

The Messenger

First Reformed Church of Scotia
224 North Ballston Avenue
Scotia, NY 12302

The Rev. Craig J. Hoffman

The Rev. Jan L. Hoffman

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May 2014

From
Craig's
Desk

NAME THAT PERSON

Ever hear of the old TV show, "Name That Tune?" The host would give a prize to the first person to name a popular tune that would be played. One contestant would say, "I can name that tune in 5 notes." The other contestant would say, "I can name that tune in 4 notes." Whoever bid the lowest went first, and they'd take turns after that. Whoever named the tune first won the prize.

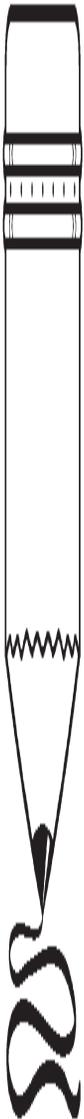
Let's play "Name That Person." I'll tell you some things about someone we all know and love, and you try to figure out who it is. Read the following clues one at a time, and let's see how many it takes you to Name That Person.

1. Some in our church have known this person since 1987.
2. This person spends more time at church than you do.
3. This person is famous for cherry pies.
4. This person can multi-task, and often does, all the while remaining friendly and gracious.
5. This person usually answers the phone if you call 370-4751.
6. This person is retiring next month after holding the same position for 18 years.

Of course this mystery person is our own Church Secretary Kathie Balser, who we sometimes call "Kathie B" around the office. After 18 years of faithfully serving us as our Church Secretary, Kathie has decided that it is the right time for her to retire. "Maine is calling," she says, referring to the Balser summer camp down East. In her 18 years as our Church Secretary, Kathie B has brought warmth, good cheer, and energy to our church office and staff. No task that ever needed doing was "not in her job description." She has done it all, and we will miss her.

On Sunday, June 8, instead of our regular after-worship coffee hour, we're going to hold a Kathie B BQ. We'll put some hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill, add some salads and beans, and create a celebration. It will be a chance for each of us to say thank you, and to tell Kathie all that we've appreciated about her and about her service among us.

So, save the date and time: Sunday, June 8, right after 10:00 worship for a Kathie B BQ to say thank you to our very faithful Church Secretary.



**Thank You
Notes
From The
Congregation**



Since we published the last issue of *The Messenger* we received the following thank-you notes and letters. They are posted on the tack strip outside of Pastor Craig’s office. Read and enjoy them there for yourselves.

- From Eileen Quick, Scotia Food Pantry: Thank you so much for the generous food donations during the month of March. The families of the Scotia Food Pantry appreciate all that you do.
- From Natalie and Bill Monaghan: Thank you so very much for your kind words and condolences. Your compassion and support will always hold a special place in our hearts.
- From Yvonne Boyd: Thank you for thinking of me during my recent hip surgery. My days were brightened after receiving so many get-well cards.
- From Hugh and Yvonne Boyd: We want to thank you for all the good wishes and many cards we received for our 65th Wedding Anniversary. It made our celebration that more meaningful.
- From Margaret Walker: Thank you so much for the lovely Easter lily. I am enjoying it very much.
- From Susan Duncan: I was very pleased to receive the lovely lilies which were brought by one of your members. They have lasted long and decorated our home for Easter. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

**Milestones In
The Lives
Of The
Congregation**

Here are some milestones in the lives of people in our congregation since the last issue of *The Messenger*.

Congratulations:

- To Bill Wragg who will be the Grand Marshall for the Scotia Memorial Day Parade.
- To Sara Murray and Aaron Madison who were married in our sanctuary on April 26.

**Family
Finances**

Each month we report our giving. Here’s how we gave in April and throughout the year.

<u>GIVING</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
April	\$25,637	\$22,036	\$3,601	16%
Total for the Year	\$100,740	\$102,037	\$1,297	(1%)

**April
Attendance**

We report our monthly worship attendance to encourage you to faithfully gather on the Lord’s Day, and invite others to join you.

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
April week #1	240	173
April week #2	293	259
April week #3	479	220
April week #4	218	226
April Average	308	220
YTD Average	249	238

Choir Presents Year In Review

Ever wish you could hear one of the Sanctuary Choir's anthems over again? Well, here's your chance. The Sanctuary Choir will present its 7th annual "Year In Review" tentatively scheduled for Sunday evening, June 8 at 7:00 in the Sanctuary. Watch for firmer details.

The choir will soon vote on their favorite anthems from this past program year. Some of these could be yours too! The "Year In Review" is a casual night of music where both choir and congregation can enjoy again some of this year's anthems that helped us all worship. Please join us.

Applications Are Being Accepted For Administrative Assistant

Our church is now receiving applications for Church Administrative Assistant. This is a salaried position based on a nominal 35 hours per week. The ideal candidate will have excellent people skills, organizational skills, facility with Microsoft Office software, and good writing and language skills. A high school diploma or the equivalent is required. The salary will be based on qualifications.

Please contact Pastor Craig Hoffman, 370-4751, for a position description, or email him at frschoffman@verizon.net.

Applications are due by May 15, 2014 and will be reviewed by a search committee made of up Pastor Craig Hoffman, Sheila Dort, Don Schermerhorn and Rebecca Shepherd.

Tell Us The Names Of Your Graduates

In next month's June issue of *The Messenger* we want to publish the names of everyone in our church who graduates this spring from high school, college, or graduate school. Please help us make sure we don't miss anyone. Call the church office, 370-4751, and tell us the name of your graduate, the school issuing the diploma or certificate, and what the graduate's future plans are. Thanks for your help!

Sunday School Will Recess Until September

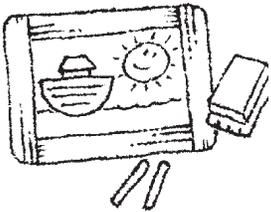
The last day of Sunday school and youth group before our summer recess is Sunday, June 15. Sunday school will resume the first Sunday after Labor Day, September 7.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our terrific Sunday School staff. These people give of their time and energy week after week. Make sure you thank them when you see them.

- Nursery: Thank you to Diana Ackner and her many helpers who regularly staff our nursery.
- Children and Worship, pre-k through 2nd Grade: A Big Thank you to the Amazing Joanna Clark and Heather Kramer, Linda Falcon, Bobbie Nelson, Georgia Grant, Betsey Homer and various parents who have helped in the Worship Center.
- Grades 3 – 8 Rotation: We are so grateful for rotation leaders Claudia Garrison, Margo Snyder, Linea Kilgallen, John Hoffman, David Schalekamp, Patty Marré; and for those who have helped throughout the year, Pam Walsh, Linda Willoughby, Kate Dulmes, Eric Dulmes, Chris Bodden, Tracey Swearington, Georgia Grant and Lynn Makrin.
- Senior High: We are pleased to have Bob and Sunny Baldwin guiding our youth this year.

We had many volunteers helping during regular class time and during our rotation series in the fall, during Advent and Lent, and through the spring. Thank you to all of you.

Would you consider teaching one of our classes? We'll be teaching in rotation again this fall, setting up stations for the kids to participate in a variety of settings. We'd like to recruit two people to teach each class plus one additional volunteer to help. We also need volunteers to help in the Nursery and in Worship Center. Call Coordinator of Christian Living Kristin Bodden, 703-1327, or Pastor Jan Hoffman, 370-4751. Elder David Schalekamp and Deacon Mike Carpenter lead our Christian Education Council. Speak to one of them if you'd like to serve on the council or know more about our Christian Education program.



Central College Will Present Concert

The Central College Choir, a 60-voice a cappella choir, will be in concert on Friday evening, May 23 at 7:30 in the sanctuary of the First Reformed Church of Schenectady. This is part of their east coast tour. Central College, located in Pella, Iowa is one of three Reformed Church in America colleges. The other two are Hope College in Holland, Michigan, and Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa.

The choir invites others to sing two anthems with them: John Ferguson's festival arrangement of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and Craig Courtney's "One Faith, One Hope, One Lord." Our own Judson Hoffman will accompany both of these anthems on the trumpet. Mr. Babcock, the choir's director, will rehearse these pieces at 6:30, just before the concert in the sanctuary.

Please contact Julie Panke if you would like to sing or if you would like her to send the music to you ahead of time. Contact her at 370-5434, or kirkechor@earthlink.net.

There is no charge for the concert, but donations will be accepted. The sanctuary is handicapped-accessible.

Mission Of The Month And Communion Offerings



Our May Mission of the Month and the recipient of our June 1 Communion Thanksgiving Offering is Camp Fowler Ministries. Camp Fowler provides summer camping for our youth. This year the cabins are being renovated. They were built in 1954 and definitely can use updating. \$1,500 will provide new lighting, a new porch deck and railings, and bathroom improvements. Let's see how many cabins our congregation can help renovate! Check out the website, www.campfowler.org, and find out how you can be a part of Fowler's life.

Our Missions Council selects our Missions of the Month with an eye to expanding our mission to the larger world in which we live. Please use your yellow envelopes to contribute to the Missions of the Month.

Our upcoming Missions of the Month are:

- June: Schenectady Inner City Ministries
- July: Habitat for Humanity
- August: Fowler Camp and Retreat Center
- September: Samaritan Counseling Center Care Fund
- October: Schenectady City Mission
- November: Northeast Regional Food Bank
- December: Salvation Army

Our upcoming Communion Thanksgiving Offerings are:

- August 3 summertime communion: Fowler Camp and Retreat Center
- October 5 Worldwide Communion Sunday: Concerned for the Hungry
- November 2 All Saints Sunday: Joan Nicole Prince House
- November 30 First Sunday in Advent: Scotia Relief

Our Holiday offerings went or will go to:

- Our Easter offering went to the Northeast Regional Food Bank, recognizing that hunger continues to be a significant need in our community.
- Our Thanksgiving offering of food and money will go to the Northeast Regional Food Bank.
- Our Christmas offering is undesignated at this time.

Wear Your Hats

Ladies, pull out those spring hats and show them off for Mother's Day, May 11. For several years we have looked so lovely with our hats on – a fashion statement we don't see much any more. So get your hat and wear it proudly!

Stephen Ministry Moment

Stephen Minister Phil Davis contributed our May Stephen Ministry Moment.

How Do I Become a Stephen Minister?

Have it in your heart to help? Want to meet and learn to help a person in need? Has Jesus been calling you?

Answering positively to any of the above questions might lead you to think about becoming a Stephen Minister – a distinctively Christian caregiver. By following your heart, you will find that the steps to becoming a Stephen Minister are particular as well as spiritual.

Stephen Ministers at First Reformed Church of Scotia must be confessing members of our church. Hearing Christ's call, you could then speak with Pastors Jan or Craig, to Stephen Ministry Leader Cheryl MacNeil, or to one of our congregation's trained Stephen Ministers.

A spiritual path accompanies these particular steps. Has Jesus called you? Has He opened your heart to listen to the needs of someone in your community? Are you interested in learning to be a distinctively Christian caregiver? Stephen Ministers are called to be Christ-centered and, through a series of training sessions over three or four months, are steered by a four-point compass which displays the characteristics of a Christian caregiver: being compassionate, full of faith, skilled, and trustworthy in a Christ-centered journey of care giving.

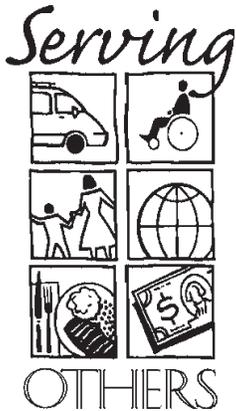
Becoming a Stephen Minister is something to think about – and something to pray about.

Phil Davis
Stephen Minister

Stephen Ministry is a ministry of one-on-one Christian care giving in which a trained Stephen Minister confidentially comes alongside someone going through a life crisis or hard time in order to listen and be present for as long as necessary. For more information contact Stephen Ministry Leader Cheryl MacNeil, 382-8279.

Come To A Church Picnic

Come to a Church Picnic after worship on Sunday, June 22 on the grounds of the Adirondack Live Steamers in Malta. Our own Ken and Bobbie Nelson are ALS members and are our host and hostess at this amazing facility. Here you'll find a very-narrow gauge, working railroad with real steam engines and cars you can ride. Bring your own table service and a cool dish to share for a potluck in the club's pavilion. Adults and kids can ride the scale model rails on a mile-long track through the woods, over trestles and thru tunnels. Get directions to the ALS at church that day, or get them early from the church office anytime before. Our picnic will start at 1:00. Parents: your kids will love this! It helps us to know you're coming, so please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex or next to Pastor Craig's office. You may also call the church office.



Fowler Scholarships Are Available



After expenses, we raised over \$3,400 for Fowler Scholarships at this year's annual Camp Fowler Spaghetti Dinner. As a result, youth from our church who register for a week at Camp Fowler this summer will receive a church scholarship of \$150.

PLEASE NOTE: The church pays your scholarship directly to Camp Fowler. You must still pay the \$100 non-refundable deposit when you register online. The scholarship will be applied to your unpaid balance, so that when you arrive at camp to register, the balance you owe will be \$150 less than it would otherwise be.

PLEASE NOTE THIS, TOO: You **must** contact either Coordinator of Christian Living Kristin Bodden or Pastor Jan Hoffman, 370-4751, when you have registered for camp and paid your deposit. **IF YOU DON'T CALL AND TELL US, WE DON'T KNOW!** We cannot send your scholarship money to Camp Fowler if we don't know that you've registered. Fowler doesn't tell us; only you can do that.

Visit <http://www.campfowler.org> to register online. Camp weeks are already filling up. Don't delay!

You Can Buy Music For The Choir

Some of the anthems that our Sanctuary Choir sings in worship have been purchased by special donations. Often they are purchased in honor or in memory of some special person or special event. Would you like to purchase a piece of new music for one of our choirs or ensembles? You may, and here's how.

Rebecca Shepherd, our Director of Music Ministry, purchases the anthems. She knows best the abilities of our choirs and ensembles. She also knows what we have in our music library, and what our needs for new music are. If you would like to purchase music for the church, call Rebecca at 393-9862 and arrange for a time to meet with her. She'll be happy to consult with you. A piece of new music can cost anywhere from \$130 to \$160.

Food Needed For Food Pantry During May

Every week our bulletin lists the food most needed for the Scotia Food Pantry. Below are the items for May. Please place your donations in the container in the narthex or in the one outside Brink Hall. What a great offering we would give if **everyone** brought the weekly item!

There is **always** a need for bags and for monetary donations. Donations are used to purchase milk certificates and other items available at the Regional Food Bank for just 16 cents a pound. Make out your check to the First Reformed Church of Scotia and put "Food Pantry" on the memo line. Here are this month's food askings:

- May 4: Cereal
- May 11: Bar Soap
- May 18: Dry Mixes – Potato/noodle
- May 25: Peanut butter

Safe Driving Course Offered

Donna Ahnert is once again offering her safe driving course that will get you 10% off of your insurance or points off your license. The course will be offered on Saturday, May 10 in Room 1 from 9:30 to 4:30. The cost is \$35 cash payable that morning. Please bring a pen and your driver's license. Sign up on the bulletin board outside Pastor Craig's office so that enough materials will be available for each person.

Walkers Needed For Crop Walk

Join the Hunger Fighters in this year's CROP Walk. On Sunday, May 4, walkers from our congregation will join other area churches in the annual Schenectady area CROP Walk. Everyone at FRCS can participate by walking and getting supporting pledges from others, or by supporting the walkers with your pledge.

Why: To bear witness, celebrate and raise money for hunger-fighting efforts in Schenectady and around the world through CROP, the relief arm of Church World Service

- 25% of funds will go to local food pantries, senior meals, and the Community Crisis Network
- Remainder goes to hunger-fighting relief, self-help development, and refugee resettlement in the US and around the world
- Special Africa and AIDS Initiative
- Emergency/disaster aid, worldwide

When:

- Sunday, May 4, 2014
- Registration begins at 12:30
- Walk begins after an opening ceremony at 1:30

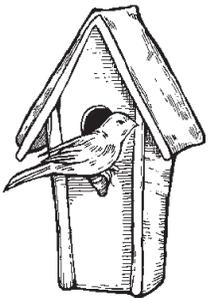
Where:

- Start and end: Emmanuel Friedens Church, 218 Nott Terrace. The 5k route loops up State Street, then downtown to return. There is a rest stop half-way through.
- A "Golden Mile" is available for those who prefer a shorter walk
- Runners are welcome, but this is not an official race
- No Rain/Snow Date: Collect your donations upfront as "rain insurance"

Every walker gets a CROP T-shirt!

Lynn Makrin, 280-6444, and Tom Lansing, 372-6082, are our CROP Walk coordinators. Lynn will recruit walkers in Brink Hall during coffee hour starting Sunday, April 6. Tom Lansing will recruit walkers at our 8:00 service. Please contact Lynn or Tom to sign up or contribute.

It's For The Birds Event



We're having a Spring intergenerational event. The birds are back so let's celebrate that. Join us on Sunday, May 18 at 12:00 in Brink Hall for an after-coffee social hour focused on our fuzzy winged friends – the birds of the sky! We'll make birdhouses and feeders, and we will have a drawing contest! Bring your binoculars for some birding on Collins Lake. Our FROGS youth group will be providing some bird-themed snacks, good things to eat, and drinks to enjoy! Bring your-bird themed dish to share and add it to the mix if you'd like – deviled eggs, chicken salad, bird nest cupcakes, etc.

It helps us to plan if we know how many are coming. So, please sign up on the sheet outside Pastor Craig's office.

News From Kids Hope USA

Thirty members of our church's Kids Hope USA team joined Pastor Craig Hoffman in our sanctuary on Sunday, April 6 for the final in-service training of this 2013/14 school year. Pastor Craig presented a thoughtful program on the unique nature of the Kids Hope mentor and prayer partner relationship. While enjoying 'Million Dollar Mentor' cookies participants were offered guidance on how to pray, with helpful specific biblical and hymnal references. Pastor Craig also discussed how to maintain a close and meaningful connection with this unique bond among so many members of our congregation. Mentors and prayer partners offered comments on their prayer journey, as well as how new friendships have developed and existing friendships have deepened as a result of this Kids Hope USA relationship. We thank Pastor Craig for a most enjoyable program!

When students leave the elementary level they leave the national model for Kids Hope USA. Several Kids Hope USA students at Sacandaga will be transitioning to the Scotia-Glenville middle school in the fall. This means we will be able to provide mentors for more new elementary-aged children to the program. Kids Hope mentors work with children as young as Kindergarten, all the way through fifth grade.

Are you called to work with a child who may be waiting for a mentor, or a child who has not yet been identified for Kids Hope USA? A mentor from our church meeting with a Sacandaga student for one hour each week has proved quite powerful for both the student and the mentor. The fact that our devoted prayer partners wrap this hour in prayer makes Kids Hope USA a program that needs to grow! Please consider whether you are called to this meaningful community mission. Call our Kids Hope USA Director Tee Munson, 895-9097, or Pastor Jan, 370-4751, if you have any questions or need more information.

Give Someone A Ride

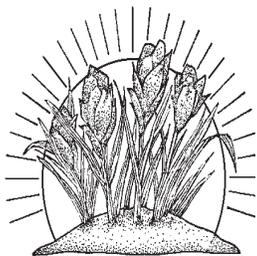
One of church's seniors recently told a member of our Congregational Care Council, "How I'd love to go to Christmas Eve worship again. I haven't gone in years because I don't drive at night." That council member said, "Her comment broke my heart." As a result of the ensuing discussion our Congregational Care Council is looking for teams of drivers and single drivers:

- We're looking for drivers who, if they are already going to some church event, would be open to being asked to pick up a senior and take him or her along.
- We're also looking for teams of people willing to take turns picking up one of our seniors for Sunday morning worship. We're looking for teams of people to cooperate because we understand that some of us are not able to commit to every week.

There are two sign-up sheets next to Pastor Craig's office. How about signing your name to one or both of these lists? There's a sister or brother in Christ who will bless you for it.

Please Help In Our Gardens

Soon it will be time to begin working on our church's gardens. June Shaw has for many years been our church's chief gardener. She has put in countless hours. Let's give her a hand in two different ways: first by thanking her, and second by helping her. We hope to recruit enough people so that one person is assigned to each one of our church's several gardens. This is a terrific way for some of you to help us make a positive impression on the many people who walk through our church campus or who drive past on Route 50. Please call June, 306-4408, to find out more.



May 2014 Calendar

Room Code

ML – Memorial Lounge
 BH – Brink Hall
 LH – Lakehill Room
 OF – Church Office
 BR – Bell Room
 S – Sanctuary
 RM 1 – Room 1
 RM 8 – Room 8
 RM 9 – Room 9
 RM 12 -- Room 12
 K -- Kitchen

Thursday, May 1

9:00 Morning Bells -- BR
 7:00 J. Westervelt's 4-H -- RM 1
 7:15 Sanctuary Choir -- S

Sunday, May 4

8:00 Worship –S
 9:15 Youth Music Group -- RM8
 10:00 Worship –S
 10:30 Sunday School --classrooms
 11:15 Coffee Hour -- BH
 11:15 Te Deum Bells -- BR
 6:00 Youth Group --RM 12

Monday, May 5

7:15 Administration Council -- LH

Tuesday, May 6

7:00 Scotia Reformed Home Bureau -- RM 1

Wednesday, May 7

7:00 Yoga -- BH

Thursday, May 8

7:15 Sanctuary Choir -- S

Saturday, May 10

9:30 Safe Driving Class -- RM 1
 11:00 Memorial Service for John Hillers -- S

Sunday, May 11

8:00 Worship –S
 9:15 Youth Music Group -- RM8
 10:00 Worship –S
 10:30 Sunday School --classrooms
 11:15 Coffee Hour –BH
 11:15 Te Deum Bells -- BR
 6:00 Youth Group -- RM 12

Monday, May 12

7:15 Consistory -- ML

Tuesday, May 13

7:15 Stephen Ministry-- ML

Wednesday, May 14

7:00 Yoga -- RM 9

Thursday, May 15

7:00 Jennifer Westervelt's 4-H -- RM 1
 7:15 Choir -- S

Sunday, May 18

8:00 Worship –S
 9:15 Youth Music Group -- RM8
 10:00 Worship –S
 10:30 Sunday School --classrooms
 11:15 Coffee Hour -- BH
 11:15 Te Deum Bells -- BR
 12:00 Celebrating Birds -- BH

Monday, May 19

7:15 Congregational Care Council-
 - ML

Tuesday, May 20

10:00 Circle Joanna -- ML
 7:00 Scotia Reformed Home Bureau
 -- RM 1

Wednesday, May 21

1:30 Sharing and Caring -- ML

Thursday, May 22

7:15 Sanctuary Choir -- S

Sunday, May 25

8:00 Worship –S
 9:15 Youth Music Group -- RM8
 10:00 Worship –S
 10:30 Sunday School --classrooms
 11:15 Coffee Hour -- BH
 11:15 Te Deum Bells -- BR
 6:00 Youth Group -- RM 12

Monday May 26

* Offices Closed -- HOLIDAY

Tuesday, May 27

7:15 Buildings and Grounds Council
 -- LH

Thursday, May 29

7:00 J. Westervelt's 4-H -- RM 1
 7:15 Choir -- S

June Anniversaries

Bill and Karen Faulkner	1	Chic and Marian Gilgore	15
Harris and Louise Gregory	1	Dick and Kathy Hoskinson	16
Eric and Kate Dulmes	2	John and Diana Ackner	18
Robert and Barbara King	3	Ken and Barbara Nelson	18
Kent and Jill Busman	4	Myron and Alicia Hermance	21
Brad and Meryl Day	5	Al and Margo Snyder	21
Jeff and Cindy Taft	5	Adrian and Blanche Gray	28
Stanley and Fern Lee	6	David and Jae Schalekamp	28
Nick and Meri Sue Bobrowich	9	George and Karen Squires	28
Russ and Claudia Garrison	10	Peter and Jennifer Forth	29
Duane and Mary VanPatten	11	Charles and Cheryl Conover	30
John and Michelle Frasca	13		



June Birthdays

Cheryl MacNeil	1	Alexandra Ayers	10	Thomas Hoffmann	19
Sierra Grace May	2	Michaela Kilgallen	10	Erin Parker	19
Helen Blase	3	Aleksey Falcon	11	Phil Davis	20
Tyler Ayers	4	Joe Deamer	12	Al Carter	21
Justan Foster	4	Russell Carlson	14	Gayle VanHeusen	22
Ayanna Willoughby	4	Linda Ciabotte	14	Grace Ackner	23
Leo Crisci	5	Miranda Gilgore	14	John Auger	23
Adrian Gray	5	Ethan Szemansco	14	Blanche Gray	23
Pam Walsh	6	Carole Tygert	14	Alta Pirigyi	25
Ken Fetter	7	Tom Vaccaro	14	Linda Naumowicz	26
Randy MacNeil	7	Nancy Konczeski	15	Barbara Wurz	26
Jim Penn	7	Collin Penn	15	Betty Knaggs	27
Shelly Poremba	7	Steve Balsler	16	Laurie Cooper	28
Brian Ahl	8	Paul Kramer	16	Terri Doyle	28
Bub Bekkering	8	Ken Sill	18	Dorothy Henwood	28
Sue Steciak	8	Diana Ackner	19		

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