

THE CHURCH NEWSLETTER

FOR BANCROFT AND MORRICE UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

FEBRUARY 2016

BOB FORSYTH, PASTOR

NINA MORTIMORE, EDITOR

www.bancroftumc.org
www.morriceumc.org

[We] have a shared mission to serve God to the best of our ability by making him known in our church, community and world.

LENT

Why ashes on Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent. Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Ash Wednesday emphasizes two themes: our sinfulness before God and our human mortality. The service focuses on both themes, helping us to realize that both have been triumphed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

During some Ash Wednesday services, the minister will lightly rub the sign of the cross with ashes onto the foreheads of worshippers. The use of ashes as a sign of mortality and repentance has a long history in Jewish and Christian worship. Historically, ashes signified purification and sorrow for sins.

It is traditional to save the palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday service to burn to produce ashes for this service. Sometimes a small card or piece of paper is distributed on which each person writes a sin or hurtful or unjust characteristic. The cards are then brought to the altar to be burned with the palm branches. The ash cross on the forehead is an outward sign of our sorrow and repentance for sins.

— Adapted from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

What is Lent and why does it last forty days?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencien*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

LENTEN STUDY

A Lenten Study begins meeting this month. It will be on Tuesday evenings beginning on February 16 and goes through March 22. It will meet at 7:00 pm at the Morrice UMC.

Please see Pastor Bob to order necessary materials. We will be studying Adam Hamilton's 24 Hours that Changed the World. This is a video based study.

24 Hours

That Changed the World

The information on Ash Wednesday and Lent were reprinted from www.umc.org website.

Please come to the Lenten study at Morrice each Tuesday beginning on February 16.

FLINT WATER CRISIS

We are hearing on the national and local news of the water crisis in Flint. The Crossroads District of the United Methodist Church is helping the people of the city of Flint to deal with the crisis. The United Methodist Churches in Flint are distributing water filters to residents.

There is a need for funds and you can help by sending a monetary donation to the Crossroads District Treasurer. In the memo field please write: Flint Water Crisis and mail to Crossroads District Office, 1309 N. Ballenger Hwy, #2, Flint, MI 48504.

APPORTIONMENTS

What is this and why do we need to pay them each year? The idea behind apportionments is that together, we can do more across the world than we can individually.

The United Methodist website, www.umc.org defines apportionment as follows: *The share each annual conference or local church pays to support international, national and regional (annual conference) mission.* The General Conference, which meets every four years, sets a budget for the denomination's general funds. They divide it among all the annual conferences which then use a formula for each local church. Our apportionment or connection giving in the United Methodist Church are: Africa University Fund,, Black College Fund, Episcopal Fund, General Administration Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund, Ministerial Education Fund and World Service Fund. In addition, Detroit Conference connection giving includes Connectional Ministries and Administration, Detroit Conference Program ministries and Pension Fund. In the coming months, we will learn more about each of the apportionment areas.

UMCOR

Advance giving is designated giving, in that 100% of your monetary donation goes to the named project. Simply write a check to your church with the Advance # on the memo line and place in the offering plate. Below are examples of projects, which also qualify for Spotlight Church requirements. For more information on any project, go to www.umcor.org or see the link on our website.

SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREW

Fresh produce is gleaned and shipped to food banks which helps to alleviate hunger in the United States. Use Advance # 801600 if you would like to make an additional donation to the weekly potato offering at Morrice.

LIBERIA

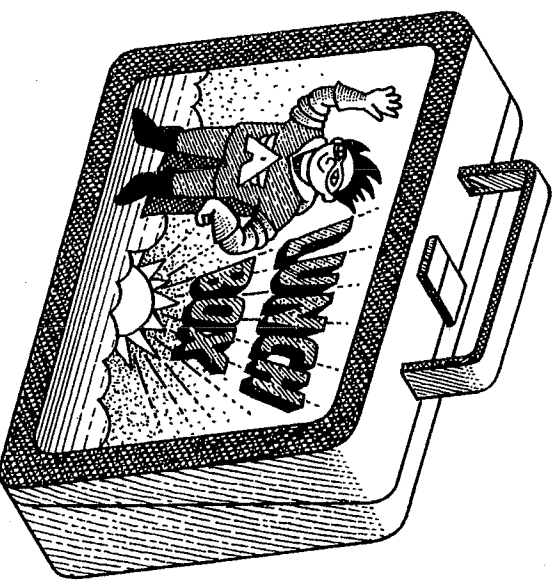
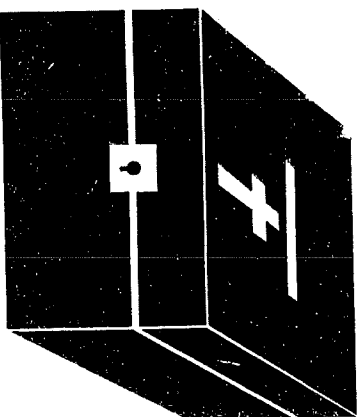
Advance # 3020811, Water for Life, helps construct wells to provide clean water for communities in Liberia.

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER

The Crossroads District is asking each church to support Kids Against Hunger. There are several ways to do this. One way is to pray for all the hungry people here and around the world. The second way is to designate a financial gift to Kids Against Hunger. The third way is to volunteer to pack meals at either Goodrich UMC on April 9 or Owosso First UMC on April 30. Both packing events are limited to 75 volunteers each and you MUST pre-register. See our website for a link to Kids Against Hunger on the Links tab. Find the registration form on our Get Involved tab, then Neighborhood Events.

The food will be distributed in the following way: 1/3 to Third World nations, 1/3 to local food banks and 1/3 to a Michigan warehouse for distribution after disaster.

MISSIONS





- 1 Church Council (B) 7:00 pm; Women Bible study at Shirley's 7:00 pm
- 2 Groundhog Day; Tools for Ministry at Grand Blanc UMC
- 4 Bible Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 5-6 Youth Lay Servant Weekend at Seymour Lake UMC
- 6 UMM at (B) 8:00 am
- 7 Communion Sunday
- 8 Women Bible Study at Shirley's 7:00 pm
- 9 UMW (M) at Shirley's 3:30 pm
- 10 Ash Wednesday at (M) 7:00 pm
- 14 VALENTINE'S DAY; Food Collection; Hospice offering (M); Trustees (M) after worship
- 15 Newsletter items due; Church Council (M) 7:00 pm; PRESIDENT'S DAY
- 16 Respite Training at Redeemer Lutheran in Owosso 10-2:20 pm; Lenten Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 21 Haiti Hot Lunch offering (M)
- 22 Women Bible Study at Shirley's 7:00 pm
- 23 Lenten Study (M) 7:00 pm
- 25 Salad Luncheon (M) 11:00-1:00 pm (Tentative)
- 29 Women Bible Study at Shirley's 7:00 pm

CHURCH COUNCILS MEET

Both church councils meet this month. Bancroft Church Council meets on February 1 at 7:00 pm. The Morrice Church Council meets on February 15 at 7:00 pm. All committee chairs should be in attendance at their respective church.

MEN EAT BREAKFAST

The men of the charge will have breakfast at Bancroft on February 6. They will meet at 8:00 am for food, devotions, fellowship and planning for ministry projects. Men of all ages may attend.

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

The long-time Thursday Bible study will meet one time this month at the Morrice UMC at 7:00 pm. They are continuing to read their way through the Old Testament, one chapter at a time and discussing how it relates to modern day. They will meet on February 4 and then suspend their meetings until March 31 so members may attend the Lenten study on Tuesday evenings.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

*Bancroft: Worship 9:00 am
Children's Sunday School during
worship*

*Morrice: Sunday School 9:15 am
Worship 10:30 am*

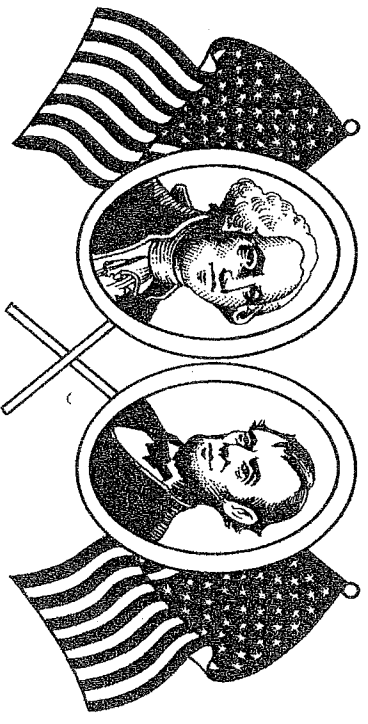
WEBSITE

Our website address is on the front of this newsletter. You may sign up for e-mail alerts and messages on the home page. Just follow the directions and wait for the mail you will receive.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Our Ash Wednesday Service this year is at Morrice United Methodist Church on February 10. The service is at 7:00 pm and will include receiving ashes.

Invite your friends to come to this special service which begins our time of Lent.



THINK SUMMER!

It is time to start thinking of summer camp! We have lots of opportunities to send young people of all ages to camp. We will be hearing more in March but start thinking now of retreats for adults and camping for all ages, families and varied interests.

Below is the Bay Shore Camp schedule but Nina has information on other United Methodist camps in the state.

Feb. 19-21	Winter Scrapbook Retreat
Mar. 4-5	Mother/Daughter Retreat
Mar. 18-20	Spring Quilter's Retreat
Mar. 28-1	Missions Week (gr. 6-12)
Apr. 1-2	Men's Retreat
May 6-7	Father/Son Catfish Tournament
May 13-14	Women's Wellness
May 27-30	Memorial Day Family Weekend

YES, I WANT to go!

Jun 3-4	Spring Family Fun Days
Jun 12-17	Jr. High Camp (gr. 7-8)
Jun 15-17	Teddy Bear I (gr. 1-2)
Jun 19-24	Fishing Camp (gr. 7-10)
Jun 19-24	Basketball Camp (gr. 6-11)
Jun 26-1	Soccer Camp (gr. 4-12)
Jun 26-1	Primary Plus (gr. 3-4)
Jul 3-8	Jr. Music Camp (gr. 4-8)
Jul 6-8	Motocross Camp (gr. 3-12)
Jul 10-15	Sr. High Camp (gr. 9-13)
Jul 17-22	Boys Baseball (gr. 6-10)
Jul 17-22	Girls Softball (gr. 6-10)
Jul 17-22	Worship Arts (gr. 8-13)
Jul 24-29	Junior Camp (gr. 5-6)
Jul 30-5	Family Camp
Aug. 12-14	Teddy Bear 2 (gr. 1-2)
Aug. 14-17	Primary Camp (gr. 3-4)
Aug. 25-28	Lloyd Severance Gospel Music Convention

*More events follow in the fall. The grade level is the grade the camper will be in September 2016.

- * All Teddy Bear campers need to bring an adult with them to camp.
- * All Motocross campers need to bring gas and a motorcycle to put the gas in.
- * See Nina for more information on getting a young person to camp in 2016!
- * We have a link to Bay Shore Camp on our website!



Do you want to make a huge difference in someone's life?

And the life of the family caregivers too
Be a Respite Volunteer!
Upcoming Respite Volunteer Training:

Tues. Feb. 16th, 2016

10 am -2:20 pm

in the Fellowship Hall at

Redeemer Lutheran Church

2510 N. M-52,

Owosso 48867

To register or for additional information please contact the Respite Volunteer office:
989-725-1127, respitexvolunteers@frontier.com, 710 W. King St., Owosso
Please see our website at www.shawassee.org &
Find Respite Volunteers on facebook for more information

989-725-1127 to
register

RESPIRE TRAINING

Respite Volunteers are needed in the following communities: Durand, Vernon, Byron, Bancroft, Lennon, Corunna, Ovid, Laingsburg and New Lothrop. There is no cost to attend the training which will include a light meal. See the attached flier for more information.

The training is designed to prepare volunteers for many different opportunities, and to give potential volunteers to try out volunteering. These opportunities include: helping in the office, helping with events and to serve adults with ongoing health needs, and their care-giving families and especially persons who are frail, elderly and living alone. Respite volunteers typically spend one to three hours a week of time with the patient they are matched with in their own community, and help as needed depending on each patient and family care-giving situation. The volunteers provide friendly visiting, play cards or board games, help the person with hobbies, and provide respite to the family caregivers.

Volunteer opportunities for helping in the office include: greeting guests, answering the phone, answering questions, filing, helping prepare newsletters, data entry, correspondence, cleaning, yard work, maintaining the building, preparing for Volunteer Training and events, and fund-raising.

BANCROFT

BANCROFT NEWS

Jan. 15, 2016

The Cantata on Sunday, December 20, 2015 was worth all the practices that Dawn had the choir doing. We are so blessed. We would like to give a special "thank you" to the people that gave of their time to lend their voices to our choir.

The Christmas evening service was special. We had the privilege of listening to Rachel Holzhausen who sang a couple of songs during service. It was wonderful to see the church filled with families and friends. You could feel the presence of the Spirit.

It was nice to see Pastor Bob wearing his robe for the service. We were told that this would be more of an occurrence than what it has been in the past.

I hope you all had a blessed Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Hopefully the Christmas decorations will be put away soon. We were scheduled to do this after service on January 10, 2016 but the service was canceled due to the weather.

Assistant Chief Luke Darrow from the Shiawassee Township Volunteer Fire Department took advantage of the after Christmas sales. He has contributed 12 stockings for the Loaves and Fishes to be done in December 2016. "Thank You!"

There is no UMW meeting this month.

SUCCESS

Success is doing something well,
It's winning faith and trust,
Despite what theorists may tell
It's doing what you must;
It's giving all the best of you
To every task you have to do.

Success is not the gift of luck
When rightly understood,
It's keeping on with grit and pluck
To make your service good;
It's keeping honest, when you meet
An easy chance to play the cheat.

Success is in the will to be
On friendly terms with men,
It's in little things they'll see
When next you meet again;
For nothing ever lives so long
Or works such havoc as a wrong.

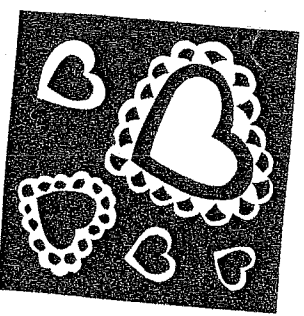
Who gives his best to every task,
Who keeps the faith with all,
For friends will never have to ask
Or for assistance call:
But who with any trust does less
Will never be a real success.

BANCROFT READERS

Feb. 7	Lisa C.
Feb. 14	Joan O.
Feb. 21	Lisa C.
Feb. 28	Ginnie S.

GREETING YOU AT BANCROFT

Feb. 7	Sharon B.
Feb. 14	Joan O. & SS kids
Feb. 21	Lisa C.
Feb. 28	Sprague family



Edgar A. Guest
from Harbor Lights of Home 1928

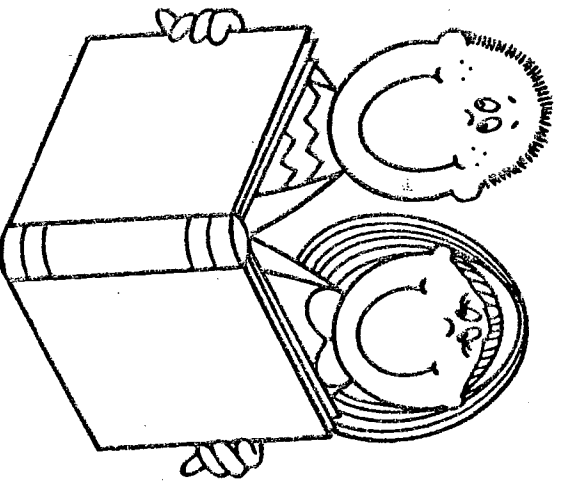
TRIVIA

Here are your trivia questions from the Bible Trivia game from Cadaco. Good luck!

1. In the story recorded in Genesis of the sacrifice on Mt. Moriah, which father and son do we read about?
2. In what city was Jesus put to trial and crucified on the cross?
3. Which writer of the New Testament was healed of blindness?
4. Which disciple's mother-in-law did Jesus heal from a fever—James, John, Peter or Thomas?
5. How many years after the flood did Noah live—100, 250, 350 or 500 years?
6. What were James and John mending when Jesus called them to be disciples?
7. Jesus said it was more difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God than for what kind of animal to go through the eye of a needle?
8. Which of the following cities is farthest north: Corinth, Thessalonica, Ephesus or Colossae?
9. With how many plagues did the Lord smite Egypt to persuade them to free the Israelites?
10. Whom did the Lord instruct to go to Straight Street?

The answers:

1. Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22)
2. Jerusalem
3. Paul or Saul (Acts 9)
4. Peter (Matthew 8:14-15)
5. 350 (Genesis 9:28)
6. Fishing nets (Mark 1:19)
7. Camel (Matthew 19:24)
8. Thessalonica
9. Ten (Exodus)
10. Ananias (Acts (:10-11))



TOOLS FOR MINISTRY

The Crossroads District is providing leadership training on February 2 at the Grand Blanc United Methodist Church. The evening begins at 4:30 pm with registration, followed by dinner, worship, then workshop sessions. Reservations need to be made for dinner but you do not need to have dinner to attend. See our website for more information.

180 CONFERENCE

Redeemer United Methodist Church in DeWitt presents the 180 Turnaround Church Conference on Thursday, March 10, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. This conference is specifically designed for pastors and church leaders passionate about helping churches to grow in mission, membership, programs and services.

Workshops for 2016 include; Getting Your Ministry Aligned, Proverbs for Leadership, Evangelism, Leading a Contemporary Worship Team, Planning Big Days, Welcoming Guests, How Do You Spell Volunteers, Strategic Planning, Interactive Hospitality.

The cost for the conference which includes lunch, is \$49/person until February 26, \$59 after February 26. Group rates are available.

You can register for this conference at www.dewittredeemer.org/Ministries/conference.

PICTURES

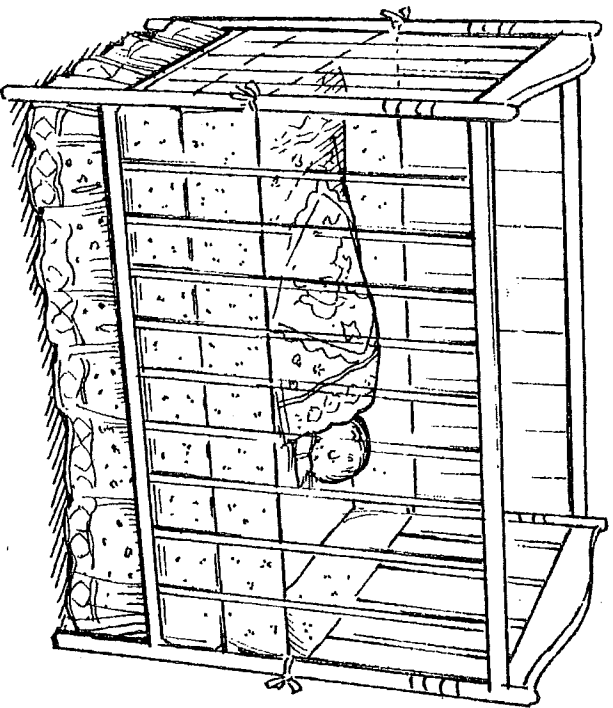
Any of you can help with your newsletter and/or website by taking photos of events and/or people at church. Just e-mail them to Nina for the newsletter; Lisa or Nina for the website and Kim for Facebook.

There are some rules to follow. We cannot put pictures of minors on the website without parental permission. We have permission forms in our child protection policy packets. We also should have permission to use photos taken of, or by adults.

MAILING LISTS

Please keep us informed when your address changes. This includes all our "snowbirds". We will send your newsletter to you wherever you are. We want you to be informed of all the church news!

MORRICE



SALAD LUNCHEON (TENTATIVE)

The salad luncheon hosted by the Morrice UMW may return this month at the Morrice UMC. They begin serving at 11:00 am and finish about 1:00 pm. The meal includes: salads of all types, homemade biscuit with turkey gravy, beverage and dessert. Please enter the church basement using the door at the back of the building. A chair lift is available from street level to the basement. Take out orders are available. Please watch the bulletins or website for more information. These are tentative plans only.

OPENING WORSHIP AT MORRICE

Feb. 7	Katy J.
Feb. 14	Donna G.
Feb. 21	John M.
Feb. 28	Bridget M.

PROVIDING SNACKS AT MORRICE

Feb. 7	
Feb. 14	Tara and boys
Feb. 21	Carol W.
Feb. 28	Cheryl L.

GREETING YOU AT MORRICE

Feb. 7	Katy J.
Feb. 14	Serenna B.
Feb. 21	Carol W.
Feb. 28	Donna H.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

We would like to welcome Sawyer Riley Cain to our church family. He arrived the evening of December 31, 2015 weighing in at 8 lb., 15 oz. His parents are Jon and Brianna (Clark) Cain. Very proud great grandparents are Doug and Diane Clark.

SPOTLIGHT CHURCH

Congratulations to the Morrice UMC for meeting all the requirements to be a Spotlight Church in 2015. Mission giving at local, conference, national and international levels, accomplishes this. Faithful giving over many years has allowed the Morrice UMC to be recognized for eleven years.

There are eight requirements to be a Spotlight Church, recognized by the Detroit Conference. The first is to pay 100% of all conference and district apportionments. These amounts are determined by a formula and are based on church membership and other factors.

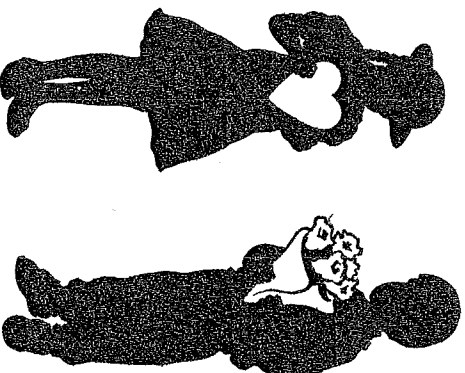
There is a related article about apportionments in this issue of the newsletter.

The second requirement is to support Detroit Annual Conference Mission and Ministry Projects. The church council voted to support these four projects and the budget reflects these choices: 1) New Church Development Fund; 2) Anchor House Campus Ministry at Lake Superior State University; 3) Methodist Children's Home Society and 4) Asbury Family Development Center.

We will "spotlight" more requirements next month.

WOMEN BIBLE STUDY

A group is studying women of the Bible. They meet four of the five Monday nights this month at Shirley's house at 7:00 pm. They will not meet on February 15.

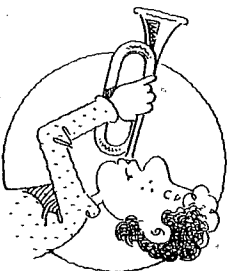


HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 1	Bruce Rogers II	M
Feb. 1	Lala Norwood	©
Feb. 3	Judy Preadmore	M
Feb. 6	Ashton Morris	M
Feb. 6	Aaron Markell	M
Feb. 7	Josh Cone	M
Feb. 8	Ella Nelson	B
Feb. 10	Rod Hart	M
Feb. 13	Jeff Bower	B
Feb. 13	Gene Munro	M
Feb. 16	J.D. Eva	M
Feb. 16	Bea Gilbert	M
Feb. 17	Karna Valentine	M
Feb. 21	Lisa Fall	B
Feb. 21	Nyomi Forsyth	©
Feb. 23	Jacub Hallok	B
Feb. 24	Barbara Medlock	B
Feb. 27	Mike Mortimore	M
Feb. 28	Jeff Hulbert	B
Feb. 29	Pat Grover	M
Feb. 29	Tracy Hart	B

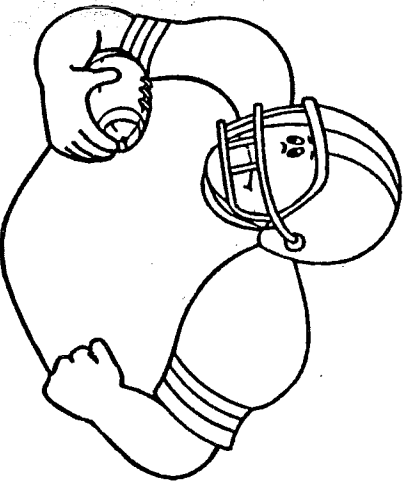
HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Feb. 20	Carl & Jenny Cooke	B
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 5	Chili Cook off
Mar. 6	One Great Hour of Sharing
Mar. 10	180 Conference at DeWitt
Mar. 12	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
Mar. 13	Daylight Savings Time begins
Mar. 20	Palm Sunday
Mar. 24	Maundy Thursday
Mar. 25	Good Friday
Mar. 26	Holy Saturday
Mar. 27	Easter Sunday
Apr. 9	Kids Against Hunger (Goodrich)
Apr. 30	Kids Against Hunger (Owosso)
May 21	Taking It to the Streets



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