



**Pleasant Hill
Church of the Brethren**

Brethren Visitor

December 2009

Slow Down

A Christmas centered around parties and presents can make a slave out of you. Jesus came to set you free so please don't enter into the bondage of debt and hectic scheduling. Leave some room for joy.

The activities at church help me stay focused on the real Christmas. The world tries really hard to saddle me with a false Christmas just as it tries to promote a false savior. My celebrations of Christmas should help me draw closer to God and help me with my journey of faith. You can make your Christmas simpler, too, if you choose to do so. The time you spend clearing out the clutter of your life and choosing to downsize your Christmas plans will pay off. If you simplify your decorations, cut down on your shopping, and choose not to do all this "stuff," you will benefit and so will your family. You can do it, I know you can, and God will be honored by your choices. - *Pastor Phil*

What the Bell Choir Means to Me

This year will mark the third year the reorganized bell choir will be ringing the bells for the Christmas Eve service. It has truly been a joy to me and has brought back many fond memories. Although we have had different members ringing the bells over these past three years, we are mostly made up of older adults and many of us played these same bells as children.

Lois (Rose) McKendree and myself were among the original group of kids who worked with Aggie Mae Harrison (our director), at holding an auction at Joseph Cernak's barn and raised the money to purchase the bells. With much help from our church family and community, we were able to purchase these handbells for \$600 (quite a large sum of money in those days).

I remember how excited we were when the bells arrived and we opened the cases. We had so much fun learning how to play the bells and became one of the first bell-ringer groups in this area. We not only performed at our church services, but we traveled to many other area churches and played the bells. We even taped a Christmas program at WJAC-TV. Cindy (Bouch) Gossard and Becky (Saintz) Hobar were also young bell-ringers during the beginning years. The bell choir existed for many years at our church, with many groups of kids taking their turns in playing the bells. We estimate our handbells to be between 45 to 49 years old. We as a group are amazed at how they have endured. Although I didn't realize it back then, those bell ringing years helped to form many of my Christian values and established long-lasting friendships and precious memories.

I feel I can speak for many of our ringers this year by saying that we still have fun, enjoy the Christian fellowship, and experience pride when we play the bells. However, more importantly, it is our hope that the congregation will receive a blessing on Christmas Eve listening to the bells, as we have all received in playing them for the Lord. - *Bonnie Bouch*

Sundays in December

Dec. 6 Second in Advent

Text: Malachi 3:1-4

7 PM Hymn Sing at Third
Brethren

Dec. 13 Third in Advent

Text: Mark Isaiah 12:2-6

6PM Covenant Bible Study

Dec. 20 Fourth in Advent

Text: Psalm 80:1-7

6 PM Children's Christmas
Program and Christmas party

CHRISTMAS EVE

6 PM and 8 PM

Candlelight service

Dec. 27

Text: Isaiah 60:1-6

NEW YEAR'S EVE

7PM Communion

OUR SHUT-INS

AT HOME: Pauline Caton

Elsie Matula, Gladys Kovach, Mabel Rose,
Janet Roberts, Bob & Anna Craft, June Berg

AUTUMNS VIEW: Mildred Rager

HARMONY HOUSE: Agnes Mae Harrison

PRESBYTERIAN HOME: Belva Rager

HOSPITALIZED SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER:

John MacEwan Sr., Betty Ellsworth, Loretta Carney,
Steven Gossard, Becky Lambie

NEXT COMMISSION & BOARD MEETING(S):

Monday, December 14, 2009

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: Monday, January 25

NEXT DEACON MEETING: Tuesday, December 1

DEACON(S) FOR THE WEEK

December 06 – Tracy Rhodes

December 13 – Charles and Marsha Smith

December 20 – Pete and Donna Smith

December 27 – Greg and Patty Blue

8:00 AM NURSERY CARE

December 06 – Sharon Allison and Tessa

December 13 – Jessie Rager

December 20 – Judy Bowser

December 27 – Vicki Roberts

10:30 AM NURSERY CARE

December 06 – Shawn and Tracy Davis

December 13 – Taylor Davis and Maria Carnevali

December 20 – Norma Reighard

December 27 – Marlene Cameron

8:00 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

December 06 – Mike and Jess Rager

December 13 – Pat and Judy Carr

December 20 – Jim and Cherie Kinsey

December 27 – Judy Bowser

10:30 AM FRONT DOOR GREETERS

December 06 – Snook and Sandy Tiffany

December 13 – Tammy Gaunt

December 20 – Rob and Lisa Crynock

December 27 – Kraig and Kody Reighard

TWO CENTS A MEAL

The bucket will be in the back on Sunday, December 6,
for your use as it is on the first Sunday of every month.

The next day to give will be January 3.

LIVING/MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

A donation has been made in memory of Vaughn
Perrine, from the Pleasant Hill Church Family.

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS

Date	8:00 AM	Sunday School	10:30 AM	Offering
11-1	92	120	157	\$6,010
11-8	98	118	143	\$8,124
11-15	99	103	135	\$4,469

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

December 06 – Aleah Dishong and Lauren Natta

December 13 – Chad Cameron and Jordan Schroll

December 20 – Taylor Davis

December 27 – Hannah Cameron and Ashley Wallace

The Acolytes begin serving their church when they are willing and able. This is a very special way to represent Jesus, The Light of the World! If you are unable to make your scheduled day, please call April Mackell at 536-1589, so the change can be made in the bulletin.

SYMPATHY

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of BRUCE HAMILTON, who went to be with his Lord and Savior on Monday, October 26, 2009. Bruce was the son-in-law of Rose Kisel and the brother-in-law of Cheryl Kinsey.

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of JAMES WEINZIERL, who went to be with his Lord and Savior on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. James was the husband of Maggie (Burkett) Weinzierl, and the son-in-law of Gene and Estelle Burkett.

Pleasant Hill Church offers its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of MILDRED BLUE, who went to be with her Lord and Savior on Monday, November 16, 2009.

THANK YOU

The Middle Taylor Township Volunteer Fire Company would like to thank the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren for the use of their Fellowship Hall, the many people that helped prepare and serve the meal, and especially those who donated cakes.

Dear Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren,
I would like to thank everyone for my care package. It was really nice to get something from the church. School is going good. It has been a little chilly out here in Ohio, but I hear it's the same back there. I really am enjoying the Ag program. We just recently were halter breaking and training calves. I named mine IDA. That was a lot of fun and seemed like being back home. Well Thank You again for thinking of me and sending me the care package.
Annie Cekada

THANK YOU

To All at Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren,
Thank you so much for sending the beautiful flowers in
memory of Jim. It was greatly appreciated.

Thanks, Maggie Weinzierl and Family

GOD'S BLESSING

Zoey Rae Conley was born on Saturday, October 31,
2009. The proud parents are Roger and Jennifer
Conley. Grandparents are Brian and Gloria Rager, and
great-grandparents are Jack and Shirley Rager.

ADVENT

The Christian Season of Advent begins on Sunday,
November 29; a time of expectant waiting and a
reminder to all that our world was in darkness and sin
waiting for the coming of the Savior...

- The Advent Wreath, with an additional candle
lit and readings and prayers given, will be part
of our worship services during Advent
- Advent banners will be placed on the walls of
the Sanctuary each Sunday (thank you Judy
Bowser and Sue Graham for making these)
- Advent Devotional booklets are in the vestibule:
please give a \$2.00 donation to cover the cost as
you take one.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

Our youth will provide this special service on Sunday
evening, November 29. Everyone will have an
opportunity to help decorate the Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT

Large envelopes are circulating through our Sunday
School Classes and there is one in the vestibule as well.
Please write your Christmas greeting on the paper in the
envelope and place the money that you would have used
to buy Christmas cards in the large envelope as well.
You may also put your greeting and contribution into
the Nurture Commission mailbox or send to the church
office. This money will be divided evenly between
Camp Harmony and New Day. These large envelopes
will be collected on Sunday, December 6. Your
Christmas greeting will be sent with the Pastor's
Christmas letter to everyone on the church mailing list.

NEW DAY GIFT WRAPPING

Gift wrapping at the Galleria to benefit New Day is
scheduled for Sat., Dec. 12 from 8:00 - 9:00. It's a great
way to have fun, visit with people you might not
otherwise get to see, and help a great organization all at
the same time! The sign-up sheet for volunteers is on a
clipboard in the vestibule.

MEMORY BEARS

Anyone that has lost a loved one can still have a
memory bear made with that person's clothing. Please
leave items in the church office, along with your name
and the name of the person that has passed.

DISASTER MINISTRIES

The Western PA District continues to perform much
needed work in Chalmette, LA and at a new project in
Hammond, IN. There are jobs for everyone regardless
of experience or skill level. Please contact Herb Ewald,
at 814-539-8530 or hjewald@atlanticbb.net to sing up.

Dec. 8 New Windsor (one day)

Jan. 3-8 Chalmette, LA

Feb. 9 New Windsor (one day)

Mar. 14-20 Chalmette, LA

BRETHREN HOME BEAUTY SHOP

Pleasant Hill is scheduled to handle the Beauty Shop the
first and third Wednesday of each month. We do about
thirty ladies, and could really use some extra help. If
you are interested and would be willing to wash, set, or
style their hair, call April Mackell at 536-1589. We
work from 8:00 AM to noon. For many of the residents
this is the highlight of their week, and we leave them
"happy and pretty".

PARENTS

What do traditions—and Christmas—mean to your
children? Discover their opinions and insights by asking
these questions:

1. What are your favorite things to do around
Christmastime, and why? Which do you plan to
continue with your own children?
2. How do our traditions help make Christmas
more special? How might some traditions
interfere with our celebrations?
3. What traditions would you like our family to
start or stop, and why? What traditions can kids
in our family be in charge of?
4. How would you explain "Christmas" to
someone who was unfamiliar with it?

EAT-N-PARK COUPONS

The Auxiliary of the Brethren Home is selling \$10 Eat-
n-Park coupons. The Home will make \$1 profit on each
one sold. We appreciate your support. See April
Mackell (536-1589) or Jean Rager (322-1158).

NEWSLETTER ON THE WEB

Help save a tree! Just a reminder that Pleasant Hill's
monthly newsletter (and a ton of other information) is
available at www.pleasanthillchurchofthebrethren.org.
Anyone who wishes to stop receipt of the paper copies
of this newsletter should contact the church office.

December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
NOVEMBER 29 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 7PM Hanging of the Greens	NOVEMBER 30	1 6:00 Deacon Christmas Party at Homestead Inn 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	2 Volunteers to CoB Home 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	3 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7 PM Bell Choir Practice	4 6:30 PM Family Movie Night in Church Sanctuary	5
6 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 7:00 PM Hymn Sing at Third Brethren	7	8 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice 7:00 PM Women's Fellowship Christmas Party	9 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	10 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7 PM Bell Choir Practice	11	12 District Children's Christmas Party 8 AM-9 PM New Day Gift Wrap at Galleria
13 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6PM Covenant Bible Study	14 6:30 PM Commission Meetings 7:00 PM Board Meeting	15 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	16 Volunteers to CoB Home 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	17 Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7 PM Bell Choir Practice	18	19
20 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church 6:00 PM C.B.Y.F. 6 PM Children's Christmas Program and Party	21	22 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	23 9 AM Quilters 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	24 Christmas Eve 6:00 PM Candlelight Service 8:00 PM Candlelight Service	25 Merry Christmas!	26
27 8:00 AM Service 8:15 Children's Church 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Service 10:45 Children's Church	28	29 7:00 PM Praise Team Practice	30 9 AM Quilters 5 PM Camp Harmony Volunteer Appreciation Dinner 6 PM Promise Keepers 6-8 PM Youth Small Grp 7 PM Choir Practice	31 New Year's Eve Volunteers to West End Food Pantry 7:00 PM Communion Service		

What's happening at the Emanuel Children's Home?

The Chicken Farm

The ninety-five hens in the chicken farm are producing approximately eight-eight eggs daily. We presently do not have roosters, because we didn't want to overload the children. We have arranged for another one hundred chicks to be sent to the home in November, when the children begin their winter vacation. No egg-producing hens are butchered, we are treating them like queens!! They are vaccinated, given vitamins, and spoiled in every way we can! The egg production from Monday through Thursday is strictly for helping to feed our children. However, the eggs produced from Friday through Sunday goes for sale. We also make occasional egg donations to nursing homes and orphanages less fortunate than ours.

Team Spirit

The kids at the Home are just about beside themselves! They exhibit such team spirit when it comes to their country's national soccer team. Honduras had a chance to qualify against the USA, but lost! Their last, slim chance was if they were to beat El Salvador, AND if USA was to beat or tie Costa Rica. Well, Honduras WON its game against El Salvador—And the very last play of the game between Costa Rica and the USA tied the score. So **Honduras is in**, qualifying for its first World Cup in 27 years for the FIFA World Cup South Africa-2010. President Michelletti declared tomorrow (October 16th) a national holiday! What a boost in morale for this country! With all that is going on politically, they could use some of that right now!

The Nursery Update

In San Pedro Sula (the city where Hogar Emanuel is located) approximately six pregnant women each month who show up at one of their hospitals. She is placed on a gurney (that possibly has no

sheets) next to several others just like her and stays there only long enough to give birth. She no doubt is very young (maybe only twelve or thirteen years old), very poor, has had no pre-natal care, and definitely never had intentions of becoming a mother. She will deliver her child and then walk away abandoning her baby. The Nursery facility is ready to go! Now all we need are the caretakers and we'll be ready help — just a little! Although we have the space for ten cribs, we will start out by opening our arms to only three infants soon after the beginning of the new year.

We will be sharing more about the nursery and ways in which you can help in the coming months. In the meantime, please pray for Hogar Emanuel as we step out in faith to help even more children. We trust Him to lead the way for the Nursery Project and know that great things can be accomplished with God as our guide.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

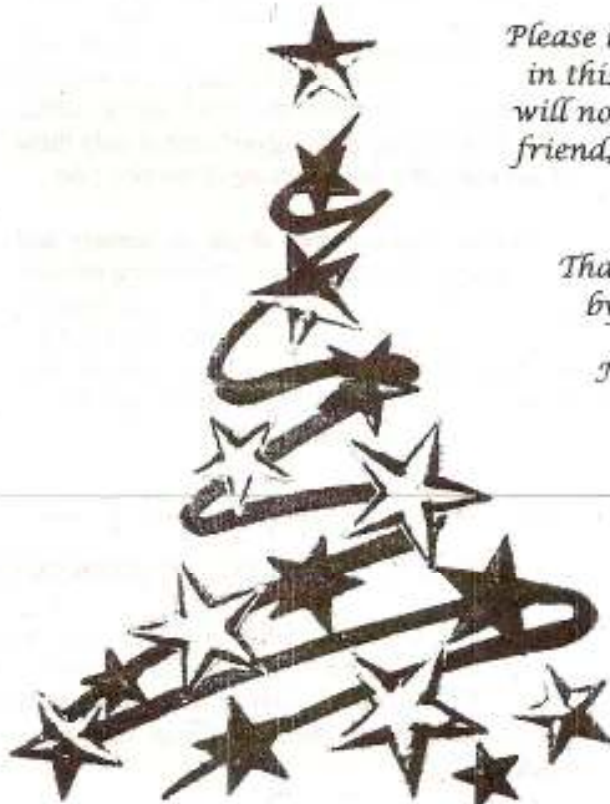
"Voices with a Cause—USA" was a huge success! What can we say, but THANK YOU over and over again to anyone and everyone who participated in the Dinner/Concert held at Camp Harmony on October 10th.

It was so exciting for us to share the display of beautiful fall colors, both inside and out. However, more than that, it was great to share the hopes and dreams for the children at Hogar Emanuel in such a special way with so many of you. Our prayers were answered as we are now thrilled to report that this fund raising event made it possible for Hogar Emanuel to supply the needs for THREE abandoned babies for about six or seven months!

PRAISE GOD!

Brethren Home Community Windber

Christmas Tree of Stars 2009



Please help us decorate the Christmas Tree of Stars in this 26th year of our program. Your donation will not only honor or memorialize a loved one or friend, it will help us provide benevolent care for our residents in need.

Thank you for showing your love and concern by supporting the Tree of Stars Campaign.

Names of persons being remembered will be posted at the Home's Circle Lounge

Please return the bottom portion with your contribution to:

*Church of the Brethren Home
277 Hoffman Avenue
Windber, PA 15963
ATTN: Tree of Stars*



Christmas Tree of Stars 2009

Please shine a light in memory of: _____

Please hang an ornament in honor of: _____

Donated by: _____ **Amount of Gift:** _____

Church of the Brethren TAPESTRY

Caring for the whole fabric of the Church of the Brethren community * Dec. 2009, Vol. 7, Issue 10

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Future Church of the Brethren events and activities:

Dec. 6 Church of the Brethren Advent Offering emphasis (see back page); Brethren Press winter curriculum quarter begins

Jan. 5, 2010 National Youth Conference registration opens (www.brethren.org)

Jan. 9-30 Church of the Brethren Global Mission Partnerships Nigeria work-camp

Jan. 24-Feb. 12 Brethren Volunteer Service winter unit orientation, Gotha, Fla.

Jan. 25 Church of the Brethren youth/young adult workcamps registration opens (www.brethren.org)

TAPESTRY is a newsletter highlighting the mission and ministries of the Church of the Brethren. It is published by the Office of Identity and Relations in Elgin, Ill.

TAPESTRY is inserted in each SOURCE mailing and posted on www.brethren.org; congregations and districts are encouraged to make copies for distribution via newsletters or other means.

Brethren send aid to Indonesia



Photo by Rainer Lang / ACT

A community leader in West Sumatra, Indonesia, shows a home severely damaged by earthquakes in September. A major ecumenical relief effort is under way.

Brethren Disaster Ministries has been responding to recent disaster situations by issuing grants for relief work following earthquakes in Indonesia and sending a Children's Disaster Services (CDS) team following flooding around Atlanta.

Two major earthquakes hit Indonesia in September, causing widespread damage and killing at least 700 people, and a tsunami swept over the South Pacific's Samoan Islands late in the month.

Disaster staff have been monitoring both situations through Church World Service, a long-time ecumenical and international partner. CWS Indonesia staff reported that the level of damage in the earthquake that hit the island of Sumatra at the end of September was "far worse" than the Sept. 2 earthquake that rattled West Java. CWS has been responding to both earthquakes, providing non-food relief items such as family

tents, blankets, and relief kits.

An initial allocation of \$15,000 was given from the Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund to CWS for work in West Java, and \$69,000 was sent for Sumatra in mid-October. The grants are helping to provide a variety of supplies and shelter for those affected.

In the Atlanta metro area, severe flooding affected thousands of families. Judy Bezon, CDS associate director, coordinated a week-long response in Marietta with a team of six volunteer caregivers. The team provided care for more than 100 children affected by the floods. A grant of \$4,000 is aiding relief efforts.

Other recent grants have gone to American Samoa (\$10,000) and the flood-ravaged Philippines (\$20,000). Brethren Disaster Ministries is also continuing three US rebuilding project sites, two in Indiana and one in Louisiana.

Board takes a close look at finances

The Church of the Brethren's Mission and Ministry Board met Oct. 15-19 at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., with the theme "Hearers and Doers of the Word," based on James 1:16-25.

BOARD MEETINGS The board adopted a budget for 2010; adopted new vision, mission, and core values statements; adopted a revision of the corporate by-laws; and adopted a Resolution Against Torture. Other major work at the meeting included a job evaluation for general secretary Stan Noffsinger and renewal of his five-year contract.

The budget approved by the board anticipates total income of \$9,488,760 and expense of \$9,807,100 for all Church of the Brethren ministries in 2010, representing a net expense of \$318,340. That includes a Core Ministries budget of \$4,962,000 of projected income and \$5,342,930 of projected expense, with a net expense



Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Mission and Ministry Board members and staff confer about business in a "table talk" session at the board's October meeting in Elgin, Ill.

of \$380,930.

Along with the 2010 budget the board also approved a statement calling on the general secretary "to initiate development of a long-range strategic plan . . . that matches income and expense for the core budget beginning in 2011, using consulting help as needed" and that "this plan be based on a series of income enhancement and cost reduction studies to explore new options." The plan is to

be presented to the October 2010 meeting of the board for approval.

The board engaged in several sessions of "table talk" in small groups as it gave input for new vision, mission, and core values statements. Heading the new document is the vision statement: "The Mission and Ministry Board envisions the Church of the Brethren wholly engaged in the reconciliation of all people to God and to each other."

RESOURCE CORNER

ADVENT OFFERING

The Church of the Brethren Advent Offering is scheduled for observance on Dec. 6, with the theme "What are we waiting for?"



The offering benefits a variety of ministries and programs of the Church of the Brethren. For a list of resources and more details, visit www.brethren.org. To order bulletin inserts, call 800-441-3712.

FOR THIS WE PRAY: RECONCILIATION

Week of Dec. 6: Where would we be if we reconciled our relationships as often as we reconcile our bank accounts? How long has it been since you "balanced" your relationship with God? Consider your relationships, and with the help of the Holy Spirit, make amends.

Week of Dec. 13: Invite Jesus, the Prince of Peace, to work on your heart. Ask that you be given the ability to see the issue from the other's perspective and the wisdom to recognize common ground.

Week of Dec. 20: Prayerfully celebrate signs of reconciliation you've seen recently, whether personally, nationally, or internationally.

Week of Dec. 27: Spend time with a friend discussing areas of brokenness in your life. How do you want God to be present in those areas? In what ways do you want to experience reconciliation? Pray together, and name your desire to participate in the process of reconciliation.

Blessings for your Advent season!

December Birthdays

1 Alan Williams	12 Charles Graham	23 Connie Bush
1 Alexander Babal	12 Clyde Harrison	24 Lee Carney
2 Rick Berg	12 John MacEwan	24 Debby Rager
2 Jared Pavic	12 Brett Harrison	24 Donna Swick
2 Jeff Rager	13 Max Schroeder	24 Wendy Swick
2 Amy (Rummel) Ergas	14 Beth Bintrim	25 Megan Lewis
2 Daniel Miller	14 Janet Wallace	25 Matthew Lewis
2 Brooke Thomas	14 Jeremy Lewis	25 Devin Miller
3 Milton Hunt	14 Nicole Berg	25 Tammie Potvin
3 Roger Swick	15 Andrew Rhodes	25 Morgan Gossard
4 Sharon Fisher	15 Margaret Weinzierl	25 Ernie Johns
6 Marianne Roberts	17 Linda Oaks	26 Shelly Craft
6 Marsha Smith	18 Kapri Fulcomer	26 Jeff Day
6 Mike Springer	18 Ella Louise King	26 Tim Swick
7 Sandy Tiffany	18 Jack Gray Moschgat	26 Patty Toth
7 Kathaleen Williams	18 Daniel Ryan	28 Bob Lonsinger
9 Melvin Rummel	19 Hailey Berg	29 Justin Coleman
9 Zoey-mae Chamberlain	20 Jim Allison	29 Stacy Speicher
10 Norma McDowell	20 Brian Rager	29 Tyler Tomechak
10 Adam Miller	20 Les Brilhart, Sr.	30 Virgil Rummel
11 Paige Kinder	21 Ross Rager	30 Aaron Miller
11 Dallen Spaugy	21 Shelley Yurkovich	30 Gloria Page
11 Ethel Williams	22 Lydia Berg	31 Tom Pavic
12 Courtney Shaulis	22 Jill Robbins	31 Tammy Rager
	22 Eryn McKendree	

Happy Anniversary!

9 Gary and Joyce Selders	23 Daniel and Patricia Rhodes
10 Nick and Betty Fabina	27 Jim and Betty Browning
13 Edward and Nancy Cernic	28 Tom and Debbie Burkey
15 David and Amy Yingling	30 Adam and Carrie Miller
17 Cecil and Judy Hess	31 Chris and Shelley Yurkovich
17 Albert and Connie Malek	