

Holy Hypocrisy

And now, may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, equip you with all you need for doing his will. May he produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, all that is pleasing to him. Jesus is the great Shepherd of the sheep by an everlasting covenant, signed with his blood. To him be glory forever and ever. Amen. - Hebrews 13:20-21

I hate being called a hypocrite. But more often than I like, I hear that accusation being directed toward me. If only my accusers would just put themselves in my shoes, understood the full dynamics, or had a better sense of the situation, I would almost wager a bet that they wouldn't be so critical of me saying one thing but doing another. After all, there is always more to the story than we know, right?

I was faced with a predicament the other day that was consuming my thoughts as I was driving home. It was enough that I wasn't even listening to one of my favorite talk-radio shows. As I agonized over the predicament, my eyes focused upon a scene that broke me from the mire of my quandary. In a yard along the highway, my gaze fell upon a man running behind a bicycle being pedaled by a youngster. As the little lass pedaled feverishly, she wobbled from side-to-side a bit, but never fell over because the man running behind had a firm grip on the seat of the bike. I believe it was safe to assume that what I was witnessing was a young father teaching his daughter how to ride a bike, without the training wheels. My assumption arose out of my own experience of



both being the biker-in-training and the exasperated father running behind. The scene vividly conjured up memories of learning to ride a bike and teaching both my daughters to do the same. In each scenario, I remember the words being uttered, "Don't let go, Daddy!"

Of course, you know daddies do let go. It's part of growing up. The child learns to harness the power of centrifugal force and rides on two wheels, unaid-

Ways We Serve

Greeters

3 Bo & Carol King
10 Charlie & Whitney King
17 Steve & Jane Morton
24 Mike & Libby Cline

Acolytes

3 Tattyauna Peterson
10 Karson Shrum
17 Owen Krech
24 Brinkley Dedmond

Time (Mostly) For Children

3 Whitney King
10 Suzanne Peeler
17 Robbie Combs
24 Kathy Douglas

Liturgists

3 Vickie Andrews
10 Jeff Noles
17 Laurie Johnson
24 Betty Parker

Pew Keepers

3 Jane Finger & Molly Tweed
10 Elvie Cranford
17 Vickie Andrews
24 Beverly Beal

Parking Valets

3 John Lantz
10 Keith Dedmond
17 Jeff Noles
24 Jerry Park

Altar Guild

Kay Lowe

Sunday School Rovers

3 Carl Henline
10 Kay Hermann
17 Bo King
24 Carol King



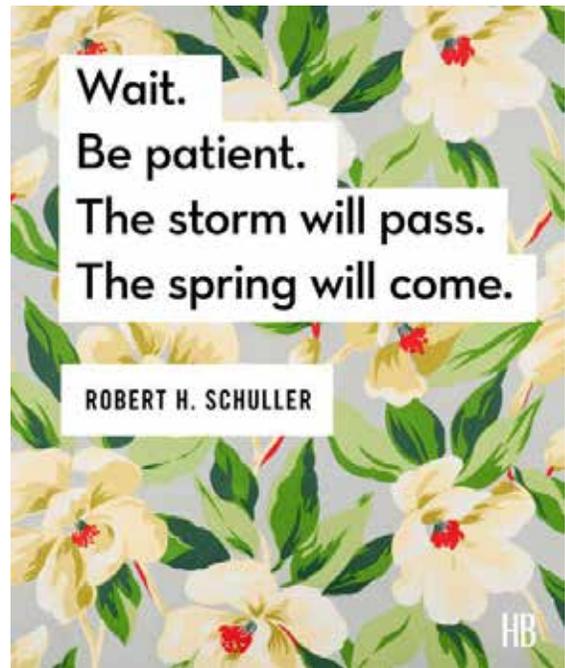
Celebrate April!

Birthdays

- 3 Olivia Belk, Jennifer Ellis, & Keith Richard
- 5 Michael Noles
- 8 Jennifer Childers & Tattyauna Peterson
- 9 Dylan Lawing & Mickie Stevens
- 10 Bryan Beal
- 11 Joanne Parker
- 12 Brinkley Dedmond & Lulu King
- 13 Cindy Drum & Ken Kindley
- 15 Matthew Leonard & T.J. Wilson, Jr.
- 17 Paul Douglas
- 18 Brad Cranford
- 20 Chris Ausband & Ron Ballard
- 22 Bob Gazdeck
- 23 Wayne Sibert
- 24 Mary Heather Lineberger
- 26 Kris Dedmond & Katie Shrum
- 27 Keith Dedmond, Kevin Dedmond & Judy Komas
- 29 Rosalind Welder

Anniversaries

- 11 Jane & Ronnie Lawing
- 17 Chris & Sam Ausband
- 17 Carole & Billy Howell
- 24 Seth & Sheila Bailey
- 26 Mickie & Randall Stevens



Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. - Mark 11:24

In Your Daily Prayers, Please Pray for:

Beverly Beal, Benjamin Brown (Page Abernethy's brother), Barbara Chapman, Family of Rev. Tommy Conder, Elvie Cranford, Ann Ford, Lynn Harrison (Liz Strachan's sister), Ann Hair, Ed Hatley, Carl Henline, Suzette Holbrooks, Lee & Lois May Hoehne (parents of Kathy Douglas), Monica Larousse (niece of Laurie Johnson), Pat Lawing, David Lowe, Claudia Rose (mother of Susan Taylor), Linda Smith, Shirley Smith, Robert Williams

NURSING FACILITIES: Nancy Boulware (Abernethy Laurels), Carolyn Dellinger (Brian enter), Mary Heavner (Abernethy Laurels), Judy Komas (The Addison), Ken Marks (TerraBella Lake Norman), Mary Jean Rollins (Summit Place - Mooresville)

HOMEBOUND: Ron and Brenda Ballard, Elliott & Lou Beal, Winnon Cashion, Jo Huss, Donna Connor Morris, Queeta Ramseur, Mary Robinson, Verna Rufini, Shirley Smith

PRAISE! Liz Strachen for successful surgery & recovery, Lynn (Liz's sister) for a possible less serious diagnosis

Fellowship Meal April 10

It's Time to Celebrate Again! Everyone had such a good time visiting in the Fellowship Hall after the Heafner Mission that some of us decided it was time to party again. Mark your calendars for the worship service on Palm Sunday on April 10. After our 11:00 worship service, a meal will be served for all our members and visitors. We may be asking some of you to assist in some small ways. COVID precautions will be taken.

Rotate Sunday School Class Update

Happy Spring! I know we are all excited about the change of season and warmer weather finally returning. We have some exciting things that will be taking place during the month of April as we continue our celebration of the upcoming Easter Event. We hope you will make every effort to bring the children each Sunday.

As always, we love it when our adults give of themselves to help lead our weekly lessons. Here is the schedule for lessons and activities for each Sunday of April so you can see where you feel called to help!

March 27 - The Baptism of Jesus - This Sunday, I have a time of music with the help of Ms. Joanna, where the kids will learn a song for Palm Sunday on April 10th. We will sing this as a processional to the morning worship time as we remember the Triumphant Entry of Jesus to Jerusalem.

April 3 - We will learn about the Lord's Supper, and the significance of this sacred practice, as well as other ways it can be observed.

April 10 - PALM SUNDAY - We will review our processional song for the morning worship service, as well as also letting the children make a set of Resurrection Eggs that they can use during Holy Week to remember the story of Christ's sacrifice for us.

April 17 - EASTER - As we celebrate this Holy Day, we will begin to talk about God's Wonderful Creation. I will lead a food related activity that Sunday, and the



children will be able to make their own creations!

April 24 - In conjunction with Earth Day, we will have a gardening/planting activity, using the scripture from Matthew 13, the Parable of the Sower.

As you can see, there are many opportunities to help with one of these lessons. I will help you with any resources you may need. Just let me know! Thanks in advance for helping be a resource to our kids!!

Flower Calendar

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary for worship in honor or in memory of a loved one, you may sign up on the Flower Calendar posted outside the church office. We have many dates available, so we hope you'll take this as an opportunity to share God's Creation and enhance our worship experience with beautiful flowers.

Preschool Update

The preschool students have been busy since the new year began. They have celebrated Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day with special treats and activities. Dr. Seuss week was full of fun as each day had a theme based on a specific book. Everyone is enjoying the warmer weather and the playground is always a hit on sunny days. The next few weeks will be full of Spring and Easter lessons. Students will be learning about new life and the resurrection of Jesus.

Amazing Race Against Hunger

GET READY!!! The Amazing Race Against Hunger will be a Downtown Scavenger Hunt SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 3 - 4:30 p.m.. Start collecting funds today. To find out more and register your group, go online at www.christianministryoflincolncounty.org Or call Mimi Rhyne at 704-732-0383

Community Easter Event

Cedar Grove Lutheran Church will hold a drive through "Living Passion" with scenes of passion, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ on April 9 and 10 from 6 - 8 p.m., 261 Cedar Grove Lutheran Church, Vale.

UMCORE for Ukraine

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief arm of Global Ministries, is in communication with partners in the region of Ukraine and is actively exploring the coordination of humanitarian response there. Support UMCOR's international disaster response efforts by making a gift to <https://umcmmission.org/advance-project/982450/>

Child Care Services Resume

Now that we have returned to in-person worship, we are ready to safely resume nursery services during our Sunday morning activities. While we are looking for a permanent part-time person to fill this position, we currently have a rotation of volunteers scheduled through the month of April. If you know of anyone who may be interested, or if you feel called to help on any given Sunday, please contact either Whitney King or the Church Office. Volunteers are paid for their time while in the nursery. Please share with friends and other potential guests that the Nursery is available for children up to age 5.

Liturgists Needed

Pastor Tim would like to bring back the role of liturgist to assist him in the Sunday morning service. We are also using lay assistants during the communion service. If you are willing to serve in either of these roles, please contact Wanda Lutz @ 704-472-7600 or email whlutz@bellsouth.net.

Financial Snapshot

February 2022 YTD Revenue \$55,148
February 2022 YTD Expense \$58,938
February 2022 YTD \$(3,790)

UMW Reading Group

Book Review

Girl Gone Missing by Marcie R. Rendon, a Cash Blackbear Mystery, addresses one of the ugliest and most repugnant elements of any society: the trafficking and murder of women and children of all races. While *Girl Gone Missing* is a work of crime fiction, it is somewhat based on the two true murder cases of Tina Fontaine (2014) and Savannah Greywind (2017).

The novel takes place in the 1970s in the Red River region of North Dakota and Minnesota. Cash, a Native American foster child at three years of age when she was pulled from her mother's wrecked car by Sheriff Wheaton, is now in college where she feels greatly out of place. She hears about girls who are missing, but she has never heard of white slavery. Then she finds herself locked in a room with missing girls. How did she get there? How will she get out?

As I read this novel it became more and more a page turner. Other FUMC readers rated this book a 4+-5 on a 1-5 scale. *Girl Gone Missing* is in the Social Action category of our UMW reading program and it is available on the UMW shelf in the FUMC library. Check it or another book out. Join us on 5th Wednesdays.

– Gayle Park

Parish Nurses Notes

Naturally everyone is concerned about the possibility of someone they love being diagnosed with cancer. I want to update you about the latest information about a type of cancer that can usually be treated successfully if found EARLY.

Colorectal cancer causes 52,000 deaths in the US annually which is the 2nd or 3rd highest cause of CANCER deaths in this country. What has changed in the last few years is the age of victims--getting younger and younger. The recommendation for screening has previously been at 50 years of age. Now colorectal cancer frequently happens in people 40-49 years of age. Many of these young people do not have a family history of colorectal cancer. In addition, you may not have symptoms until the cancer is advanced. Symptoms include change in bowel habits, abdominal discomfort, blood in the BM (either black or red).

Factors which increase your chances of this cancer, especially as you age, are lack of exercise, smoking or heavy alcohol use, obesity, family history, exposure to certain chemicals, and chronic constipation. My suggestion is COLOGARD at no older than 45 years. I have had three colonoscopies which all showed nothing of concern. Since I have had no signs of polyps, I will have COLOGARD tests every 5 years the rest of my life unless I have symptoms. You must have a medical order, but everything else is done at your home until you mail it off. The procedure is fairly complicated and must be followed exactly. I will be glad to help anyone who is intimidated by the instructions.

Memorials

In Memory of Jim Lail

by Judy & Marty Shuford, John Lantz, Bo & Carol King, Roger Williams, Jonathan L. Rhyne, Jr, Linda D. Moore, David & Johnnie Bynum, Turlington & Co. LLP., Kathy Eaker, Mike & Letha Owen, Tim Carowell, Cindy Sherrill & Finn Cather, Lincoln Co. Republican Men's Club, Lincoln Co. Republican Party, Tim & Sheila Starnes, Hal & Joann Parker

Gift to the Preschool in Memory of Jim Lail by Charles & Wanda Lutz, Bill & Karen Leonhardt, Candy Freeman & Judy Payseur

In Memory of Jennings Benfield by Charlie & Wanda Lutz, Sharon Bowman, Roger Schronce, George & Becky Grier, Jeff Reid & Justin, Sara Little, Michael & Jodie Reinhardt, Men's Bible Class, Hal & Joann Parker

Gift to the Columbarium

in Memory of Jennings Benfield By Jerry & Gayle Park

In Memory of Bobby Lockman y Bo and Carol King, Mike & Letha Owen

In Memory of Sue Alvis, Pam Metzger's Mother by Bo and Carol King

In Memory of Andy Jonas By Bo and Carol King, Mike and Letha Owen

In Memory of Maggie Church By Mike & Letha Owen



How Do You Live Your Dash?

I read of a man who stood to speak
At the funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on her tombstone
From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.
(1934-1998)

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.

For it matters not, how much we own;
The cars, the house, the cash.

What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard,
Are there things you'd like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.

If we could just slow down enough
To consider what's true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy is being read
With your life's actions to rehash,
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?
– Author unknown

United Methodist Women Notes and News

Spring, Renewal, Prayer!

The third meeting of 1st UMC-L Women of Faith was held via email for March. The primary focus of discussion was approving our donation to UMCOR for Ukrainian relief. Due to the amazing financial comment and faith in our work from the women of our church we were able to donate \$1000.00 with the commitment to send more in the coming months!

Following the gathering of a few of us this afternoon for prayer time focusing on the women and children of Ukraine, the following excerpts from a prayer written by Anne Graham Lotz seemed appropriate.

“The king loved Esther more than all the other women, and she obtained grace and favor in his sight...” “Esther 2:17

As a result of the king’s love and favor, Esther was made queen. From her unique position, God used her to intercede for His people, and they were saved from slaughter.

This is a rallying cry for “Esthers” around the globe to intercede for God’s people who are under attack in Ukraine. To be honest, because of the almost non-stop attacks and suffering in my own family, I have sought to shield my heart from what is taking place in Eastern Europe. But no more. My heart is shattered. I well remember holding Just Give Me Jesus in Kyiv in 2005, which was attended by thousands of women. I can still hear their voices lifted in worship. I can still see their faces as they discovered how to hear God’s voice speaking to them through His word. I weep when I remember their uplifted white flags of surrender to the Lordship of Jesus.

I wonder...where are they now?

Now, when under attack from Russia? Now, when no nation is coming to their defense? Now, when husbands, brothers, and sons are kissing them good-bye before going out to resist the aggression, leaving these dear women defenseless with their children? So for those of us who are “Esthers” beloved by the King, let’s take up the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God. Then join me as we pray for all the saints in Ukraine, but in particular for the women...

Lord of the nations, King of our hearts,

You are our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give way... You make wars to cease to the ends of the earth. ... You will be exalted among the nations. And so we fix our eyes on You, even as we ask You to fix Your eyes on the women in Ukraine. On their behalf, we turn

to You. We run to You. We cling to You. We plead with You.

God of mercies, please. Command your angels to guard the Ukrainian women and children. Rescue them. Protect them. Hear their cries. Answer their prayers. Draw near to them so that they feel Your loving presence. Feed them with manna from Heaven. Keep them warm as they huddle in basements and bomb shelters and subway tunnels. Give them wisdom and clear direction for the next steps. Surround them with those who will pray with them and for them. Bring Your promises to their minds. Whisper to them that they are not alone... You are with them as they live in this valley of the shadow of death. Turn their hearts to hold fast to You, then deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Lord of Hosts, Captain of Heaven’s armies, You have said You love justice. You have said You will judge the world in righteousness. Surely this is the time for all the people to see Your glory as You part Your heavens, O Lord, and come down... send forth lightning and scatter their enemies. Convict the Russians soldiers of their cruelty and unwarranted aggression so that they lay down their arms. What Vladimir Putin has planned, bring back on his own head. Provoke the Russian people to protest by the hundreds of thousands, toppling their evil leadership, even as he seeks to topple the leadership in Kyiv.

O God of might and glory, make Yourself known. Execute justice. Assert Your righteousness. Triumph over evil. Establish peace. We...women You love who have found favor with You... we stand against the enemy on our knees gripping the sword in our hand. Hear our prayer. Save our sisters. Give supernatural strength and courage to their husbands, fathers, and sons, then bring them safely home. For Your great name’s sake... Jesus, Amen

As you are left to ponder this prayer ask yourselves “how can I as a woman of 1st UMC serve in the way God has asked to glorify His Kingdom!” It is a time for spring blooms, a renewal of spirit and a time of deep and thoughtful prayer for all the needs to this hurting world.

Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 3, at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall (and available virtually as requested). Please know that EVERY woman is invited to attend and share your valuable thoughts and ideas!

Your sister in Christ,

Kathy Douglas, 1st UMC-L UWF (United Women of Faith) President

kjdrumsw2008@yahoo.com, 704/339-7749

Holy Hypocrisy - continued from page 1

ed by an exhaustive parent. It is often overlooked as a milestone of life; but maybe it needs to be elevated to one, because for many, this event marks the beginning of independence. Yet, it may also be the first testament of hypocrisy.

Okay, so what does learning to ride a bike have to do with being called a hypocrite, you may ask. Think of it this way, when we were on that bike seat for the first time and filled with fear and trepidation beckoned, "Don't let go!" did we really mean it? Are there children who really expect someone to always be running behind, with a firm grip? I could stop here, but this reality goes far deeper.

Maybe my frustration over this ill-received admonishment came to a head immediately after I passed this milestone event. The words of a stanza of an old hymn began to nag me, haunt me, convict me. "I Need Thee Every Hour..." Really? Do I really need God every hour? I wanted to scream, "Of course I do!" but does my life reflect my need for God? Do the things I do reflect my ingenuity or my dependence on my Creator?

I am beginning to think that I may be that child on the seat, wanting that safe and secure grip of a loving Father, until...I can do it on my own. Then, "Hands off, God. I can do it all by myself." Isn't that the way it is suppose to be? Isn't the role of a parent to train a child to do for themselves? Right?

That's the fallacy of my logic. I have allowed myself

to come to believe that I am fully capable of handling my life perfectly well on my own. Not that I don't need God though. God can run right behind me and catch me if and when I fall. That's how I think it should be, or at least that is how I tend to live out much of my life.

God is not "hands off" though. When we profess Jesus as Lord of our life, it's our whole life, not just certain areas and not as a back-up to our failures and inadequacies. Though I have had years of theological training and moments of good ideas, I must remind myself daily that, yes, I Need God Every Hour. I need to pray about the little things as well as the big things. I must not rely on my cleverness and natural tendencies alone. When I think I can handle these situations alone, that I have enough experience and education that I don't need to "bother" God, then I am setting myself up for a fall.

No wonder I am so often faced with problems that seem too large to handle; they are, for me alone.

No wonder why I often feel at a lost and frustrated over the complexity of ministry and life.

No wonder God calls me a hypocrite.

Godspeed,
Tim



Thanks From our Girl Scout Troop



From all of us at Girl Scouts Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont Troop 20740, thank you for your commitment to changing the lives of ALL girls for another 110 years. Your support will ensure the success of the next generation of dreamers, problem solvers and go-getters who are making our community, and the world a better place for us all.

A good example is our recent Gold Award recipient, Claire Stewart, who is a member of Troop 20740. Claire received this, the highest award in Girl Scouting, by working with South Mountain State Park to bring awareness and education to the public about the Eastern Box Turtle and its declining population. Congratulations, Claire!



201 East Main Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Sunday School at 10 am

Service at 11 a.m. each Sunday.

Office Hours: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m.: Mon.-Thur.

Office: 704.735.7489

NEW Email: firstumclinc@gmail.com

Website: fumclincolnton.com



Follow us on Facebook and YouTube

Events this coming month

April 3 – Blood pressure screenings 10:30 - 11 a.m. and following morning worship. Education Building

April 3 – UMW Meeting, Fellowship Hall 9 a.m.

April 10 – Palm Sunday Fellowship Lunch following morning worship in the Fellowship Hall

April 14 – Holy Thursday Service, 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

April 17 _ Easter Sunrise Service, 7 a.m. at the FUMC Columbarium

Easter Sunday Worship, 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

April 24 – United Methodist Men's Breakfast, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall

April 25 – Safe Sanctuaries Committee, 7 p.m. in the Annex

- **The Griefshare Group** meets every Monday morning at 10 a.m. in the Philathea Classroom, located directly behind the Sanctuary

- **Lincolnton Rotary Club** meets every Monday from 11:30 – 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall

- **The Wednesday Morning Prayer/Study Group** meets at 10 a.m. at the home of Michelle Johnson, 105 Commonwealth Dr.

THE LINCOLN CULTURAL CENTER
PROUDLY PRESENTS

Sandi
PATTY

SANDI PATTY IN CONCERT:
FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022 at 7:30 PM
James W. Warren Citizens Center
115 West Main Street, Lincolnton

Doors Will Open at 6:30 pm Concessions Available

Easter Lilies 2022

GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN HONOR OF:

Bobbie W. Robinson, by Bill and Karen Leonhardt

Bobbie Robinson, by Mike, Letha, Alex, Emily, Jeremy and Owen

Those who make beautiful music – Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir, by Carl Henline and Rosalind Welder

Brinkley, Connor, Banks, Ellie, Jackson and Kallie, by Keith and Kathy Dedmond

Our Children and Grandchildren, by Bo & Carol King

Jeffrey Duncan, Mary Novotny, Kathleen Novotny, by Jan Duncan

Bo and Carol King and Mary Anna Rankin, by Whitney, Charlie, Reed and Lulu King

Brenda Noles, by Jeff Noles

GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Sherry Noles, by Jeff Noles

Bob Rankin, by Whitney, Charlie, Reed and Lulu King

David Duncan, Gwineen Novotny, Robert Novotny, by Jan Duncan

Our Parents, by Bo and Carol King

Our Parents, by Michael and Letha Owen

**Mr. and Mrs. Coble Euliss and Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Park,
by Jerry and Gayle Park**

Carol Connor, by Wanda and Charlie Lutz

Mark Eldridge, by Sandy Eldridge

Oscar Medlin, Jr., by Glenda, Beth and Mark Medlin

Reid and Hilda Parker, by Ernie and Betty Parker

Bob Cranford, by Elvie Cranford

David Duncan, by Betty Ann Oppelt

Bob Rankin, and Helen and “Preacher” Combs, by Mary Anna Rankin

Joe and Consie Melton, by Thurman Melton and the Campbell Family

Sarah Lantz, by John Lantz

Tommy Andrews, by Vickie Andrews

Sue Alvis, by Pam and Ron Metzger