

Our Values

WORSHIP OF GOD THAT
INSPIRES HEARTS AND MINDS

SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS, OUR
NEIGHBORS, AND THE WORLD

SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

BEING A CARING COMMUNITY
OF FAITH



Strawbridge
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Messenger

January 2011

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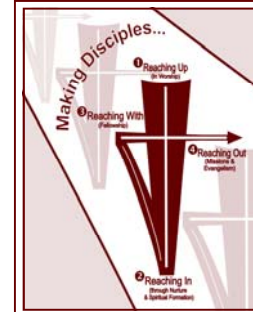
From the Pastor's Desk

Without a vision, the people perish. (Proverbs 29:18)

As recommended by the Joel Committee and as unanimously approved by our Annual Church Conference, a ministry priority in the coming year will be work towards a master, unified vision which will identify primary initiatives of the church, prioritize resource allocations, and drive development talks in staffing, facilities, and programming. The master vision will be informed by deliberate dialogue with all interested church members and sub-groups, a visioning process which be saturated in prayer and Bible study.

Our winter and spring initiatives in preaching will foster this visioning process by clarifying core dynamics and elements of disciple-making in community, and clarifying fundamentals surrounding each soul's journey to and in salvation.

"Crosswalk" is the name I'm giving to a series of messages in January and February reflecting upon our mission (to "Make Disciples... Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching With, and Reaching Out") and key processes related to fulfilling that mission as a community. (See story on page 3.)



"Restoring First Generation Faith"

is the name I'm giving to a series of Lenten and Easter reflections based on the Beatitudes (which serve as a preamble in our Lord's Sermon on the Mount [in Matthew]). In the Beatitudes of our Lord are timeless principles of transformation and restoration in the [Master] image of Christ.

When undergirded by your presence and your prayers, these messages and the greater "Season of Visioning" promise great returns for our lives and living—both as individuals and as a community. I pray you won't let the invitation and potential of these days pass you by!

Pastor Jim

two left feet



Pastor Jim's New Blog

Pastor Jim Reiter...

“two left feet” will be “the ramblings of a clumsy Christian [pastor]... seeking an authentic ‘dancing’ in the 21st Century.” More details coming!



January Mission Focus—Souper Bowl of Caring

Food pantries at our partner area assistance ministries, HAAM and The Mission Northeast, were stretched to meet holiday needs. Their shelves are now bare, but the demand for their basic services never goes away.

More than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring began

with a simple prayer, “Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat.” In this spirit, Strawbridge will be conducting a drive to collect non-perishable food items to help restock these two food pantries. The collection period will run from

Sunday, January 16 through game day on Sunday, February 6.

Our goal is to collect 2,500 items (last year we collected 2,000). We hope to involve all of the Strawbridge family in this local outreach project. Watch for additional details.



We are thrilled to welcome new Director of Small Group Ministry, Mary Lallier! Mary is replacing Joy Johnston who has stepped down after doing a terrific job. Thank you Joy! Contact Mary at mary.lallier@strawbridge-umc.org to learn more about how you can plug into small groups at SUMC.

New Study Opportunities

The **Discover Sunday School Class** will begin studying Francis Chan's book *Crazy Love*. Contact Chris Hanz at christian_hanz@yahoo.com or Lance Permenter, lpermenter@msn.com.

In January **The Explorers Class** begins a new Adam Hamilton study of the his-

tory of Christian denominations, *Christianity Family Tree: What Other Christians Believe*. Contact Sam Roxburgh, LNROXBURGH@HOTMAIL.COM, Donna Ullrich, ccullrich@msn.com, Lynetta Campbell, lkCampbell@aol.com, or Shayne Wright, swright@powereng.com.

The **Page Turners Book Club** will meet Tuesday, January 25 to discuss *Lady's Maid* by Margaret Foster. Lillian Hood will host at her home. Please contact Mary Lynne Weemer at mlw02@earthlink.net or 281-358-9497 with questions. Come join us to discuss, or just to listen!

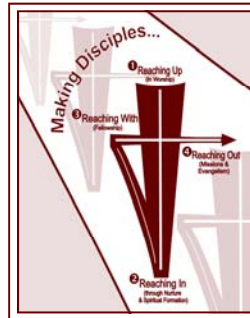
“Crosswalk” Sermon Series—January and February 2011

“Crosswalk” is the name of the Pastor’s Orientation Class at Strawbridge. Our prayer is that it informs new members and guests of their “walk with the cross” while also providing a safe place to “cross” into the Strawbridge Family of Faith. So important is this class to conveying the church’s Mission (for newcomers and for folks who have been around for a while) that church leadership asked Pastor Reiter to find a venue in which to share the contents of this class with the entire congregation. Accordingly, throughout January and February, we’ll “unpack” SUMC’s mission to “Make Disciples by Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching With, and Reaching Out.”

The purposes of the Church (and of each Christian disciple) are universal. Therefore, the series ultimately focuses on the timeless questions which face us all (“why are we here?,” “what is our purpose—as individuals and as a community?”). The class tenders the answer that we all have a need to reach up (in worship), let God reach in (through means of spiritual formation), reach with others (in “fellowship”), and reach out to others (in word and deed). **Because Sunday messages will make weekly discussions relevant to members and to explorers and inquirers of the Christian faith, this is an ideal time to invite and bring a friend, a family member, or a neighbor.**

Titles and texts in the series include:

- 1/9 - A Reason to Live, A Reason to Be (Jeremiah 29:10-14)
- 1/16 - We All Have A Need to “Reach Up:” Worship (Matthew 22:34-40)
- 1/23 - We All Have A Need to [Let God] “Reach In:” Spiritual Formation (Luke 6:39-49)
- 1/30 - We All Have A Need to [Let God] “Reach In:” Developing a Rule for Holy Living (John 15:1-11)
- 2/6 - We All Have A Need to “Reach With:” Fellowship (Ephesians 2:13-22)
- 2/13 - We All Have A Need to “Reach With:” Finding Your Place in the Body (Acts 2:42-47)
- 2/20 - We All Have A Need to “Reach Out:” Evangelism and Ministry (2 Corinthians 5:16-20)
- 2/27 - We All Have A Need to “Reach Out:” Discovering and Connecting Your H.E.A.R.T. for Ministry (1 Corinthians 12:12-30)



Schedule your photo shoot for the new pictorial directory. Professional photo shoot dates are January 13, 14, and 15. Sign up now for a time that works for your family by calling 1-800-866-2263.



End of Year Giving

Please remember that all 2010 contributions must be dated prior to year-end and delivered or postmarked by December 31, 2010 to receive credit for the 2010 tax year. Do not file your 2010 income tax return until you have received written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed by January 31.

Implied in “Crosswalk” is an ideal portrait of the Strawbridge Family of Faith and the culture (the “DNA”) we seek to be:

- a congregation that knows and can recite our mission
- a congregation that knows what it is—in mind and deed—to call Jesus Christ, “Lord and Savior”
- a congregation that is committed to weekly worship and celebration
- a congregation that knows what it is to distill the essential elements of Sunday worship into their daily living.
- a congregation in which every member is connected to a small group of “belonging”
- a congregation in which “drifting away” is arrested on the basis of each small group’s sense of responsibility for its members... and its plan of action for noticing absent members
- a congregation of members who are driven by a sense of a “Rule for Faithful Living”
- a congregation in which every member knows the “shape of their H.E.A.R.T.”
- a congregation in which every member’s “H.E.A.R.T.” is connected to an area of joyful and gratifying service
- a church culture which understands and affirms the centrality of the “Great Commission” in our Mission
- a congregation which prioritizes Faith-Sharing and its attending supporters—“inviting and bringing a friend [to various events],” hospitality, etc.—in the life of the Church

—from “An Invitation to ‘Crosswalk’”



Soul Feast

Winter 2011

**Food for Body and Soul
Wednesday Evenings
January 19—February 16**

Wednesday Evening Supper

Supper is served from 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Cost: \$5 per person with \$20 max per family.
Reservations are required and supper is optional. Please call the church office at 281-360-4500 by Monday at noon for reservations.

Wednesday Evening Classes

10 Commandment's from the Backside by Ellsworth Kalas

This study shows new possibilities of insight into the familiar Ten Commandments by restating them in the positive and showing how they were intended to make life richer and more fulfilling. This is a 10 week study, and this group will also study the book of Revelation. This class will be ongoing. This group will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 207. For more information contact:
Roxann Bentsen at 281-361-4523.

Country Western Dancing

Grab your partner or come alone and learn the Texas Two-Step, Country Waltz, Country Polka, and Swing. The cost is \$35 per couple per month, and this class will be ongoing. This group will meet in the Strawbridge Activity Center from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. For more information contact: Lynetta Campbell at 281-361-3511 or Carol Kollehner at 281-360-5436.

Women's Retreat Continued...

This group will meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. in Room 151
For more information contact:
Kathy Reiter at 281-312-2533

Teaching Your Child about Worship

Learn how to help your child grow in the understanding of, and participation in, our worship services. This group will meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. in Room 209. For more information contact:
Kimberly Kurtz at 281-360-4500

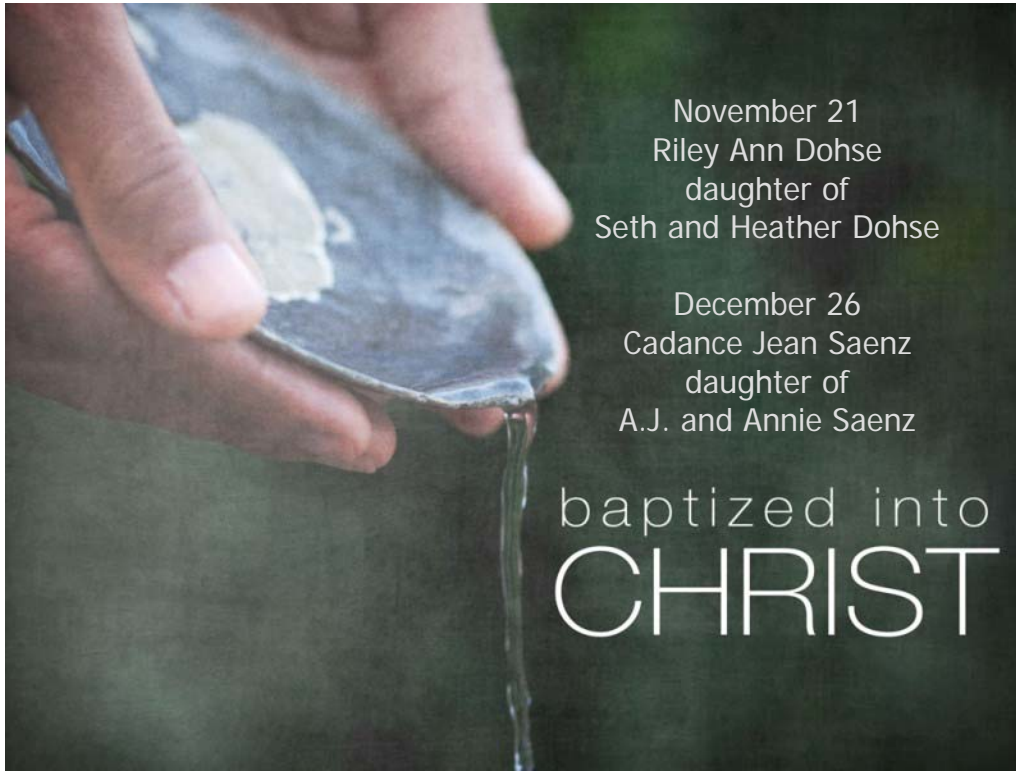
Journeys in the Footsteps of Paul

Gleaning from slides and teachings from his travels in Bible lands, Pastor Reiter will survey the life of St. Paul through that lens which is the Book of Acts. Special regard will be given to applying insights to our contemporary lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. This group will meet from 6:30 to 7:25 p.m. in the Chapel (Great Hall). For more information contact: Jim Reiter at 281-360-4500



Photos by Jason Welborn

December 5, 2010, The Children's Choirs
Presented "The Gift Goes On" Directed by
Cathy Hutzell

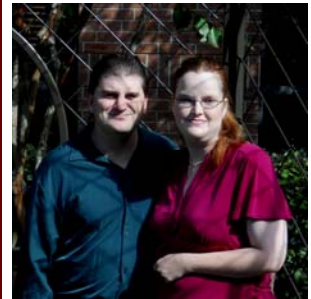


November 21
Riley Ann Dohse
daughter of
Seth and Heather Dohse

December 26
Cadance Jean Saenz
daughter of
A.J. and Annie Saenz

baptized into
CHRIST

Welcome New Members!



Travis Maddox and
Virginia Brown

Welcome New Babies!



Hannah Rose Burnett,
born October 31, 2010 to
Chris and Ashley Burnett.
Proud grandparents are
Charlie and Cheryl Burnett,
and proud great-grandmother
is Rose Burnett.

Elias Scott Rollo,
born November 2, 2010, to
Alex and Paula Rollo.
The proud grandparents are
Chuck and Cindy Rollo.

Garrett Nolan Duncan,
born November 25, 2010 to
Christy and Tim Duncan.

Men's Ministry News

Men's Retreat

The men of Strawbridge will come together on Friday evening, February 11 and Saturday morning, February 12 for a period of fellowship and spiritual reflection framed by the rhetorical question "How, Then, Should We Serve?". The retreat will feature two guest speakers; Rob

Renfroe, Pastor of Discipleship at The Woodlands UMC, and Steve Lufburrow, President and CEO of Goodwill Industries of Houston, and an active member of St. Luke's UMC.

Mark your calendars and make plans now to attend. Registration will begin in mid-January.

Men's Evening Bible Study and Fellowship

Plans are underway to begin an ecumenical men's evening Bible study and fellowship group in Kingwood. If you're interested or would like to learn more, contact Craig Freeman at scfchief@gmail.com or 281-360-6877.

What is a Stephen Minister?



They are among us... No, we are not talking about angels or aliens. We are talking about individuals who care about others. If you or someone you know wants to do more as a Christian caregiver, consider Stephen Ministry.

This is our congregation's one-to-one caregiving ministry. Stephen ministers use words and deeds to express Christ's care

for others by listening and comforting, calling on the training they have received and employing the tools of faith.

If this job description fits your personal goals for ministry, consider becoming a Stephen minister. A training class is starting soon. We will equip you to give effective Christian care. Call Bev Puckett at 281-360-6687, or Ellen Cosio 281-360-6337.



XYZ—55+ Ministry News

Lipstick and Lunch, will resume Monday, January 24. Our focus will be "Compelling Questions."



Curious?

Lipstick and Lunch welcomes all at-home and mostly-at-home moms of any age and stage. Pack a lunch and see what all the fun is about! We feed our minds, bodies, hearts and souls together.

Time: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Place: Room 151

Childcare is available. Contact Barbara Livesay at barbara.livesay@gmail.com for more details.

10th Night Party Monday, January 3

Come to the 10th Night Party at Strawbridge and join the fun on Monday, January 3, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Formerly known as the 12th Night Party... but who's counting.) You must be at least age 50 to attend...no young'uns allowed. We will have music, lunch, games, and a white elephant gift exchange.

Bring a wrapped white elephant gift for the gift exchange. It should be something cheap. The gift can be useless (or not) or funny or cute or strange. Also, bring a desert to share (this is optional). Sign up by calling Rose Burnett at 281-358-8288 or e-mail her at rburnett001@comcast.net.

Star of the Republic Museum Trip

Meet the bus at Strawbridge on Wednesday, February 2, at 10 a.m. (We'll return at about 3:45 p.m.) After a lunch stop at the delicious Garden Café and Brazos Bakery in Hempstead, we'll continue on to Washington on the Brazos State Park and The Star of the Republic Museum. This is an excellent museum with outstanding displays.

The exhibits on the first floor present a chronological history of early Texas, beginning with the first Texans, the Native Americans, and continuing to the Texan soldiers who fought for independence. Intriguing artifacts on the first level include: The Reading of the Texas Declaration of Independence, a

1936 painting of the men who signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, and the Lone Star Flag (the oldest known Texas flag from the period of 1839-1846).

The second floor exhibits depict the social and multicultural history of the 1830's and 1840's. The exhibits portray the daily life practices of the Republic settlers. The second level's attractions include: a simulated riverboat trip down the Brazos River and an observation deck to view 300 acres of the historic site.

Sign up at the church office, 281-360-4500, or e-mail Trish at trish.king@strawbridge-umc.org. Cost of the trip is \$5 plus your lunch.

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."



Galatians 6:9, NIV

Christmas Cheer Generously Given by Strawbridge

How Then Shall We Give?

Strawbridge members supported three organizations and the people they serve during the Christmas season. We're happy to report that members and friends of the church gave generously!

The young people living at the Methodist Children's Home facilities in Waco received 212 Wal-Mart gift

cards for a total of \$5,300. Seven families, a total of 26 people, from Mission Milby received clothes, food, and toys with a total value of about \$2,000. The Mission Northeast received 198 gifts and gift cards with an approximate value of \$3,750.

The love of Christ was felt by 436 recipients, and approximately 200 people experienced the joy of giving.

The question, "How then shall we give?" was answered by unselfish giving to others. From those who experienced your generosity—THANK YOU!



EMMAUS Gathering

Everyone is invited to an Emmaus covered dish dinner and gathering on Saturday February 19, 2011 at 6 p.m. in the Activity Center.

Please bring: A-H Salad, J-R a Casserole/Entrée, S-Z a Dessert. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to CiCi Strube at 702-932-7763 or CiCiEsq@cox.net. Haven't been to Emmaus yet? No Problem! EVERYONE is welcome!

Prayer Requests

Sympathy to:

Will and Laurie Bridges and family on the death of Will's grandfather.

Joy and Liza Tuan and family on the death of Liza's mother.

For our family and friends who are experiencing illness or injury:

Elaime James (mother-in-law of Elisha James); Michael Rey Brown (brother of Virginia Marie Brown); Bud Atkins (friend of Kim Kennedy); Rose Brown; Grandmother of Elisha James; Perry Lewis (father of Larry Lewis); Marianne Armosky; Bill Miller (Sandy Telljohann's father); Inman Vaughn (father of Rev. Beth Chenault); Arch and Shelley Moore (brother and sister-in-law of Joy Sievertson); Thomas Joseph Stanton; Alicia (niece of Pauline and Garry Musy); David Wells (brother of Carolyn Reed); Mike Harris

For our family and friends who are recovering from surgery:

Emily Munger Akins; Beatrice Smith; Doris Lakatos (mother of Margie Freeman)

For our military family and friends who are deployed overseas:

Kyle Johnson (brother of Kari Johnson); Wesley Smith (son of Marsha and Frank Johnson); Spencer Brady (friend of the Capaletti family); Michael Cox (son of Karla Goolsby); John Sarno (nephew of Judy Brown); Heather Lane; Lance Stephens

For our family and friends who are living with cancer:

Carolyn (aunt of Phil Hoener)

Debra (co-worker of Halina Duncan)

Trey (cousin of Brenda Hulse)

George (co-worker of Rick Bryan)

Kris Bryan (brother of Rick Bryan)

June (aunt of Ann Bryan)

Amy and Catherine (nieces of Rick and Ann Bryan)

Cade (13-year-old friend of Ann Bryan's daughter's family)

Megan (friend of Ashlyn Smith)

Matt (teammate of Cody Smith)

Stacey (niece of Cindy Rasch)

Kelly, Andrea, Mary Anne (friends of Frank and Marsha Johnson)

Debbie (friend of Pat Chandler)

Sandra (aunt of Sherry Burger)

Ryan (godson of Amelia Keel)

Joel, Mary, Dave

Sam (father of Sindi Sonnier)

Jeanette (friend of Jan and Freddie Black)

Rosalyn (co-worker of Elisha James)

Bill (brother-in-law of Ron Flinn)

Wanda (friend of Pat Flinn)

Joyce (friend of Kelsey Belflower)

Lucy (3-year-old daughter of a friend of David Bornstein)

Linda (sister of Sherry Burger)

Debbie (cousin of Linda Barnett)

Jack, Marge, Lucy, Mr. Miller (friends of John and Linda Barnett)

Meagan (sister-in-law of Jennifer Cargill)

Anne (friend of Jennifer Cargill)

Charlie (3-year-old cousin of the Drees Family)

Peggy (sister of Sam Ellington)

Howard (brother of Carolyn Treynor)

Jeane (grandmother Laurel Erickson)

Ward (father of Sky Cheney)

Vivian (friend of Theresa Snyder)

Rob (son-in-law of Sue and Donald Howlett)

Carol (friend of Paul and Brenda Hulse)

Maria (friend of Laurie Zalewski)

Heather (friend of the Ahmanns)

Frank (grandfather of Erin Robbins)

Jennifer (cousin of LaNell Anderson)

David (friend of Bill Chenault)

Jim (stepfather of Gary Williams)

Mike (friend of Doris Anne Moomaw)

Martha (mother of George and Carolyn Reed)

Debbie (cousin of Linda Bell)

Tom (brother of Cheryl Burnett)

Keith (friend of Layne Smith)

Matt (nephew of Layne Smith)

Sean (friend of Lauren Llewellyn)

Richard (cousin of Barbara Stream)

Grant (BBLC student)

Tom (father of Doug Henry)

Ron (friend of Carolyn Ruth)



To honor the need for privacy regarding medical information, it is necessary to list first names only for some of our friends and family.

Advent Offering - How Then Shall We Give?

As Jesus reminded his disciples: "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Because God has showered us with His blessings—including the incredible gift of His Son—we should give unselfishly to others of our time, love, and possessions. Please take the time to digest, and prayerfully consider your response to, the recent mailing which details SUMC's 2010 Advent Offering. The offering will satisfy 2011 covenant commitments with four of our local mission partners (Family Promise of Lake Houston, The Mission Northeast, Mission Milby Community Development Corporation, The Carole and Ronald Krist Samaritan Center for Counseling and Education). Beyond that, we will begin replenishing our Habitat for Humanity fund as we look forward to construction of our third home in early 2012. Campaign goal is \$25,000—achievable if we all do our part! To paraphrase Paul's message to the church of Corinth, "...it doesn't matter how much you have; what matters is how much you are willing to give from what you have." (2 Corinthians 8:10-12)

To date \$13,340 has been given toward the \$25,000 goal. \$1,850 of this total has been given by the SUMC staff in lieu of exchanging gifts with each other.

**STRAWBRIDGE
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

5629 Kingwood Drive
Kingwood, Texas 77345
281-360-4500
www.strawbridge-umc.org

E-mail submissions to:
karla.goolsby@strawbridge-umc.org

Submission Deadline:	For Issue:
January 15	February

**Strawbridge United
Methodist Church Staff**

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ASSOCIATE PASTOR
The Rev. Beth Chenault
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Kimberly Kurtz
SR. ADULT MINISTRY DIRECTOR
Trish King
SMALL GROUP MINISTRY DIRECTOR
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DIRECTOR OF VISUAL ARTS
Jeff Rose
CROSSROADS PRAISE BAND LEADER
Chris Dickson

A Spiritual Sanctuary in a Hectic World

January Birthdays

1/1	Amanda Bleier	1/12	Chris Lallier	1/24	Chip Price
1/1	Gaylan Lero	1/13	Rob Barjenbruch	1/24	Michael Oates
1/1	Hunter Ott	1/13	Scott Nielsen	1/24	William Drees
1/2	Harper Bauserman	1/13	Gayle Hanz	1/25	Kevin Brown
1/2	Amber Pieri	1/14	Will Bauserman	1/25	Patrick Belflower
1/3	Debbie Marty	1/14	Bailey Raines	1/26	Justin Berner
1/3	Beth Chenault	1/14	David Wolf	1/26	Kenneth Hall
1/3	Glenda Johnson	1/15	Alicia Hudgens	1/26	Bill Wesson
1/4	Brett Bookout	1/15	Pat Graham	1/26	Susan Essick
1/4	Steve Erickson	1/15	LuAnn Schmidt	1/27	Rachel Ehrhardt
1/4	William Schramm	1/16	Phil Hoener	1/27	Trey Van Dyke
1/5	Laurie Starkey	1/16	Michael Cosio	1/27	Joy Johnston
1/5	Theresa Graham	1/17	Adrianna Suarez	1/28	Kyle Marvin
1/5	Thomas Bruns	1/19	Lee Chenault	1/28	Jarrett Smith
1/5	Renee May	1/19	Lisa Retrum	1/28	Charles Berner
1/6	Anne Branton	1/19	Nancy Ahmann	1/28	Madison Baumer
1/6	RJ Goss	1/19	Kris Tuan	1/29	Barbara Stream
1/7	Cayley Kent	1/19	Karen Dillewyn	1/29	Paul Fagin
1/7	Wineva Hankamer	1/19	Asher Thorn	1/30	John Gandy
1/7	Hunter Henrick	1/20	Alan Stivers	1/30	Jonathan Visted
1/7	Trenton Bookout	1/20	Autumn Roberts	1/30	Shane Clarke
1/7	Rick Mitchell	1/20	Harold James	1/30	Chelsea Grayson
1/7	Madison Pfeiffer	1/20	Lori Wills	1/30	Nila Ware
1/8	Victor Villegas	1/20	Sandy Harris	1/30	David Lynch
1/8	Jack Paradysz	1/21	Lauren Thomson	1/30	Talon Benton
1/9	Robert Bleier	1/21	Kelli Reynolds	1/31	Garrett Wills
1/9	Bonnie Deterding	1/21	Sharon Deterding	1/31	Erin Okeson
1/10	Angela Tombari	1/21	Kristi Telljohann	1/31	Jonathan Grigsby
1/10	Ellen Carter	1/23	John Swank		
1/10	BJ Olonilua	1/23	Irene Seib		
1/10	Sybil Wolfe	1/24	Meghan Musy		
1/10	Jane Steele	1/24	Ryan Lerman		
1/11	Kimberly Liebst	1/24	Neely Fansher		

