

February 2023



**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
2100 Buffaloe Road
Garner, NC 27529

Email: LordofLife2100@gmail.com
Pastor's Email: wdubnansky@gmail.com
Website: www.lordoflifechurchgarnernc.org
Office (919) 772-9044

Interim Pastor John Petry
Minister of Music Dr. Brad Hunnicutt
Office Manager Laura Raun
Web Master Gray Anthony

Congregational Council

Alecia Harrison President
Tim Clark Vice President
Julie Bogle Secretary
Lindsay Crocker Treasurer
Tess Andrews Deputy Treasurer
Terry Barnes Financial Secretary
Steven Brantley, Gale Isaacs, Sylvia Lambert,
Sarah Watkins



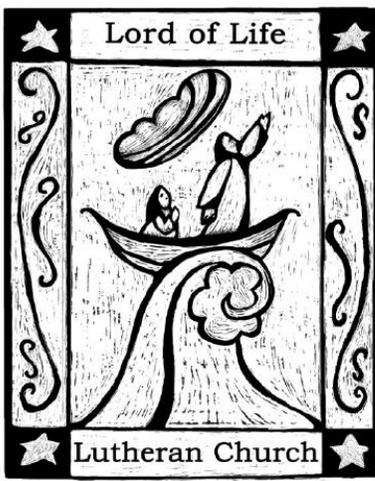
WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 10 am – In-Person
Worship

10 am - Virtual Worship via
YouTube (search for Lord of Life
Lutheran Church ELCA)

Eucharist: Every Sunday





Life-Lines



February 2023

A FEW THOUGHTS ...

Thank you each & all for your welcome to serve as Interim Pastor.

My first goal beyond Sunday worship services is to visit shut-ins/home-bound folks, and then Council members & LOL members. It's helpful to me if you would let me know when it's convenient to visit, just know, if I haven't heard from you ~ I'll give you a call before I appear. As I'm aware/told, I always make room to visit and follow up with hospital visits, surgeries, and being present with families/individuals in need. I put great effort into establishing & keeping relationships during my interim call.

I encourage each of you to support and fully participate with your leaders during the interim. It's important to have and keep everyone on board during the interim period and through the process, and the beginning of your new Pastor's first arrival & ministry years. I urge you to remain positive ... because God - Father, Son & Spirit is among and with you. The NC Synod leadership will partner with you as God calls your next Pastor.

We begin the Lenten season this month.
See you around ...and keep breathing.
Christ is counting on us!

+ John Petry,
Interim Pastor

**I WILL ALSO
WALK AMONG YOU
AND
Be your God,
AND YOU SHALL BE
MY PEOPLE**
LEVITICUS 26:12

What is Critical Race Theory?

It's a hot topic in politics and education. What's it all about and how does it affect me?

All are welcome!

Tuesday, February 28
7 pm



Dr. Ronda Taylor Bullock
founder of we are, a Durham-based nonprofit organization providing anti-racism training for children, families, and educators

Register
bit.ly/CRT_rsvp

If, possible, please register in advance. A free-will offering is welcomed.

Hosted by
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1200 W. Cornwallis Road
Durham, NC 27705
www.stpaulsdurham.org



From the Desk of Your Council President

The Church Council continues to work hard for the members of Lord of Life.

We had a successful Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 22nd. We completed all our business in a record 35 minutes.

We added four members to the Church Council. Sylvia Lambert will serve a two year term. Neil Brennecke, Linda Hash and Shannon Thomsen will each serve a three year term.

The Nominating Committee (to choose Council members for the 2024 Annual Meeting) will be Tess Andrews, Steve Brantley, Alecia Harrison and Sharyl Eggert.

The Call Committee is still being formed. Harry Albert and Rita Clark have agreed to be a congregational member to the Call Committee. I have several volunteers from the Council to serve on the Call Committee, but it is imperative that the Congregation choose the next Pastor instead of the Council. Please consider if you are able to serve the church in this capacity!

We also approved the 2023 Budget presented by Treasurer, Lindsay Crocker. Thank you to everyone who attended to make this meeting happen. We have to have a quorum to conduct church business in any meeting and we had 35 members present.

We will have a Valentine themed Fellowship on Sunday, February 12th. This is also SuperBowl Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs meet the Philadelphia Eagles around 6:30 pm. It should be a fun time and I hope many of you are able to join in the festivities.



Call Committee

The Havenstein family has suffered a huge loss. Susie Havenstein Lowe will have a memorial service on Saturday, February 4th at Noon in Pittsboro which is close to where she lived with her family. The Leader's Retreat was scheduled for that day from 9 am to 1 pm, but will be moved to the following Saturday, February 11th. The Church Clean Up Day was scheduled for Saturday, February 11th from 9 am until Noon, but will be moved to the following Saturday, February 18th. Please make a note of these scheduling changes.



We continue to discuss and plan for future kitchen renovations, specifically purchasing a new oven and shelves in the storage room. Fortunately we still have money in this account for future projects.

We discussed renewing contracts with both the La Voz de Dios and Abundante Gracia churches. Terry Barnes will be the liaison to the La Voz de Dios Church and Alecia Harrison will be the liaison to the Abundante Gracia Church. Tess Andrews is the liaison for Able to Serve and will ask Carlton for a copy of the current lease.

"He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience."

1 Timothy 3:7-9, NIV, definition of deacons or other leaders within the church.

The Parish Committee has been very visible this past year. Thank you! They are working to ensure we have enough Welcome Packets for visitors. And the Parish Committee has updated their portion of the church website.

We have collected over \$6,000 for the new church sign and continue to gather information on this project.

Pastor John will give a devotion for the Leader's Retreat on Saturday, February 11th.



Blessings,
Alecia Harrison, Council President

February, the month of love...

All the world needs is a little more of YOUR love and kindness



February is for Lovers!

Virginia, as a state, thinks they have cornered this saying, but I say that it is always a good time to think about loving your neighbor. It is what we are called to do by God.

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 22:36-40, NIV

From cover to cover, God teaches us about his unending, lavish great love for His people. That is us! I call you to act like a child of God and show His love to everyone that you come in contact with. Not over the top love, but respectful love for every human being. Listen carefully and speak when necessary. Everyone wants to be heard.

Our current world is filled with division, distrust and suspicion. A popular song from the 60’s stated “Love is all that you need.” I believe if problems were approached with love instead of being micro-divided by politics that we would be in a much better place in our country. So what can you do? Instead of

complaining about a situation, pray for everyone involved first. Look to see what you can do to help diffuse the issue and pray some more. I am not asking you to do something that you do not believe in, but there is probably something that you could do to improve the situation instead fanning the flames.

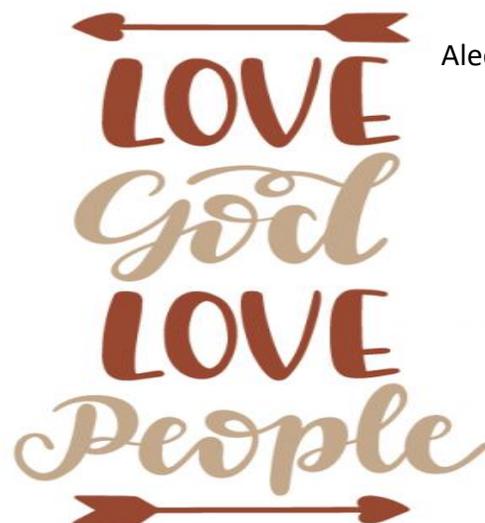
Love your neighbor as yourself is a tall order. This is not easy. There are people in our lives that are tough to love. This is why you need to pray for the difficult to love as often as you can. We all need to pray frequently and often. We are so blessed. Give yourself time each day to think of your blessings. It will give you a fresh perspective and decrease some of your underlying worry.

I had a friend suggest that I put 10 pennies in my left pocket each morning. When something happens that you are grateful for, take one of the pennies from the left pocket and put it in your right pocket. By the end of the day, you will have all your pennies in the right pocket. And the “game” is to see how fast you can get your pennies into your right pocket. This practice allows you to see the blessings all around you. We, me included, need to take time to acknowledge the good in our lives. This helps us not to be bogged down with the difficult things in our life. Just like “a spoonful of sugar helps the medicine go down”, lingering with the good in your life will help you tolerate the hard things.

“I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep within me. You are the LORD; do not withhold your compassion from me; may your steadfast love and your truth continually keep me safe.”

Psalms 40:8,11, NIV

Contemporary Christian Artist Danny Gokey says “Love God, love people, and watch your whole world change!”



Blessings,
Alecia Harrison

"Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken.

The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended."

Proverbs 22:8-10, NIV



NC Lutheran Synod News

Pastor Phil Tonneson met with the Church Council on Sunday, January 8th. He will be our Synod contact during the Call Process for a new called permanent Pastor.

Danielle DeNise will meet with the Council in the near future to discuss considerations for creativity in calling a new Pastor, given that we are looking for a part-time Pastor. Pastor Wayne was a part-time Pastor the entire 10 years that he served Lord of Life. Pastor John is also serving as a part-time Pastor.

Children's Ministry Lent Kits are available from the NC Lutheran Synod. The cost is \$30 per congregation, and they have materials suitable for toddlers to 5th grade. Kits must be ordered by February 8th from the NC Lutheran Synod website (www.nclutheran.org). At this time, we have no plans to place an order for the church but you may make an individual order.

Bishop Tim Smith will lead a Lenten Bible Study on the book of Galatians from 7-8 pm on the five Thursdays in March. This is a zoom meeting. Register to attend at the NC Lutheran Synod website.

The Hood Seminary lecture series will feature Dr. Johnny B. Hill on Friday, February 10th at 7 pm and Saturday, February 11th at 10 am. Dr. Hill is a visiting professor specializing in the Black Theology and the Black Church. This also is a zoom event. Register at the NC Lutheran Synod website.

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison

The Social Concerns committee met in January to recall their successful Christmas Angel Tree program providing 3 gifts to 25 children at the Aversboro Road Childcare Center.

We are revamping our committee roles and meeting times. We have decided to meet the first Sunday of the month after worship, an effort to increase participation. We discussed changing Chair and Secretary roles, with no resolution. Rita will remain our Treasurer.

Also, we divided newsletter articles among the current committee members. Each member will write an article in the next 6 months.

We will continue to offer the camp scholarship program and plan to continue to partner with the Men's Group on this scholarship.

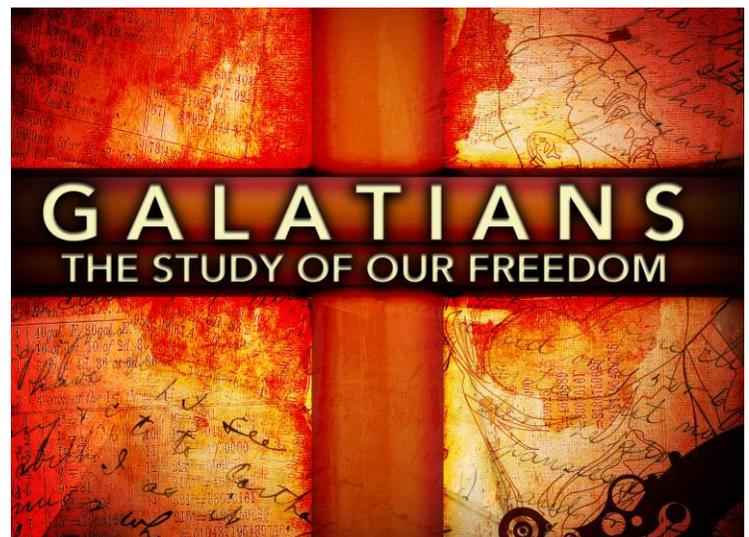
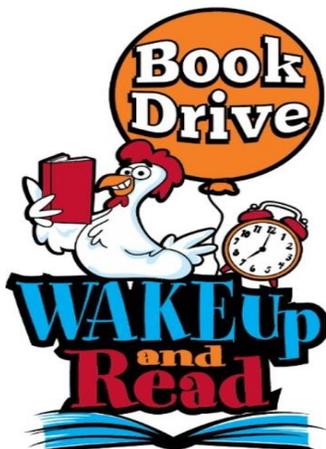
Our February Garner Area Ministry focus will be canned soup, preferably with pop-tops, in the collection for Soup-ER-Bowl. The needs for the Food Pantry at GAM are vast and anything is of use.



We will also participate in the Wake Up and Read program that provides three books to at risk children in Wake County to keep (forever). We will collect books until Sunday, February 19th.

There are bins for both soup cans and books in the narthex. We appreciate your generosity.

Blessings,
Alecia Harrison
Social Concerns Chairman



One-Day Retreat

Becoming a Butterfly



Saturday
March 18, 2023
Snow Date: 3/25/23

Butterflies are free! It's time to spread our wings and free ourselves from what is holding us back. A butterfly is a symbol of transformation, joy, and hope. Come join us as we transform and "Become A Butterfly"!

The women of Lord of Life will be hosting the 2023 NC SWO One-Day Retreat. The program will be presented by Heidi Gibson, NC ELCA Lutheran Women Board Member. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex. Please see Alecia Harrison for further information.

March 18, 2023

Snow Date: 3/25/23

Check-in/Fellowship – 9:00am

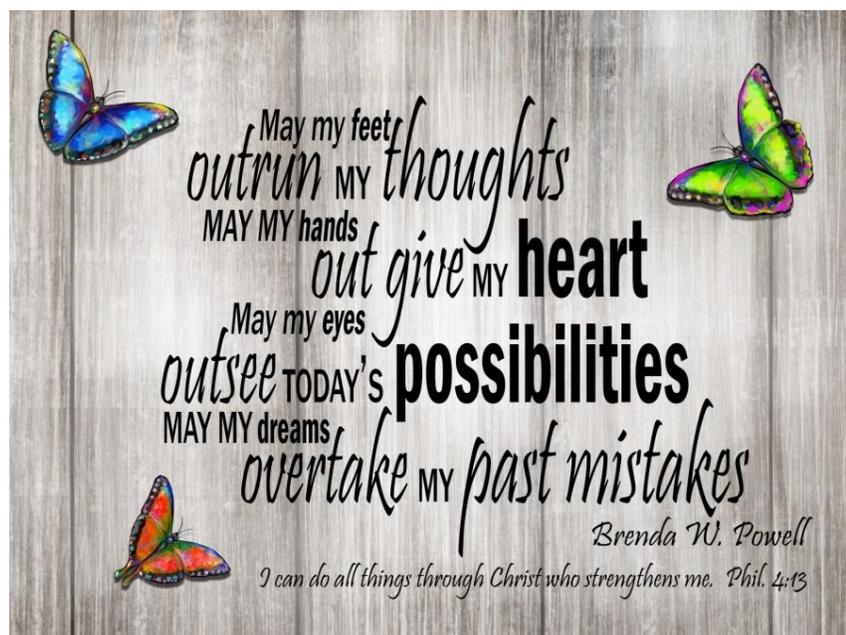
Program - 9:30 am until around 2:30 pm.

\$10 Registration Fee - Includes:
Continental breakfast, lunch, and the program materials

Women do not have to be Lutheran to enjoy this retreat, so bring friends, family, and neighbors. Encourage teens and young women too.

Please bring your Bible!

Registration Deadline:
March 8, 2023





Parish Committee

Our Parish Committee has made it through another year of facilitating after church fellowships, sending cards to our LOL Church Family and helping to contribute to various events and activities. We organized a "Revive Our Church" event, reaching out to our congregation to identifying our financial needs to all our members. Things looked very challenging about a year ago, but I believe there's a growing optimism that our church will emerge successfully with God's favor.

We're in the middle of a big transition now after having ten years with Pastor Wayne, currently having a new leader in Interim Pastor John, and searching for a new Pastor to take the lead. Please be in prayer for Lord of Life's future in serving our Lord and gaining unity within our transformed church. We need to increase our LOL population to ensure we have all the people and resources needed to serve. One of several favorable qualities we have in our little church is a warm and welcoming attitude towards our visitors and community.

Our LOL Church Family of volunteering souls has had many awesome Church Cleanup Events over the past year. Many people, across all groups helped in cleanup and organizing of the library, Pastor's office, nursery, kitchen and storage areas. Another Cleanup Day is coming on February 18th for all who are able to help. Our kitchen renovations were a great success with many helping organizers and a Property Committee Chairperson who facilitated the makeover (Tim Clark).

I believe our church has a great future, especially if we hear Jesus's reference to the Greatest Commandment and obey his teaching:

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31

We're starting a New Year and can be thankful for all God has done for us and will continue to do for us!

God's Peace,
Terry/Parish Chair

Parish Committee Members:
Grace Barnes, Steve Brantley, Tim Clark,
Barbara Kyles, Clyde & Rena Bogle

May You Never Lack EMPATHY

A mouse, looking through a hole in the wall, sees the farmer and his wife open a package. He was terrified to see that it was a mousetrap. He ran to the patio to warn everyone.

"There is a mouse trap at home!"

The chicken that was cackling and digging says: "excuse me, Mr. Mouse, I understand that it is a big problem for you, but it does not hurt me at all."

So, the rodent went to the lamb and he says the same thing: "Excuse me Mr. Mouse, but I don't think I can do more than ask for you in my prayers."

The mouse went to the cow and she said: "But am I in danger? I think not!" said the cow.

The mouse returned to the house, worried and dejected to face the farmer's mousetrap.

That night a great noise was heard like that of the mousetrap catching its victim, the woman ran to see what she had caught. In the dark she did not see that the mousetrap caught the tail of a poisonous snake. The speedy snake bit the woman. The farmer immediately took her to the hospital, and she came back with a high fever.

To comfort her the farmer prepared a nutritious soup, grabbed the knife and went to find the main ingredient: the chicken. Since the woman did not get better, friends and neighbors went to visit them. The farmer killed the lamb to feed them. The woman did not get better and died. And in the end, the husband sold the cow to the slaughterhouse to cover the funeral expenses



. continued ...

Empathy, *continued*

The next time someone tells you about their problem and you think that it doesn't affect you because it's not yours and you don't pay attention to it, think twice, "he who doesn't live to serve, doesn't serve to live".

The world is not going badly because of the wickedness of the bad, but because of the apathy of the good. So when someone needs you for their problems, give them your hand or give them a word of encouragement.



Remember it very well, **EMPATHY!!!**

Damar Hamlin Makes First Remarks On Video Since Suffering Cardiac Arrest

By Daily Wire News, January 28, 2023



Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin made his first remarks on video Saturday evening since going into cardiac arrest during a Monday Night Football game earlier this month.

Hamlin collapsed with about six minutes left in the first quarter during the game against Cincinnati after

he tackled Bengals receiver Tee Higgins following a 13-yard catch. After the tackle, Hamlin stood up, took a step backward, and fell to the ground.

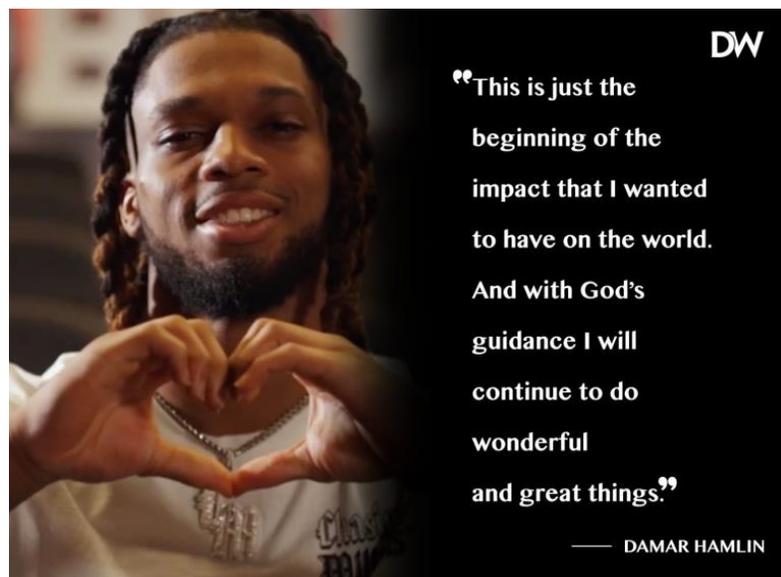
Hamlin received CPR on the field and once at the hospital, where he stayed in critical condition for several days.

"Now that my brothers have closed out a strong, winning season, as I continue to make so much progress recovering, I think it's finally a good time to share a few things," Hamlin said in a video that he posted to Instagram. "I think it was important for me to wait and speak publicly at the right time, as it was just a lot to process within my own self mentally, physically, even spiritually, it's just been a lot to process. But I can't tell you how appreciative I am of all the love, all the support, and everything that's just been coming my way."

"What happened to me on Monday Night Football I feel is a direct example of God using me as a vessel to share my passion and my love directly from my heart with the entire world, and I'm able to give it back to kids and communities all across the world who need it the most, and that's always been my dream. That's always been what I stood for and what I'll continue to stand for."

Hamlin thanked a long list of people who helped save his life following the incident.

"Ever since I became a Buffalo Bill, it's been nothing but genuine love and support. Not even only for me, but everyone's situation," Hamlin said. "No matter what it was, Bills Mafia jumped behind it and gave 110% support, love, no matter the situation. With this happening to me, I didn't feel anything short of the love. And it really helped me stay encouraged to get through the toughest moments and the toughest times. I really can't thank you enough."



"This is just the beginning of the impact that I wanted to have on the world. And with God's guidance I will continue to do wonderful and great things."

— DAMAR HAMLIN

FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sundays 9 am Coffee & Bible Study 10 am Worship 11 am Fellowship			1 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir Practice	2 Groundhog Day 	3 NO Men's Group Meeting this Month	4 Susie Lowe Memorial Service
5  11 am	6	7	8 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir Practice	9	10	11  10-1 Leadership Retreat
12 Council Meeting after Worship	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15 7 am Rotary Breakfast 7 pm Choir Practice	16	17	18  CHURCH CLEANUP DAY
19	20	21 6:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 	22 7 am Rotary Breakfast ASH WEDNESDAY 	23	24	25
26	27	28	 Feb 14 th Don't Forget!			



We pray for our world
and those in it with hope
for our future.

Family of Susie Lowe;
Monna Stamm; Judy
Stewart – multiple health
issues; Carolyn Watkin's
neighbor, Mr. Smith;
Richard Suriano. Julia
Lochra's Father in Law,
Richard Suriano; Julia

Lochra's cousin, Lester Salmon; Julia Lochra's friend
Betty – coping with husband's rehab from a stroke;
Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda – cancer; Father
of Julia Mirro (Gale's friend); Tim & Rita Clarks
sister-in-law, Jane Clark – breast cancer has
returned; Paul & Geri's son, Luke Savolainen –
battling cancer; Jim Powers; Sharon Vietri; Linda
Hash's brother, Charles Barlow, and sister-in-law,
Beth Hash Lennon; Kathi Tichansky's friend, Beth;
Kathi Tichansky's friend, Sarah Bell – bad fall and
broken vertebrae; Sylvia Lambert's niece, Lori Wise –
cancer; Sylvia Lambert's daughter-in-law – major
surgeries; Jonathan McCoy; Rebecca Swanson's
sister in PA – Post Polio Syndrome; her nephew, Dr.
David Shaefer, and her great niece, Hope Emmaline;
Lora Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman, recovering;
Peg Stamp, myeloma; Tess Andrews brother, David
Van Benschoten; Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn
Harbertson - breast cancer; Holly Hans' sister,
Heather House and her family; Holly Hans' mother,
Carol Hardy.



February

February 3	Daniel Cook
February 9	Paul Finger
	Lisa Hash Burnett
February 12	Daniel Jordan
February 15	Clyde Cook
	Vince Wright
February 16	Josh Kestner
February 17	Antonio (Tony) Smith
February 21	Patrick Niemann
February 24	Helen Reeves
February 29	Paul Blanchard

March

March 4	Holly Niemann
	Sophie Nora Clark
March 5	Daniel Klawiter
March 6	Patricia Elder
March 7	Steven Babel
March 8	Larry Langworthy
March 14	Bryce Douglas Lowe
March 15	Gale Isaacs
March 20	Brandi Bredell
March 22	Lora Clark
March 24	Harry Albert
March 27	Wes Roscoe
March 28	Michael Hayduk
March 28	Heather King
March 29	Rob Weisenburn
March 30	Camille Morris

*If your name is missing from our
Birthday list, please let Laura
know! Thanks!!!*