

Grace Vine

Newsletter of Grace Bible Fellowship
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Pastor's Corner by Keith Vik

Prayer for Strength

God's ways sure seem funny to us at times. Take, for instance, "Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance." (Jm. 1:2-3) Personally I don't really *enjoy* tough times or circumstances. Rather I try to not have trials. Many, if not most, people want to avoid things that are difficult and tension raising. But not God. "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on *rejoicing*, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may *rejoice* with exultation." (I Pt 4:12-13)

I was challenged this past week by an insight from a pastor who has quite a few years on me in ministry. He said it has been his observation over the years that most prayer requests given in a local church setting could be summed up by, "God, change my/his/her circumstances!" Whether that circumstance was a body ailment, a lack of money, job problems, marriage issues, etc. they had and have a tendency to focus on the situation and not God, His purposes, power

and provision within the trial. In other words, "God, make **it** go away!"

God's way can be the way He dealt with Joseph the deliverer of Jacob's family. (You can read it in Gen. 37-50.) Put a man through trials to prepare him for ministry. I think from the example of most leaders in the Biblical accounts that trials were *necessary* for the power of God to be present. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the power will be of God and not from ourselves." (II Cor.: 4:7)

This runs so contrary to the course of the culture around us which lives for the moment and wants life to be as easy as possible and trouble free. It isn't of course, hence the complaints, fights and anger so prevalent to mankind. I hear a lot of "change my circumstances" and life would be better in the news and lives of our society. Then I read a promise from Jesus like this; "Be on guard, so that your hearts will not be weighted down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and the day will not come suddenly on you like a trap; for it will come upon all those who dwell on the face of the earth. But keep on the alert

at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place and to stand before the Son of Man." (Lk. 21:34-36)

So instead of praying "make it go away" it would be better to pray for the strength to endure until the time of God's appointing's are fulfilled in the thing that is the trial. Instead of focusing a prayer that says "change my circumstance" we might want to consider a worship filled "not my will but yours be done".

When we **P-U-S-H (Pray Until Something Happens)** we are not giving in to circumstances, we are just not letting them be the driver of our life car. We are trusting our true test driver - The Lord Jesus Christ.



Letterboxing by Marilyn Jaeger

I was asked at one time to write an article about a fun hobby called Letterboxing. *So, here goes.* Most of you have probably heard of 'geocaching'... well, this is similar but I would say possibly more family-friendly with no need for a GPS and many Letterboxes are placed where even handicapped people can find them.

So, about the hobby. Quoting **Atlasquest**, "Letterboxing is an intriguing pastime combining artistic ability with delightful 'treasure-hunts' in beautiful, scenic places that the whole family can enjoy. Participants seek out hidden letterboxes by following clues, and then record their discovery in their personal journal with the help of a rubber stamp that's part of the letterbox. In addition, letterboxers have their own personal stamps which they use to stamp into the letterbox's logbook."

Letterboxing began in quite an unusual way back in 1854 in Dartmoor, England. A guide named James Perrott placed a bottle in a wild, quite inaccessible area along the banks of Cranmere Pool. He placed his calling card in the bottle so future visitors could contact him and leave their own calling cards. Who would have known this simple act would turn into the hobby now known as letterboxing? (In 1888, a small tin box replaced the bottle.) As it turned out, instead of calling cards, people started leaving a self-addressed post card in the box and the next person mailed it back to them indicating, of course, that they found the box. They would then leave their own post card behind.

By 1905 a zinc box replaced the tin one. A suggestion was left in the box in 1907 to place a rubber stamp in the box to prove that the actual box at Cranmere was found. Finders would stamp the post card at the site before mailing it.

Letterboxing was a slow growing hobby but in 1976 a man by the name of Tom Gant designed a map showing the fifteen boxes in existence in England. A boom began! By the 1980s there were thousands of hidden boxes. The hobby continued to grow and people started to create unique names for themselves and leaving their personal stamp to mark the boxes they found. However, as humans often do, graffiti started marking locations, historic areas were being marred in other ways and the hobby almost came to an end.

A concerned man, Godfrey Swinscow, along with officials from Dartmoor, came up with a code of conduct to 'save the day'. This code is still in use now. Letterboxing was mostly in England until 1998 when the Smithsonian magazine published an article in the U.S. about this British hobby. From that point on, well you can guess how things went!

In 2001 **Letterboxing North America (LbNA)** was born and over 1,000 letterboxes were located in the U.S. Then came international planting of boxes! **Atlasquest** was started by Ryan Carpenter (an unemployed software engineer) in 2004.

I became interested in this hobby when an internet-group friend stated she had to get busy and finish her 'letterbox carve'. *Whaaaat??* She explained the hobby to me and that she carves her own stamps (instead of using purchased ones). I was intrigued and searched the sites mentioned above. I talked my dear hubby into joining me on some search adventures and from there it is history. We created the trail name of *Lk.Superior2* and use a lighthouse stamp as our personal 'mark'.

This hobby is great for when you travel, for finding awesome parks, historic or fun places you never knew existed. We have found 63 letterboxes so far and have planted 11. One of these days we will be able to take a longer trip or vacation and I will have a whole fistful of clues printed out to bring with us. We primarily use **Atlasquest**... I love their website!! **LbNA** is good also but just not the 'fun site' that **Atlasquest** is. So if you are interested, check out those sites, talk to us, and then *get going... winter is coming.*



Pastor Appreciation

Sunday, October 9th

Pastor Keith



Whenever we are confused;
depressed or
Don't know what to do
You are always there to *GUIDE* us
We want to say
THANK YOU
FOR ALL YOU DO!
We Love You Pastor!

Veteran's Day

Friday, November 11th

On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call.
Soldiers Young, and Soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others died,
And all of them deserve our pride.
We're proud of all the soldiers who
Kept thinking red, white and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights,
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each name,
We **THANK ALL VETERANS** just the same!



Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24th

Thanksgiving is loved ones
Who come miles and miles
To be greeted with kisses
And welcome smiles.

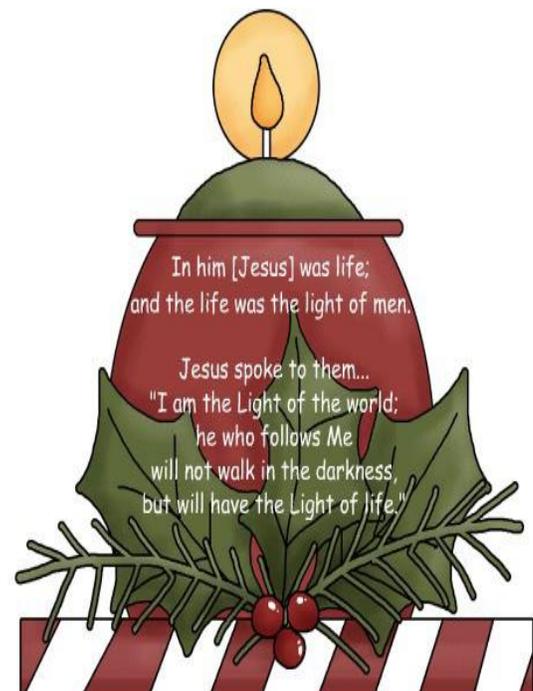
Thanksgiving is turkey
And all the rest
Of the fruits of the harvest
With which we've been "Blessed".

Thanksgiving is Praise
For our Father above,
For His bountiful Goodness
And the Gift of His LOVE.



Advent

Sunday, November 27th thru December 24th



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Collection Dates by Marilyn Jaeger



Collection at Grace Bible Fellowship

November 14 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

November 15 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

November 16 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

November 17 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

November 18 10:00 AM – NOON

November 19 10:00 AM – NOON

November 20 12:30 PM – 2:30 PM

November 21 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

BOXES ARE SHIPPED



Shoe Box Talk-cont'd

by Marilyn Jaeger



How can it be that another year has passed already and the beautiful red and green shoeboxes will soon be lining our walls at Grace Bible Fellowship? Time does not stand still and God doesn't either. Jesus said His Father works and so does He. Because Jesus Christ lives in true believers that means we too must be at work... be about our Father's business.

With that said, I want to thank all of you who contribute in any way, big or small, to make Operation Christmas Child a success here. For those who are new at our church, Mauricette Keeley is our local Project Leader, keeping things on target for our collection. I am a year 'round volunteer for Samaritan's Purse serving in Church Relations as well as Collection Center Coordinator for Ashland and Bayfield Counties.

If you have never packed a shoebox before for a child somewhere in this world, you are missing out! Please see one of us for more information. You won't be sorry you got involved!

With that said, here's another Shoebox Story. This is not fiction. God is using Operation Christmas Child, and people like you to bring His Word to those who haven't heard!

Kojo and a Yoyo ... from Operation Christmas Child's website... ***Kojo received a shoebox in Ghana, West Africa, at age 12.***

"My family of nine shared a one-room clay house. We had little money or food. My mom worked in the local high school cafeteria and fed us with leftover rice and peanut soup. My dad worked in a sugar cane field. They loved us very much. I walked two miles to school every day. During my long walks, I prayed and sang. I didn't have enough money for lunch, so during that period I climbed a tree and waited in hunger for class to begin again. I am grateful for the challenges and financial difficulties I faced as a child, though, because they made me rely on God.

"One Friday morning when I was 12 years old, my friends announced that they were not going to school that day, so I went alone. That afternoon, most of my classmates had already gone home when we heard a loud noise. The teacher told us to go outside and see what was happening. We found that children from four to five other schools had come to join us for a program about God. During this special event, I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

"The leaders taught us the song "Jesus Loves Me." Normally when I learn a new song, it doesn't stick—but this one did. Then they started distributing shoeboxes. Going to school that morning, I felt tired, but when I got the box, I felt so strong. I felt something new. I was so excited I ran home to show my box to my family. I had never received a gift before, but inside my shoebox I found a yo-yo, a toy car, and some pencils—pencils made in the United States! I felt so proud that someone in America loved me. When my friends saw my gifts, they ran all the way to school to try and get one too, but they were all gone.

"I don't have the yo-yo anymore. I don't have the toy cars or the pencils either, but I have one thing that has not changed: 'Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.' The shoebox gave me all that I need and that's the Lord Jesus Christ. God used my shoebox to plant a seed in me. I started going to church every Wednesday and Sunday. I just wanted to sleep in the church because David said, "I was glad when they said unto me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'" (Psalm 122:1, KJV). I made the Lord my No. 1 priority.

"When I grew up, I applied to schools all over the world. Then I learned about Tusculum College in East Tennessee. I hadn't heard of it before, but I applied and was accepted. There, I went to a church that packed Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts, and it dawned on me that I received one of those as a child. That little yo-yo, those pencils, and that toy car brought me here. It reminds me of when David asks, "Who am I ... that you have brought me thus far?" (2 Samuel 7:18, ESV). I am now a senior at Tusculum College and will graduate in December. My plan is to be a pharmacist in order to contribute to God's mission in the world."

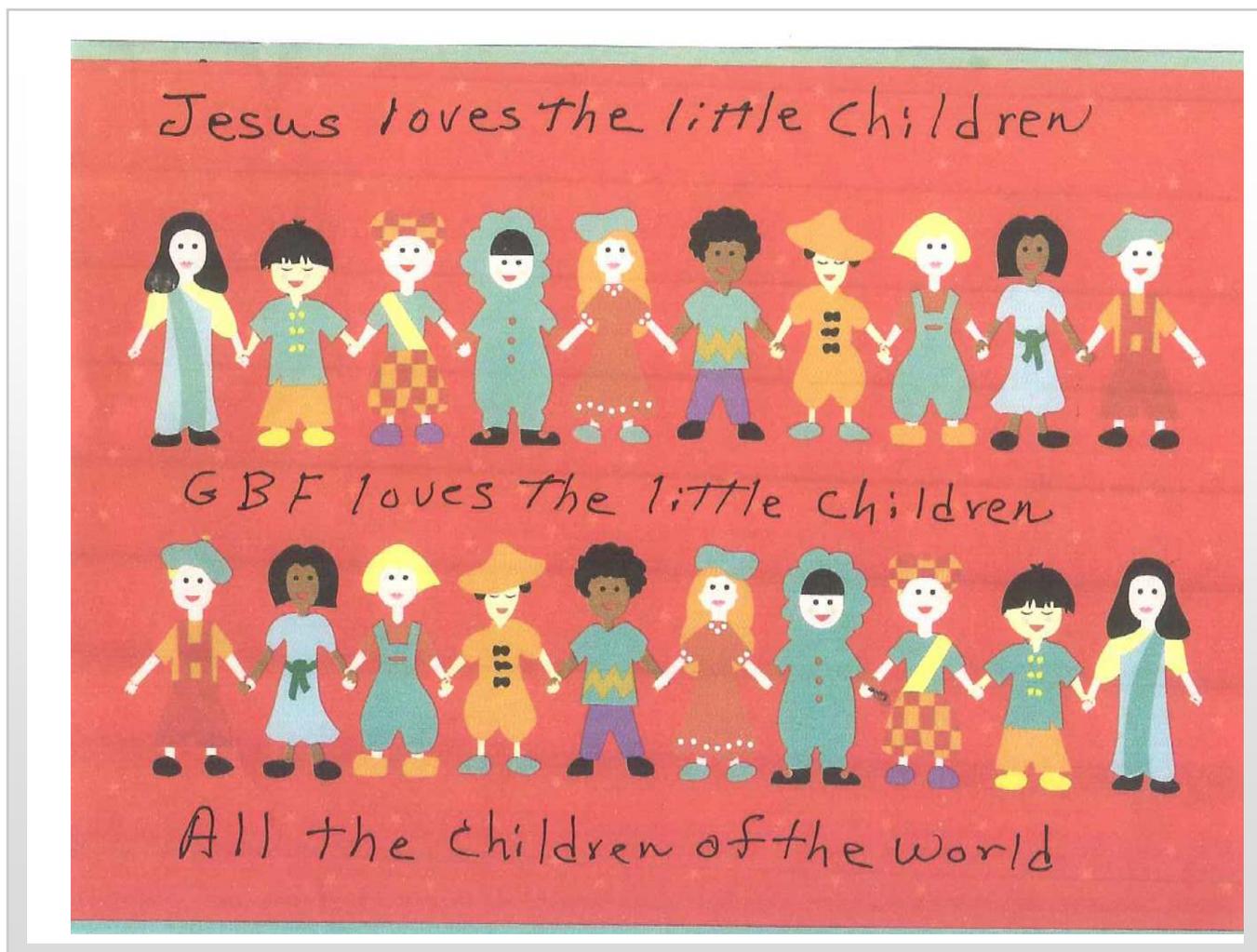
Missions by Rita Esser

This precious card was given to me from a special lady.

I needed to share it with you. LOOK!

The children are reaching their hands out to us!

I thanked my Father for the card, the giver and the wonderful prayers and generous blessings that GBF gives to the children around the world.



Smile!

God Loves You!

*From your friends on
The Mission's Committee*

Reminders by Deb Kmetz

Turn Your Clocks Back Sunday, November 6th

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 6, 2016 than the day before.

There will be more light in the morning.



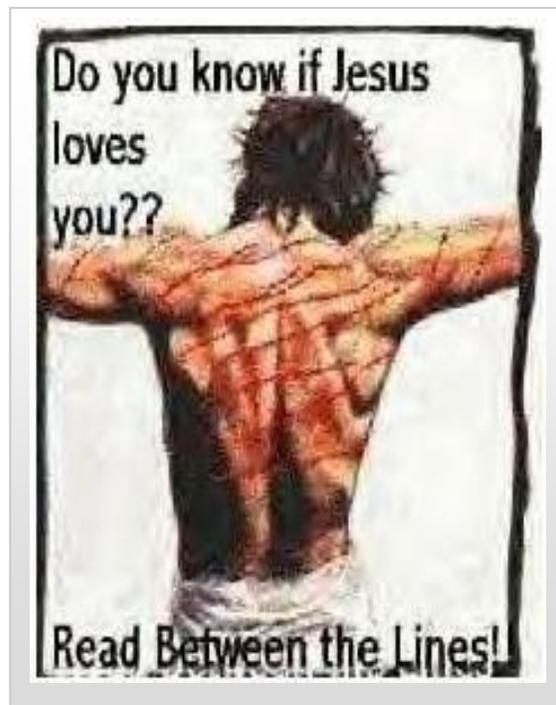
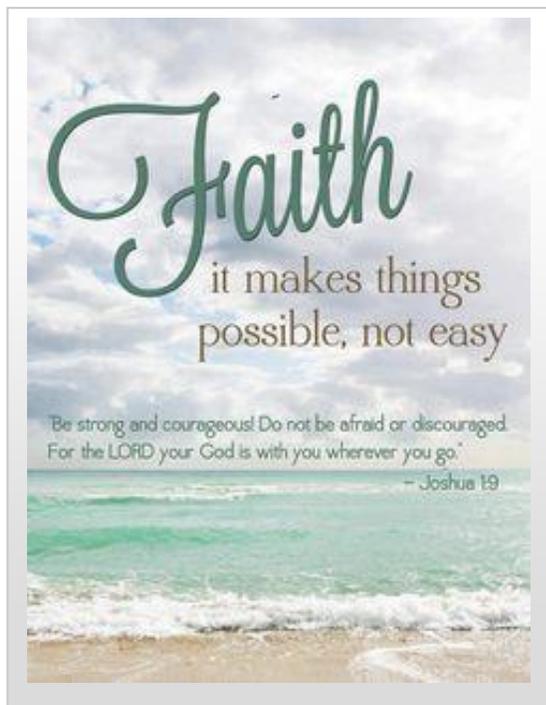
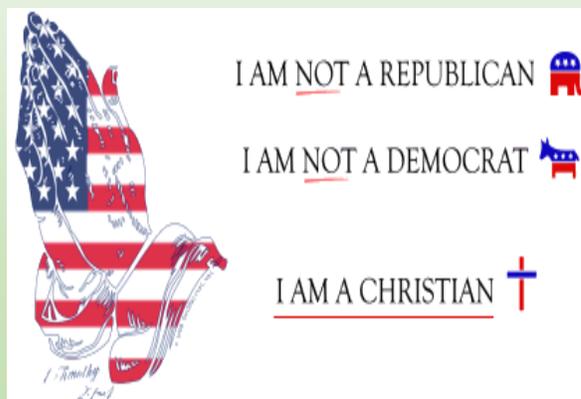
This also means it will get dark an hour earlier in the evenings.

Election Day Tuesday, November 8th

The United States presidential election will be the 58th quadrennial U.S. presidential election.

Voters will select presidential electors, who in turn will vote for a new president and vice president through the Electoral College.

The 2016 election will determine the 45th President and 48th Vice President of the United States.



Birthdays by Deb Kmetz

Anniversaries by Deb Kmetz

October

- 1 John Thomas
- 2 Leland Christenson
- 2 Dottie Coleman
- 3 Erin Kovach
- 5 Amy Vik
- 6 Joan Dallaire
- 12 Cody Bailen
- 14 Elmer Wilber
- 17 Mauricette Keeley
- 20 Sue Barningham
- 22 Brian Reykdal
- 21 Zach Weaver
- 26 Howard Buchman
- 27 Thaddaeus Meyer
- 29 Derek Christenson
- 29 Devin Christenson



November

- 4 Barbara Schneeberger
- 6 Cherylann Hart
- 11 Karen Thomas
- 13 Claire Helsper
- 14 Donna Linton
- 15 Jon Piff
- 20 Chad Ludwig
- 21 Art Bock
- 29 Christine See
- 30 Logan Schendel
- 30 Allison Thomas



December

- 1 Jordan Rusch
- 2 Maria Osness
- 3 Bernice Carter
- 5 Linda Kostka
- 14 Alice Johnson
- 16 Dave Barningham
- 16 Bob Karaba
- 17 Gary Pennington
- 17 Randall Rusch
- 22 Cody Christenson
- 22 Breck Lowney
- 23 Brendon Shields
- 24 Laura Bailen
- 27 Leo Dallaire
- 28 Vera Meyer

**remembering you
on your special day..
happy birthday !!**

October

- 9 Robert/Laura Bailen
- 11 Paul / Karen Johnson
- 19 Doug/Lynne Borchers
- 22 John/Karen Thomas
- 23 John/Pam Smylie

November

- 12 Rick/Jan Utecht
- 21 Larry /Bernice Carter
- 24 Dan & Emma Meyer
- 25 Kevin/Keri Stifter
- 25 Mike/MJ Weaver
- 26 Ron/Roxanne Shuga
- 27 Craig/Sharon Locey



December

- 15 Jon & Patti Piff
- 17 Steve/Annette Meyer
- 18 Elmer/June Wilber

Usher's Schedule

by Larry Carter

October

Lead: Wally Vietmeier

Bill Long; Kevin Stifter; Brendon Shields

November

Lead: Ken Compton

David Barningham; Ryan Olson;
Paul Amundson

December

Lead: Tom Riemer

Bill Guski; Jon Piff; John Thomas



Upcoming Events

by Deb Kmetz

GBF Church Events

- **Oct 1** – Women’s Breakfast (7:30 AM)
- **Oct 2** – Noisy Offering for OCC
- **Oct 9** – Pastor Appreciation
- **Oct 30** – Noisy Offering for OCC
- **Nov 1** – Fill OCC Boxes
- **Nov 5** – Women’s Breakfast (7:30 Am)
- **Nov 5** – Fill OCC Boxes
- **Nov 11** – Veterans Day
- **Nov 14-21** – OCC Collection
- **Dec 3** – Women’s Breakfast (7:30 AM)
- **Dec 24** – Christmas Eve Service (TBD)



Area Events

- **Oct 1** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s Center (10:00 am)
- **Oct 6-9** - Apple Festival
- **Oct 13** – Faith in Action Fund Raiser (Mexican Fiesta-Chapple Ave (4-7pm)
- **Oct 14-15** – Whistle Stop
- **Nov 5** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s Center (10:00 am)
- **Nov 5** - Bayfield Co - Veteran Recognition Program and Brunch (Iron River Community Center from 11am-2pm).
- **TBD** – Ashland Firefighters Toy Drive
- **Dec 3** – Food Distribution at Bretting’s Center (10:00 am)
- **Dec 9** – Christmas Concert (7pm) Good Shepard Lutheran Church
- **Dec 11** – Christmas Concert (4 pm) St Louis Catholic Church



In The Kitchen

by Donna Linton

Hospitality/Kitchen Committee

October

Chair: **Mary Ann Olson**

Roxanne Shuga; Mary Ann Riemer; Teresa Rusch; Tara Olson

November

Chair: **MJ Weaver**

Angie Vik & Girls; Bernice Carter; Judy Kurschner

December

Chair: **Pat Shields & Family**

Alice Johnson; Donna Linton



Scripture Readers

by Deb Kmetz

October

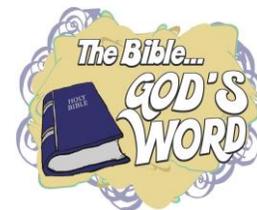
Sub:

MJ Weaver

- 2 Paul Johnson
- 9 Alice Johnson
- 16 Steve Meyer
- 23 Karen Johnson
- 30 Jon Piff

November

- 6 Rose Bailen
- 13 Brendon Shields
- 20 Teresa Rusch
- 27 Kevin Stifter



December

- 4 Karen Johnson
- 11 Emmer Shields
- 18 Annette Meyer
- 25 Paul Johnson