

LIGHT LINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF WALLINGFORD



**JANUARY
2010**



FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN PASTOR BRUCE SANDY, INTERIM PASTOR

For me, a new year brings the hope of new possibilities. For some, it may bring dread; but for me, I find it exciting, as if the slate is wiped clean and we can create a new beginning. So...like many of you, I ask myself, "What type of future do you desire?"

I desire to become closer and closer to the Lord. Like Moses, I would like to see God, even if it is His back as He passes by. I want to see the face of Jesus and thus know the Father. I want to understand His will—and have the courage to follow it.

I desire to become closer and closer to my wife, Bettylou. Thank God we have a very good and loving relationship. I want to find new ways to honor her and express my love for her. She is truly my soul mate. My heart overflows with a God-given love for her.

I desire to serve the Lord well here at FBC. I thank God daily that we have such a wonderful rela-

tionship; I do not take that for granted. May our relationship continue to be a good one as we prepare for the next pastor God has in mind for you. This interim period has been fantastic; just imagine what God has in store for you next!

I desire better self-care. Obviously I need to lose weight. I have all the knowledge I need; I just need the motivation, which so far is lacking. Please pray for my motivation and health. Prayers can move mountains; they can get me moving.

I desire to help make this world a little better by my existence. Bettylou tries to help people reconnect, enjoy, and protect God's creation. I try to bring people closer to the Creator too through my ministry. When I dedicate children to the Lord or baptize someone in the name of Jesus, I hear the heavenly angels sing with joy. All my years of ministry are fulfilled in one such act. May I continue to better this world morally

and spiritually for years to come, even if it is one person at a time.

The New Year stands before us as a clean slate. What type of future do you desire to create? When you can answer this question, then try to make it a reality.

Wishing our desires to coincide with God's will in this New Year,

Pastor Bruce



Upcoming Special Events for January Need to update

Every other Saturday
Men's Coffee and Fellowship
in CE Wing Meeting Room
from 7:30-9:00 a.m.
January 2 and January 16

Thursday, January 8
Women's Guild at 1 p.m.—
see page ???

Sunday, January
Proposed Budget Meeting
and Luncheon in Fellowship
Hall—see page ??

Sunday, January 25
Annual Meeting and Luncheon
in Fellowship Hall—see
page ??

Storm Church Closings

If we should experience severe weather, please check Channel 8 or Channel 3 on your television for the announcement of First Baptist Church closings or delays, or go to our website at www.fbcwlf.org after 7 a.m. for up-to-date information on weather-related closings/delays.

		Light Line
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From Your Director of Discipleship, Susanne Jordan



Light Line

Music Notes



**From Joe Sanders,
Coach of Fellowship**

Ginny Henderson
Music Director

From Thirl Gravell, Head Coach

Thirl Gravell
Head Coach

From Pastoral Search Committee

Dear Congregation,

Happy New Year to all! The next few months will bring forth some exciting times for our church. Between January and February, the Search Team will be handing out surveys to the entire congregation to help complete our "church profile" that will be given to pastoral candidates. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on what type of pastor you hope to see in the pulpit, as well as what ministries you feel should be led by the pastor, the congregation, or both. On January 17, we will be e-mailing the survey to the congregation, and on January 31, we will have extra copies available for those who are unable to gain access to e-mail. Tentatively scheduled for February 7, 2010, we will be having a luncheon after church to answer questions and to hand in the surveys. There will be drop boxes throughout the church to hand in the surveys when you are finished. We encourage everyone to prayerfully and thoughtfully fill out the survey and come to the luncheon to ask your questions. Please pray for the upcoming months as we undertake the congregational survey, and pray for the pastor that God is preparing for our congregation.

In His Service,
The Pastoral Search Committee

John Powers, Co-Chair	Sandy Drozd	Cory Kroon
Jim Wood, Co-Chair	Michele Genest	Pat Stearns
Danielle Barnhart	Jay Jordan	Judie Veitch

Denominational News

Baptist Beliefs

Last month I wrote about our Baptist stance for separation of church and state. This article is about another Baptist principle we hold dearly: “the priesthood of all believers”. Every layperson can use their gifts for ministry, not just the clergy.

At one time historically, priests kept all power and control over their churches. Only the priest was allowed to read Scriptures, even if you could read. At one time, reading the Bible was openly discouraged in order to have people rely upon the priests/hierarchy. Knowledge is power.

When “protesters” began printing Bibles, the Roman Church was not happy. When they printed Bibles in common language for the common man, those publishers were hunted down and killed, often burned alive. Nonetheless, Bibles were smuggled into countries and the lay people became empowered.

While Baptists highly respect their pastors and the “pastoral office”, we have long held the importance of every member’s participation in ministry. The pastor has the spiritual gift of “pastor-teacher”; others may have the gift of evangelism, hospitality, encouragement, etc. All these spiritual gifts need to be pooled together for the glory of God and the strengthening of the local Body of Christ. Thus everyone has a sacred task or role in God’s church.

Rather than elevate all people to the respected role given to pastors (at least in the past), some churches make the mistake of devaluing the role of pastor, considering that equality. I would rather see all people elevated, recognizing the sacred task we all share in ministry.

Now, this belief gets played out in numerous ways. For instance, laity can serve communion, a responsibility once solely confined to priests. I am not talking about assisting with serving communion; you can actually officiate at communion. Quite often we do, especially at retreats.

Pastors usually do not have veto power or even a vote in official church matters. This is a “checks and balance” to prevent pastors/priests from controlling everything. Of course a pastor should have a “voice” at meetings but not a veto or vote. The Body of Christ makes the decisions in our Baptist world.

Our state headquarters is not a hierarchy who tells us what to do, such as Bishops and Cardinals can do. The lay people in every autonomous Baptist church have the final say.

One of the intents of our new administrative “team ministries” approach is to involve more lay people. You do not have to belong to a board or committee for three years in order to serve the Lord. You can start a ministry anytime the Lord so moves you. You do not need “permission” from the pastor or a hierarchal board. It would be helpful however to have others involved in your ministry and to keep our coaches advised. If you don’t participate in ministry, the new style of administration *has not failed*. *We* have failed to use our God-given gifts.

I hope you will realize what a privilege it is for you to be able to be involved in ministry. People throughout history have died to give us that right. Don’t let their sacrifices be for not. Don’t force 20% of the people to do the work of ministry while 80% simply watch and enjoy the benefits. The “priesthood of the laity” includes every one of us!

Pastor Bruce

From Your Elders

NOT SURE IF LYVIA WANTS TO PUT ANYTHING IN—waiting to hear back from her

Let your faith allow the Lord to guide us.

Your Elders

Lyvia King, Sue DeChello, Cindy Oppelt, Paul French

Feeling Sheepish?

While the image of “shepherds watching over their flocks by night” are still fresh in our minds, I thought I would share a farmer’s insight.

On our farm we never owned sheep, but my uncle Sherman owned some sheep on his farm in New Hampshire. I had some wonderful summer days watching his sheep.

Did you know that sheep cannot be herded from behind, pushing them? They will all walk in different directions. And often there is a force received equal to the force given.

Sheep have to be led. Sheep are not dumb, needing a leader to find their way. Instead, they are trusting, following the leader, the good shepherd. Rather than “push” our church flock, it is always better to “lead” them, to be out front, leading them in the ways of God! This takes trust from the flock for its leaders.

A good shepherd will leave the 99 who are safe and seek out the one who is missing. I assume the 99 sheep are left with other shepherds to watch over them. When the shepherd finds the one missing sheep, he can do several things. If the sheep is stuck in a pit or crevice, the shepherd can use the crook of his staff to lift the sheep to safety. Hopefully, the sheep will follow the shepherd back to the safety of the flock. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, will help us to be pulled out of the deepest pits in which we can find ourselves. He will bring us safely home.

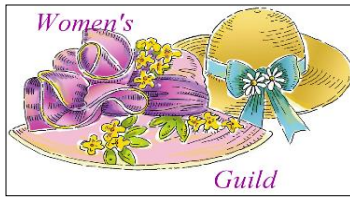
The good shepherd has another option people often overlook. Not many people realize that a shepherd often broke the leg of a stray, so that the wounded sheep would stick close to the flock for protection. Remember seeing the picture of the good shepherd carrying the lost sheep around his neck? Most likely, that sheep has had its leg intentionally broken—and the good shepherd is carrying it. We may not like the thought, but sometimes Jesus must discipline us so that we do not become lost or easy prey. We need to stay near the safety of the flock, the followers of Christ, rather than wander in life on our own. As hurtful as His discipline may first seem, He is willing to carry us until we are healed.

A good shepherd knows each of his sheep personally. Yes, every sheep has its own unique behaviors, quirks, and needs. Over time, a shepherd often knows his sheep well enough to give each one their own name—“Lazy”, “Frisky”, “Timid”. Jesus knows each of us by name; we are His. He created us; He sustains us. He meets our unique needs. That’s how much our Good Shepherd loves us.

May each of us stay close to the Good Shepherd as we shepherd others in His name,

Pastor Bruce





On January 14, 2010, the Women's Guild will meet in the Gold Room at the Church. Our first meeting of the new year will be hosted by Ruth Brown, with Joan Niles and Sue Geist as co-hostesses. Marion Beckwith will lead devotions. Bill Viola, Director of the Wallingford Senior Center will be our special guest. Hope to see you there.

In case of bad weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

Save the Dates

- *Proposed Budget Meeting*, Sunday, January 10, following the morning worship service.
- *Annual Meeting*, Sunday, January 24, following the morning worship service.

More information to follow on both events. ??waiting on Al or Joe Sanders to let me know about meals



Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box -
PENDING UPDATE FROM SANDRA
FOR jan. on the results of the project.

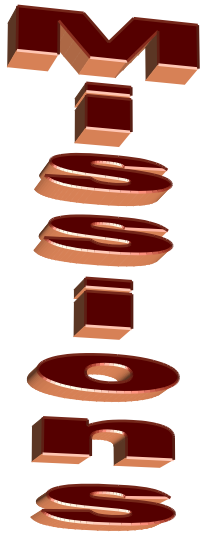
FBC Office News for January

The Church Office will be closed on the following days:

- New Year's Eve Day (Thursday, December 31)
- New Year's Day (Friday, January 1)

Happy New Year to All!

Congratulations to Jeff and Monica Palmieri on the Baby Dedication of their precious daughter, Isabella, on November 29. We are so glad to have the Palmieri's as part of our FBC family.



Dominican Republic Mission Team

Dominican Republic Clothing/Medication Needs—It has been brought to my attention that there are some specific clothing needs in the DR, and I thought that as you were weeding out your summer clothing and bringing out warmer clothing, you might be able to set some clothing aside for the DR. Here are a few things that are specifically needed/enjoyed:

- * Women's skirts or dresses (size 10 or smaller), preferably fitted styles, NO RED PLEASE.
- * Sandals and flip flops
- * Sun glasses and costume jewelry

MEDICATIONS: Vitamins (adult and children with iron; no gummy vitamins, please) and topicals (antibiotic ointment, hydrocortisone cream, vaginal creams, antifungal creams)

Donations can be given to me, placed in Gold Room drop box, or dropped off at the DR room at Memorial Parish House. Thanks for your generosity.

God bless, Sandy Drozd

Dominican Republic - Needed Medications

Listed below are specific medications/supplies that are needed in the Dominican Republic. Please, please, please do **NOT** donate medications that are expired or are not on this list. The medications will only be thrown away. We cannot bring them if they are expired or are not on the list.

Oral Antibiotics:

Amoxicillin 500 Mg., 250 Mg., and 250 Mg. suspension
Cephalexin, Omnicef, Ciprofloxacin, Azithromycin, and Bactrim

Anti-hypertensive/cardiac:

Norvasc, Aspirin 81 Mg. (**ONLY**)

Pain Medications:

Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen (infants, children, and adults) (generic for Motrin/Advil and Tylenol)

Topical:

Vaseline, hydrocortisone, antibacterial cream/ointment, burn cream, antifungal cream

Gastrointestinal:

Pepcid, Prevacid, Prilosec, Tums, Pepto-Bismol, stool softeners, laxatives, fiber laxatives

Eyes/Ears/Nose:

Erythromycin eye ointment, saline drops for eyes, antihistamine drops for eyes, nasal congestion nose drops, antibiotic/steroid eye medication

Vitamins:

Infant drops, children's, adults, and prenatal (**NO** gummy bear or gum ball vitamins please)

Respiratory (cold/allergy):

Benadryl (children and adult), Loratidine, Claritin or Alavert, Zyrtec, Allegra, cough suppressant, cold medicine, cough syrup

Diabetes:

Metformin, blood sugar test strips (do **NOT** need glucometers)

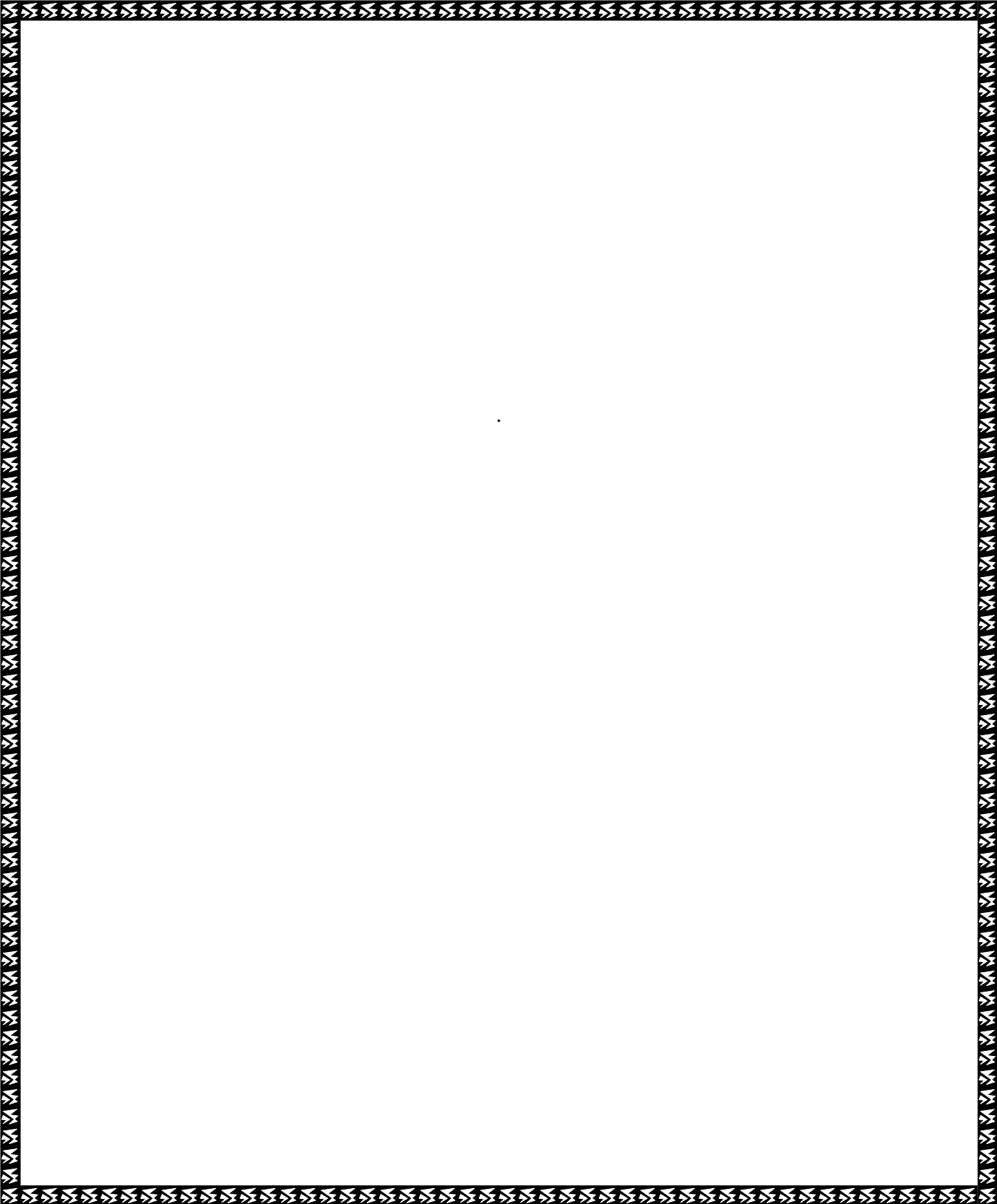
Other:

Disposable gloves, antibiotic hand gel, duct tape, hand wipes, hand sanitizer, gauze, medical tape, medicine cups, sharpie markers, labels for medications, sandwich baggies or smaller, pens, BP cuffs, stethoscopes, rubbing alcohol/wipes, pregnancy tests, sunscreen

Do NOT need:

Anti-psychotic or anti-depressants, anti-cholesterol, hormone replacement, anti-hypertensives not listed above





Missions (continued)

First Meeting for DR Mission Trip 2010 -

SAVE THE DATE - DR Fundraiser at Sheehan HS on Saturday, **February ???**

NEED TO UPDATE FOR DECEMBER from 12/20 bulletin—THIS IS FROM NOVEMBER



Recent Prayer Requests: *If you have spiritual needs or need prayer, please seek one of our Elders: Lyvia King, Paul French, Sue DeChello, or Cindy Oppelt. The Elders are also available to come to your home or to meet privately after worship services to pray with you.*

- Our Military - please keep all of them and their families in your prayers.
- Pastoral Search Committee - pray for wisdom and God's leading as they begin the search for our new Pastor..
- Brenda Carlson - is at Elim Park for rehab until Tuesday, September 29 following another procedure this past week to help her knee bend better. Please pray she will heal quickly and that she will be able to receive therapy at home when she is released from Elim Park.
- Dave Stearns - had eye surgery recently to have a permanent lens put in. The surgery went well, and he is at home recovering.
- Dick Bennett and Family (Fred and Tracy Andrulat, Karen Zealor, and Tammy Borchert) - following the recent passing away of Rosemary, Dick's wife.
- Viola Aldrich - recently fell and had surgery on a broken hip, wrist, and finger. Is currently at MidState Medical Center in Meriden and will be moved to rehab soon.

Ongoing Prayer Requests

Please note that ongoing prayer needs have been moved from the bulletin to the Light Line only, unless you indicate otherwise.

- Dick Bennett - continued prayers are needed as he continue to undergo treatment for cancer. Also, please pray for his three daughters, Karen Zealor, Tammy Borchert, and Tracy Andrulat and their families. 109 High Hill Road, Meriden, CT 06450
- Macey King - still receiving treatment for the recent return of cancer.
- Merlin and Phyllis Varney - UPDATE—Merlin has been moved to his own room at Masonic Ramage 4 (Room #408). Merlin can now have visitors and would love to hear from his FBC family. Here is the contact information for both he and Phyllis (even though Phyllis is in a separate area of Masonic): Merlin and Phyllis Varney, Masonic Home - Ramage #4, 22 Masonic Ave./P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492, phone #: 626-8355.
- Carlos Mulvey – was in the hospital recently and is now at home and struggling with various health issues.
- Charlotte DeAndrade - at this time, it appears that the procedure has stopped the hip pain from being constant. However, there is still intermittent pain, and it will take a year to determine if hip surgery is needed. Charlotte has started therapy; please pray that no more deterioration of the hip will occur.



A Little Laughter

"A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones"
Proverbs 17:22

The Talking Centipede

A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet.

So he went to the pet store and told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet.

After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede, (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for the box, and decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him.

So he asked the centipede in the box, "Would you like to go to church with me today? We will have a good time.."

But there was no answer from his new pet..

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes and then asked again, "How about going to church with me and receive blessings?"

But again, there was no answer from his new friend and pet. So he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time.

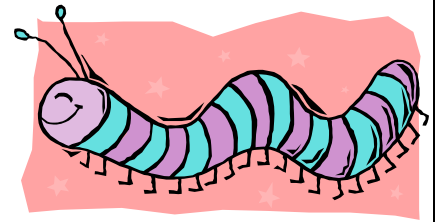
This time he put his face up against the centipede's house and shouted,

"Hey, in there! Would you like to go to church with me and learn about God?"

... YOU ARE GOING TO LOVE THIS ...

This time, a little voice came out of the box,

"I heard you the first time! I'm putting on my shoes!"



January 1	Judie Veitch
January 6	Joseph Moore
January 7	Cathy Copas
January 7	Melissa Cardonita
January 8	Joshua Genest
January 11	Ivan Hubbard
January 11	Fred Blakeslee
January 16	George DeChello, III
January 17	Timothy Fekete, Sr.
January 20	Trevor Thorpe
January 21	Evelyn Hernandez
January 24	Bobbi Taylor
January 26	Tom Lorenz
January 29	George DeChello, Jr.
January 29	Erin Cioffi
January 30	Sonia Chan
January 30	Lori Ann Bernard
January 31	Lucy Groobert
January 31	Crystal Spinaci