



# PeacePress

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST [www.peaceucc.com](http://www.peaceucc.com)

## Inside this Issue:

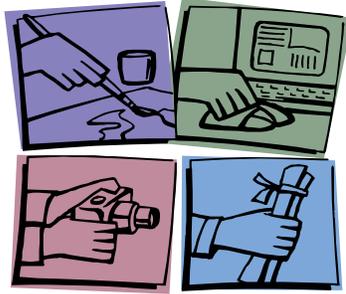
Volume 33, Issue 1

A Global Mission Church

January, 2020

The mission of Peace United Church of Christ is to reach our community for Christ, develop disciples, and empower all people for ministry.

Pastor's Perspective	2
Music Director	3
Pastor's Sabbatical	3
January Mission of the Month	4
New Peace Church "Teams"	5
Consistory Corner	5
PeaceCare	6
US Air Force Band Concert	6
Obituary	6
Hands-On	7
Peace Church Recipe Corner	7
Kids' Activity Page	8
Prayer List, Financials, Birthdays (insert)	



# A NEW YEAR & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

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### Ms. Ava Chambers

Consistory President



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS  
I HAVE FOR YOU, PLANS TO  
*prosper* YOU AND  
NOT TO HARM YOU,  
PLANS TO GIVE YOU HOPE  
AND A *future*.  
JEREMIAH 29:11



# Pastor's Perspective

As I write this piece, the Advent season is coming to a conclusion and Christmas is a little over a week away. Our Christmas cantata will be presented in less than four days, but the preparations for the Easter cantata will begin shortly after the new year. Time moves forward, with increasing velocity it seems, while we hardly even pay attention.

In our Christian faith, we grant time and history a “spiritual fluidity”. While Jesus was born over 2,000 years ago — we don’t *exactly* know where or when — we celebrate his birth at an exact date and speak about it as if it is a literally *recurring* event. We do the same, of course, with Easter. Jesus will be born in Bethlehem. Jesus will resurrect from the grave. It all happened long ago, it all is happening now, it will all happen again.

This all speaks to the fact that our faith is a *living* faith. God is still speaking, as we like to say in the United Church of Christ. While we follow the life and teachings of a historical figure who came to earth at a particular place and time in history, we don’t follow Jesus simply for what he did in the past, but for what can be alive and transformative in the now, as it takes shape in our hearts and minds. When we embrace all the components of the Christian story, we see that indeed history is alive.

Christmas is about light piercing the darkness; hope chasing away despair. Easter is about darkness chasing the light, with the darkness being defeated by the light of an empty tomb. This is a never-ending circle with life always coming out on top over death. The church is a critical part of the story which keeps the light and vision of God’s kingdom of hope, peace, love, and joy before us in all that we do.

## Happy New Year!



As we enter into the year 2020, with much “gnashing of teeth” on our social and political landscape, be sure that God is doing a new thing, *always* doing a new thing. This new thing that God has done, is doing, and will do in the future centrally involves a calling to us—*the church*—to be a critical part of the holy transformation. The end of the story has yet to be written, and we are called to partner with God in the writing.

May 2020 be a glorious year for Peace United Church of Christ; a year of continued transition and transformation. God is not done with the human family, not even close. As we together engage and partake in the ups and downs of history, let us do so remembering that the call of Christ is timeless, and the work of faith is never ending. Jesus calls us to the struggle and the joy. May it be so.

*Pastor Tom*



## PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Relations Committee for the new year consists of **Larry Clapp, Jane Ford, and Jean Morgan**, and it meets every three months. Please let us

know of anything that you would like for us to share with our pastor.

Celebrating a special occasion?  
Honoring a loved one?



The **2020 Altar Flower Calendar** has been placed on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Please sign up for the Sunday of your choice to place the flowers for your special celebration or memory. The cost is \$40.00 (**payable to the Women’s Fellowship**), and you can take the flowers with you at the end of the service, or they can be taken to one of our shut-ins. Sign up today!

A  
Note from  
Elisabeth

I am finishing this article on the afternoon of December 15<sup>th</sup> – cantata Sunday! I want to say, “thank you” to the congregation for your participation this morning. You are wonderful hand-shakers and singers!

I am also so grateful to the dedicated members of both the choir and handbells for their hard work during the Christmas season and all year long. We rehearse well ahead of time for the cantata and for each Sunday as we want to sing and play our best for God and for worship. Much appreciation is due our musicians for their time, talent, and efforts.

AND another very heartfelt, “Thank you” to this congregation for all the cards, notes, and remembrances during the Christmas season. I continue to be overwhelmed by your generosity and love and supportive comments.

Coming dates:

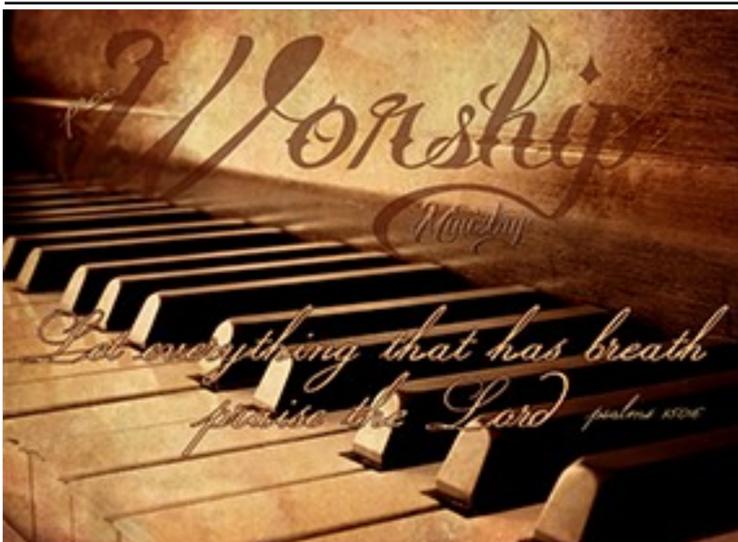
Ash Wednesday – Feb. 26

Easter – April 12

We will be starting on the Lent cantata very soon. Please consider joining us. Rehearsals continue on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM, and of course our handbell choir is also open to new ringers. We rehearse at 6:30 PM on Wednesdays.

So, we’ve made it to 2020 – a full new year ahead! As we go into and throughout the year, let’s remember Psalm 47:7: *God is the king of the whole earth. Make your best music for him!* (GOD’S WORD® Translation). Also, for those who like to look ahead and prepare, remember you get an extra day in February this year!

~ Elisabeth Penry



# Sabbatical

refresh | rest | refocus

On November 17, 2012 the Search Committee of Peace United Church of Christ extended to me a ‘Call To Minister’ which included an employment contract with 12 points of agreement. These points included compensation, insurance, vacation time, and pension support among other items. Included in these 12 points was an agreed upon “Sabbatical leave time of three months with full compensation to be provided at the completion of each five years of service.” Now into my 7<sup>th</sup> year as pastor of Peace United Church of Christ, I have requested sabbatical time during 2020 which was received and affirmed by our Consistory leadership.

Sabbatical time is a time granted to pastors during which two primary goals are pursued: physical rest and spiritual revival. In 2008, the church I was serving in Tennessee granted me sabbatical time in which my entire family traveled to Guatemala, Cuba, and Venezuela; staying a month in each country. It was in many ways a life changing three months, but it was also quite exhausting. While my sabbatical plans have yet to take shape, traveling for three months will not be part of the vision.

I hope to spend a good portion of my time studying, writing, and thinking about the plight of the mainline Protestant church in contemporary America. For the better part of six decades, mainline denominations (including the United Church of Christ) have been in significant decline, while simultaneously American culture has been in significant transition to a much more secular nation. My sense is that the mainline church needs to take a serious moral inventory of itself, its ministry, our culture, and what the gospel call should look like in what to many people has become an unrecognizable land.

To assist me in the pursuit of this work and vision, in early 2020 I hope to put together a small support team to “help me think”. Additionally, part of this process will also be to keep the congregation informed as to my progress during the months I am away and upon my return as this work will certainly not be fully completed during my sabbatical months.

While I am gone, plans will be put in place to cover all my church responsibilities. Details of these plans will follow later in the spring prior to the beginning of the sabbatical. Most likely the sabbatical will begin sometime in May and conclude in late July or early August.

I look forward to sharing more details about this sabbatical time and the project I will be working on during those months. As I mentioned earlier, sabbaticals are to be a time of physical rest and spiritual revival. I need them both and am looking forward to their pursuit! More details to come....

~ Pastor Tom

Peace United Church of Christ  
**MISSION OF THE MONTH**  
**LAVASTIDA CHRISTIAN CENTER**

For the past 5 years, Peace Church has been reaching out to the Lavastida Christian Center in Santiago, Cuba with financial support, youth labor, and Christian love and relationships. Our gifts have been critical to the continued building of the Lavastida Center's new dining room and dormitory, which are still in progress at this time. The building progress is a "start and stop" proposition; when they have funds, they build; when they run out of funds, they stop construction.

During the month of January, Peace Church will continue our support for the Lavastida Center. We invite folks to make a financial contribution. There will be envelopes available each Sunday in January and an information table with photos and information documenting the progress completed and the critical work left to be done. As Reverend Elmer Lavastida said in a recent email to Pastor Tom:

*"Our work is central to our Christian calling and critical to our brothers and sisters who benefit by the work of the Lavastida Center. The gifts of Peace Church over the years have been a life-line for all that we do, and we always rejoice when Pastor Tom comes through the door each January with people, gifts, and love from our Peace Church and wider UCC family."*

Please give as you are able once again this January to the Lavastida Christian Center. Thank you!

~ **Peace Church Mission Council**

*(Note: Pastor Tom will deliver our financial gifts in person when he is in Cuba January 31st through February 9th.)*



Here is Pastor Tom presenting the offering to Rev. Elmer and Gisela Lavastida for the Lavastida Christian Center on last year's UCC Cuba Study Trip.



**GIVING TREE WAS A CHRISTMAS BLESSING**

Just prior to this Advent season, **Debbie Kaynor** brought to the Mission Committee the idea and much enthusiasm for Peace Church to support "The Giving Tree" to benefit local children and families with Christmas gifts. The tree was set-up



in the Narthex and adorned with stars, each of which had a child or parent's name, age, and suggested gift selection. Peace Church members were encouraged to take a star, purchase the gifts, and deliver them back to the tree for pick-up and delivery. Peace Church came through, and 7 families - including 7 parents and 24 children - were blessed with special gifts that were received as part of their individual family Christmas celebrations. The families were selected by the social services agency, *Family Services of the Piedmont, Inc.* Much gratitude to Debbie Kaynor and the Mission Committee as a whole for this wonderful effort to touch the lives of local children and their families.



## THE TEAMS ARE COMING TO TOWN!

With the beginning of the New Year, Peace United Church of Christ will begin a transition process in regard to how we do the work of the church. In an effort to engage the entirety of our church membership and its many talents, to be more practical and efficient, and to spread out the workload within the congregation, we will over the next year transition to a “team model” of leadership.

This “team model” will be organized around four (4) primary teams: Sunday Morning Worship Team; Congregational and Community Outreach Team; Church Missions Team; and the Finance & Stewardship Team.



The long-term plan is to have bi-monthly meeting nights for each of these teams, so that the entirety of the congregation will come together for an evening of worship, fellowship, food, and “team” work. We hope to have our first meeting night in late April (more details will follow soon).

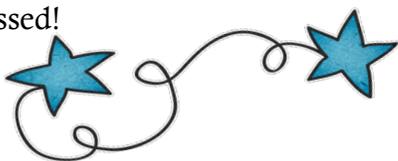
As we build up to this first *Team Meeting Night*, there will be a series of educational information tables in the Narthex explaining the work of each team. Church members are encouraged to visit each of the tables in order to discern and make a commitment to the team which speaks to their interest and talents the most. Church members should join only one team.

We hope all church members will be excited as we slowly move to a much more effective model of “doing church.”

~ *Ava Chambers*, Consistory President

~ *Rev. Tom Warren*, Pastor

Congratulations to **Sherri Kluttz**, who recently celebrated 34 years of employment at Greensboro Orthopaedics/EmergeOrtho. She began her 35th year on January 2nd. Sherri says she’s feeling so happy and blessed!



## CONSISTORY CORNER

Our Consistory elected the following members as our officers for 2020:

President - Ava Chambers  
 Vice-President - Jane Ford  
 Secretary - Rick Owen  
 Assistant Secretary - Clodagh Leszinski  
 Treasurer - Melinda Summers  
 Assistant Treasurer - Linda Forotan

Consistory members for 2020 are:

### Deacon

Sherri Kluttz  
 Clodagh Leszinski  
 Mary Lillie  
 Melinda Summers

### Elder

Ava Chambers  
 Jane Ford  
 Linda Forotan  
 Rick Owen  
 Harold Poffenbaugh

Our 2020 Consistory will be installed on Sunday, January 12 during our worship service. We meet the second Sunday of every month at 1:00 p.m.

During the month of January we will be organizing our new teams and we hope every church member will join a team! Also, we will have our Annual Jambalaya Sale on Saturday, February 22 prior to the Lenten season, so mark your calendar.

Blessings for a Happy New Year!

### **Ava Chambers**

Consistory President



*Jean Scott* would like to thank you all for all the cards, calls, prayers, and other acts of kindness extended to her during her recent hip replacement surgery and recovery.

Peace Church has an ongoing commitment to supply oatmeal to the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Pantry on a monthly basis. The first Sunday of each month is designated Oatmeal Sunday when everyone is encouraged to bring a one pound box of oatmeal or to donate \$1.00 to purchase oatmeal. Donations are welcome at any time and can be placed in the basket under the bulletin board in the Narthex. There is an oatmeal box for monetary donations in the same location or your weekly offering envelopes can be used.



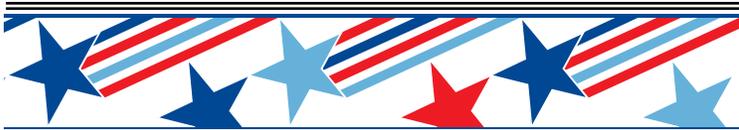
PEACE



ARE

CONNECTING,  
COMMUNICATING,  
CARING...

The new PeaceCare booklet is in its final stages. Many changes have been made, and all of our new members are included. Be sure to pick up a copy for your family when they are made available. And, please be sure to use them whenever you hear of a concern that needs to be addressed.



## US Air Force Heritage of America

### Concert Band

Sunday, February 16th

High Point Theatre

3:00 p.m.

(Doors open at 2:00)

This is a free event. There is a strict limit of 4 tickets per person for this event. To obtain tickets, call the box office at 336-887-3001 during regular business hours (M-F, 12-5pm) or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to High Point Theatre Box Office, 220 E. Commerce Ave., High Point, NC 27260. Orders without a return envelope will be held for pickup at the Will Call window.

**NOTE:** Some of you may be interested in getting tickets to this event. Several church members have attended in the past and they are wonderful concerts. The important thing is that you request the 4 tickets, even if you decide to give them away. Think of sharing with your relatives or church friends. Seating is not assigned, so you can sit with whomever you wish. It is wonderful fellowship.



We extended our deepest sympathy to the family of **Mrs. Iris Lee Starr Haislip**, 84, who passed away on Friday, December 6, 2019, in her family home. She died peacefully surrounded by her loved ones.



Iris was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Raymond Haislip, in 2014, and stepdaughter, Robin Haislip, in 2006. She leaves behind her loving sister and constant companion, **Abigail Wheeling**, and her husband **Don**; daughters Lisa Pemberton and husband Robin, Renee Rich and husband Mark, step-son Ray Haislip and wife Jane, and stepdaughter Allyson Haislip and husband Bob, grandsons Bray (Brooke) and Briggs Pemberton, Cory Rich (Adrienne) and granddaughter Payton Rich (Lundy), Van Haislip (Jennifer), and Molly Haislip (Nathan) and four great-grandchildren.

Iris was born October 30, 1935 to Raymond Luther Starr and Edna Buchanan Starr. Iris was a "people person" and enjoyed her large network of family, friends, and church members. Her hospitality was endless. She enjoyed playing bridge, gardening, especially her roses which she graciously shared, and entertaining. Her home and swimming pool were always open to all.

Iris was a long-time member of Peace United Church of Christ where she devoted much time with the Women's Fellowship and outreach programs. She delivered Mobile Meals for over 25 years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Juvenile Diabetes Association, at JDRF 205 Regency Executive Park Dr. #102, Charlotte, NC 28217 or Peace UCC Women's Fellowship, 2714 W. Market St, Greensboro, NC 27403.

**The family of Iris Haislip** would like to thank everyone for the food, cards, phone calls and prayers received during her illness and death. Her church family was very special to her and she loved and cared for each one. It was very comforting to know that you felt the same about her. The reception provided by the Women's Fellowship following the funeral was outstanding and we heard many compliments from those attending. Thanks for your Peace love!





Ending the year with a **BANG!**  
Despite three months of schedule changes, *Hands-On* came through with a huge December. November had been light on deliveries, but, oh, did we make up for it!

For the first time this year, we delivered to all 8 of our recipients. Generally, the nursing homes, Friends Home, and Piedmont Crossing, are scheduled only four times a year. In December, EVERYONE got pillows, with half of them in Christmas fabrics.

Another benchmark in December is that we delivered the most pillows ever—97! The previous highest delivery was 95.

And, this year, we exceeded our highest overall production, making and delivering 870 pillows.

This is quite an achievement, so give a *Hands-On* person a pat on the back. And, remember, we are recruiting, so just show up at *Hands-On* at 1:00 on the second Wednesday of the month. A great time is had by all!

## Committee Chairs & Department Leaders



Please get your Committee/Department's annual report in to the church office by **Friday, January 24th** to be included in the 2019 Annual Report. The Annual Report will be published in February.



## Peace Church Recipe Corner

### TACO SPAGHETTI

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 (1.25-ounce) package taco seasoning
- 1 (10-ounce can) Ro-Tel® Mild Diced Tomatoes & Green Chilies
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 8 ounces spaghetti
- 3 cups water
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 Roma tomato, diced
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro leaves (optional)



1. Heat olive oil in a large stockpot or Dutch oven over medium high heat. Add ground beef and cook until beef has browned, about 3-5 minutes, making sure to crumble the beef as it cooks; stir in taco seasoning. Drain excess fat.
2. Stir in Ro-Tel® tomatoes, tomato paste, spaghetti and 3 cups water. Bring to a boil; cover, reduce heat and simmer until pasta is cooked through, about 13-16 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and top with cheeses. Cover until melted, about 2 minutes.
4. Serve immediately, garnished with tomato and cilantro, if desired.

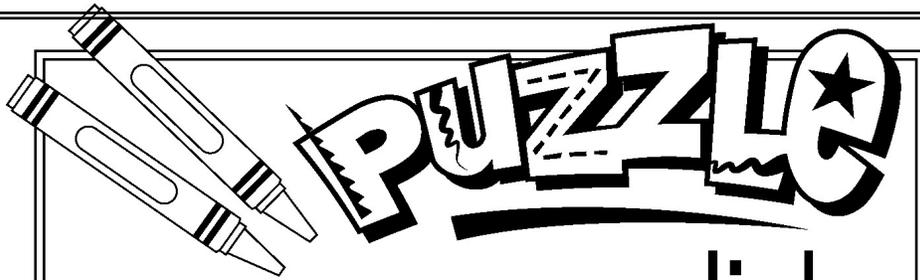
## MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY MEMORIAL BREAKFAST

Each year the Human Rights Commission of Greensboro sponsors a *Memorial Breakfast in Honor of The Martin Luther King, Jr.* This year's event is themed "Live the Dream - It's Time" with a keynote address given by community activist and motivational speaker Lynch Hunt. This event will be held on Monday, January 20th at the Koury Convention Center at 7:30am. Folks who are interested in attending should let Pastor Tom know so that tickets (\$20.00 per person) can be reserved.



Peace United Church of Christ  
2714 W. Market St.  
Greensboro, NC 27403

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



# From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- |           |               |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good   | Righteousness |
| 2. Death  | Children      |
| 3. Go     | Life          |
| 4. Evil   | Come          |
| 5. Adults | Bad           |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are \_\_\_\_\_, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV  
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of \_\_\_\_\_." John 8:12, NIV  
(2)

"I have \_\_\_\_\_ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV  
(3)

"For what do \_\_\_\_\_ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV  
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as \_\_\_\_\_ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV  
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

# NO-SEW FLEECE SCARF



Winter is a difficult time for people in need, so make this scarf to help someone stay warm.

### What you need:

- Medium-weight polar fleece, 60" standard width (a 9" portion will make one scarf)
- Scissors
- An adult to help

### What you do:

1. Cut a piece of medium-weight polar fleece to the size of 60" x 9". Cut the fabric across its width so the material is stretchy.
2. Trim off the edge binding. To add "fringe" along each end, make a 6"-long cut every half inch.
3. For curly fringe, pull each strand and then let go sharply. Another attractive option is to tie an over-hand knot at the top of each strip.
4. Donate your scarf to a local group that helps people in need. For greater impact, encourage your Sunday school classmates or other friends to make scarves, too.

**Please keep these members of our church family in your thoughts and prayers:**

Lois Bell; Dot Benshoff; Bertie Bowman; Nan Buchanan; David Fesperman; Lucille Hege; Glen Hutchinson; Buddy Lippard; Sylvia Lippard; Carol MacDonald; Sally McGrogan; Abigail Miller-Warren; Sharon Mitchell; Jean Morgan; Jack & Marcy Neal; Femi Quakenbush; Jean Scott; Dale Starr; Lucille Waynick; Abbie & Don Wheeling; Doris Yeattes.

**Remember these wider church family and friends:**

Lyn Ann Bailey (niece of Harold Poffenbaugh); Chris Barnes (nephew of Harold Poffenbaugh); Katie Bowen (daughter-in-law of Cynthia Bowen); Eric Chapman (nephew of Jane Ford); Joan Cressman (mother of Ken Cressman); Janet Faucette (sister-in-law of Yvonne Smothers); Ron Hindson (father-in-law of Amanda Hindson); David Kaynor (nephew of Debbie Kaynor); Betty Larimer (aunt of Trish Larimer); Debbie Lillie Busch (daughter of Mary Lillie); Beatrice Rosenthal (mother of David Dole); Annette Sarty (sister of Yvonne Poffenbaugh); Tom & Rhoda Taylor (niece & her husband of Harold Poffenbaugh); Glynda Whittington (mother-in-law of Sherri Vestal).

**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING FOR DECEMBER**

DATE	SUNDAY SCHOOL	WORSHIP	REGULAR OFFERING	OTHER OFFERING	OTHER RECEIPTS
December 1	10	68	\$3,430	\$368	\$200
December 8	10	67	\$2,523	\$330	
December 15	10	66	\$3,566	\$765	\$1,365
December 22	10	75	\$11,885	\$1,472	
December 29	—	50	\$947	\$115	\$500

**PEACE CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT SUMMARY**

*(Through November 30, 2019)*

	Current Month	Year to Date	YTD Budget	Amount Over (Under) Budget
Contributions from Members & Friends, Plus Other Receipts	16,642	160,530	166,230	(5,700)
Disbursed in Support of Ministries, Programs & Facilities	16,488	192,795	184,718	8,077
Neighbors In Need, GUM Honor Cards	115			



***January Birthdays***



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Eileen Johnson	2 Bryan Morgan	3	4 Ellen Mason
5	6	7	8	9 Don Willoughby	10	11
12 Kevin Hege	13	14	15 Mike Williams	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Jeanne Bryan	24	25
26 Debbie Kaynor	27	28 Femi Quakenbush	29 Kim Miller	30	31	