

The Crossroads

Philadelphia Presbyterian Church
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January 2007

TWO AT THE DOOR

**The end of the year is only hours away.
Soon a door will open -
This one has never been opened before.
Even now I seem to hear the noise of the key.
As it is being put in the keyhole to unlock.
I know the One who will open the door.
He is the Lord of the years.
I cannot help but wonder what lies beyond
The door that is being opened.**

**Am I afraid? Afraid is not the word.
Interested, concerned, excited, eager,
Anxious, pensive, anticipating,
Uncertain, hopeful, fearful -
What would the word sound like that
Expressed the meaning of all these?**

**By the knowledge of these things I am helped:
The One who is opening the door
Is He who has walked with me to it.
The One who has the key
Has told me what to call Him: "Father."
The One who opens saying, "Walk in."
Will not then turn and walk away.
The One who stands with me on the threshold
Does not have a worried look on His face.
The One who has the master key
Always knows what He is doing.
The One who turned the door knob to open
Has been both Architect and Builder.
The One - who only can be called "The One."
This One knows my name.**

**And now, look. The door is opening.
A bit wider with every stroke of twelve.
- James Phillips Noble,
December 31, 1966**

January

BIRTHDAYS

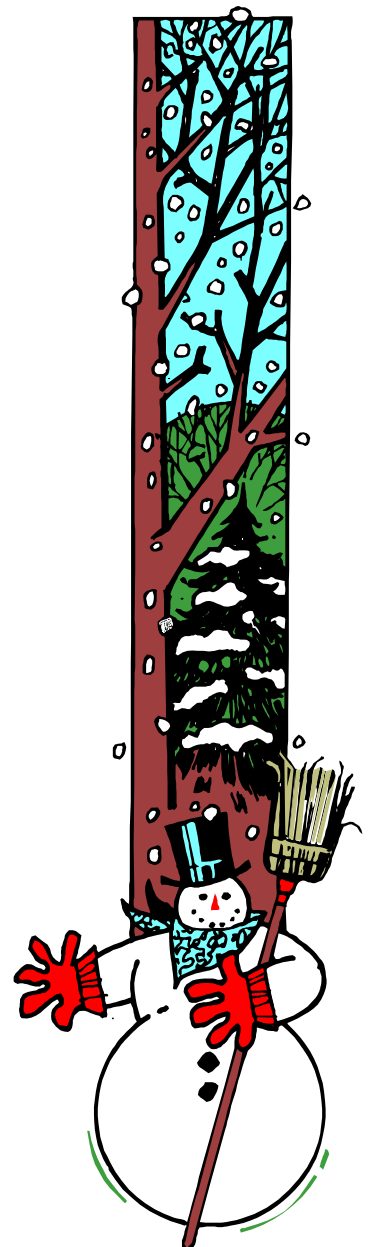
- 3 Louisa Myers
- 9 Thor Johnson
- 11 Frances Williams
- 11 Debbie Durden
- 12 Mary Binkney
- 13 Joan Cushing
- 13 Darr Johnson
(the dad)
- 15 Betty Schmelz
- 21 Tom Murphy
- 22 Rebecca Huie
- 24 Nathan Schmelz
- 28 Jamal Yusufji
- 29 Martha Conrad
- 29 Evelyn Murdock

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Darrell & Frances
Youngblood
- 22 Jim & Nancy
Phillips
- 22 Tommy &
Brooke Lloyd
- 25 Alan & Betty
Schmelz

USHERS

- Henry Brock
- Darr Johnson
- Fred Rohrbach
- Feroze Yusufji



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MESSAGES TO OUR MEMBERS

Dear Pastor Frye and Congregation,

On behalf of those we serve here at the *Clayton County Department of Family and Children Services*, thank you for your generous donation [\$180, plus numerous bags of food items] for our emergency food pantry. Your donation will be used to purchase food at the Atlanta Food Bank at a very deep discount. Caseworkers, who see the need firsthand every day, distribute the food to families – what a joy it is for them too! Thank you for supporting the work we do. If I can ever be of assistance to you or any of your members, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely, *Cathy Ratti, Director, 770-473-2317*

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Dear Sisters:

I would like to thank you for your most generous gift of \$175. *Calvin Center* will use your offering to support our Summer Camping Program. Your generous gift will help to provide scholarships for young persons to attend our week-long resident camp where the gospel is heard in a safe, fun, wholesome Christian atmosphere.

Our ministry would be severely curtailed in this presbytery without the generous support of other people, churches and Presbyterian Women groups like yours. Because of your efforts, God’s kingdom on earth will be advanced.

Once again, thank you for remembering us with your benevolence dollars, and thank you for caring about all of God’s children! Your gift will really make a difference in the lives of young people.

Sincerely, *Delores Candy, Office Manager*

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Wanted to update you on Dad [*Buck Shaw*]. His surgery went very well, excellent in fact. The doctors were and are very pleased and amazed. They removed a third of Dad’s stomach and 80-90% of the esophagus. From the remaining stomach, they formed a new lower esophagus and stomach pouch and have moved it up toward his neck. He has only about a 2-inch incision in his neck and 5 lap holes in his belly. The surgery took 6½ hours. Daddy has been up

walking around and sitting in the chair today [11/29]. He is in Trinity Hospital, Birmingham, AL. Hope all is well with everyone. Tell them all hello for me.

Love, *Penny*

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HAPPY CHANUKAH

Dear Rev. Spencer, the family and the church,

We wish you all the best this holiday season. Hope you are feeling better. Thanks for your friendship, prayers & support. *Randall, Luda & Eliana Ford* [Photo postcard is posted on the bulletin board.]

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“God *does* work in mysterious ways!” declared *Juanita DeBey* in a recent phone conversation. “My nephew, *Larry Carlisle* [not Bill & Annette’s son], received a card from the Embassy Class this week stating, ‘We prayed for you during our special time of prayer today at church and will pray for you every day this week.’ No one at the church knew about his dad’s and my brother-in-law’s terminal illness, since we have been spending weekends with the family. Yet that card arrived just when we needed it the most. Please thank them for us.”

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Please thank my church family for the cards and prayers. I love each one of you and thank you very much. Love, *Opal Seebay*

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Dear Philadelphia Family,

Thank you for your prayers for my niece, *Kim Seibert*. She is still undergoing chemo and other medical treatment, but she has gained 6 lbs. and seems to be stable. She and her family are planning to attend my nephew’s wedding in Cookville, TN this coming Saturday (December 16). Praise God for His blessings, and please continue your prayers in her and the family’s behalf. Gratefully, *Mary Jordan*

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Thank you for your sympathy cards and prayers for our family following the death of our dear brother-in-law, *B.J. Long*. We appreciate our church family and the support you always offer. *Jim & Nancy Phillips*

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Dear Janice,

We hope you and Kenneth are doing well. We miss you and our church friends so much. We wish you all of the joy and happiness possible during this Christmas season. Love, *Sylvia & Ronnie Dodson*

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Louisa Myers asked that we thank everyone for all the cards, calls and prayers during her recent illness, hospitalization and rehab.

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Christmas Blessings to all the Philadelphia family. May the joy of the Lord, the love of family and the cheer of good friends be with each of you during this Christmas season.

With fond memories and much love. *Alice James*
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Dear sponsors from the Philadelphia Presbyterian Church,

How are you doing? This is your sponsored child *Fernanda* writing. I hope you're doing fine. My family and I are fine here, thank the good Lord, who's been doing a lot in our lives here, especially for my mother who's undergoing health treatment. She thought about quitting it, especially after her hair started to fall, but Jesus made her be strong and today she doesn't miss one chemo session. She's also been taking all her medical tests, thank the good Lord. Do you have any members of your church living in our state, we wonder? There are many faithful people nearby who say we should trust in Jesus. My mother and I are always very moved by that.

We appreciate your sponsorship very much. We always go to church here with a person called *Cida*. She is a great person, and we always pray together. May God bless you for everything you do. You are always in our prayers.

Until next time, God willing. My mother helped me write this letter to you. Written by your sponsored child *Fernanda Ferreira Garcia*

Jesus loves you, and so do I. Love ya. Tight hugs from your sponsored child. I won't give you a rose because it has thorns, but I give you my heart which is full of love.

For Christmas, the Busy Bees mailed a music CD to their Home Circle Members and received these responses:

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

*May the promise of that special star
 be with you always, wherever you are!
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.*

Dear Friends,

I received the nice gift, and know that my family and I will enjoy the great hymns and music. Thank you, one and all.

Indeed, I must say, your prayers have also been greatly appreciated.

Much love to all, *Mary Binkney & Family*

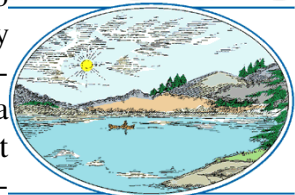
♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

*May all the joy the season brings
 be yours now and in the coming year.*

Happy Holidays

Thank you so much for the gift – it was very nice of you to send it. Love, *“Belle” Lawrence*

We extend our love and deepest Christian sympathy to **IN LOVING**
 Nancy Phillips and her family at the death of her brother-in-law, B.J. Long; and to Juanita DeBey and Larry Carlisle at the death of Juanita's brother-in-law and Larry's dad, Joe **MEMORY**
 Vincent.



THE “EYES” HAVE IT!

Worldwide Missions will continue collecting old prescription eye glasses, reading glasses and sun glasses *throughout January*. These glasses will be sent to clinics in the mission fields. There is a box in the narthex for your donations. Also, a very interesting article from *Presbyterians Today* about providing eye care in El Salvador is posted on the bulletin board.

*The blind receive sight...
 and the good news is preached to the poor.*

– *Matthew 11:5*

A HONEYMOON CHRISTMAS CRUISE? Both *Don & Jo Nelson* and *Ray & Dot Morgan* celebrated anniversaries while away on their cruise. *Don & Jo* were married December 20, 1954, and *Ray & Dot* were married December 28, 1946. What an inspiration. Congratulations to you all!

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**IT'S A GIRL!** She was born November 16 to *Kevin & Mandy Sparrow* and is the granddaughter of former members *Henry & Linda Sparrow*. Sorry, no other info available at this time.

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PROBLEMS WITH AN ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE? You might consider calling *Scott Lay*, the nephew of *Barbara Barlow*. He specializes in the sales, service and installation of A/C units, but can do other work. You can reach him on his cell phone at 678-416-1725 or at home at 770-252-3212.

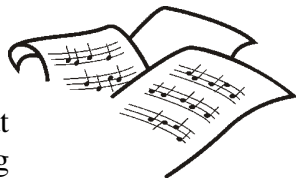
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**CHURCH OFFICE INS & OUTS** – The church office will be closed *New Year's Day (Monday, January 1)*. Also, the pastor's Christmas vacation will continue through New Year's Day. The office will once again be closed on *Monday, January 15* in observance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday.

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DIRECTORY UPDATE – *Sheryl Etheridge's* new e-mail address is Sheryl3264@aol.com.

A MUSICAL MUST!!!



On *Sunday, January 21* at 3:00pm, our church is hosting a Sacred Harp singing and reception sponsored by Historical Jonesboro/Clayton County.

Sacred Harp is the music of our ancestors as seen and heard in the movie *Cold Mountain*. It's also known as shaped-note singing and was studied by some of our relatives. This presentation is a must-see and must-hear event for anyone who loves history and anyone who loves music.

As in the past, both participants and visitors will be coming from throughout the metro Atlanta area. We'd like a good representation of the PPC family. So, invite your neighbors, your family, your friends, and plan on being here for what promises to be a very memorable experience.



Thanks to all who donated canceled postage stamps, Campbell's soup labels and greeting cards this past year. In 2006, we sent three shipments which totaled over 35 pounds. We sent 3,968 stamps, 670 soup labels and almost 3,000 cards.

These donated items were sent to Duvall Presbyterian Home (for the physically and mentally challenged) in Glenwood, Florida. They are very appreciative, and each item is put to good use.

They sell the stamps for cash. They accept all stamps except "Presorted" ones. They ask, when possible, we leave 1/4- to 1/2-inch margin on all four sides when cutting stamps from envelopes and packages.

The soup labels are redeemed for merchandise. They even purchased a mini van with soup labels a few years ago!

From the greeting cards, the children create bookmarks and handmade cards.

We will continue to collect all these items during the coming year.

Barbara Barlow, Worldwide Missions

GOOD NEWS FROM GOOD SHEPHERD CLINIC

Despite the rainy start, the 2006 Tomato Sandwich Party produced the largest turnout ever and raised over \$42,000!

This year's guests of honor for helping the Clinic provide such a high level of quality care were Southern Regional Health System and Dr. John Chafin with Christian's Pharmacy.

And of course the biggest thanks goes out to Jim & Martha Wood for once again opening their beautiful home and allowing the Clinic to reach its highest goal yet!

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### Statistics for January through October 2006

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Volunteer Hours:              | 3,674 hours  |
| Total Patients Seen:          | 1,447 people |
| <u>Total Dollar Value of</u>  |              |
| Doctor Visits:                | \$143,621.86 |
| Sample Medications Dispensed: | \$250,743.52 |



On *January 7*, the first Sunday of the new year, three events vital to the church will take place during the worship service:

The 2007 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team will be installed. Immediately following the worship service, PWCT will have their first meeting of the new year. All officers are encouraged to be present for both the installation service and the PWCT meeting.

The Ordination and Installation of Elders for the Class of 2010 will take place. *Bob Huie* and *Emory Pearce* will be ordained and installed. *Henry Brock*, *Greg Durden* and *Rick Pierce*, all previously ordained, will also be installed.

Toward the end of the service, the entire congregation will have the opportunity to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Prior to this service, please spend time in prayer and meditation in preparation to gather at the Lord's table on that day.

Ken Campbell  
4963 Moor Court  
Ellenwood, GA 30294  
770-961-2272

Dear Fellow Seniors:

We invite you to join us on a 6-day, 5-night trip to Washington, DC, leaving May 17, 2007. This trip is coordinated by Diamond Tours.

Our fellowship is small, so we hope to gather the minimum number required (30) up to the maximum number of 50 to make this trip. If we fail to meet the minimum, all money will be refunded. We can arrange pick-ups along the way or near I-75 as we go north from Exit 233.

Earlier this year, 15 friends joined us from the Blairsville United Methodist Church and other local churches on a trip to Branson, Missouri. Several of these folks have already reserved space on this motor coach experience, and arrangements have been made to meet them along the way.

You and your fellow members or friends can reserve your space with a deposit of \$75.00 per person by *January 25, 2007*, with the balance due by *March 15, 2007*. Make checks payable to

Young-at-Heart and send to me. At the same time, if you desire insurance to cover last-minute emergencies or sudden illness, please send your payment of \$35.00 with your deposit.

We're looking forward to a wonderful time of Christian fellowship. You may call me with any questions or concerns. Sincerely, *Ken Campbell*

[For complete details, see the flyers posted on the bulletin board and along the Sunday School hallway.]

## GET MOTIVATED!

How? At a seminar on *Thursday, January 25* at Philips Arena:

- *Zig Ziglar*, the Master of Motivation, will sharpen your skills for success and motivate you to achieve your unlimited potential.
- *General Colin Powell*, Legendary Soldier-Statesman, will speak about the take-charge leadership he knows so well.
- *John Smoltz*, Atlanta Braves 7-Time All-Star, will share his step-by-step strategies for staying competitive on and off the field.
- *Larry King*, Emmy-Winning Broadcasting Icon, will tell you how to perfect your communication skills.
- *Tom Hopkins*, America's #1 Authority on Selling, will strengthen your sales and negotiation skills.
- *Michael Eisner*, Legendary CEO of The Walt Disney Company, will show you how to manage, lead and succeed.
- Former Mayor *Rudy Giuliani* will discuss how to live a life of courage without compromise.

And what will this seminar cost you? Absolutely nothing – other than your time and parking (which, unfortunately, generally runs a minimum of \$10, so think “carpool”). The church has already purchased 10 tickets. So if you are interested in attending either all or a portion of the seminar scheduled from 8:00am until 4:45pm, notify the church office (404-366-1851).



...for 2007 should be in the narthex on *Sunday, January 7*, if things go as planned. Pray they do!

### GOOD NEWS TO SHARE

**Keep up those prayers!  
They really do make a difference.**

- Just wanted to give you an update on my friend *Heather Hardy*. She had the baby the early part of November, and he is doing much better than expected. He has had at least two surgeries that I know of, and so far he is holding his own. Heather says he really seems to love music and gets upset when it stops playing in the area he's staying in.
- *Beth Moore* asked that we let the church family know she and *Brad* plan on returning to worship with us once they get a handle on his heart problems and her recently diagnosed diabetes.
- Unbeknownst to us, *Juanita DeBey* suffered an aneurysm several months ago. When scolded about not telling us, she quipped, "I didn't even know who I was, much less anyone else." She has obviously recovered quite well.
- Doctors were able to literally shock *Louise Etheridge's* heart back into a regular rhythm.
- *Opal Seeby's* heart surgeon said Opal got along better after her open heart surgery than any other 85-year-old woman he had ever operated on.
- According to Mary Jordan, *Kim Seibert* is gaining weight. Radiation has shrunk the brain tumor, and oral chemo has contained the lung cancer. She is receiving treatment to build back the bone and spine. The most recent CT scan showed that nothing had increased in size, so she can continue oral chemo rather than infusion. Mary said they know that prayers have been a big factor, and they really appreciate our keeping Kim on our prayer list.
- Concerning her niece *Ann Culpepper*, Cathy Morris wrote, "She is now far enough along to be out of that initial danger she was in earlier in her pregnancy. We appreciate all the prayers."
- The doctors at the wound clinic have said that *Herbert Etheridge's* leg is in better condition now than it has been in two years.
- Demester Dunaway reported that *Mary Lou Fuller's* cancer is in remission.
- As a result of her surgery, *Aurora Staats* can now breathe better and is able to sleep through the night. She is also chewing (but still not swallowing) anything she can get her hands on. And she loves her new school, where she is receiving physical,

speech and occupational therapy.

- After her second cataract surgery, *Dot Dunn* said that seeing reminds her of a favorite hymn: "*All Things Bright and Beautiful*."

### CHRISTMAS IS NOT OVER!

No, I'm not in denial. Nor am I trying to make excuses until I can get time to take down the Christmas cards from my door. (Don't be surprised if that task takes until July!)

The world says Christmas – with all its hustle and bustle to buy, buy, buy – is over. But for the family of Christ, "Christ mass" is December 25. For the four weeks prior, we were in the season of Advent, preparing our hearts and minds for the coming of the Lord, both in the past and in the future.

For the church, the celebration on Christmas Day of the birth of our Savior begins the Christmas season, which then runs through the Day of Epiphany (January 6), when we, like the Magi, seek to honor the King of Kings. Thus, "The Twelve Days of Christmas" (December 25-January 6). But that's another story for another time.

In the meantime, let's remember that for Christians, "The Reason for The Season" doesn't ever end. It runs throughout the entire year!



**TO BE REMEMBERED IN PRAYER AND WITH CARDS***Please notify us concerning updates. Inquiring minds – and prayerful hearts – want to know!*(Based on 12/31/06 bulletin. **New info in bold.**)

Amy Atkinson (friend of Spencer & Sherri Frye - cancer)  
 Melanie Barnes (wife of Spencer's friend Keith at Berean; she has multiple sclerosis)  
 Jamie Brady (Joyce Smith's niece - brain tumor returned; recovering from 2nd surgery)  
 Willie Bush (friend of Demester Dunaway - pancreatic cancer)  
 Randy Cary (friend of Spencer & Sherri Frye - deployed to Iraq)  
 Douglas Chapman (Serena Staats' father - bone marrow transplant scheduled for February)  
 Nina Corry (Betty Mullins' mother - Alzheimer's; another bout of cellulitis)  
 Eddie & Mellissa Crownover (friends of the Fries - Eddie is a Marine Cobra pilot in Iraq)  
 Ami Davis (Bob & Rebecca Huie's granddaughter - uterine cancer)  
 Gail Downing (Judy Baird's sister - pulmonary fibrosis; infusions of blood & medicine)  
 Dee Drummond (Doris Ellis' sister-in-law - voice box removed; rehab therapy)  
 Hollie Ellis (Doris Ellis' brother-in-law - fell again; bleeding on brain; now hospitalized)  
 Tom Garner (Dot Pearce's son-in-law - heart attack)  
 Lucile Green (Dr. Gibson's daughter - Parkinson's; heart problems; fractured spine & hip)  
 Pauline Hadley (the Lockharts' neighbor - terminal cancer; under hospice care)

Heather Hardy (friend of Jennifer Rohrbach - baby's heart developed outside body)

Ed Henry (Beth Moore's father - Alzheimer's continues to progress)

Pat Henry (Beth Moore's mother - kidney problems, but dialysis postponed for now)

Elizabeth Hollandsworth (friend of Judy Baird - inoperable liver cancer)

Lyle Hopkins (Pam Langley's 17-year-old godson - chemo completed; follow-up tests)

Lois Howard (friend of Wallace Dunn - three types of cancer)

Betsy Jones (Cathy Morris' sister - hospitalized after heart cath; open heart surgery to come)

Bill Jones (Cathy Morris' brother-in-law - Alzheimer's)

Margaret Knox (Sheryl Etheridge's roommate - undetermined medical problem)

Carmen Laws (Smith's neighbor's daughter - numerous medical problems)

Rita Marballi (Anand Nevrekar's sister - ovarian cancer)

Carla Martin (friend of Doris Ellis - totally bedridden in a nursing home)

Annelle Maxwell (breast cancer; chemo, then surgery; prefers prayers/cards to calls)

**Douglas Moats (Doris Ellis' son-in-law - extensive shoulder/arm surgery; 6-8 months rehab)**

Mother of Fernanda Ferreira Garcia Vaz (chemo for breast cancer)

Matthew Mullis (teenage grandson of Judy Baird's best friend - serious liver disease)

Louisa Myers (3-5 days rehab beginning 12/15 at Life Care in Gwinnett County)

Kelly Painter (Nancy Phillips' 35-year-old friend with 2 young children - bone/liver cancer)

Vicky Pearce (Judy Baird's niece in mid-30s - esophageal/stomach/liver cancer; chemo)

Kathy Pfaff (Bert Tatzel's niece - **still in rehab learning to use nondominant hand/arm**)

Opal Seeby (severe sinus infection)

Kim Seibert (Mary Jordan's 45-year-old niece with 2 young sons - brain/lung/bone cancer)

June Shannon (hospitalized 12/18 with pneumonia)

R.A. "Buck" Shaw (esophageal & stomach cancer surgery; 196 Little John Street, Alexander City, AL 35010)

Linda Smith (Joyce Smith's sister - incurable small cell cancer; in remission now)

Henry Sparrow (had bacterial pneumonia; white blood count high; now has viral meningitis; ICU, Unit 12, South Georgia Medical Center)

Aurora Staats (doctors monitoring brain fluid; CT scan 01/12; possible surgery)

Anita Swanson (Parveen Yusufji's close friend's daughter - breast cancer)

Ed Swiedler (father of Andrea Ellis - lung & brain cancer; chemo/radiation completed; little change; now hospitalized)

Jerry Tomasello (former mayor of Forest Park - pulmonary fibrosis)

Montine Tomasello (breast cancer attached to bone; mobile; spirits very good, as usual)

**Charles Weems (Dot Lenderman's son - spot on brain; hearing loss; double vision)**

Harold Westbrook (liver cancer; chemo & radiation; P.O. Box 1324, Villa Rica, GA 30180)

Mollie Whitehead (Linda Harvey Shepherd's niece - in CCU in coma-like state)

Darrell Youngblood (colon cancer surgery; chemo for 6 months)

Our Shut-Ins:

Martin Ebbesen (Jonesboro Assisted Living, Room 116, 2620 Hwy. 138 SE, Jonesboro, GA 30236)

Ed Huie (6114 Huie Drive, P.O. Box 3, Morrow, GA 30260; Phone: 770-961-6092)

Belle Lawrence (1210 Lochshyre Way, Lawrenceville, GA 30043; Phone: 678-376-9807)

JoAnn Tatzel (Lafayette Nursing Home, **Room 404**, 110 Brandywine Blvd., Fayetteville, GA 30214)

Grover Tharp (275 N. Victoria Court, Ellenwood, GA 30294)