

# Grace 2 U Newsletter

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Grace Presbyterian Church

Dawsonville, GA

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## Inside This Issue

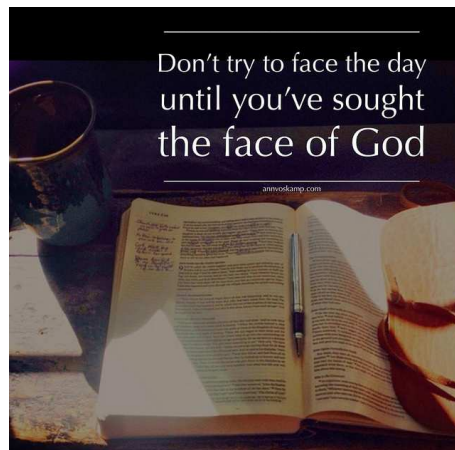
- 2** Discipleship Team
- 3** Session Meeting  
Highlights; Administrative  
Team
- 4** Fellowship Team
- 5** Worship Team
- 6** Evangelism/Mission Team
- 7** Social Justice Team
- 8** Spiritual Formation
- 9** In Our Prayers
- 10** This & That
- 11** Grace Notes
- 12** Women of Grace
- 13** Deacons
- 14** Birthdays and  
Anniversaries



2015 has come. There is no denying it, no putting it off. We must acknowledge that the fifteenth year of the newest millennium is already upon us. I recall a time in my childhood when I found it difficult to imagine “the year 2000.” I would attempt to do the math in my head so that I could work out my anticipated age once that magical date rolled around. When I realized that I would be 34, I tried to compare what I imagined I would look like at that extremely advanced age with the appearance of anyone I knew who was already that old. Once I had done that and realized that most of the thirty-somethings in my life still seemed pretty vibrant and healthy for such “old” people, I began to get kind of excited about what life would be like in this glorious future twenty-first century world.

As Grace Presbyterian Church approaches its fifth birthday as a congregation and tenth year as a worshipping community, we can look to our future with the assurance of great hope and excitement. God is using this body of believers to impact our community for Christ in ways that we may or may not have imagined just a few short years ago. We had one of our best years of growth and ministry yet in 2014, and the next year looks promising, as well. In fact, it is my hope and prayer that Grace continues to become the most influential and inspirational congregation in Dawson County and beyond.

Thank you for your attendance, support, prayers, giving, and encouragement as we stride boldly and confidently into the year ahead, following Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and obediently becoming the people that God has created us to be.



### **Discipleship Team**

#### End of Year Report - 2014

The discipleship team is every member of the congregation and this congregation proves it over and over.

The leaders of the team are responsible for organizing Bible study, prayer groups, retreats, Sunday school, children's church and vacation Bible school. With the leadership of the Director of Christian Education the team was able to fulfill these responsibilities.

Three different Bible studies and several book studies were offered. There were both ladies' Bible study and men's prayer group on a weekly basis. The ladies enjoyed an inspiring and meaningful retreat. Different Sunday school classes were offered for both adults and children as well as Godly Play and children's church.

Vacation Bible school was offered for six Sundays at 9:30am, in lieu of Sunday school, where the children heard Bible studies, did crafts, had playtime outside, and were served a hot breakfast. The team would like to see this concept expanded by reaching out into the community well before school is out.

In addition, many Christian education visual aides were added to Sunday worship. A woven communion cloth was created from meaningful statements written by the congregation on cloth strips. Candles were added to the communion table giving the children the opportunity to take turns serving as acolytes. Order of service icons in the bulletin helped illustrate to young children each activity during worship service. The sanctuary was adorned with Advent illustration paintings, and for the second year an Advent booklet was printed for the congregation.

Submitted by Betty Powell

**The Session key decisions from January through February are as follows:**

**Review of Key Decisions for November 2014:**

- Bonnie Fry and Randy Davis were selected to be on the signature card to sign checks from the church from now till the end of 2015.
- Theology of the Reformers by Timothy George and Before Amen by Max Lucado were approved for adult Sunday school.
- \$1,000 will be moved from surplus offerings to the Grace-in-a-Box fund to see them through to the end of the year.

**Review of Key Decisions for December 2014:**

- New ordered ministers, Bonnie Fry, Donna Weaver, Francis Ball, and Jim Hambright, were examined and found ready for ordination and installation on January 18, 2015.
- Session adopted new Guidelines for Approving Curriculum policy.
- The email vote to host Presbytery meeting on February 28, 2015 was ratified.
- The email vote to approve staff bonuses for 2015 as recommended by the Administrative Team was ratified.
- A new Women's Bible Study on *Daniel* by Beth Moore was approved.
- Session elected Penny as elder/moderator and Mary Ann Sheehy as elder-at-large on the 2015 Nominating Committee.

**Administrative Team**

The Administration Team wishes all a happy new year. For 2015, we plan to keep the buildings and grounds in as good a shape as they are now and refresh some areas with a new coat of paint.

Maintenance issues which present during the year; hopefully, will be small and are one we can easily handle. We look forward to our Church continuing to grow and will do everything we can do to foster involvement within the Dawsonville community.

Members are: Preston Painter, Elder, Andy Clemons, Treasurer, Joe Fortune, Sexton, Kay Parrish, Mack Bayles, Clarence Dreier, Gordon Brand and Robert Ivy.

## Fellowship Team News

The Fellowship committee again had a busy fall planning and hosting quarterly meals for the church, including Thanksgiving, Kirking of the Tartans and Church anniversary. The committee planned and hosted another successful picnic at the Veterans Memorial park. Flowers and snacks have been provided by the members of the church, but the committee is working on a new schedule for volunteers to provide these services.

The committee provides meals for those church members who are recovering from surgery, the shut-ins and others, as needed. Dinner groups are going to be restarted after the first of the year. The committee meets once each month, currently on the second Tuesday of each month.



## Grace Groups

(An opportunity to learn more about each other over dinner.)

**Grace Presbyterian Church** is inviting you to join a *Grace Group* for four months in order to visit in homes and eat a meal together. There will be eight persons in each group. The persons (Hosts) whose house you will attend will be responsible for the meat and the other persons will bring sides. Rotation will take four months. If you have not yet responded there is still room. Your group will decide the monthly dinner date that is best for the members.

The goal is to learn more about each as we share.

Please call Donna, 706-216-7747

## Worship Team

### Worship: Over View

Improvement on flow of Worship  
 Communion on first Sunday of every month unless conflict of programs occur  
 Liturgist and Communion person's assigned-Intinction and passing alternately  
 Two weddings preformed  
 Fourth Successful "Kirking" service with bagpiper  
 Taize service offered  
 Wedding committee established  
 Session retreat

### Liturgical Arts:

Advent Pastor stole for David  
 Acolyte robes for children made  
 Backdrop for Maundy Thursday  
 Heidelberg Catechism banner  
 Second Helvetic Confession banner  
 Westminster Confession & Shorter Catechism banner  
 Jesse Tree banner and ornaments  
 Repairs on some Chrismons

### Music:

Special Music: Easter, Christmas musicals  
 Soloists, duets, and quartets during offertory  
 Cantoring Psalms  
 Violinist Lori Gomez and husband  
 Bagpiper  
 Substitute pianist for Brad  
 3<sup>rd</sup> year for N.Ga. Chamber Symphony Orchestra  
 Consulted for North Ga. Children's Chorus  
 Women's choir sang at the Advent Service: Deer Creek Shores Presbyterian service and I served as a coordinator for service

### Ushers:

Schedule ushers and greeters to serve every quarter  
 Counted attendance and reported to clerk of session

Mary Powell  
 Worship Team, Elder

#### Liturgists:

##### January

1/4 Donna Weaver  
 1/11 Jeff Shrader  
 1/18 Grace Walden  
 1/25 Vic Wallace

##### March

3/1 Pat Anderson  
 3/8 Doug Powell  
 3/15 Penny Putnam  
 3/22 Donna Weaver  
 3/29 Jeff Shrader

#### Ushers:

##### January

Dan & Jane Miller  
 Larry & Pat Anderson  
 Tom & Barb Quintrell  
 Don & Priscilla Taylor

##### March

Warren & Nancy King  
 Joan Davis & Bonnie Fry  
 Francis & Ruth Ann Ball  
 Marjorie Fisher & Doris Greijack  
 Ron & Elaine Coker

#### Liturgists:

##### February

2/1 Mary Powell  
 2/8 Randy Davis  
 2/15 Gary Pichon  
 2/22 Margie O'Byrne

#### Ushers:

##### February

Vic & Duane Wallace  
 Bill & Joann Keller  
 Jeanne Tompkins & Marsha Loftin  
 Mickie Schaide & Kathy Westra



### Evangelism/Mission

Being a member of the body of Christ at Grace places you immediately on our Evangelism and Missions team. Evangelism and Missions includes every-day, every hour opportunities to show by your actions and through personal testimony of faith the good news of Jesus Christ. Your Evangelism and Missions Team is here to encourage your participation in local, regional and even international missions projects. Grace has always been known as a Missions Church and our intent is to remain focused on the needs we find in our community and beyond.

In 2014 our first project, named “Little Free Library,” was a suggestion brought to us by a deacon and approved by the Session early in the year. The premise is: sharing books builds community. The original “Little Free Library” was built in the shape of a one room school house in memory of the founders mother who was a school teacher. The book box was placed in his front yard with a sign “Take a book, Return a book.” Today it is a non-profit organization where the library boxes can be registered and plans for little libraries can be found. Our “Little Free Library” was erected on December 4th. It was built and designed by Gary Pichon and looks like Grace. Catherine Pichon and Mary Ann Sheehy painted the library box and Hubert Tinsley placed the structure for us near the big Oak Tree at the Hwy. 53 entrance. A story about the library has been published in the newspaper to alert the public where it is and how it can be used. David performed the dedication after Church on the 14<sup>th</sup> and I hope that many of you attended!

Internationally the congregation was asked to monetarily support a request brought to us by Dr. Larry Anderson. Larry’s son William is a chaplain and was stationed in Afghanistan. William’s commanding officer asked him to enhance troop morale. William asked for patriotic decorations and anything to keep the men cool as the temperature on the helicopter landing pads could reach over 130 degrees. Through your generosity we received over \$1,000 and purchased lots of red, white and blue banners, flags and bunting. The team thought that kerchiefs with gel packs in them would be perfect so I set out to find the most inexpensive gel pack available. Talking to a Canadian company one day, I realized that we wouldn’t be able to afford 25 of their gel packs much less the 100 I wanted to send. They had a great product but it was very expensive. The salesman called me back later in the day and asked how much we had budgeted for the packs. I told him \$300. He said that was great, because he had been authorized to make sure we could afford the 200 gel packs that they would be mailing to us, and because what we were doing was for such a worthy cause, \$300 would cover the cost. With the help of Pak Mail we were able to ship everything to William who expressed his appreciation and that of the men!

Our goal is to send mission teams regionally or nationally on alternate years, one year in our community and the next wherever we are most needed. An ongoing project we are hoping to become involved in locally is with one of our local deputy sheriffs, Tony Wooten. He has begun providing latch key children with back packs that he fills with snacks to make sure they have something to eat when they arrive home alone. This mission would be a year round monetary commitment, and the Session will vote on this at our December meeting.



Last of all we are asking for donations during December to purchase toys for children in Dawson County whose parents have no means of providing Christmas for them and were either not able or not willing to sign up with Care for Kids. Again we will be helping Deputy Wooten with the means to purchase the toys.

Your Evangelism and Missions Team supports and coordinates five offerings during the year. These include: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Presbyterian Homes, Peacemaking, and Christmas Joy Offering. We also support Young Life, NOA (No One Alone) and the Missions budget of Cherokee Presbytery. We participate locally in the Dawson County Church Alliance, and jointly support local mission projects.

Please prayerfully consider joining the Evangelism & Missions Team. You can reach me at [pjputnam@windstream.net](mailto:pjputnam@windstream.net).

### Social Justice Team

**GOOD SHEPHERD CLINIC:** The Good Shepherd Clinic has settled into its new location at the Dawson Commons complex on Hwy 53 and is up and running at full speed. Thanks to all of the doctors and volunteers who make this ministry work for the people of Dawson County. New volunteers are always needed and welcomed. A plan to install two dental chairs and a service to offer eye exams in 2014 is also moving forward.

**GRACE IN A BOX:** GIB is providing boxed takeaway lunches for patients going to the Good Shepherd Clinic for medical treatment.

**RIC-RACK:** Grace Church continues to support the Ric-Rack by sponsoring food drives every third Sunday of the month to help stock their food pantry. As part of the church alliance, we also volunteer to take a turn every other month for three days to work at the food pantry helping to distribute food to those in need. More volunteers are needed to help. Our next rotation at the food pantry is November 10, 12, and 14th.

Grace 2 You  
Randy Davis  
Social Justice Team Elder

#### GRACE in a BOX UPDATE

We are still serving between 40 to 60 meals each week. Many thanks to all who help on Thursdays. Some days are longer than others with the addition of Dr Adams. Our times on her visiting days is from 1:30 until 6PM.

If you wish to volunteer to work the GIB, contact Wayne Watkins [w Watkins2000@windstream.net](mailto:w Watkins2000@windstream.net) or the church office.

Wayne Watkins







Everyone is asked to provide updates to Crystal in the church office as appropriate.

**In Our Prayers:** Sandra Adams, Christy Anderson, **Larry Anderson**, Will Anderson (Son of Larry Anderson), Mike Arseneau (Family of the Lorings), Chuck Bramblett, Bruce (Gator) Ball, Lee Bueno (Sister of Davida Simpson), Missy Cobb (Friend of Davida Simpson), Angela Chavis, Heather Clark (Friend of Marsha Loftin), Erin Curry (Daughter of Marsha Loftin), Margaret Curry, Norm Donald, Art & Lynelle Dover, **Marilyn Dreier, Clyde Edwards**, Elvis Emmanuel, Mike Ennis, Bill Farr, Ed Flynn (Friend of Jim and Margie), **Joe and Gail Fortune**, John Franklin, Eleana Garrett, Michael Giordano, David Grieme (Brother of Nancy McCue), **Carol Ann Groebner**, Howard Halteman, Laverne Hardemon (Friend of Jeanne and Tom Longerbeam), Ron Hastings, The Heagertys (Friends of the Lorings), Pat Heaton & Family, Carol Holloway, Jessica Horah, Marsha Inman, Bob Ivey, Robert Ivy, Elinor Jones (Mother of Margie O'Byrne), **Jane Joh**, Don Johnson (Board Chair of GSC), Devon King (Son of Joe and Mindy King), Jack Kinney, Sr. (Father of John Kinney), Joyce Landrum, Mercy Lavilla, Steve & Haley Lewis (Penny Putnam), Livi (Friend of Sherry), Jack Loftin, Jean Lowe (Friend of Margie O'Byrne and Jim Hambright), Mitch Morris (Friend of the Fortunes), Nandana (Friend of Bill & Sherry Weeks), Naomi Luke (Mother of Jeanne Luke), Martha Lynn, Cheree Madison (Friend of Jeff Shrader), **Don Maple**, Maria (Relative of Pat Anderson), Pam McGowan (Niece of Sherry Weeks), Susan McLain Nail (Mother of Gretchen), Tyler Parks (Sherry Weeks), **Jim Parrish**, Betty Pennington, Mike Portwood, **Zoe Putnam**, Ann Quandt and David Quandt (Parents of Davida Simpson), Susie Queen (Friend of Marsha Loftin), Bob Rainey (Friend of the Fortunes), Mid Ramey (Mother of Brenda Ivy), Daniel Rush, Robert Sangster (Friend of Donna Weaver), Lee Roy, Jim and Jeanne Selby, **Charles Shaw, Jeff Shrader**, George & Nancy Smiley (Brother and sister-in-law of Ruth Ann Ball), Annalisa Smith, Larry Smith (Neighbor of John & Sandy Grimes), Val-Jean Carter Squillance (Friend of Marsha Loftin), Patsy Stone (Mother-In-Law of Christin Stone), Fred Sturgis, Sr. (Relative of Dick & Nancy McNeill), Holly Summers (Andrew McPherson), Hayne Tatum (Relative of W.L. Tatum), Brad Taylor and his church family, **Jerre Thomson**, Josh Thurmond (Friend of Davida Simpson), Mary Ann & Irwin Topper, Lionel Veal, **Alycia Volk**, Suzanne Volk, **Trelle Wade, Charles Walden**, Richard Ware, Kevin Warne, **Kathy Westra**, Phil Wilburn, Rhiannon Wilburn, Kevin Wood (Cousin of Mickie Schaide), Marta Wood (Friend of Marsha Loftin), General Assembly PC (USA), Presbyteries PC (USA), the Session of Grace, Community Helping Place, The Ric Rack, the girls from Rainbow, Good Shepherd Clinic, Grace-In-A-Box, Seneca Presbyterian Church (SC), those serving in the military and purchase of land

**Nursing Home/Personal Care Home:** **Jim & Bertie Harmon**

**Military:** William Anderson (Son of Larry Anderson), John Austin Hilton (Cousin of Jay Sessions), Trent Ingram (Nephew of John and Sandy Grimes), Trey Majure (Nephew of Paula Harris), Travis Nipper (Grandchild of Clyde and Maxine Edwards), Scott O'Connor (Family of Pat Anderson), Mike Viscup (Friend of Jarrett & Davida Simpson), Noel Zvonar (Great Nephew of Zoe Putnam)

**Sympathy:** The family of Alan Brandon Weaver

## *This and That*

### *Flowers and Refreshments*

Reminder about Refreshments and Flowers for Sunday services. Just a quick reminder to take a look at the calendar in the hall to see if there is an empty Sunday you'd be able to fill. For those of you who haven't done it before...it's pretty simple. All you need to do is provide a few flowers for church (you can use things from your yard, the grocery store or the florist) and some sort of refreshments for after church. You can keep it simple, or go all out. We'll be grateful either way! If you'd like, go in with a friend to make it easier. The coffee will be provided along with cups, napkins, forks etc. Please feel free to call or email if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do to help.

Joann Keller  
706 265 9176  
joannkeller@windstream.net



### *Grace in a Box*

#### *Schedule*

#### *January*

8 - Jim Hambright & Tom Quintrell  
15 - Mary Powell  
22 - Duane Wallace & Elaine Coker  
29 - Sherry Weeks

#### *February*

5<sup>th</sup> - Francis Ball & Charles Stuckey  
12<sup>th</sup> - Joe Forutne  
19<sup>th</sup> - Andrew McPherson & Robert Ivy  
26<sup>th</sup> - Wayne Watkins

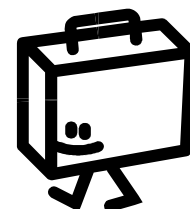
#### *March*

5<sup>th</sup> - Bill & Joann Keller  
12<sup>th</sup> - Randy Davis  
19<sup>th</sup> - Priscilla Taylor & Joyce Ball  
26<sup>th</sup> - Vic Wallace

#### **REMINDER:**

If you are free to volunteer on an occasional Thursday afternoon for Grace in a Box, please contact Wayne Watkins.

***ALSO: Please remember that on the day you volunteer, you are asked to provide fresh fruit to go with the box meals.***





### **It was a very good year.....**

I used to spend New Year's eve writing down long lists of improvements, or resolutions, as if identifying every possibility for more work was helpful. I like to think I have gotten smarter as I have gotten older, so now I like to think back on the successes of last year, instead, so here are a few:

Can you believe we just started using the **Psalter and singing the Psalms only a year ago**? It is such an important part of our worship service now! Thanks to you and the Worship Committee for providing this wonderful resource! We have recently concluded our first year with the **new hymnal**, too. Paul Sheehy and I had some fun with that---my coaching his singing and his coaching my **Spanish!** I even played **the tambourine** a couple of times---a first for me! I learned so much at the Seminar in Atlanta, and you can expect even more from me and the new hymnal in 2015!

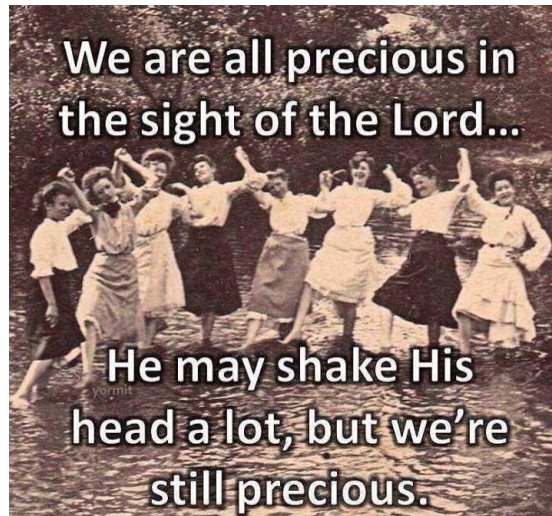
So many **guest musicians** filled our sanctuary with music: **Pianist John Roark, Violinist Lori Gomez, Singer and Pianist, Rick Gomez, Ruth Purcell** and her group, the **North GA Children's Chorus**, and last Spring's concert by **Laurin Smith and the North GA Chamber Symphony Orchestra**. I feel our own professional musician, **Brad Maple**, should be mentioned here, as his contribution is immeasurable. His musical offerings are always a blessing!

Of course, I cannot fail to mention the hard work and dedication of our **choir**, who has learned an Introit, an anthem, and a response to the Psalm for almost every Sunday, as well as leading the music for our many special services, and singing many more solos, duets, quartets, etc. than ever before! It is fun to remember all the work that went into each and every song!

Thanks also to **our librarians: John and Sandra Grimes** and the newest addition to this very important job, **Elaine Maple**.

We are starting 2015 with 3 new choir members: **Ken and Yvonne Kander, and Carrie Shrader**. We are happy to have you join us!  
All the Best to You and Yours in 2015!

Jeanne Luke



## WOMEN OF GRACE

Ladies of Grace,

The last quarter of 2014 had us lunching at Amicalola Lodge in October. We had excellent attendance, good food & the view is always awesome. November we were back in the Church basement enjoying a meal hosted by Liturgical Arts. We did not meet in December as it's such a busy time for everyone. All in all I hope everyone has enjoyed the various activities we had in 2014.

We will be meeting January 20 to start the New Year in the Church basement and the lunch will be hosted by Good Shepherd Clinic. Also at that time the organizational duties of "Ladies of Grace" will now be turned over to the capable and efficient hands of Sherry Weeks and Karen Krussow. I know they both will do a wonderful job.

On behalf of all 3 of us listed below, it's been fun planning and doing different activities with all of you ladies throughout the year. Happy New Year to all!

Women of Grace -  
Barbara Quintrell  
Mary Ann Sheehy  
Doris Greijack

## *DEACONS*

**In attendance** were: David Jordon, Marsha Loftin, Doug Powell, Mary Ann Sheehy, Duane Wallace, Wayne Watkins and deacons elect Francis Ball and Jim Hambright.

**Concerns and Joys:** Hail and farewell to new Deacons Jim and Francis and to retiring Deacons Wayne and Doug.

### **Old Business**

- Little Free Library project is complete.
- Future Deacon meetings (2015) will be quarterly after church at 12:30 - 12:45 on Sunday. Frances will count money before joining us.
- Duane agreed to serve as moderator in 2015

### **New Business**

- We discussed the need to keep in touch with shut-ins monthly. We agreed to supplement Pastor visits with rotating Deacon visits. Pastor David will inform Deacons who and when he visits.
- Jim Hambright agreed to take over Wayne Watkins' shepherding responsibilities.
- We decided to provide a collection plate for the choir.

Grace Presbyterian Church  
P.O. Box 120  
170 Hwy. 9 North  
Dawsonville, GA 30534  
Phone:  
706.216.7747  
E-mail:  
gp2@trailwave.net

Dr. Mark Weaver – Organizing  
Pastor  
(9.16.05 to 5.13.10)  
David Jordan - Pastor  
Donna Weaver - DCE  
Jeanne Luke - Choir Director  
Mr. Brad Maple - Musician  
Mrs. Crystal Seymour – Church  
Administrator

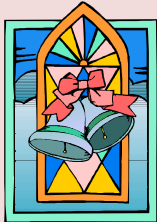
***Please give Crystal your Anniversary Date, so we can celebrate you, too!***

***March Anniversary Blessings***

**20<sup>th</sup> - Sherry & Bill Weeks**  
**20<sup>st</sup> - Janie & Hubert Tinsley**

***April Anniversary Blessings***

**27<sup>th</sup> - Nancy & Michael McCue**  
**29<sup>th</sup> - Barbara & Tom Quintrell**



**January Birthdays**

**3<sup>rd</sup> - John Joh**  
**6<sup>th</sup> - Eleana Garrett**  
**7<sup>th</sup> - Robert Ivy**  
**12<sup>th</sup> - Linda Clemons**  
**14<sup>th</sup> - Vic Wallace**  
**16<sup>th</sup> - Bebe Blount**  
**20<sup>th</sup> - Catherine Pichon**  
**24<sup>th</sup> - Nancy McCue**  
**30<sup>th</sup> - Tom Quintrell**

**February Birthdays**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Barb Ritcheson**  
**15<sup>th</sup> - Marsha Loftin**  
**15<sup>th</sup> - Priscilla Taylor**  
**17<sup>th</sup> - Margie O'Byrne**

**March Birthdays**

**1<sup>st</sup> - Richard Smith**  
**6<sup>th</sup> - Jeanne Luke**  
**7<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Ball**  
**9<sup>th</sup> - Joe Fortune**  
**10<sup>th</sup> - Doug Powell**  
**10<sup>th</sup> - Ron Coker**  
**12<sup>th</sup> - Kay Parrish**  
**13<sup>th</sup> - Karen Krussow**  
**18<sup>th</sup> - Kathy Westra**  
**18<sup>th</sup> - Marian Hopkins**  
**19<sup>th</sup> - Brad Maple**  
**20<sup>th</sup> - Jim Hambright**  
**24<sup>th</sup> - Tom Longerbeam**  
**30 - Jane Miller**

**April Birthdays**

**5<sup>th</sup> - Gail Fortune**  
**8<sup>th</sup> - Alex Shrader**  
**13<sup>th</sup> - Daniel Miller**  
**27<sup>th</sup> - Donna Weaver**

