



The Hope Herald

Hope Lutheran Church Newsletter

www.hopeonbluerock.org

April 2025

Worship with HOPE for Lent and Easter!

Lenten Midweek Worship: Lenten Spiritual Practices Wednesdays April 2 - April 9, 7 p.m.

These special services will feature messages from 5 different pastors, one each week, each from an ELCA Church in the Cincinnati area. In addition to Pastor Christie, we will also hear from the Pastors of



Trinity, Augsburg, St. Paul, and Gloria Dei Lutheran Churches. The pastors will rotate locations each week, and you will have the opportunity to hear these different voices

while worshipping right here at Hope. This year's theme is Lenten Spiritual Practices and will feature a different topic by a different pastor each week: Fasting, Repentance/Confession, Hospitality, Almsgiving, and Prayer. Join us for this special time of contemplative worship together.

COMING IN MAY! STORIES OF HOPE

In future issues of the Hope Herald and other social media sources, members of Hope will share their faith journeys that led them to Hope Lutheran Church. These stories will allow us to share in the excitement of the lives that have been changed by attending Hope. **Jerry Ivins**



Easter Candy Donations Needed!!!



Please donate bags of small pre-wrapped candies to fill eggs by April 13, to be used for Hope's Egg Hunt on Easter for our youth. No nuts or peanut butter please.

Maundy Thursday – Midday Holy Communion

April 17, 12 p.m.

New this year! We will commemorate Maundy Thursday with a brief service of Holy Communion at NOON. If this is a work day for you, come on your lunch break and enjoy this quick respite from your busy day. If you're able to stay longer, all are invited to bring your lunch and stay for Bible Study at 1 p.m.



Good Friday Cantata

April 18, 7 p.m. @ Groesbeck Church

Join folks from Hope, Groesbeck, and other community churches as we commemorate Good Friday through song, prayer, and scripture. The Cantata is entitled, "Come to the Cross and Remember" by Pepper Choplin, and will be held at Groesbeck Church (8871 Colerain Ave). All are invited to join the Cantata as singers; contact Karen Schweinfest for rehearsal information.



Easter Sunday Worship & Fellowship, April 20

10 a.m. Worship, followed by the Release of the Doves

11 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast

Our opportunity to worship together on Easter Sunday is always a special day! We will gather for worship at 10 a.m., enjoying the beautiful Easter flowers, as well as special music and traditional Easter readings. The service will conclude with the annual Release of the Doves in the Meditation Garden, followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.



Pastor Christie

Hope Lutheran Church has Inspired Worship every Sunday morning at 10 am. - in person and online @ www.hopeonbluerock.org. Click on Facebook or Youtube at the bottom of the home page. All persons are invited to attend.

PR. CHRISTIE'S CORNER

.Holy Week Lectio Divina

"Holy Week" is what we in the church call the week that begins with Palm Sunday and ends in Easter Sunday. The week can feel like a whirlwind, as we follow Jesus's journey from the celebration of Palm Sunday, through the evening of the last supper, through his arrest and crucifixion. The week culminates of course in the ultimate celebration of the empty tomb on Easter Sunday!



Because there are so many opportunities for worship and activities that week, and because so many topics are covered so quickly, the week can feel a bit overwhelming. On top of worship activities, we all are still living our regular lives. Maybe we're planning Easter celebrations with family and friends, or gearing up for other spring activities. And with all of this, perhaps we can feel a bit stressed out or lose focus in our prayer lives.



This year during Holy Week, I would like to challenge us all to do a daily prayer and meditation using the ancient and sacred practice of Lectio Divina, to help us focus ourselves on journeying with Jesus throughout this time.

How to practice Lectio Divina:

1. **Prepare** - Get comfortable and prepare your heart and mind for prayer and meditation. You may find it helpful to light a candle, find another object to help you focus on your time with God, or play quiet music in the background.

2. **Read** – Read the scripture passage slowly and carefully, possibly multiple times.
3. **Meditate** – Breathe deeply and think about the passage. You may want to think about placing yourself in the story, or focusing on a particular phrase that is feeling most meaningful for you today.
4. **Pray** – Bring your concerns to God, ask for wisdom regarding the passage, and ask that God bring you the “peace that surpasses all understanding” in your life today.
5. **Contemplate** – Rest in God’s presence. Listen for God’s voice, and allow God’s word to fill your heart.

Focus Scriptures for this Holy Week:

- Sun. 4/13 – Luke 22:7-13
- Mon. 4/14 – Luke 22:14-23
- Tues. 4/15 – Luke 22:39-46
- Wed. 4/16 – Luke 22:47-53
- Thur. 4/17 – Luke 22:54-62
- Fri. 4/18 – Luke 23:44-49
- Sat. 4/19 – Luke 23:50-56
- Sun. 4/20 – Luke 24:1-12



May the Peace of Christ surround you this Holy Week and Always, Pastor Christie

**Bible Study - Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws
Thursdays 1 p.m.**

Join Hope's Bible Study group for a Lenten study on the gospel of Luke. As our companion in this study, we will use the book Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws by pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.



Bible Study meets regularly on Thursdays at 1p.m., and is available on zoom as well as in-person. Drop in any week as your schedule allows for sessions of fun, fellowship, and sharing God's word together! Contact Pastor Christie if you have any questions, are interested in joining via zoom, or would be interested in a study series that meets at a different time.

Pastor Christie

APRIL THANK YOU'S & NEWS

Much appreciation to Nan Davis, our resident woodworker, for repairing the Book Nook's bookcases and certain wooden chairs in the sanctuary, and restraining sun-faded sanctuary pews. We are so fortunate Nan is so handy and loves the smell of mineral spirits! 😊

I appreciate the hard work for Judy Royse making the communion bread. **Ruth Oehler, Altar Chair**

Thank you to the many "team" members who have hung pictures, posters, and decorations in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall to enhance the area on the newly painted walls.

We thank you for all the love and support you have given our family during this difficult time. Thank you so much for prayers, beautiful cards, and kindness.



The Russ Vinup Family

Thank you to Judy Royse for decorating our front church entrance for the welcomed season of spring.

To The Hope Family,

Thank you for remembering our mom in your thoughts and prayers and for the wind chimes. We will think of her always but especially when the chimes sound.

Please accept a donation to the church in her memory.

The Hamlin Family

Thank you to Bob Faulhaber for cleaning up the remainder of the fallen tree near our playground. Just call him "Mr. Lumberjack!"

Thank you to Meghan Freland and the Fellowship Committee for the special cocoa and treats after the worship on February 16.



A picture of youth and adults who joined the "**Blessing of the PJ'S**" on February 16.

What a fun unique time thanks to young **Cora Lippert's** suggestion to Pr. Christie!

SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

The Fellowship Committee (**under Meghan and Mike Freland's leadership**) sponsored a Spaghetti Dinner and Basket Raffle to support our dear Beagle Family after a fire destroyed their home. The women of WHOO, with donations from area businesses and members, prepared nearly 30 baskets for auction and raffle. Of course, the beautiful hand carved wooden pheasant of **Nan Davis** below raised the largest bid. **The evening raised \$3653 with 88 persons attending!**

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the success of this evening to help the Beagle family!!



Our main chef Meghan



PEACE STARTS WITH A SMILE

Contributed by Karen Schneider



MORE APRIL NEWS

Thank you to **Lucinda Hardin, Erica Leppert, Meghan and Mike Freland** for supplying Children's Messages during our worship services the past few months.

Thank you to **Bruce Bair** for sharing his voice last month with the Praise Band during a song.

Thank you to **Butch Royse** for constructing the new cabinet for the Family Rest Room.



DEBBIE WALKS AGAIN

On March 14 **Debbie Schrader** walked in the Heart Mini Marathon.

We are so happy that she is able to continue supporting local charities as well as keeping her body healthy!

Let me tell you
about MY
Jesus

He makes a way
where there ain't no way
Rises up from an empty grave
Ain't no sinner that He can't save
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
His love is strong and His grace is free
And the good news is I know that He
Can do for you what He's done for me
Let me tell you 'bout my Jesus
And let my Jesus change your life.

Contributed by Jeanne Fuller

NEW ADDRESSES FOR YOU:

Lucinda Hardin
5822 Island Dr.
Cleveland OH 45002

Jeanne Fuller
Doverwood Village
4195 Hamilton-Mason Rd. #27
Hamilton OH 45011



Their telephone numbers remain the same.

GET CONNECTED TO HOPE!

Ever want more information about what is happening at Hope? There are many ways to get connected to Hope's activities. Check us out on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/hopeonbluerock> - and be sure to like us and check in! Also check Hope's website regularly <https://www.hopeonbluerock.org> for information on events, ways to make donations, a handy up-to-date Google calendar, photo albums, and much more!



Pastor Christie

HOPE FOR HOLY WEEK



As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" **Peter Sulzle church art.com**

ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING

Be kinder than necessary, for every you meet is fighting some kind of battle.

Live simply,

Love generously,

Care deeply, l

Speak kindly.....

Leave the rest. to God.

Be
kind

Author unknown

Contributed by Karen Schneider

"It's not about the bunny; it's about the Lamb."

churchart.com

AWESOME APRIL BIRTHDAY

1	Judi Wendel	19	Angie Brown
4	Donna Jebens		Bob Kelbley
5	Zoey Beagle	20	Miranda Kless
6	Janet Freland		Ed McMasters
	Tim Bessey	21	Olivia Byrne
8	Claire McMasters	22	Lucinda Hardin
10	Amanda Rinear	23	Cade Leppert
11	Anthony Cowan	24	George Phillips, Sr
13	George Albright	27	Phil Hollingsworth
15	Richie Abbott	28	John Wendel
	Tyler Arany	29	Ruth Williams
	Valerie Louie		Bob Faulhaber
16	Finn Abbott		
	Sara Beagle		
	Barb Mack		
17	Becky Lister		



HOPE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH

All men of Hope Lutheran are invited to the next gathering of the HOPE MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCH. This will be at the Red Squirrel restaurant on **Monday, March 31 (3/31/2025)**, at 12:00 noon. This is the Hope men's group that gathers once each month to foster fellowship, conversation and good food. This time Spring weather too.



Note: The group meets on the last Monday of each month. In April it would be the 28th. *D a v e McBride*

WHOO

The women met on February 27th to prepare baskets for the Beagle Fundraiser on March 8. To add to generous donations collected at church, they donated \$200 toward other prep materials and gift cards for the baskets. Also matching funds were received from Thrivent.



On March 27 the women discussed organizing a 75th anniversary dinner for Hope this fall. Thank you to **Ruth Oehler** for leading a devotion, and Karen **Schneider** for a delicious dessert.

The next meeting for WHOO is scheduled for April 24 at 6 pm. All women are encouraged to bring a light meal and join in the fellowship.

SOME HUMOR FOR YOU

Why was the Easter bunny so grumpy?
It had a bad hare day!

What do you call a bunny with fleas?
Bugs bunny

Why did the Easter egg hide?
It was a little chicken

What did the egg do when it heard a funny joke?
It cracked up!



SON MINISTRIES

The food pantry housed at Groesbeck Church continues to be busy distributing edible items and personal care to those in need in our area.



The totals for February are 149 households with 334 adults and 140 children for a grand total of 474 persons.

For April, SON is requesting donations of fruit cocktail or saltine crackers.

In the Narthex bins at Hope marked SON, we collect food and personal care items plus paper grocery and plastic bags for distribution.

Blessed Lent and Happy Easter to all of you,

SON recently received some specialty items from Hickory Farms. For Valentine's Day, we gave families, sausage and cheese kits and crackers. For Easter we've put together Easter eggs with their candy to give to the families. We are happy to give a fun gift to the families – just like your birthday cakes and icing!

For April, we are collecting saltines (\$1.79 at Walmart) and fruit cocktail.

We appreciate your donations and help always!

Jo Dossenback, SON Ministries

THE BLESSING OF FELLOWSHIP

Between the death of Christ and the Last Day it is only by gracious anticipation of the last things that Christians are privileged to live in invisible fellowship with other Christians. It is by the grace of God that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly in this world to share God's Word and sacrament. Not all Christians receive this blessing. The imprisoned, the sick, the scattered lonely, the proclaimers of the Gospel in heathen lands stand alone. They know that visible fellowship is a blessing.



Dietrich Bon Hoeffler, churchart.com

*May you have enough happiness to make you sweet,
Enough trials to make you strong,
Enough sorrow to keep you human,
enough hope to make you happy.*



Contributed by Karen Schneider

HOPE DIRECTORY APP

FOR YOUR COMPUTER OR PHONE Directions are on the church counter or check for Instant Church Directory.



**Changes are continuously made. New pictures are requested. If you have changed your email address, you will need to re-enroll. It will not recognize the new email address for confidentiality purposes.*

Please contact Jerry Ivins for any changes.

KROGER REWARDS PROGRAM

1. Visit KrogerCommunityRewards.com



2. Sign in to your online account, or create an account.

3. Find and select Hope Lutheran and click "Enroll."

Hope's 5 digit number is 80286.

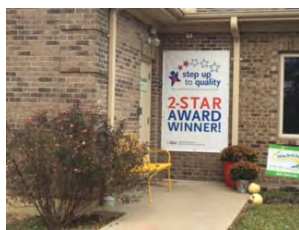
Please join today!

HOPE'S CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

To donate to Hope: Checks may be mailed to 4695 Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, OH 45247 or brought to church.

Digital donations may be submitted at www.hopeonbluerock.org. Click on "Giving" and then click on "Online Giving" and choose how you wish to donate - either by ChurchTrac or PayPal. For questions email **Ron Long** at finance@hopeonbluerock.org

YELLOW BRICK ROAD CHILD CARE



We are proud of Kayla Wiley's 2 Star award rating for her child care facility!

Need childcare? Call 513-601-2596 or send an email to the address below:

yellowbrickroadchildcare@gmail.com

PRAYER CHAIN INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a prayer chain request: Complete this online form <https://www.hopeonbluerock.org/prayer-requests/>, or send an email to prayer@hopeonbluerock.org, or call Pastor Christie 317-828-5949 (cell) 513-923-3370 (church office)



Interested in receiving prayer chain emails?

Email prayer@hopeonbluerock.org with your contact information, and we will get you added to the list.

DON'T FORGET OUR NARTHEX BINS!

-Used toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes and floss containers for UC Blue Dental Program

-Food and personal care donations for SON Ministries

-Pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House

-Religious materials for Love Packages

-Pill bottles that are cleaned and without labels for Matthew 25



-Eye glasses for the Lyon's Club

-New or gently used Books for Side-by-Side Ministry

-Men's & Women's Clothing for Franciscan Sisters of the Poor

Also paper and cardboard (clean and not greasy or wet) in blue recycle bin

Drink can and bottles (empty and rinsed) in the green bin in the Fellowship Hall

Adult and children's books in the Book Nook

LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with



Southwest California and Pacifica synods to assess the most urgent needs for the communities that are being devastated by wildfires.

100% of the donation designated as "U.S. Wildfires" will go directly to serve these communities.

To donate, you may:

1. Click here <https://give.elca.org/page/77859/donate/1> to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response.

2. Send donations to the Southern Ohio synod, designated for U.S. Wildfires and we will forward them to Lutheran Disaster Response on your behalf.



EASTER INSIGHTS

Did you know the word Easter never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. Eostre stems from the Proto-Germanic word for dawn, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horseradish and lamb-shaped butter.

Churchart.com

HOPE'S BOTTOM LINE



February 2025

General Fund

Total	MONTH	YTD
Beginning Balance	\$ 67,226.39	\$ 48,221.99
Revenues	\$ 11,438.96	\$ 44,128.21
Expenses	\$ 21,162.44	\$ 34,847.29
Transfers In	\$ 00.00	\$ 0.00
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 57,502.91	\$ 57,502.91

Memorial Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 47,912.14	\$ 47,911.74
Transfers In	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$.37	\$ 77
Transfers Out	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,024.00
Ending Balance	\$ 47,912.51	\$ 47,912.51

Wilma Hoffman Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 1,658.20	\$ 1,655.66
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 2.30	\$ 4.84
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 1,660.50	\$ 1,660.50

Mission Building Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 9,206.35	\$ 9,192.25
Transfers In	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 12.77	\$ 26.87
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 9,219.12	\$ 9,219.12

Capital One CD

Beginning Balance	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Deposit	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Disbursements	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

John Simpson, Treasurer

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

March 13, 2025



◆**Ron Long, Financial Secretary/Generosity:** here was a deposit of \$3523 for the Beagles fundraiser during March and \$2200 in donations to the Family Assistance Fund.

◆The Generosity Committee has approached some members about telling their faith story as it relates to Hope.

◆**Jerry Ivins, Community Relations:** 88 persons attended the Beagles Fundraiser. Also the new sign has caused problems with the circuit breaker and the brightness of the sign and the brightness

of the sign seems be malfunctioning.

◆**Joy Ivins, Spiritual Formation: Erica Leppert** volunteered to organize the Easter Egg Hunt.

◆**Mike Schweinfest, Property/Maintenance:** There is a plan to cut down the bushes by the new sign. He is making a list of maintenance problems. The septic tank needs to be emptied. The kitchen gas stove was repaired after the fundraising dinner.

◆The Synod Assembly on June 6-7 will be held at the Columbus Zoo. **Volunteers are needed to attend with Pastor.**

We discussed having a picnic with our 4 Lutheran church partners churches.

The council discussed the 5th chapter of the book, "Our Structure."

Ruth Oehler will serve on the 2024 Audit Committee. Still needed are 2 other volunteers.

The council passed hiring an Administrative Assistant for Pastor for 20 hours per week to help with some office duties.

◆Possible new guidelines for the rental of the Fellowship Hall were discussed.

From the minutes of Alita Simpson, Council Secretary



ARTICLES FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF THE HOPE HERALD ARE REQUESTED BY

SUNDAY, APRIL 20TH.

ARTICLES MAY BE EMAILED TO

joyceivins@icloud.com or anytime before that date.



Puzzle!

Unscramble the names of these biblical mothers. Look up the verse if you need help. Then use the letters on the numbered blanks to complete the message below.

- VEE (Genesis 3:20) 6 11
- NNAHAH (1 Samuel 1:20) 14
- RBAHEOD (Judges 5:7) 18 3
- KREEHAB (Genesis 27:5) 16 5
- EHLA (Genesis 30:14) 1
- CLEHRA (Genesis 30:22) 7 12
- MOIAN (Ruth 1:22) 10 17 13
- RAAHS (Genesis 17:19) 8
- AMYR (Matthew 2:11) 2
- ZEBLEHATI (Luke 1:13) 9 15 4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 G F F G !
 13 8 14 15 4 16 10 17 3 18

Answers: Eve, Hannah, Deborah, Rebekah, Leah, Rachel, Naomi, Sarah, Mary, Elizabeth;
 A mother's love is a gift from God!



April 2025

March 2025							April 2025							May 2025							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
						1		1	2	3	4	5							1	2	3
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
30	31																				

Hope Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
30 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	31 10:00AM SON @ GMC 12:00PM Men's Fellowship Group 4:00PM Griefshare	1	2 10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band 7:00PM Lenten Worship	3 1:00PM Bible Study 2:00PM Worship Committee Meeting	4 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	5	
6 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	7 10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:00PM Griefshare 7:15PM Strategic Planning Team Zoom	8	9 10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band 7:00PM Lenten Worship	10 1:00PM Bible Study 7:00PM Council Meeting in person	11 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off 8:00AM Lifeline in Fellowship Hall	12	
13 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	14 10:00AM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band	15	16 10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC	17 12:00PM Maundy Thursday Holy Communion 1:00PM Bible Study	18 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	19	
20 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	21 10:00AM SON @ GMC 6:00PM Praise Band	22-24 Pastor on vacation				25 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	26
27 Pastor on vacation 10:00AM Worship: In-Person & Livestream	28 10:00AM SON @ GMC 12:00PM Men's Fellowship Group 6:00PM Praise Band	29	30 10:00AM SON @ GMC 4:30PM SON @ GMC	1 1:00PM Bible Study	2 7:00AM Pastor's Day Off	3	

The Hope Herald
Hope Lutheran Church
Pastor Christie Beckmann
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www.hopeonbluerock.org



OUR MISSION

We are anchored in faith and saved by God's grace. Led by the Holy Spirit, it is our purpose to invite all to know hope, love, and peace through Jesus Christ.



Pastor:	Christie Beckmann
Choir Director:	Karen Schweinfest
Organist:	Bruce Bair
Altar Care:	Ruth Oehler
Prayer Chain:	Carmen Hasdorff
Web Site:	Pastor Christie Jerry Ivins
Facebook:	Mary Bryant
Kitchen Manager	Karen Schneider
Worship Assistants:	Nan Davis Jerry Ivins Ruth Oehler Joy Ivins

HOPE HERALD STAFF:

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Clip Art:	Jerry Ivins

