, love in the Bible is different. Love in the Bible is the commandment. And the source of loving does not come from the person whom I love, but it comes from God.

The source of loving is outside of our relationship. The source of love is from God. Love in the Bible does not mean that we love because we are attracted. Love in the Bible does not mean that we love because we see the lovability in other people.

We love because God commands us. We love because God first loved us. We are able to love because God showed us God's love first. We love because of God.

Kierkegaard said "If one man, when another man says to him, 'I can no longer love you,' proudly answers, 'then I can also stop loving you,' this love is dependence, because whether he will continue to love or not depends on whether the other will love. But if the one answers 'then I will still continue to love you,' this love is everlastingly free in blessed independence. His love does not depend on the other person, and it is independent."

Love in the Bible is independent love. That's why we love no matter who you are. No matter what you have done. No matter what social and economic status you have. No matter how different you are from me.

We love because the source of loving comes from God. We love, because of God, and we are called to love. We are commanded to love. This is our vocation, and this is the calling from God.

We were called to love, we are called to love, and we are continually being called by God to love our neighbors. Because we are Christians, we are God's children and Jesus' disciples.

2) Loving is not an expression of our "emotions" or "affections" but it is the "act of will."

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

Continued on Page 4

Love As The Commandment (Cont. from page 3)

Love in the Bible is not “liking.” Love in the Bible is not an expression of our emotions toward our neighbors.

When Jesus said to us “love one another,” he does not refer to the love between Mom and her child, or between two lovers. Jesus does not refer to just some vague and generalized “disposition of the soul,” feeling, or attitude, but he does refer to love as an act of the will.

For example, when I say, “I love some poor kids who are in Honduras, who don’t have parents, who cannot go to school,” what do I mean?

I do not know them personally. I don’t know if they have good behaviors or not. I don’t know if they have the same interests as me.

It is hard to say that I like them, but it is clear in the biblical understanding of love that we can LOVE them. I do pray for them. I do help them to go to school. I don’t know whether I like them or not, but I do love them because they are also God’s children, and I am called by God to love them.

In Matthew 5:43-45, “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven”.

How can we like those who hate us?
How can we like those who hurt us?
How can we like our enemies?

I don’t think that we can. However, yes, we can love them. With love toward them, we can forgive, understand, reconcile and pray for them.

This is the understanding of love in the Bible. Love is not “liking.” Love is not an expression of our emotion, but it is an act of will.

3) Love is the concrete and immediate response to the need.

The word “love” in the Bible is not just a concept and an abstract word, but it is the practical, and concrete call from God.

In other words, love is the concrete acts of obedience in response to encountered need.

When Jesus said “love your neighbors as yourselves,” “neighbors” is not just a concept or an abstract word, but “neighbors” are those who you encounter in your daily life.

You are my neighbors. If one of you is in need, I have to respond, because you are my neighbors.

When Hurricane Katrina hit Mississippi, there were many people who lost their lives, jobs, and families. They are our neighbors. And, they are in need, so that we had to show and practice love toward them.

Last summer, the Spanish congregation had to leave the place where they used to meet for the worship service. And, they came to our church to ask us to use our church building for their worship. In this situation, these people were our neighbors. And they were in need of our help. And, we could respond to their needs in a very concrete way. We showed love toward them.

Again, to love is the concrete and immediate acts of response to those who are in need, because they are our neighbors. To love is to show our solidarity with our neighbors in each con-

crete situation.

Today I want you to remember that we all are called by God to love our neighbors.

We love our neighbors not because they are loveable and attractive, but we love our neighbors because God commanded us, because God loved us first, and because God shows how to love. The reason and source of love is from God.

And, love as it is meant in the Bible is not “liking,” and it is not an expression of our emotion, but it is the acts of will, and it is the concrete and immediate response to those who are in need.

Today, Jesus says to us one more time “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.” Love is the commandment.

—Rev. In Koo Chung is the pastor of Ossining and Peekskill, NY United Methodist Churches. This sermon was delivered in Ossining May 21, 2006. He has been appointed to Patchogue, beginning July 1.



MEMORIAL DAY As the people of the United States honor those who have died in the nation’s service this Memorial Day, let us pray for peace for all peoples and nations of the world.

*Almighty God,
In whom we live, love, and have our being,
We take time today to uplift the heavy hearts
Of those for whom Memorial Day
Is more than a mere diversion,
But is, instead, a painful time of reflection,
lamentation
And enduring bereavement.*

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

UMC.Org Reviews *Juno*

Production Company: Fox Searchlight Pictures; Director: Jason Reitman; Cast: Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons, Olivia Thirlby, Rainn Wilson, Jason Bateman, Jennifer Garner; Rating: PG-13 for some crude language and sexual situations

By Gregg Tubbs

(UMC.org)—This review comes with a warning: No matter how hard I try, I may use the word “sweet” more often than good writing rules recommend. Then again, *Juno* itself is a rule-breaker. It's a rib tickling comedy about a serious subject—teen pregnancy—that manages to be both youthfully sweet and worldly wise without heavy moralizing, and lands on a happy ending that should settle well with people of faith. The film bounces along with some of the snappiest, rapid-fire repartee this side of an old screwball comedy, all wrapped up in a warming air of sweetness.

A lot of people are calling *Juno* this year's Little Miss Sunshine or *Sideways*, but in all fairness to those fine films, *Juno* tops them all. It is the indie master-s' thesis. “Fresh” is a word we hear a lot when a newcomer arrives, usually a young writer or director, who ruffles conventions and lets some fresh air into the stale media market. The smart, brash team behind *Juno* threw all the windows wide open and let in a refreshing cross-breeze that mixes young love, deadpan comedy, sophisticated observations and old-fashioned sentimentality in a way that remains real—and yes, sweet.heads.

Juno (Ellen Page) is a bright, wise-cracking and 16-year-old who lives in an unnamed middleclass neighborhood. In the droll opening, *Juno* storms into the local pharmacy restrooms after chugging

a whole jug of Sunny D to take a pregnancy test. But this test, just like all the previous ones, is positive. True to teenage form, she first tells her best friend and then Paulie (Michael Cera), the baby's father. He agrees she must do something and observes in perfect teenage deadpan, “because...pregnancy often results in an infant.” *Juno* agrees, saying “that's what happens when our moms or teachers get pregnant.”

Exchanges like this show screenwriter Diablo Cody's keen understanding of the lingering innocence of adolescent. Although they are mature in many ways, *Juno* and Paulie are still just kids who find themselves in way over their heads.

After a fateful and funny encounter with a pro-life schoolmate outside an abortion clinic (“Fingernails? The baby already has fingernails?”), *Juno* decides to “keep the spawn” and goes home to face her parents. This scene proves to be another comic gem, as *Juno*'s similarly deadpan father (J.K. Simmons) and step-mother (Allison Janney) take in the news. Sweetness again prevails as her unexpectedly understanding folks offer forgiveness, support and even a little rueful humor.

In another moment that shows an uncanny understanding that adolescence is a unique, in-between state, *Juno*'s father gently chides her, “I thought you were the kind of girl who knew when to say when.” And she replies, “I have no idea what kind of girl I am.” The scene, which could have been a traumatic shouting match, is instead a testament to parental love and forgiveness (and again, sweetness).

With nine months ahead, *Juno*, Paulie, and her parents have a lot to do and decide. Do they keep the baby or give it up for adoption? What awaits the

ever enlarging *Juno* at school (called “The Cautionary Whale” by snide classmates)? How will she find suitable adoptive parents? (And can you trust prospective parents who advertise in the *Pennysaver*?) And what about *Juno* and Paulie? As *Juno* muses, “I know people are supposed to fall in love before they reproduce, but normalcy's not really our style.”

Juno's humor is tart but never too sharp or hurtful. Though its teenage slang is authentically frank, even crude, it avoids gratuitous obscenity and rings true to anyone who's just been there, or (like me) is raising a teenager. And the film shows a remarkable understanding of teens. They are, after all, “still in the oven” and will make foolish decisions—even the best of them.

What's most surprising about *Juno* is that it's not just a film about teenage pregnancy. Teen pregnancy is almost a plot device to explore its real themes—commitment and lasting love. *Juno*'s mother walked out when she was young, and we see relationships touched by uncertainty throughout the film. The yuppie couple who want to adopt the baby show troubling cracks in their perfect couple façade. *Juno*'s dad sees his second marriage as a lucky second chance. And *Juno* and Paulie aren't yet sure if they even have a relationship. When *Juno* implores, “Is it possible for two people to stay happy together forever?” Her wise old dad replies, “Find a person who loves you for exactly what you are.”

Juno is a little miracle of a film about treasuring life; finding true love and, most importantly, someone who will stick with you. And did I mention that it's sweet?

Celebrate your life! Witness for your faith!

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'The serpent sent over a lovely fruit basket.'

A Message from Bayport



The Bayport United Methodist Church softball team has been playing in the Suffolk Christian League for about 10 years. It's a fun, well organized, non-cutthroat, Christian League. The season runs from April through July and the games are usually on

Monday evenings. Our home field is at the James Wilson Young Middle School in Bayport. We invite anyone in the Patchogue United Methodist Church (age 15 or older) to join us for the fun and fellowship. It costs about \$65 per person for League fees (they provide umpires), t-shirt, and cap. If you are interested, please call Don Kolacki at 363-6499 or notify the church office at 475-0381.

United Methodist Church of Patchogue

May 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 10 a.m.—3 p.m.— Chrysalis
<i>4</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Communion Worship 11:30 a.m.—Teachers Meeting 11:30 a.m.—Youth Group	<i>5</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>6</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>7</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	<i>8</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> 10 a.m.—4 p.m.— Plant Sale
<i>11</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.— Finance Committee	<i>12</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>13</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>14</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	<i>15</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i> 9:30 a.m.— UMWomen
<i>18</i> 10 a.m.—Church School /Worship 11:30 a.m.—Church Council 11:30 a.m.—Youth Group	<i>19</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>20</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>21</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	<i>22</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i> 10 a.m.—Church School/Worship 11:30 a.m.— Trustees 7 p.m.—Healing Prayer Service	<i>26</i> 7 p.m.—Disciple II 7 p.m.—AA	<i>27</i> 10 a.m.—Noon— Food Pantry 7:00 p.m.—AA 7:30 p.m.— Recovery	<i>28</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class	<i>29</i> 9:30 a.m.—ESL Class 6:30 p.m.—ESL Class 7:00 p.m.— Confirmation Class 7:30 p.m.—Chancel Choir	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>



**The United Methodist Church of
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The Link



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www.gbgm-umc.org/patchogue

Sunday Worship—10 A.M. — Sunday School—10 A.M.
Fellowship Coffee Hour—11 A.M.
Supervised Nursery during worship.

Youth News

Our conversation about “How To Raise Your Parents” was postponed because so many of you were away for school break. How To Raise Your Parents is a 2 part conversation, and we will begin with part 1 May 4th.

May 18th is Confirmation Sunday - a special day for Justin Zimmerman and Brian Shadbolt, who will be confirmed as full members of our church family. Let's plan a special celebration!

We will continue with part 2 of “How To Raise Your Parents” the 1st Sunday of June.

Congratulations to these high school graduates: Jen Whalen, Chelsea Loris, Laura Ann Feldman. Do you know anyone else who is graduating this year? If you do, call the church office and let Kathleen know their name.

General Conference

The United Methodist Church is an hierarchical denomination of 11 million people, but, of course, it has no Pope. It does have Bishops elected to serve geographical areas, 50 in the United States, 19 elsewhere in the world. But the church is not governed by either Bishops or Ministers. It is

Mothers' Day Plant Sale

Our Mothers' Day Plant Sale is scheduled for May 10th. Please send in your orders ASAP. Suzie Conti is collecting the orders at church You could leave them in the church office, or give them to Suzie.

We need helpers Friday evening, May 9, to get the orders together, and helpers to sell additional plants on the 10th. Jean Miller will set up her white elephant sale on the 10th, as well.

governed only by the General Conference, a gathering of (this year 992) clergy and lay people who meet for ten days every four years, this time in Ft. Worth, Texas, from Apr. 23 to May 2. Dr. Stevens is a delegate this year, among those plunged into what has been described as a two week “frenzy of democracy”.

Past Conferences have brought large controversies, reflecting in part the liberal/conservative cultural divisions of the society as a whole. This year there are requests for a change of tone, with organizers focusing on ten principles including respect, civility and mutual understanding.

We'll see.



- 05/01 Alexandra Aldrich
- 05/01 Christopher McGrath
- 05/02 Kelli Pearson
- 05/04 Amanda Mujic
- 05/04 Thomas DeCrescenzo
- 05/05 Lorie Purificato
- 05/05 Elizabeth Hillman
- 05/05 Emma Hillman
- 05/05 Sarah Hillman
- 05/06 Justin Belmonte
- 05/07 Ryan Bettencourt
- 05/08 Justin Lazzarino
- 05/09 Rachel Betts
- 05/09 Maeve Foley
- 05/09 Kelsey O'Reilly
- 05/13 Eric Dorfman
- 05/13 Meggan Kryssing
- 05/14 David Carfora
- 05/14 Kathryn Roberts
- 05/20 Jacqueline Hyde
- 05/20 Ronny Hyde
- 05/20 Timothy Rishkel
- 05/22 Zachary Long
- 05/23 Amanda Rose
- 05/23 Jason Morello
- 05/24 Kevin Leahy
- 05/26 Edward Merritt
- 05/26 Michael Zoeller
- 05/27 Jake Lipponer
- 05/27 Conor McGrath
- 05/30 Gavin O'Leary
- 05/30 Laela Murtha

—George Hoag