

# KGPC ENEWS

Every Member in Ministry: Learning Together



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### Entering a New Season

By Rev. Chris Carrasco

As I stare out my office window and see the snow on the ground, my thoughts are already turning to spring. My Southern Californian blood runs deep which means I'm just not a cold weather fan. But soon enough winter will melt into spring: the warmer weather, flowers, birds, and did I mention warmer weather? A new season is coming soon.

Just like the seasons in nature, the seasons of the church year also change to happier and warmer thoughts as Lent melts into Easter. In our Lenten preparation we look forward to Easter and saying with Christians throughout the centuries, "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" Easter reminds us of resurrection, new life, and renewal. A new season is coming soon.

Just like the seasons in nature and in the church year, individual churches go through seasons also. We are entering an exciting new season in the life of this church. And just like any transition from one season to another, changes are in the air. A new season is coming soon.

We are entering a new season in church membership. Congregational Growth has met with 17 adults who, along with their 10 children, will be joining the church in March and April. What an exciting time to officially welcome so many into the family at King's Grant!

We are entering a new season in worship. In fact Easter Sunday itself will offer three worship services: 6:45 Easter Sunrise Service outside, 8:45 contemporary service and our well attended traditional 11:00 service. We are moving to a more consistent schedule for the time being which will offer two worship services during the school year and then switch to our summer one service schedule from Father's Day through Labor Day. We will revisit and evaluate this decision later this year.

We are entering a new season in our Session. Your Session now spends the first 30 minutes in scripture reflection and prayer. We are more aware of our spiritual leadership responsibilities and are focusing more on big picture and vision issues. For this upcoming Elder Class of 2018, we have reduced the class size from 6 to 4 people. This reflects not only the smaller organizational structure implemented last year, but also opens the possibility of transitioning Session to more of an overall governing role. Organizationally, Session will continue to ask questions and discern God's guidance on the best way we can structure ourselves to make decisions, develop leaders, and have strong ministry teams. We hope to make some changes by June when the next church year begins.

We are entering a new season in technology. Now with a new website we are moving toward videotaping our services and uploading the sermon onto YouTube. We are already uploading an audio version of the sermon on the website. We are continuing to dream how to use Facebook, website, audio and visual aids in connecting with people in worship and beyond.



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**March Birthdays!!**

Richard Riner, Erin Woolbright, David Bernd, Jeff Hammaker, Karen Hendricks, Patty Meeves, Suzy Farley, Martin Overton, Eric Donaldson, Lucie D'Amato, Melanie Evans, Susan Jones, Don Bradway, Karey Gardner, Sherry Hatfield, Miyoko Hurt, Jacob Barfield, John Hoberg, Brian Phelps, Helen Bernd, Davis Phelps, Emily Balke, Rori Phelps, Joey Himmelwright, Alex Carrasco, Rudy Magnussen, Diane Evans, Anne Deary, David Andersen, Bob Bibbs, John Overton, Rebecca Sharpe, April Greissing, Ben Chidester, Sebastian Cole, Deacon Blackwell, Jarren Plater, Leah Dickerson, Jessica Kerr, Ellen Hill, Judy Hines, Gretchen LeFever Watson, Chris Carrasco, Alex Carrasco, Ann Shank

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We are entering a new season in Christian education and development. These three ministry teams will be meeting together for the next four months to study the book *Faith is a Verb* as they seek God's vision for Christian formation at King's Grant.

Spring is a new season when new life is brought forth in nature. Easter is a new season when we experience new life in Christ. A new season is beginning at King's Grant also. As we celebrate Easter and look forward to spring, we are living into God's future for this church. I look forward to journeying with you as together we discern and discover what God is up to in this new season. It's only been 45 days, but I feel so blessed to be able to accompany you at this point in the life of King's Grant Presbyterian Church.

**Lenten Sermon Series:  
The Seven Last Words of Jesus  
(and what they have to do with you)**

Lent is a six and a half week period in the church year when we intentionally prepare ourselves for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ in Holy Week. This year's Lenten Sermon Series will focus on the last words Jesus said from the cross. What were those words and what do they mean for our lives today? As we look to the cross, we listen to the last words Jesus spoke on this earth and how they speak to us today. May these words and this series enrich your Lenten time.

**March 8**

Third Word of Jesus - "Here Is Your Son. Here Is Your Mother" John 19:25-27

**March 15**

Fourth Word of Jesus - "My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?" Mark 15:29-34

**March 22**

Fifth Word of Jesus - "I thirst" John 19:28

**March 29 (Palm Sunday)**

Sixth Word of Jesus - "It Is Finished" John 19:29-30

**April 2 (Maundy Thursday)**

Seventh Word of Jesus - "Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit" Luke 23:45-46

## **OUTREACH**

### **Rides Needed**

“My nieces really wish they could come to church, but they don’t have any way to get there.” When I heard this statement, I pictured four young girls wanting to come to church but being stuck at home for lack of a ride, and I could almost see Jesus raising his eyebrows at me as if to say “My people want to come to church... remember when I said ‘go forth and make disciples?’” For those of us blessed with cars, we often don’t think about what it might be like if we didn’t have a way to get places, but can you imagine how empty our church would be if all of us lost our cars? Which brothers and sisters would we be missing from Sunday worship? How sad would you feel knowing that those you love could no longer be a part of our church family? Now think of the people in our community who God is leading into our family, but who are absent every week because they can’t get here? Do you have an extra seat (or two or four?) in your car that you could use to give someone a ride? The Congregational Growth ministry is looking for people who are willing to leave home a few minutes early on Sunday mornings so that they can give a ride to someone who wants to join us for worship. If you would be willing to bring someone to church, please contact Suzy Farley (757-620-1912 or [suzyfarley@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyfarley@yahoo.com)).



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

### **Session Notes - meeting on February 23, 2015**

The February 23 meeting was our second Session meeting with Pastor Chris serving as Moderator.

As we did in January, we began by Listening to God. During this time, and after Chris lit the Christ Candle, we read Isaiah 58:1-12 (which would have been our Ash Wednesday reading) and reflected on what it meant to each of us individually and to us as a Session. We gathered in pairs to discuss the text and to pray for each other and for the church.

The next portion of the meeting, Listening to God’s Will, included the regular work items such as approval of the previous Session and the Congregational Meeting minutes. Chris presented and discussed her 2015 Continuing Education and vacation plans. As you know, the Congregation approved as part of her Terms of Call four weeks of annual vacation and 2 weeks of study leave. She has the year well planned and will be taking care of herself and her family as she studies and vacations.

Written ministry reports had been delivered to the Session prior to the meeting and we spent about a half hour reviewing the highlights. One of the brightest notes was from the Congregational Growth Ministry about the 16 folks who will be joining us as members of KGPC in the coming weeks.

The last agenda items covered four areas. The first was a study handout to the Session about our Marriage Retreat on March 7 which will be a four hour discernment and educational gathering of the Session. Chris then presented an article which hypothesized why some churches have difficulty in growing beyond 200 in worship attendance...a very insightful paper.

The last two discussion points revolved around Session organization and structure in the coming years. After much discussion, the Session agreed that the Class of 2018, which the Congregation will elect this spring, will be comprised of 4 KGPC members instead of the usual 6. This heralds a possible revisioning of a smaller Session’s role to more visioning and to a more spiritual and a stronger leadership posture, thereby shifting some of the “day to day” ministry responsibilities to well established, staffed, and focused ministry teams – but without relinquishing the Session’s responsibility for overall governance. The Session agreed to continue this discussion at its March meeting.

The hour being late, we ended the meeting in prayer with Chris’ charge to go into the world to continue our worshipful work.

Bill Hudgens  
Acting Clerk of Session

# Christian Education & Development

## Children's Ministry

### Poetic Thoughts for Lent

By Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take the time  
to let the power of our faith  
story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events  
get up and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify  
our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over  
the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the  
streets of Jerusalem  
or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge  
through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to  
wonder...

Lent is a time to allow a fresh  
new taste of God!



**Sunday School:** Pre-K – 1<sup>st</sup> grade Sunday School in room 121; 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School in room 119; Club 567 in room 118

Each class meets from 9:45 – 10:45 A.M., and all are invited to attend. The first Sunday of the month has a special Mission Time, and the other Sundays include a special Music Time at the beginning of each class. As the children study the same lesson as the adult “Feasting on the Word” class, don’t forget to start a wonderful discussion during lunch or dinner about what your entire family learned at church on any given Sunday. Join us soon!

**Children’s Church:** During the 11:00 A.M. service in room 120 Recommended for children ages four through second grade. Children focus on New Testament lessons and the way Jesus teaches us to live our lives.

**CHOW – Remember - Dinner is not just for the kids...So come and share in some fellowship!**

Classes continue through March 18<sup>th</sup>. The children’s curriculum will be “Heaven – What will it be like?” Dinner for everyone begins at 5:30 and classes begin at 6:15. Dinner is \$4 a person, with a family cap of \$15. Children three and under are free. Please remember to sign up for dinner in the Connection Point by the Sunday before each CHOW session to help us plan for dinner. What a great opportunity to share a meal and fellowship! And we are always looking for more helpers before and after dinner. If available to help, contact Sue Mooney.

**Children’s Lock Out:** Children preschool through seventh grade are invited to an “Egg”citing evening of fun from 6-9 P.M. Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. We will have breakfast for dinner, watch the movie *Rise of the Guardians*, play “egg”centric games, and make a special project to share with the community. RSVP to Sue Mooney ([s.mooney@kgpc.org](mailto:s.mooney@kgpc.org)) by Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Preschoolers must have a parent stay with them the entire evening.

**Club 567 Adventure Program:** Club 567 is a new program for our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> graders. In February the kids teamed up with the PYF kids to make invitations for and serve our guests at the Ziti for My Sweetie meal. March proves to be super exciting...so stay tuned!

**Eva:** We continue to sponsor Eva in Malawi, so please consider a birthday donation in your child’s name. What a special way to honor your child and support Eva.

**VBS 2015:** Jesus in Nazareth VBS will be held Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – Friday, July 17<sup>th</sup>. Classes will be held from 9 A.M. – 12 noon. Contact Marie Garrenton ([marie.sauer@gmail.com](mailto:marie.sauer@gmail.com)) if you would like to take on a leadership role.

**Remind yourself of upcoming events:** Want a way to always remember what is going on with the children of the church? Text 571-248-3846 and put @81e2b in the message field. And Voila! You will now receive a text to remind you of upcoming events. How easy is that? See Becky Otto ([rotto2@cox.net](mailto:rotto2@cox.net)) with questions.

**Children’s Ministry Team:** We love our KGPC children and are excited about serving them. We also recognize that our ministry team benefits greatly by brainstorming new ideas. If you have an idea you would like to share with us, please contact Becky Otto or feel free to attend our ministry meetings. Our next meeting will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

**GOLDEN GUYS & GALS**

The February gathering was cancelled due to the really bad weather on the 18th. We have rescheduled that program for Wednesday, March 18th for a pot luck luncheon at 12:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our program will be "Do you Know Your Bible Better than a Fifth Grader?" John Morison has worked out a neat game for teams testing their knowledge about the Bible. Should be lots of fun. Plan to attend, bring friends and a dish to share and be ready to participate.

**King's Academy  
of Fine Arts**

**Super Heroes Summer  
Camp**

Music, Art, & Dance, June 22-26, 2015, 9:00-11:30am

Ages 2 ½- 5 years Cost: \$125 (\$50 holds your place, \$75 due 1st day of camp)

Call the church to register: 340-2840



**Upcoming Events:**

**Sunday, March 8** ~5-6 p.m. at church...planning games for Kids Lenten Lock-out.

**Friday, March 13** ~Help with Lenten Lockout for kids. Be at church at 5:30 to help set up! (No PYF Sunday, March 15)

**Sunday, March 22** Hunger Service Project with 1st Presbyterian kids. Meet at KGPC at 4:00, return by 6:30.

**Youth Sunday Planning Retreat Weekend; Friday, March 27-Sunday, the 29th** Meet at church at 8:00 p.m. to serve dinner to the neighbors, head to Sandbridge for the Retreat, return Sunday morning by noon. Watch emails!

**College Mission Trip to W. VA**

May 17-23, 2015

Cost: \$150

Open to all young adults

Deposit of \$50 due ASAP to save a space





**Women's CIRCLES:** All Circles meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month (February 10 this month) and are open to any woman of the church to join at any time! We are all studying Twelve Apostles by J. Ellsworth Kalas.

**LYDIA CIRCLE:** The Lydia Circle met Tuesday, February 10th at Donna Hoberg's home. Our lesson on the disciple JUDAS was led by Vivian Phelps which brought forth much discussion from the group. The March meeting will be at the home of Ann Butler, 3389 Heron's Gate, 486-2534, at 7:30 P.M. The lesson will be on THOMAS, Chapter 9, page 93, led by Deane Carroll. Study your lesson, review the questions so we can engage in lively lesson learning about this disciple. If anyone needs transportation call Lorraine Jordana at 486-6507

**EVE CIRCLE:** Eve Circle will meet in the Connection Point at 7:15 p.m. We will be discussing Ch. 9, THOMAS. Joyce Fifield is the study leader; Miyoko Hurt will provide dessert.

**ELIZABETH CIRCLE:** 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor at church. For more information contact Georgia Jones ([gigigeorgia66@gmail.com](mailto:gigigeorgia66@gmail.com)). This Circle will be followed by a Ladies Lunch in the Connection Point beginning at 11:30 a.m. All women of the church are invited! If you would like to help, contact Julie Seipel ([mseipel@aol.com](mailto:mseipel@aol.com))

## Adult Ministry Update

### Adult Sunday School

Two adult classes meet each Sunday morning a 9:45 a.m. David Anderson leads a study of "What Jesus Said" in the Fellowship Hall. The class that meets in the Parlor is studying "Feasting on the Word".

**Small Group Studies:** All small groups have "open chairs" waiting just for you!

**Lunch Bunch: Mondays, 12:15-2:00 pm. in the Conference Room. Bring your lunch!** When All Else Fails Read the Directions by James Moore - a study on the Beatitudes, 10 Commandments and Golden Rule. Join us as we explore God's directions for our lives. Books are available through Julie Seipel ([mseipel@aol.com](mailto:mseipel@aol.com))

**Men's Breakfast Wednesdays, 6:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall** Come and enjoy a hot homemade breakfast with the men of the church. Women welcome too!

**Kerygma: Wednesdays, 10-11:30am in the Parlor.** We are studying a book titled Witness Without Parallel Eight Biblical Texts that Make Us Presbyterians by Earl Johnson. Join us as we explore what Core Scriptures make us Presbyterians. All are welcome anytime! Books are available through Julie Seipel.

**Wednesday Night Women's Study: Wednesdays 7:30-9:00pm in the Parlor (no meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month)** Join us to study the book Compelled, Living the Mission of God by Ed Stetzer & Philip Nation. Books available through Julie Seipel

**Moms Group: Thursdays, 12:30-2:00pm in the Connection Point. Babysitting provided.** Open to moms of all ages. Come share the joys of motherhood with other KGPC moms.

### **BOOK CLUB**

Our Book Club gathers the last Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Parlor and anyone who can read is invited to join us. Upcoming reads are: March 31, Last Train to Istanbul by Ayse Kulin. Let Julie Seipel know if you need a book. Grab a good read today!



- March 15 - Kairos cookies due
- March 12-18 - Winter Shelter Breakfast at LUM
- March 25-31 - Winter Shelter at KGPC

**CHILDCARE HELP NEEDED!**

Family in Christ,

We are looking for childcare providers for our children when extra events are planned for our church. Robin and Deane, our giving care takers in the nursery, need to take much needed rest as well during the year. This is a paid position with some flexibility of your time needed. If you are interested in being placed on our list of providers, please call or email Gretchen Almond at 757-403-0485 or [gretchenallmond@msn.com](mailto:gretchenallmond@msn.com). Blessings and thank you for answering a great call to service. Gretchen



**KGPC Kairos Prison Ministry Cookies**

**Bakers, crank up your ovens!** The KGPC Kairos Prison Ministry Team has tripled in the last few years and we're asking for more cookies than ever! Your **hundreds of dozens of homemade cookies** are tangible expressions of Christian love to all the prisoners in the Greenville Regional Correctional Center. Your loving sacrifice will provide "bread" that shines the Light of God's Grace into the darkest corners of the prison. **Cookie Guidelines:** Peanut Butter, Chocolate Chip, and Oatmeal cookies are very much appreciated. Cookies should be 2 - 2.5 inches in diameter. The prison strictly forbids icing, fruit, nuts, sprinkles, and any kind of toppings, so please avoid all of those. Sugar cookies never arrive intact, so please avoid those as well.

**The Key Ingredient is Prayer!** Please pray individually or as a family over each step of the baking process. Ask God to use your cookies as a source of His love to shine on the prisoners and staff throughout the Kairos weekend.

**Packing the Cookies.** Bag **thoroughly cooled** cookies in a quart-sized Zip Lock bag, one dozen cookies to a bag. If you bake early, please freeze your cookies.

**Cookie Delivery:** Cookies will be collected in the Connection Point on Sunday, March 15.

**Thank you very much for your continued and loving support of this ministry!**

If you have any questions, please feel welcome to ask Joe Baden, Dan Duquette, Davy Jones, or Mike Farley.

**Winter Shelter**

**Volunteers are needed for Winter Shelter!**

**BREAKFAST AT LUMC, MARCH 12-18:** We will be serving breakfast to the Winter Shelter neighbors at Lynnhaven United Methodist Church from March 12 through March 18. We are looking for some early risers to arrive at LUMC by 4:45 to cook and serve breakfast (you will be done by 6:15).

**WINTER SHELTER AT KGPC MARCH 25- 31:** We need cooks and servers, people to spend the night, and people to make lunches. We also love to have people to talk and pray with our guests, so please feel free to show up whenever you can for fellowship!!

**Sign-ups** for both opportunities and for food donations are in the connection point or you can contact Suzy Farley (757-620-1912 or [suzyfarley@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyfarley@yahoo.com)).



## Yard Sale

In the summer of 2013 KGPC held our first yard sale to benefit JCOC and PIN Ministries, two organizations that serve those who are homeless in Virginia Beach. The yard sale was a huge success, raising \$5000, providing household items to families moving out of Samaritan House, and sharing KGPC love with all who stopped by. If you are interested in helping to plan this year's yard sale, or to help out before or during the sale, please contact Suzy Farley (757-620-1912 or [suzyfarley@yahoo.com](mailto:suzyfarley@yahoo.com)). Donations will be accepted at KGPC starting April 29.



## Faith Community Nurses

We are looking for nurses to join our group. We are planning more activities in the coming months and would love to have you join us! Please get in touch with Donna Hoberg at [donnahoberg@yahoo.com](mailto:donnahoberg@yahoo.com).

## **TO USE THE KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS PROGRAM WHICH REPLACES THE KROGER CARES PROGRAM:**

If you do not yet have a Kroger Plus card, they are available at the customer service desk at any Kroger.

- Register your Kroger Plus card online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com).
- Click on Sign In/Register
- Most participants are new online customers, so they must click on SIGN UP TODAY in the 'New Customer?' box.
- Sign up for a Kroger Rewards Account by entering zip code, clicking on favorite store, entering your email address and creating a password, agreeing to the terms and conditions
- You will then get a message to check your email inbox and click on the link within the body of the email.
- Click on My Account and use your email address and password to proceed to the next step.
- Click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information and input your Kroger Plus card number.
- Update or confirm your information.
- Enter 84000 or church name, select organization from list and click on confirm.
- To verify you are enrolled correctly, you will see your organization's name on the right side of your information page.
- REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your group until after you register your card(s).
- Do you use your phone number at the register? Call 800-576-4377, select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number.
- You must swipe your registered Kroger Plus card or use the phone number that is related to your registered Kroger Plus card when shopping for each purchase to count.



**Missions Ministry**  
**KGPC Support of Missionaries**

KGPC has been supporting missionaries for years. For the last few years, they have been Janet Guyere in South Africa, Mark Hare and Jenny Bent in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Rebecca Young in Indonesia, and Nate and Gunnhild Bremer in Ethiopia. We also provided a stipend to Robin Chidester, a child of this church in her ministry in the U.K.

Janet continues working to promote woman's and children's well-being and with AIDS/HIV affected communities across South Africa and along the African East Coast.

Mark and Jenny continue teaching sustainable farming with the Farmers' Movement of Papaye and the Evangelical Dominican Church. They will be returning to the U.S. late this summer and we hope to see them visit KGPC again.

Over the last year, we have followed and prayed for Nate and Gunnhild as they went through their turmoil of the accident and its aftermath in Ethiopia. They are now in Norway, still working with Wycliffe Bible Translators and in recovery. They are continuing the work they started in Ethiopia and hope to have a significant amount of it done by the end of the year. Wycliffe Norway will re-assess their ability to work in the field at the end of their first year back in Norway.

Rebecca Young has accepted a faculty position at the Jakarta Theological Seminary and is no longer a missionary. We enjoyed her visit this past year and rejoice in her moving on to the next phase in her life in Christ.

Robin Chidester completed her ministry internship and has also moved on.

Missions Ministry identified five candidates to replace Rebecca. We reviewed their connection with PC (USA) and with KGPC. We looked at what they are doing in God's name and where in the world they were doing it. We prayed a lot and discussed our preferences and concerns. We hope you will welcome our new missionaries as warmly as you have those who are continuing to represent us.

Both of the selected candidates are husband and wife teams and both husbands are children of KGPC.

The Reverend Jed and Jenny Koball, who were selected to replace Rebecca, serve in Peru. Jed is the Peru facilitator with the Presbyterian hunger program Joining Hands. Jenny is the Peru coordinator for the Presbyterian World Mission Young Adult Volunteer program. They will be returning to the U.S. this spring and we hope to have them come and share their work with us soon.

Jed Koball grew up as a child of KGPC with his parents and 3 older sisters who were very active in the life of the church. Both of his parents were ruling elders, his mother was Stated Clerk, and sisters were youth delegates to the Session. Jed's mother, Betty, was a math professor at TCC and his dad, Walt, an FBI agent. Betty, who taught adult Sunday school classes and VBS, was known for leading Bible verse drills with children and youth. The girls were very active in youth work and the puppet ministry led by Florence Strange.

The church family was saddened when the Koballs moved to the Ozarks and thrilled when they came back to Virginia, even if it was across the state in Blacksburg. Betty followed God's call for a career change and entered Union Theological Seminary, in Richmond. Unfortunately, her life was cut short by cancer at age 62 in 2003, but her example of serving to the glory of God has been followed by her family and especially only son, Jed, who went into full-time ministry and then missions after graduating from St. Andrews Presbyterian College and McCormick Theological Seminary.

Jerry and Katherine Reindeau, who were selected to replace Robin, serve in Virginia. They are both part of the CRU campus ministry at Virginia Tech. We hope to have Jerry and Katherine come speak to us about their ministry in the next month or so.

Jerry also grew up as a child of KGPC with his parents and older sister who were all very active in the life of the church. His dad, Jerry, was a ruling elder, his mother taught Sunday school. Jerry's mother, Mary Ellen, is a computer programmer and his dad, also Jerry, was a bank officer. It was another sad day when they moved to Richmond. His sister, Christy, is a professional firefighter there.

As we approach our annual missionary pledge drive, we will be updating you on each of the missionaries. Look for their information posters in the hallways.

And if you are interested in hosting one of our missionaries during their visit, please get in touch with Kevin Mooney.

