



FOCUS

June 2013 | Vol. 36 Issue 6

Sunday Worship In June

Theme:
Today's Saints



June 2

Rev. Susan

June 9

Youth Sunday

June 13

Healing Service

June 16

Father's Day

Rev. Heike

June 23

Rev. Susan

June 30

Rev. Susan

A Message from Rev. Susan Cartmell

This spring the public phase of the capital campaign began at Easter and we have been hearing from many of you about your commitment to making the church

- more welcoming,
- more energy efficient
- and more accessible.

We are hoping to raise \$4.1 million to bring our church into this new century and make it ready for the future. Many of you have told me that you are enjoying the weekly e-mails from some artists in our church. A team of Rob Dunlavey, Keith McClelland and Ashley Caswell has put together some wonderful drawings that give us a visual representation of what the space will look like from several angles.

If you would like to look at these please use this link to our website - <http://needhamucc.org/connect/building-our-future>.

Here are some questions I have heard from you.

- **Will this plan improve our carbon footprint?**

Yes. Currently, the church windows and doors leak heat badly. Our oil bill is \$35,000/ year. The new heating system alone will pay for

itself in energy savings in 3-5 years.

• **What exactly will happen?** The Board has committed to break ground in spring 2014. This summer at the end of our 2013 public phase, they will make decisions about what work will be done

starting in 2014. The architect will begin to pull permits this summer to prepare for the ground breaking in the summer of 2014.

• **Do you think \$4 million is too much?** The Board believes that it is what we need to do this right. Often when you do things properly, you actually save money in the end. We believe that is the case.



• **What if we don't raise it all?** We have not ruled out the possibility that we may need to do this work in

phases. However- phasing the work will add 15 - 20% to the cost of the project. 20% of \$4 million is \$800,000- not an insignificant amount, so it makes the most economic sense to raise as much money as we can, now. It will save us to do the work all at once.

• **Why so ambitious?** The church building has been neglected for years, and it currently needs \$500,000 worth of deferred maintenance. In addition, our building footprint is the result of a series of decisions by a lot of committees that addressed one part of the church, without considering the whole. As a result we have a building with a confusing floor plan. We have 18 doors, but many people cannot figure out how to get in. Architecturally, it makes the most sense to do the work all at once.

Plus - we believe a new building will attract new members. We envision a space which will open our doors in real ways to the community and make our architecture consistent with our covenant.

It is a bold plan but we can achieve it with your support. Please join us in Building for the Future!

Questions for the Capital Campaign Team? Speak to: Len Chang, Robert Kennedy, Jason Johnson, Carol Oberle, Don Page.

Questions for the Design Team? Speak to: Kirby Salerno, Keith McClelland, John Bolivar, Mark Oberle, Judi Stewart, Jackie Allen.



Music Ministry News by Dr. Bobby DeRegis, Director of Music

As our choirs get ready to have a break from rehearsals and services, we look forward to more intimate Summer services in our chapel. Our Chancel Choir is extremely dedicated and hard working, rehearsing each week and singing every Sunday at our services. I would like to personally thank each choir member: Deb Abraham, Jennifer Connors, Doris Cook, Hiroko and Phil Hardebeck, Anne Hayek, Cheryl Levine, Dibby Moder, Sharmon Priaulx, Dianne and Bill Rees, Shawn Rock, Judi Stewart, Ruth Van Hoek, and Isabell Wells. I would also like to thank our wonderfully talented and dedicated section leaders: Caitlin McCarville, soprano; Maggie Furtak, alto; Nate Ramsayer, tenor; and Crosby Goshgarian, bass. We wish Caitlin all the best as she pursues her Doctor of Music degree in vocal performance from the University of Texas in the Fall.

Our Friendly Chime Choir has been heard as of late, and as they continue to rehearse and build repertoire we will hear more from them. A very special thanks to this very hard working and fun new musical group: Daphine Allen, Frida Boyd, Doris Cook, Marjorie Daganhardt, Joan Dimond, Mary Lou Hughes, Barbara Lovely, Carol Miller, and Joanne Seiden. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with these fine musicians and members of our church.

I would like to express special thanks to our Music Team, the Team that does much work behind the scenes and facilitates the music we all love here at church: Stephanie Oddleifson, chair; Meriel Conroy, Cici Hunt, Lynn McClelland, and Carolyn MacGregor. There are many hours of work and discussion that go into planning the music and concerts during the church year, and the music team gets it done. Kudos to you all.

I would like to give special thanks to our Youth Music Director Jannatha Coffin-Malia. Jannantha has been a welcome addition to our church staff and has carried our youth choirs seamlessly. I am happy to work with Jannatha and have her as a musical colleague. Her positive energy and talent are a blessing to us all.

A heartfelt thanks to our congregation, ministers and staff. It is your support and appreciation that gives all of the musicians in the church the perseverance to accomplish some difficult and inspiring music. It is my hope that all our music will lift us up to higher ground, to inspire in us all that is holy and sacred.

Summer Worship Theme

from Rev. Susan Cartmell

This summer our worship theme is Today's Saints. Who are the people who inspire you?

The Roman Catholic Church has criteria for saints. Before someone is consecrated the church has to document that the candidate has exemplary faith, and the ability to make a difference in the lives of the faithful. In some cases they employ medical evidence to support claims the person has performed healing miracles.

In our tradition we don't have a

rigorous set of criteria for sainthood, but we all admire people of faith, whose lives have changed the world.

For June July and August we will look at saintly people who lived in the last 100 years. So far our list of possible saints includes :

Henri Nouwen, Albert Schweitzer, Dorothy Day, Deitrich Bonnhoffer, Howard Thurman, Thomas Merton, Oscar Romero, Verna Dozier, Madeleine L'Engle, Bill McKibbin, Jim Wallis, Maya Angelou, John Chittister, Desmond Tutu.

Suggestions? Who is on your list? Who have we forgotten? Please e-mail me (revsusan@needhamucc.org) if you think of someone to add to the list. I think it should be an inspiring summer.

FOCUS

Focus is published monthly. Contributions from members and friends of the Church are invited. Please submit materials by e-mail to office@needhamucc.org.

September issue deadline:
Thursday, August 22nd.

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Youth Ministry News with Rev. Jamie Green, Youth Minister

Youth Sunday

Sunday, June 9th is Youth Sunday. Members of the senior high youth group will lead the morning worship service at 10am, featuring messages by 14 graduating seniors about what they will bring with them from church to college. The Youth Worship Band and Shepherd's Staff choir will lead the music. All are welcome!

Youth Group BBQs

Junior High: 1-3pm at the Brown Residence (102 Ellicott St)

Senior High: 5-7pm at the Gotwals Residence (221 Elmwood Road)

- Please bring a dish to share based on your last name: A-D: appetizer, E-K salad or side dish, L-O: Drinks, P-Z: Dessert.

- Hot dogs, burgers, and veggie burgers will be provided.

- Youth and parents welcome! Rain location at the church.



Senior High Youth Group Mission Trip

On June 25-June 30, 2013, 29 members of the senior high youth group and 6 chaperones will be traveling to New Jersey to participate in the annual Mission Trip. During the work days of the Mission Trip, the group will be working with Hurricane Recovery Groups on the Jersey Shore to help rebuild homes that suffered damage during Hurricane Sandy and

help with riverbank cleanup and debris removal along the beaches. The group will be hosted by the United Church of Tom's River (an Open and Affirming UCC church) and cooking meals together as a group. The group will also be visiting local beaches, playing Lazertag, and going to Six Flags Theme Park.

Hurricane Sandy was the deadliest and most destructive hurricane of the 2012 Atlantic hurricane season, as well as the second-costliest hurricane in United States history. Damage in the state of New Jersey is estimated at \$30 billion. Rev. Vern of the UCC of Tom's River says there is still outrageous devastation in the area. Many people are still in great need, especially elderly people who cannot physically do work on their damaged homes.

We hope to have a great week in New Jersey, not only helping real families be able to live in their own homes again but also enhancing our group by allowing the youth to get to know each other in a deep, meaningful way and gaining a better understanding of people and their universal needs, a greater appreciation for what we have at home, and a greater vision for mission and outreach.

There will be a mission trip commissioning on **Sunday, June 23rd** during the worship service.

Chaperones are still needed for this trip. Please contact Rev. Jamie (revjamie@needhamucc.org) if you are able to help out!

Christian Education News

Bible Village End of Year Celebration

On Sunday, June 2, 2013, from 11:30am-12:30pm, Sunday School children and families and the church community are invited to Fellowship Hall for an end of year celebration. The Christian Education Committee will provide a delicious lunch, awards will be given out for attendance and special recognitions, Sunday School teachers will be thanked, Bible Village kids will sing their songs from the year, and Preschoolers who will enter Bible Village next fall will participate in a rising up ceremony.

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for August 26-29th! Kids ages 3 to 10 are invited to a week of active, adventurous fun at The Congregational Church of Needham's



Vacation Bible School program.

The theme is "Everywhere Fun Fair" where kids will create crafts, play exciting games, participate in meaningful community service, sing upbeat songs, and enjoy delicious snacks while learning about how to be a good neighbor to people all over the world.

The fee is \$20 per day for morning activities at VBS from 8:30am-12pm. Lunch bunch will be offered from 12-1pm for \$5 per day. Additional children in each family will receive a 50% discount. Save \$20 if you register by August 1!

Registration forms can be downloaded at www.needhamucc.org/learn/vbs



Installation Service for Rev. Jamie Green

The Congregational Church of Needham will hold an installation service on Sunday, September 15, at 5:00 p.m. for Rev. Jamie Green. While she has worked at the church for three years as Youth Director, she has now been officially called as Associate Minister for Youth and Children.

The formal installation of a minister in a local UCC Church is a public celebration and ritual that confirms the call of a minister to a church and is a re-affirmation of the covenantal relationship with all the UCC churches in the association and the conference.

Rev. Jamie's installation service is in the sanctuary of the Congregational Church of Needham beginning at 5:00 p.m. The youth-oriented service will include elements of experiential worship and contemporary music. Following the installation service is a pizza dinner in Fellowship Hall.

This is a public event to help celebrate Rev. Jamie's ministry in Needham. Friends and neighbors in the community are invited to attend.

SAY CHEESE!



- We are currently collecting pictures for our updated Church Directory. Send a great photo of you and your family to the church office at office@needhamucc.org. The last directory was filled with fun shots of individuals and families at home, during the holidays and on vacation so send them in!
- If you don't have one - don't worry! We'll be collecting images all summer and, in the fall, and we will have some picture taking sessions several Sunday's after worship.



Guatemala Yard Sale Success

Thanks to beautiful weather, excellent donations, many hard workers, and lots of attendees, the Guatemala yard sale achieved the best result in its 23-year history -- nearly \$5,000! This is enough to send



4 middle-school graduates from Santa Maria Tzeja to high school for a year. We also celebrate the community spirit and the 'green' benefits (reuse/recycle) generated by this event.

Guatemala Delegation Send-off Tuesday, August 6, 7 pm

The August Guatemala delegation to our sister village Santa Maria Tzeja is forming. It is a very full delegation with 11 Needham travelers, 4 from

California, 1 from Texas, 3 from Guatemala and 1 from Canada, all coming together for this trip. Please join the group for a Send-off gathering on Tuesday, August 6 at Joan and Bob Evan's home on 50 Greenwood Ave from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Reportback for August Delegation to Guatemala, September 22

The report of the delegation's travels to Santa Maria Tzeja will be presented on Sunday, September 22 in Linden Hall from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

February 2014 Delegation to Guatemala

It's not too early to be signing up for the February 2014 delegation to Guatemala (February 12-23, 2014). Contact delegation leader Brenda Metzler to receive information for prospective travelers or to sign up: bmetzler7@verizon.net. Tickets must be purchased by late September, due to school vacation demand.

Environmental Ministry Team



Mission 4/1 Earth was a huge success! The 4/1 team, EMT team and Mother Earth thank you all for your help! We had 34 households participate! Even the kids put in time cards!

Our pledge was 530 hours, 70 trees and 60 letters. Our final count was 932 hours, 3159 trees, and 187 letters!

The congregation via Outreach purchased

120 trees and 3,000 trees were planted in a local orchard. It's never too late to take care of Mother Earth. There are forms on the EMT bulletin board to buy trees, contribute to the Arbor Day Foundation and get tips on how to plant and care for your trees.

We hope you will support our local farms this summer and eat sustainably grown, healthy foods by visiting the Needham Farmers' Market which opens June 2 in front of the Unitarian Church. Take advantage of the Beginner Growing Program

at the Needham Community Farm and grow your own veggies. Check out their websites for more information - <http://needhamfarm.org/learn/gardening-classes/> and <http://www.needhamfarmersmarket.org>

Check out our bulletin board! We will have green tips and information about great "green" reading and videos to watch over the summer. If you have any recommendations of books to read or movies to watch, or materials you would like to donate to our EMT shelf, please let us know at EMT@needhamucc.org. These are the books and videos in our library available to borrow:

- Green Bible
- The Ethics of What We Eat
- Eat Pray Love
- In Defense of Food
- Animal Vegetable Miracle
- Serve God Save the Planet
- Local Flavors (Farmers' Market cookbook)
- The Creation
- Soil Not Oil
- Food, Inc (DVD)
- Troubled Waters (DVD) (H2O as a human right, focus on Africa)
- Dirt! (DVD) See Rev. Heike if you would like to borrow this DVD

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL FOR JOHN ALLEN JUNE 25, 2013 AT 7 P.M.

As many of you know, John Allen is in the process of preparing for ordained ministry in the United Church of Christ. John has just graduated from Union Theological Seminary with great honors. At graduation he received the Muilenberg Prize in Biblical Studies and the Traveling Fellowship.

He has also completed his requirements of the Discernment and Formation Process of the Committee on the ministry of the Metropolitan Boston Association of the United Church of Christ, and is now ready to take his next step, the Ecclesiastical Council. At this meeting, John will present his Theology paper and will be examined by the representative of other Congregational Churches that have been invited to attend this meeting.

As his fellow congregants and members of our church, you are cordially invited to attend the Ecclesiastical Council to support John in this next step toward ordination. You have been his church home and family since 1991 when the Allen family joined our church, and we continue to be part of his faith journey.

The Ecclesiastical Council will be held at our church on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 at 7 p.m. If he passes the Council, we can start to plan his ordination, tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2013 at 3 p.m.

And adding to the good news, John will be one of two Pastoral Residents at the Wellesley Village Church for the next two years.

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On the web at
needhamucc.org

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Congregational Church
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Men's Breakfast, Sunday June 16th "Fatherhood"

The Men's Breakfast brings men of all ages and persuasions together in the Library on the 3rd Sun. of the month before worship in honest and lively discussion touching our faith and our lives in today's complex world. We welcome men of all ages and accommodate those with scheduling challenges. Arrive at 8:15 AM for fellowship and breakfast or by 9:00 AM for the discussion.

On June 16, we will return to the discussion of "Fatherhood." Join us!

Contact Keith McClelland (kmmlkm@rcn.com) for more information.

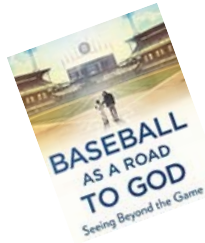
Suggested Books for Summer Reading

from Rev. Susan Cartmell

How Good Do We Have To Be?
by Rabbi Harold Kushner

A People's History of Christianity
by Dorothy Butler Bass

*When "Spiritual But Not Religious"
is Not Enough*
by Lillian Daniels



Baseball as a Road to God: Seeing Beyond the Game
by John Sexton



address

stamp

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF
NEEDHAM
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
1154 Great Plain Avenue
Needham, Massachusetts 02492-2202

**ADULT PROGRAMMING
June 2013**

JUNE 2013						
Sunday	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thursday	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 Cancer Support Group	4 Community Dinner	5	6 Lunch	7	8
9 Computer Programs for Free	10 Cancer Support Group	11	12	13 Healing Service	14	15
16 Father's Day Jews & Christians Pt. 2	17 Cancer Support Group	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Cancer Support Group	25	26	27	28	29
30						

READ, READ, READ

Looking for a good, spiritual read this summer? Here are some suggestions from Rev. Heike's desk:

- Kate Braestrup **"Beginner's Grace"** - a book on bringing prayer to life
- Anne Lamott **"Help, Thanks, Wow"** - The Three Essential Prayers
- Brian C. Taylor **"Becoming Human"** - Core Teachings of Jesus; a nice book to be used as a daily reading
- Diana Butler Bass **"A People's History of Christianity"** - The Other Side of the Story

"COMPUTER PROGRAMS FOR FREE"

Sunday June 9, 2013 - 11:30 to 1 p.m.
presented by Keith McClelland

Keith will present a program on how to save money and reduce your computer's vulnerability using Linux and Open Source software. Keith writes: "Our computers are vital to our lives today. To most people this means that Microsoft or Apple products are vital as well. There is another realistic option, however, that saves money and nearly eliminates the threats from computer viruses, worms, and bots."

Keith will explore with us some other options - quality Open Source Applications in place of the "usual."

These Open Source products are absolutely free and are worthy alternatives to expensive commercial software. This is one case in which it's not true that "you only get what you pay for." Furthermore, the internal details of Linux make it virtually insusceptible

to the security vulnerabilities that are so much in the news today.

Come learn what it's all about and whether it's the right move for you on June 9, 2013 at 11:30 am in the Library. Lunch will be provided.

JEWS & CHRISTIANS; A JOURNEY OF FAITH, PART 2

June 16, 11:30am

You are cordially invited to join me in finishing what we had started in April - watching part two of our documentary. Let's meet in Linden Hall at 11:30 for lunch and the video presentation.

FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Healing service
June 13, 7 p.m. in chapel

Cancer Support Group
Rev. Susan Cartmell leads this weekly support group on Monday morning, from 9 to 10:15 a.m.

Lunch with Rev. Heike
Thursday June 6th

We will meet in the Library for lunch and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

Community Dinner
Tuesday June 4; 6 to 7 p.m., Linden Hall.

Sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

ADULT PROGRAMMING SURVEY

Your Opinion Matters!

Over the past program year at the church, we gathered for Christian Education Programs for Adults after the worship service almost every Sunday. We were able to offer a variety of programs, and would love to hear from you about them. Please take a moment and fill out the questionnaire, and return it to Rev. Heike. She would love to get your feedback and also “pick your brain” for future program ideas.

Adult Education Survey - Please fill out and give to Rev. Heike!

What did you like about the Adult Education Program? (Topics, Times, Food)

What did you not like about the Adult Education programs?

What kinds of programs/topics would you like more of? Feel free to let your imagination go...

Would you be interested in participating in the following (Mark the ones you are interested in!):

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adult Mission Trip | <input type="checkbox"/> On-line study group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book group | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual growth/prayer group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retreats | <input type="checkbox"/> One-day Mission project |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Field trips | <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People to invite for a lecture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family programs | _____ |

BUILDING THE FUTURE



CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF NEEDHAM

Sixty years ago, members of this church envisioned a new sanctuary. They worked together and sacrificed to make it happen. Their legacy to us is this beautiful space, where we worship every week. In this campaign we have an opportunity to envision a new church building which will be our legacy to the families who follow us.

Our covenant has a bold and noble vision. Our building needs to reflect that vision:

The "Building the Future" renovations present a vision for the Congregational Church Of Needham we think you'll find exciting and inspiring.

We're committing to raise \$4.1 million to make all this happen. This sounds like a lot, but through the generosity of a few donors, we are already on our way. We will need your commitment to help make this vision a reality.

We are a church centered around the values in our covenant. Our church building is an expression of those values. As we conduct our capital campaign, please give your prayerful consideration to our church, what it means to you and the difference it makes in the world today. Join us in making this vision a reality through your generous support.

Together, as a community of faithful people, we can make this vision a reality.
Go to <http://needhamucc.org/capital-campaign-online-pledge-form/> to pledge online.

Our Pledge to Build for the Future

Return this card to the church via the collection at worship, mail or email to pledge@needhamucc.org



We will give the following total amount*:

\$_____ by May 31, 2018

Name: _____

Address: _____

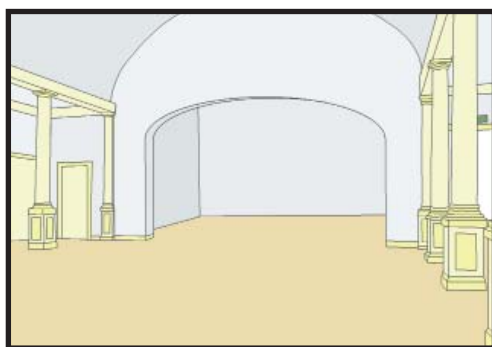
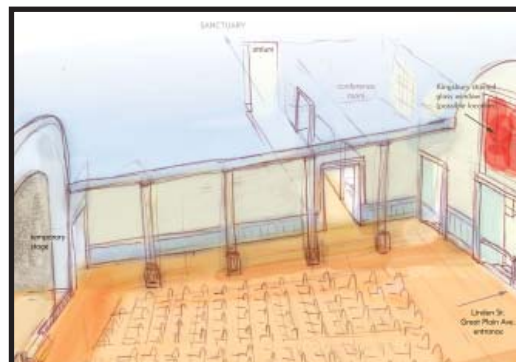
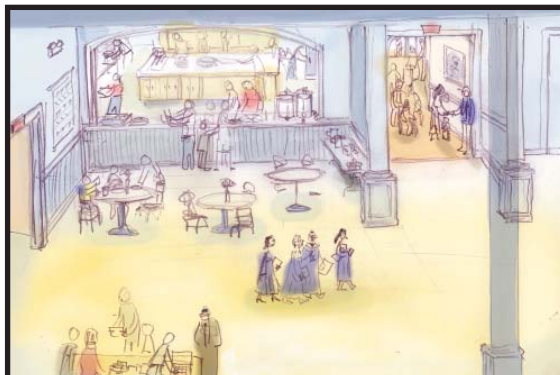
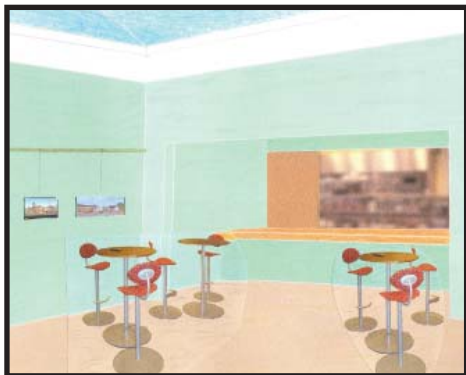
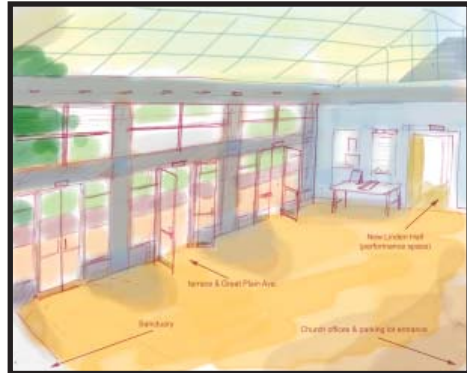
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Please contact me about electronic giving options.
- Please contact me about giving through a stock transfer.
- Please contact me about adding the church to my will.

* **How Much Do I Give?** To reach this goal we need every pledging family to give an amount equal to their pledge- in addition to their pledge - for 5 years. i.e. If you give \$2000 a year for your annual pledge then we hope you will consider giving \$10,000 to the capital campaign spread out over 5 years.

ARTIST DEPICTIONS OF THE NEWLY PROPOSED SPACES



DRAWINGS BY ROB DUNLAVEY, KEITH MCCLELLAND AND ASHLEY CASWELL