



Here  
and Now!

December 2022

Volume 69, Issue 12

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**PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE:** "Marking Time"

When I was a little girl, the lead-up to Christmas morning was pure joy. The Advent family traditions that we repeated every year became markers of time passing and a countdown to myself and my siblings. First there was the tree decorating day, then there was candy-cane-hanging day; there was cookie making day, there was making decorations day and gift shopping day. One of our favorite activities was "drive-around-and-look-at-lights' evening." Whatever we ate the year before, we had to eat again, because having done it once, we considered it a tradition.

When I was older, my activities changed, but I still experienced the same sense of marking time. When I was in my 30s and 40s, and unmarried, I remember hoping that, when the next year came around, I would be coupled up with someone wonderful. After Audrey came into my life, the Advent seasons offered abundant opportunities to marvel at her growth and be grateful to God for her life and evolution. And now that she is 18 and in college, I find myself contemplating old Elmo and Disney Princess Christmas ornaments and wondering what her future will be like. Time passes, using old traditions as vehicles by which to mark change.

I think that is one of the functions of Christmas and Advent worship. Familiar songs, favorite stories with intimately loved characters like Mary, Joseph, Angels and Jesus, decorations that we recall from the years passed - they act as reminders of that which is unchangeable, and serve as markers by which we measure change. New babies, lost loved-ones, children grown and living away, teenagers who would rather be with friends than spend time around the tree with us, these experiences mark each year, and like Mary, who "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart," (Luke 2:19), we too cherish change against the backdrop of the unchangeable.

And, when it is all said and done, it is the unchangeable that remains as an anchor while time drifts on. Stopping to celebrate the day in which God interrupted time and, motivated by rich and amazing love, Christ entered into history - the celebration of this act is a promise that in every change, God remains constant. The Apostle Paul reminded us that "NOTHING can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ our Lord" and this year as we celebrate together, let us rejoice in the reminder of the God who took great action in order to secure an eternal relationship with us. See the baby in the manger and say with me, "Thanks be to God for this wonderful gift!"



**Christian Ed:**

**2022  
PAC/Teens  
Halloween  
Carnival**



Thank you Mark Jensen for the pictures!



## FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA

Christmas greetings to all of you! I hope you will be able to visit with family and friends this holiday season.

I have been enjoying the nursing students shadowing me. I hope those of you we visited have enjoyed them as well. My goal is to open their eyes to the need and value of parish nursing. So far they have witnessed home visits, balance & strengthening exercise classes and Community Elder's Network Meetings. I have received positive feedback from their professors.

Our balance & strengthening exercise class members have invited friends from the McCabe United Methodist Church, therefore our class participation has tripled!

There is a blood pressure clinic on Sunday, December 11th, 9 am-10 am and 11am-Noon in the conference room. Everyone is welcome to come!

**Thank You for your continued support of the Parish Nurse Fund!**



**Unfortunate Christmas Cookies:** Two weeks before Christmas, four-year-old Christy found out she was allergic to gluten. Christmas Eve has been packed with activities. With no time to get Christmas cookies, her mom picked up some gluten-free ones at the store. That way, Christy would be able to have a snack too.

That night Christy's father ate one of the leftover Santa cookies. It went down the wrong tube on the last bite, and he choked for a few minutes. Thinking nothing of it, the parents went to bed. That morning was full of fun and opening presents.

The family was sitting down to breakfast with their new toys when Christy looked at her gluten-free toast with a sad look.

"Mom, I think I should send Santa a sorry note."

"Why?" her mother asked curiously.

"I heard him gagging on the cookies last night."

The Christmas Dinner: Young Jessica always wanted a dog for Christmas. She asked Santa at the mall and even put it on her wish list. When Christmas came, her mom handed her a huge box with holes. Excited, Jessica ripped it open only to be disappointed to find a little potbelly pig. Then Jessica asked her mom, "Why did Santa get me a pig?"

From the kitchen, her dad yelled, "Oh, that's my fault." "Why?" Jessica asked. Her father replied, "I asked Santa for a Christmas ham!"



**“A Word with Wanona”** - I would like to introduce you all to Carolyn Barks.

Carolyn was born in Bismarck, North Dakota on New Year’s Eve. She has two younger brothers and had two other brothers who died in infancy. Carolyn’s father had a greenhouse that sold spring bedding plants. Her first job at 11 years old was helping her father transplanting the plants. She was a proof-reader for the Bismarck Tribune as a junior in high school. **FUN FACTS:** (1) Beverly Rudrud was her typing teacher at Bismarck High School! (2) Carolyn’s family started Robert’s Floral and Gifts.

One thing you might not know about Carolyn, she did a lot of substitute teaching in the Bisbee-Egeland school district. She taught piano lessons in her home for over 30 years. She would raise a huge garden, which supplied most of their food. She even helped on their family farm driving a combine in the fall. Not bad for a city slicker!

Carolyn graduated from Bismarck High School in 1957. She attended North Dakota State University graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education with a minor in English in 1961. She met her husband Ron in the Gold Star Marching Band at NDSU. He played the trumpet and Carolyn played the clarinet. In the 1980’s Carolyn applied and painted on sweatshirts and t-shirts. She and Ron sold them at craft shows and the Bismarck Street Fair for 10 years.

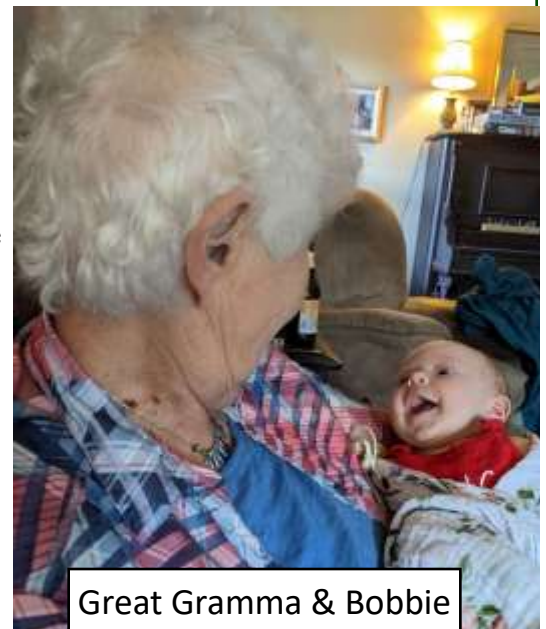
Carolyn had three goals in life: (1) She wanted to marry and have a family. (2) She hoped to travel. (3) She also wanted to use her music and be an accomplished piano player. The most memorable event in Carolyn’s life was having her four daughters; Debbie, Becky, Sara and Julie; recently she was blessed with a great granddaughter, Bobbie!



She is so thankful for her best friend and husband Ron and her extended family of aunts, uncles and cousins. When asked what was the funniest thing that ever happened in her life, she recalls a time when they had an art teacher from Minneapolis come for a summer workshop. Carolyn had invited this teacher and his wife and some other

friends for coffee at her home. At their farm she would distill her own water and stored it in gallon vinegar jugs. That afternoon she had been working with Liquitex Gesso and turpentine for an art class so she could not smell anything due to the combination of these two products. It was getting close to coffee time so she hurried to grab the white vinegar jug so she could get the coffee started. Carolyn had accidentally grabbed the real white vinegar jug instead of the distilled water; her husband came in from the coffee party to inform her that the water she used was indeed white vinegar. Needless to say that was a very quick way to get acquainted! Carolyn was raised in the First Baptist Church. Ron and Carolyn joined the First Presbyterian Church in 1995. She was a volunteer, Elder, Deacon, served on the General Council of Presbytery, and she knew Pastor Butler. She was a delegate to the General Assembly of 1979 in Baltimore, MD.

Thank you Carolyn for sharing your life journey.



Great Gramma & Bobbie







Breakfast

With

Santa

**Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:30 am - 11:30 am

**First Presbyterian Church ~ Ramstad Hall**

214 E Thayer Ave \* Bismarck, ND

Please use West entrance labeled Child Care Center

Join Santa and our Boy Scout Troop 6 for a pancake breakfast!

There will be a puppet show and craft tables for all to enjoy.

Santa will be attending so be sure to bring the whole family for some holiday fun before you head out to do your Christmas shopping.

*Free will offerings accepted.*

## CCC NEWS

The Childcare Center Board and the staff would like to say "thank you" to all of the parents and primary caregivers who entrust their children to the FPC Childcare Center! We appreciate all of you and feel privileged to be a part of your precious child's life!!

We would like to again thank those of you who donated the items listed for December. Dawn dish detergent, CLOTH infant books and the waterproof toddler & pre-K mittens! Thank you for the continued monetary donations!!

Please plan to attend the "Breakfast with Santa"

Saturday, December 3rd, 9:30 - 11:30am

- \* pancakes served by the Boy Scout Troop 6 in Ramstad Hall.
- \* puppet show and crafts for ALL ages along with a visit from Santa!
- \* FREE will donations to benefit the Boy Scout Troop!

Use the "WEST" entrance labeled Childcare Center.

May each and every one of you have a very Merry, and Joyous Christmas!



## "THE BANQUET" THANKSGIVING DAY DINNER A SUCCESS!

A big thank you to the volunteers from our church who eagerly served "The Banquet" Thanksgiving Dinner at the Dream Center.

Your enthusiasm is always appreciated!



## THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

During Advent, our congregation has an opportunity to participate in the “Tree of Love Ministry”. This ministry supports and connects our congregation to the families of children in the First Presbyterian Child Care Center.

Please bring or send items to the church; the church’s address is 214 E Thayer Ave. Bismarck, ND 58501.

Please wrap your gift and put the gift tag with its contents on the gift.

Place your donation under the tree.

All gifts should be delivered by **Wednesday, December 14.**

We will wrap any unwrapped gifts.

For many families, requests for laundry soap and other household items reflect how limited their financial resources are. Please understand that for many of these families, our donations of these items will allow them to use their limited resources for other necessities like food and rent. Our families are grateful for your donations!



### **Family #1** -single mom family of 4

#### Wish list for twin girls due in February

- Newborn and size 1 diapers
- Thin swaddle baby blankets
- Baby bibs
- Baby pacifiers
- Target gift card for infant supplies

#### Wish list for 18-month old boy

- Wooden puzzle
- Coloring books
- Chubby crayons
- Toy truck
- Books that make sounds

Divided plates

24-month old clothing

#### Wish list for mom

- Grand theater movie tickets
- Set of metal cake pans
- Gas gift card
- XL black Columbia zipper sweatshirt jacket



### **Family #2** -single mom family of 3

#### Wish list for 10-year old daughter

- Size 14/16 outfit
- Size 4 girl’s shoes
- Shopkins Art

#### Wish list for 4-year old daughter

- Size 6/6X dress
- Size 10 toddler shoes
- Singing Isabela doll (Encanto)

#### Wish list for mom/household

- Crockpot and family favorite recipes from FPC members!
- Zoo membership
- Silverware
- Child-sized silverware
- Paper towels - toilet paper
- Kitchen sized trash bags
- Kitchen towels- hand towels- bath towels
- Dog food - Kindfull beef and vegetable from Target

### **Family #3** -single mom family of 4

#### Wish list for each daughter

- A coloring/art table with an attached chair
- Art supplies

#### Wish list for infant son due in April

- Carseat 360 from Walmart
- Newborn and size 1 diapers

#### Wish list for mom

- Size 9 Sketcher’s shoes and size 9 women’s socks



**THANK YOU :** FOR NOVEMBER DONATIONS TO BISMARCK EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

Gail Christianson gathers the 137 items donated by congregation members for The Bismarck Emergency Food Pantry. The church's annual collection is organized by the Hospitality Committee and coincides with Homeless Awareness Month.



**Take a few minutes to look at the beautiful nativity scenes displayed in the Parlor!**

**Thank You Otto & Jae Reile**



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 22, 2022

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Income YTD Actual	\$386,764	Budget	\$405,567
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$436,226	Budget	\$480,402
NET Income	-\$49,462	Budget	-\$74,836

A donation of \$10,000 was made to the Parish Nurse Fund. Any year-end deficit will be covered by the General Fund.

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

Session will consider a marketing plan to increase visibility/publicity in our community. Leaders in creating a plan will be Elders Rusty Bender and Becky Mahlum. An I-pad on a tripod may be an alternative for streaming services when Josh Stokka is not available. Bookcases with some of Graef Gannon's theological texts are in the gathering room. Pastor Leanne thanked the following Elders who will complete their terms the end of December: Shari Orser, Cindy Cross, Paul Ronningen, and Kim Wassim.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Administrative and Personnel**—The following were named Committee Chairs for the coming year:

Administrative and Personnel—Dale Hoerauf

Resource Management—Jim Skaret

Proclamation-Christian Education—Becky Rosenkranz

Proclamation-Worship and Music—Rusty Bender and Signe Snortland

Property and Equipment—Matt Engel

Hospitality—Diann Johnson

Child Care Center Board—Juanita Hocking

Other Elders will serve as follows: Chris Henriksen—Administrative/Personnel; Bill Jensen—Christian Education; Becky Mahlum—Hospitality.

**Hospitality**—Red/green potluck is December 11. Donations to Youthworks and the Homeless Coalition were made. Canned foods were collected for the Emergency Food Pantry.

**Proclamation-CE**—Children's Program will be December 11. They will be helping with Breakfast with Santa on December 3.

**Proclamation—Worship/Music**—Advent music program by choir and bell choir will be December 18.

**Property and Equipment**—New lighting for the playground and east side of the church was installed.

**Resource Management**—Session approved using about \$20,000 of the HVAC Fund to repair duct defusers to improve airflow system in the Child Care Center. The work will be done by Northern Plains. Session approved a few adjustments to the 2023 Budget: added \$10,000 to General Fund Interest and adjusted per capita which will be \$50.00 per member. Total income is \$525,651 and total expense is \$590,921, with Net Income a deficit \$65,270.

**Board of Deacons**—Poinsettias will be delivered in December.

**Child Care Center Board**—Breakfast with Santa will be December 3, 9:30-11:30 with Scout Troop serving pancakes and other crafts and activities provided by Christian Education Committee and Pastor Leanne.

The Tree of Love benefits CCC families.

Session approved the 2023 CCC Budget: \$418,300 income, \$423,149 expense with net income deficit \$4,849.

**Nominating**—Session approved Alice Nix to serve as Deacon for one year in place of Allen Hoberg.

**Anniversary**—Plans for high tea, children's activities, a tent and food vendors continue.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Elder Signe Snortland, Deacons Jim Rambo, Anita Fru, Danette Pengilly and Alice Nix will be ordained/installed on December 4 during worship service.

### NEW BUSINESS

Shari Orser, Jim Skaret, and Pastor Leanne shared news from the Presbytery meeting held October 29 at Fargo FPC.

Alice Nix, Clerk of Session

# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



## BIRTHDAYS      **DECEMBER**

Linda Tonolli	1st
Grael Gannon	2nd
Stan Halling	4th
Hailee Bitz	4th
Laken Gratz	8th
Bert Asselin, Jr.	8th
Sigrid Bucklin	8th
David Shockman	9th
Audre Goll	9th
Linda Stensrud	11th
Danette Pengilly	11th
Arne Arneson	12th
JoAnn Hodny	12th
Richard Belisle	15th
Janice Mayer	16th
Chris Hellman	17th
Laura Adair	18th
David Bachmeier	18th
Arley Gallup	19th
Bob Kinnischtzke	20th
Kade Massey	20th
Jae Reile	21st
Ella Gutzke	22nd
Patricia Keller	27th
Doug Sturlaugson	28th
Shiny Mahlum	30th
Kaye Halvorson	31st
Carolyn Barks	31st
Lori Lee	31st



## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

**SUNDAYS - 1:30 PM**  
**VIA - ZOOM**

## ANNIVERSARIES      **DECEMBER**

Mary Emily & John Thomas	10th
Paul & Kristi Ronningen	18th
Jim & Nanc Skaret	21st
William & JoAnn Hodny	30th



*Please let us know if we've made a mistake, omission or if you would prefer not to have your special day published.*

~ Thank you ~

## First Presbyterian Church

214 East Thayer Ave.

Bismarck, ND 58501

Phone: 701-223-6091

[firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)

[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



### Pastor

*Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons*

### Finance Assistant

*Carol Thompson*

### Administrative Assistant

*Maureen Chrest*

### Parish Nurse

*Wanona Goetz*

### Youth Ministry Assistant

*Marete Farver*

### Organists

*Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad*

### Choir Director

*Debi Rogers*

### Handbell Ensemble Director

*Lael Hoerauf*

### Maintenance Manager

*Tony Bartole*

### Audio/Visual Specialist

*Josh Stokka*

### Membership Services

*Judy Lentz*

### Child Care Center Director

*Shawn Stettner*

### Child Care Center Asst. Director

*Vanessa Hein*

### Nursery

*Mary Jones*

### Christian Ed. Interns

*Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen*

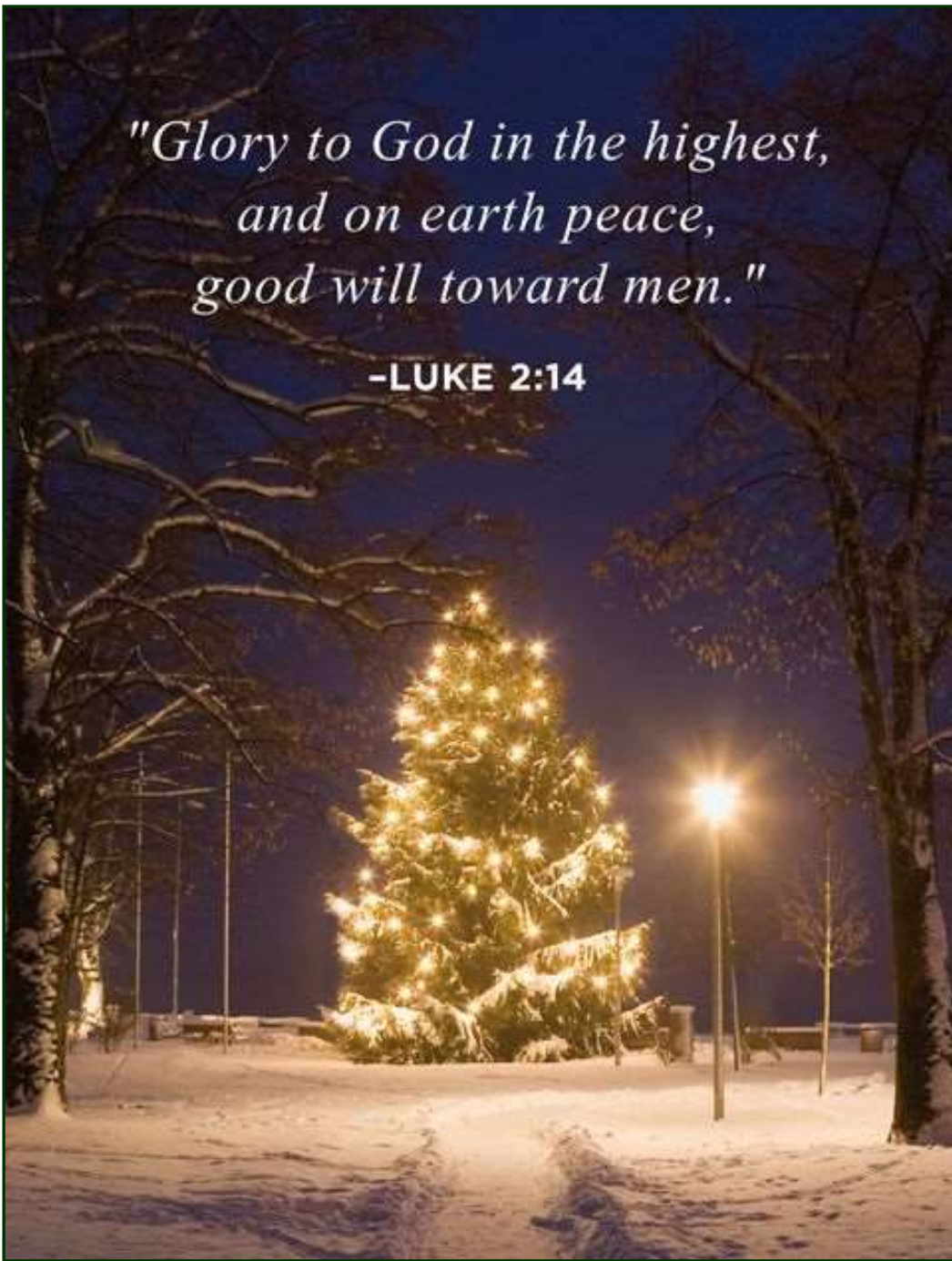


# December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class  5:30pm Yoga	2 	3 9:30AM-11:30AM Breakfast with Santa!
4 10:00am Worship "2nd Sunday of Advent"	5 1:30PM PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY 6:00pm Suzuki Christmas Recital 6:30pm Scouts 7:00PM Christ. Ed	6 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class NO Prop. & Equipment 6:30pm Lay Pastors	7  5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	8 NO Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga 6:00pm Hospitality	9	10
11 10am Worship Children's Christmas Program followed by "Red & Green Potluck" BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC	12  5:30pm Worship & Music 6:30pm Scouts	13 11:00am Bal. & Strength Class NOON - BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE IN PARLOR 5:30pm CCC Board	14  Last Day of PAC/Teens for 2022 5:45 pm PAC/Teens 6:30pm Bells 7:30pm Choir	15 NO Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga  7:00pm Deacons	16  	17
18 10:00am Worship "Joyous Music Sunday" Bells/Choir NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	19 Noon -Resource Management NO Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00pm Admin. Personnel 6:30pm Scouts	20 NO Bal. & Strength Class	21  NO PAC/Teens NO Bells NO Choir	22 NO Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	23  OFFICE CLOSED	24  CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 4:30PM 11:00PM
25 10:00am Worship MERRY CHRISTMAS! NO SUNDAY SCHOOL 	26 OFFICE CLOSED 6:30pm Scouts	27 NO Bal. & Strength Class 2:00pm Presby Friends at Augusta Place NO Session	28  NO PAC/Teens NO Bells NO Choir	29 NO Bal. & Strength Class 5:30pm Yoga	30 OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON	31  HAPPY NEW YEARS EVE

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace,  
good will toward men."*

**-LUKE 2:14**



**FAMILY NEWS**

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR YOUR HEALING TOUCH:**

GRAEL GANNON

JOANNE & NILS PEARSON

ETTA & BERNIE SCHUE

LINDA TONOLLI

ALICE & STAN HALLING