| The Carillon  |
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| Page 1  |  January, 2021 |

Dear Siblings in Christ,

As I write this it is not yet Christmas. With you, I am missing the many parts of our life together that help us to celebrate the birth of Jesus. I have missed the sights and sounds of our Sunday School children practicing and sharing their Christmas program, the delicious cookies of WELCA’s Cookie Walk and our coffee fellowship. I miss the music of our choir and the Christmas hymns carried by the pipe organ, by which the “hopes and fears of all the years” meet and are carried as prayer. I miss you.

This has been a challenging year and congregations have not been exempted from the difficult decisions the pandemic has prompted. With you, our council, staff and I pray that it will not be long until we can safely gather for worship, Choir, Sunday School, Confirmation, WELCA and the other ministries we share that nurture our faith and strengthen us for service in God’s world. Until that time, I pray that you will rejoice with me in the ways in which we have continued to BE the Church even when we are not gathering in our building.

 Rejoice with me…

At the gift of our council leadership who faithfully work, listen, study, pray and respond with compassion and grace who, alongside our staff members Jamie and Becky have gone above and beyond throughout this pandemic to provide leadership, tools for ministry and care for our congregation.

For Tracy, our custodian, who cheerfully adapted her cleaning schedule and routine to care for the safety of our members and staff when we were worshiping Sundays and Wednesdays, coming in at night to do her work.

For Mary Schultz, our organist, whose music lifts our hearts and carries our praises. Mary and her Husband David have been with us only a short time, but in addition to Mary providing music for all our worship services, she and David have collaborated with many of the other talented musicians of our congregation in providing the beautiful music of our Advent and Christmas season.

With you, I give thanks to God for the faithful ministry of Rachel Strangstalien, Aaron Stakston, and Kailee Simon, with special thanks to Rachel whose experience and wisdom in sharing the hymnody of our congregational life has been a great blessing to me in welcoming Mary.

I rejoice at what we have learned in this pandemic time. Though we have not been able to always gather throughout the pandemic, we have continued to BE the Church.

Our committees have continued to meet. We have sought to meet the needs of our congregation and community…by providing meals for students over Spring Break and utilizing the Shepherd Fund which has provided funds for families in particular need as they have transitioned to being at home for online learning.

Mike Lusk has led a wonderful team of volunteers through TWO record-setting blood drives!!

Our Men’s Group provided a delicious drive-through meatball dinner and donated their proceeds to the General Fund.

Our prayer team has been active in these months, often praying for God’s presence to minister in patient rooms and residential corridors where loved ones cannot go.

Our prayer shawl knitters and social ministry committee, as well as the Women of WELCA have shared prayer squares, shawls, cards, and phone calls as a sign of God’s love and ours.

We continue to learn but are becoming quite adept at recording and editing our worship services so people at home and away from home can (and do!) participate in worship with us via computer and television.

Our property committee has continued to keep watch over and care for our building and grounds—a special highlight of the year has been the repair of the lighted Cross, given by the Ihle family, on the outside of our Sanctuary!

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Our altar guild members have continued to care for our altar candles, prepare Communion, imagine with us safe ways of distributing Holy Communion which has included assisting with drive-through Communion services!

Our Education Committee and council members delivered Christmas bags to our Sunday School students as a reminder of our care for them, and we continue our Confirmation ministry via Zoom.

We have grieved with those who grieve and rejoiced with those who have rejoiced as we have gathered with one another for funerals, Baptisms and even a wedding!

And though our doors are closed for the safety of our congregation and neighbors, our congregation has faithfully, generously, and steadfastly financially supported our ministry at home AND made it possible for us to give beyond ourselves in a pandemic.

As we go into this new year, may we be strengthened by what we have heard and seen—that God who has called us to this ministry has and will remain faithful. May the gifts Christ is born to bring-- hope, peace, joy, and love—be yours, now and always!

Go in peace. Share the Good News!

In Christ,

Pastor Julie

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**Via ZOOM AT 10 A.M. JANUARY 31**

**PLEASE RSVP BY JANUARY 18 TO LET US KNOW YOU WILL BE ATTENDING!**

Dear Congregational members,

Because of the unusual circumstances caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, the Annual meeting of Coon Valley Lutheran Church will take place via Zoom this year. For those who are not familiar with Zoom, it works by communicating with others either via computer OR telephone.

At the December council meeting our council adopted a resolution making it constitutional for us to conduct our Annual meeting virtually. We have received guidance from the La Crosse Area Synod Office in making our preparations, to ensure that we are also in accordance with the ELCA, the State of Wisconsin, and Robert’s Rules of Order. According to our constitution, 40 voting members of the congregation are required for a quorum. Our Zoom account allows for up to 100 people to join. If we should have more than that RSVP, we will make adjustments to our Zoom account to accommodate all who wish to attend.

We hope you will participate in our Annual meeting! Below is the information you will need to prepare for the meeting. We do not want anyone to not participate because of difficulty. Please call Jamie or Pastor Julie with any questions you have, and we will be happy to help you.

It is important to note that anyone who wishes to participate in the Annual meeting must RSVP by January 18. The reason RSVP’s are necessary is that those who plan to attend the meeting will need either a link or a phone number to participate. Once we have received your RSVP, we will send you a Ballot and the computer link or phone number you will need to participate. The ballot and link or phone number will only be sent to those who RSVP.

To RSVP for the Annual meeting, please go to the our website or Coon Valley Facebook page or OR call the Church office at 452-3772.

After the Annual meeting, those who attended the meeting will have until February 7 to return their ballots either by mail to the Church office or by bringing them to the Church office on Wednesday, February 3 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

We understand that this is not the ideal way of holding our Annual meeting, but we give thanks for the gift of technology that allows us to gather and celebrate the ministry we have shared in this year. Thank you for your patience and for taking the time to gather with us for the Annual meeting of our congregation!

![MCj03226430000[1]]()NOVEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The CVLC Council met on November 12th and 19th at 6:00 p.m. Council President Karen Rude called the meeting to order.

\*Possible Sunday School ideas were presented by Julie Nelson, Renita Williamson, Nancy Rogers and Maggie Traastad.

\*The Treasurer’s Report was accepted.

\*Finance Committee Report: Karen McGarvey reports that the Committee met to finalize the 2021 budget. Jan Verse has stepped down from the committee. They are looking for someone to join.

\*Secretary’s Report: Sarah Ofte presented the report. Report accepted.

\*Ministry Minutes: Pastor Julie shared that Annual reports are due to Jamie by January 4th.

\*Social Ministry: Pam Olson reported that she has made ornaments for the Giving Tree and they are working with Jamie to have it available for people to chose an ornament. Casey Brye and the Youth Group are working on Christmas cards for COVID patients.

\*Property and Grounds: Brian Strangstalien reports that the boiler has been fixed. There in now a bad water pump that needs fixing. The parts have been ordered. Gary Berg repaired the light switch in the office area.

\*Men’s Group: The Drive-Thru Meatball Dinner raised $3500 for the church!

\*Personnel Committee: The committee recommends a 1.3% cost of living raise for hourly staff and the pastor’s salary increase will follow synod guidelines based on experience.

\*Worship Plans: After discussion of the COVID-19 impacts on worship a motion was accepted to suspend in person worship until the January 13th Church Council Meeting.

\*The next meeting will be on November 19th at 6:00pm via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 followed by the Lord’s Prayer.

The November 19th meeting was called to order by Council President Karen Rude at 6:00pm.

\*Budget: Karen M. presented the 2021 budget for review. Items that were revised included raising the Sugar Creek support from $500 to $1500, increasing the benevolence from 5% to 6%, and the salaries were increased with the cost of living raise. The budget will be finalized as the December Church Council Meeting to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

\* Protocols for funerals: A motion was passed to limit the number of people indoors to 20 with Zoom options for viewing the funeral and an unlimited number of people at the graveside.

\*Christmas Tree Lighting: A Christmas Tree lighting in the church yard with organist Mary, playing music and a sing-a-long on December 24th at 4:00pm is being planned.

\*Shepherd Fund: Mr. Michaels, the superintendent at Westby Area Schools, contacted Pastor Julie about a family in need. After Discussion a motion was approved to use $225 from the church Shepherd Fund as a one-time gift to help this family.

\*Committee Meetings: Due to COVID, if a committee meets, they should notify Jamie or Pastor Julie to set up the meeting via Zoom.

\*Communion: There will be a Communion Drive Thru at the church on December 6, 13 and 20th from 9am-10am.

\*Giving Tree: Pam Olson reported that she was getting the list of items soon and the Giving Tree would be ready by Thanksgiving Eve. Gifts need to be at the church by December 12th.

\*Office Administrator Hours: A motion was approved to increase Jamie’s hours from 26 to 30 hours a week.

The next meeting will be on December 10th at 6:00pm.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 followed by the Lord’s prayer.

Sarah Ofte,

Council Secretary

DRIVE THROUGH HOLY COMMUNION JANUARY 10

 Pastor Julie and Karen Rude will be offering Drive-Through Communion distribution on January 10.  Distribution will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. at Coon Valley Lutheran Church.

 The elements will be consecrated beforehand so you will receive the elements with the words, “The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”

 To participate, please enter the West (small) parking lot and drive behind the building until you reach Pastor Julie and Karen where you will receive the Sacrament and blessing.

 *Please note:* In the event of blizzard conditions, drive through Communion will be canceled. Please call 452-3772 to listen to our voicemail or check on the Coon Valley Lutheran Church Facebook page for any schedule changes.



ANNUAL REPORTS

Deadline for Committee’s to submit their Annual Reports and end of year account balance to Jamie is Monday, January 4th. Please send to jamiel@mwt.net in Microsoft Word or PDF format. This year due to the pandemic the Annual Report will be mailed to each household.



OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available in the office during the normal Wednesday office hours 9am-2pm. Those envelopes that are not picked up will be mailed in February. If you are able to pick them up for yourself, family or neighbors please do so. This will help save us the cost of postage. Thank you!

PARTICIPATE IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICES FROM HOME OR “ON THE GO”

**Here’s how:**

**Facebook:** Services are recorded and available Sunday mornings on the CVLC Facebook page.

**Our Website:** [www.coonvalleylutheranchurch](http://www.coonvalleylutheranchurch).org

**Coon Valley Lutheran Church YouTube page:** Subscribe to the Coon Valley Lutheran Church YouTube page!

**Vernon Communications Channel 15:** We now have a one-hour time slot! Our services will air each week on Channel 15 according to this schedule:

Mondays: 3:30 a.m.

Tuesdays: 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays: 7:30 a.m.

Fridays: 2:30 a.m.

*Thank you to our friends at Vernon Communications for making our services available on Channel 15!*



 “SOUPER BOWL” OF CARING ON FEBRUARY 7.

CVLC will again participate in this program. On SUPER BOWL SUNDAY please remember to give to those in need. 100% of the money given will go directly to the ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL. We invite you to give a donation. Cash and checks will be accepted (make checks payable to CVLC and write “world hunger” in the memo line) we will send all money to the Synod and they will forward it to the ELCA WORLD HUNGER APPEAL. During these football festivities please remember **to give!**

Thanks to all who gave on Thanksgiving! We collected $295 to send to ELCA World Hunger!



Thank you to Steve & Pam Pauloski for picking up, setting up, (and eventually taking down) our outdoor Christmas tree!

Thank you to our CVLC WELCA for donating delicious cookies to give to those who participated in our Outdoor Christmas Eve service!

Thank you to all who purchased gifts for our Giving Tree project this year. We were able to give gifts and gift cards to people in need in our area. Thank you also to Marcie Nelson and Pam Olson for putting forth the extra effort to make this happen in such a difficult time!



CVLC BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

Our blood drive on Monday, December 14, received 61 units of blood. This brings our total to 183 units from our church for 2020! Thank you to all who donated and volunteered their time to make this happen. Special thanks to Mike Lusk for coordinating our Blood Drives!

ASH WEDNESDAY LUMINARY ORDERS

Once again, our Confirmation Youth will be making Luminaries in memory of our loved ones, to shine on Ash Wednesday on February 17. You can order by using this form, OR by contacting Jamie, OR by ordering from our Confirmation Youth. All orders should be made and paid for by February 8. \*Make checks out to “CVLC YOUTH.” Luminaries are $5 per person. If you want two people named on one Luminary, the cost will be $10. List both names on the same line, if you would like two names on one luminary.

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LUMINARY ORDER

FOR FROM $5

Need by Monday, February 8 ☺

WELCA NEWS

Hopefully, you’ve all has a Blessed Christmas and are looking forward to a new year full of promise.

The Following blessing is known as the “Apache Blessing,” “Indian Weddings Blessing,” “Indian Wedding Prayer,” and others. I think it is also appropriate to begin 2021.

***M****ay the sun bring you new energy by day*

***M****ay the moon softly restore you by night*

***M****ay rain wash away your worries*

***M****ay the breeze blow new strength into your being*

***M****ay you walk gently through the world and know its beauty all the days of your life.*

God Bless,

Ellie Brye, President

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive our newsletter via email? This saves the church the cost of office supplies and postage. If you would like to subscribe visit our website at [www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org](http://www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org) scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your full name and email. That’s it! Thank you!

A NOTE FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE: 

If you are giving an offering or donation to several church funds or groups, please write a separate check for each fund or group. This makes our bookkeeping much easier. Thank you for your continued gifts and support of Coon Valley Lutheran Church!

GIVING OPTIONS

 There are several ways you may get your offerings to the church. You may simply mail it to the church office, P.O. Box 280. Or use one of our eGiving options. 1) You may go to our website and click the Donate button at the top. 2) Give through the mobile app Give Plus. 3) Use our text-to-give option, simply text a dollar amount to 866-374-6997. Please let Jamie know if you need assistance in any way with these options. Thank you for your support!



ANNUAL REPORTS TO BE MAILED

Annual reports will be mailed this year to each

member household of CVLC. Expect to see the

reports in the mail approximately one week

prior to our January 31 Annual Meeting!

Office hours are currently Wednesday 9am-2pm. Precautions are taken to protect staff and members who enter our building including; required face mask, plexiglass and physical distancing. I will continue to work from home daily, please do not hesitate to contact me at home if you may need anything 317-0007 or via email jamiel@mwt.net.

 ~ Jamie

**ATTENDANCE & OFFERING**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2020** | **November** |  | **2020 YTD** |
| **Total Offerings** | $10,900.00 |   | $156,901.68 |
| **Expenses** | $16,509.70 |   | $155,702.03 |
| **Balance/Shortfall** |  **-$5,609.7** |  | **$1,199.65** |
| **Parsonage Int. Fund Transfer** | $0  |  | $0  |
| **Building Fund Transfer** | $0 |  | $1,300.00 |
| **Memorial Fund****Transfer** | $0 |  | $1,399.98 |

**11/22 - Offering:** $3,561.24

**11/29 – Offering:** $3,691.24

**12/6 – Offering:** $5,498.24

**12/13 – Offering:** $3,956.24

**\*\***Approximately **$3,800.00 a week** is needed to meet operating expenses.

**General Fund Balance:** 11/30/20: $32,370.53

**Memorial Fund Balance:**11/30/20:$37,291.32

**Building Fund Balance:** 11/30/20: $3,854.50

**CD Interest Balance:** 11/30/20: $18,159.55

MEMORIALS

**Mavis Youngs**

Memorial Fund: $100.00

**Mary Strangstalien**

Memorial Fund/Video Equipment: $625.00



Doing your shopping on **Amazon**? Please go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), enter ***Coon Valley Congregation*** do your shopping and **Amazon Smile** will donate a small percentage to our church!



**YEAR-TO-DATE BALANCE**

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group continues to pray for the church, the congregation and our extended family and friends.

**† *Our church staff***

**† *Our members*:** Beverly Bagstad, Eleanor Bagstad, Tip Bagstad, Clifford Bakkum, Inez Beck, Kay Bjornstad, Evelyn Dahlen, Judy Denison, Jeanne Ebli, Kira Foster, Bonnie Holey, Verlin Ihle, Jim Knutson, Elizabeth Larson, Russell Lee, Aaron Leisso, Sarah Leisso, Gerri Leum, Cindy Manske, Dorothy Marshall, Aaron Marx, Frank Mathison, Skyler Midtlien, Romaine Nelson, Sandy Nelson, Cathy Ofte, Tim Ofte, Sherman Olson, Eunice Quast, Jojo Satona, Aaron Stakston, Terri Stakston, LaVonne Stendahl, Nancy Stuempges, Joyce Temp, Maggie Traastad, Ray Williamson.

**† *Our members who are currently in health care facilities*:** Rachel Berg, Erma Graupe, Sylvester King Jr., Irene Larson, Irene Nestingen, Beatrice Olson (Alden), Beatrice Olson (Leonard), Edie Peterson.

**† *Those who grieve:*** Brook Strangstalien and family in the death of her grandmother Catherine Brown

**† *Family and friends of members***

**† *Local Military:***Austin Holen, and John Nelson

**† *All those affected by the COVID-19 virus***

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS**

**WEEK OF JANUARY 3**

Jeremiah 31:7-14  *Joy as God’s scattered flock gathers*

 **SUNDAY** Psalm 147:12-20 *Praising God in Zion*

Or Sirach 24:1-12 *Wisdom lives among God’s people*

Wisdom 10:15-21 *Praising the holy name*

Ephesians 1:3-14 *The will of God made known in Christ*

John 1:[1-9] 10-18 *God with us*

 **MONDAY** Exodus 1:22—2:10 *God saves Moses from Pharaoh*

 **TUESDAY** Exodus 2:11-25 *Moses escapes from Pharaoh again*

**EPIPHANY**

 **WEDNESDAY** Isaiah 60:1-6*Nations come to the light*

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14 *All shall bow down*

Ephesians 3:1-12 *The gospel’s promise for all*

 Matthew 2:1-12 *Christ revealed to the nations*

 **THURSDAY** John 8:39-59 *Jesus’ name: I AM*

 **FRIDAY** Isaiah 45:8-17 *God greater than all human power*

 **SATURDAY** Ephesians 2:11-22 *Being one in Christ*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 10**

**THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

 **SUNDAY** Genesis 1:1-5 *God creates light*

Psalm 29 *The voice of the LORD upon the waters*

Acts 19:1-7 *Baptized in the name of Jesus*

Mark 1:4-11 *Jesus revealed as God’s servant*

 **MONDAY** Genesis 17:1-14, 23-27 *Circumcision a covenant sign*

 **TUESDAY** Exodus 30:22-38 *Anointing a sign of holiness*

 **WEDNESDAY** John 1:29-34 *John’s account of Jesus’ baptism*

 **THURSDAY** Isaiah 41:14-20 *God gives water in the desert*

 **FRIDAY** Acts 22:2-16 *Paul Describes his own baptism*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36 *God will save through water*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 17**

 **SUNDAY** 1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] *The calling of Samuel*

 Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 *You have searched me out*

1 Corinthians 6:12-20 *Glorify God in your body*

John 1:43-51 *The calling of the first disciples*

 **MONDAY** 1 Samuel 9:27—10:8 *Samuel anoints Saul king*

 **TUESDAY** 1 Samuel 15:10-31 *Samuel rebukes King Saul*

 **WEDNESDAY** Luke 18:15-17 *Jesus blesses little children*

 **THURSDAY** Genesis 16:1-4 *Hagar sees God and is blessed*

 **FRIDAY** 2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1 *Believers are called out*

 **SATURDAY** Psalm 86 *Walking in God’s way*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 24**

 **SUNDAY** Jonah 3:1-5, 10 *Repentance at Nineveh*

 Psalm 62:5-12 *In god is my safety and my honor*

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 *Living in the end times*

Mark 1:14-20 *The calling of the disciples at the sea*

**MONDAY**Genesis 12:1-9 *God calls Abram to go to Canaan*

 **TUESDAY** Genesis 45:25—46:7 *God calls Jacob to go to Egypt*

 **WEDNESDAY** Mark 3:13-19 *Jesus appoints the Twelve*

 **THURSDAY** Proverbs 8:1-21 *Wisdom calls the people*

 **FRIDAY** 1 Corinthians 7:17-24 *Live the life assigned*

**SATURDAY**Psalm 46 *The God of Jacob is our stronghold*

**WEEK OF JANUARY 31**

 **SUNDAY** Deuteronomy 18:15-20 *The prophet speaks with God’s authority*

Psalm 111 *The beginning of wisdom*

1 Corinthians 8:1-13 *Limits to liberty*

Mark 1:21-28 *The healing of one with an unclean spirit*

 **MONDAY** Numbers 22:1-21 *King Balak asks Balaam to cure Israel*

 **TUESDAY** Numbers 22:22-38 *An angel speaks God’s word to Balaam*

**WEDNESDAY** Mark 5:1-20 *Jesus heals a man with a demon*

**THURSDAY** Jeremiah 29:1-14 *Jeremiah speaks God’s word*

**FRIDAY** 1 Corinthians 7:32-40 *Paul on marriage*

**SATURDAY** Psalm 35:1-10 *God is our salvation*

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| January 2021  |
| **Sunday** | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** | **Saturday** |
|   **Office Hours:** **Wed. 9:00am-2:00pm** |  |  |  |  | **1** | **2** |
| **3** ONLINE WORSHIP with Holy Communion **10:30a-Noon**-Confirmation via Zoom | **4****Annual Report Deadline**Pr. Julie’s Sabbath | **5** | **6** **EPIPHANY** | **7** | **8** | **9** |
| **10** **BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**ONLINE WORSHIP with Holy Communion **9:00-10:00a-**Drive Through Communion | **11****6:00p-**Finance Committee-ZoomPr. Julie’s Sabbath | **12** | **13****Carillon Deadline** Pr. Julie vacation | **14** **6:00pm-**Church Council-Zoom | **15** | **16**  |
| **17** ONLINE WORSHIP  **10:30a-Noon**-Confirmation via Zoom | **18** Pr. Julie’s Sabbath**Last Day to RSVP for Annual Meeting** | **19** **5:00p-**Worship Committee-Zoom | **20**  | **21** | **22** | **23** |
| **24** ONLINE WORSHIP  | **25**Pr. Julie’s Sabbath  | **26** | **27**  | **28** | **29** | **30**  |
| **31**ONLINE WORSHIP **10:00a-Annual Meeting** |  |  |   |  |  |     |

 

 **Moving? New contact information? Please update the church office. Thank you!**

**THE CARILLON**

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 Coon Valley Lutheran Church, ELCA

 1005 Central Avenue, P.O. Box 280

Coon Valley, WI 54623

Office Phone (608)452-3772

 www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org

Pastor: Rev. Julie Wollman, pastorjulie@mwt.net, Home phone 634-3797

Office Administrator: Jamie Thomas, jamiel@mwt.net, Cell Phone: 608-317-0007

Office Hours: Monday, 9:00am-Noon; Wednesday, 9:00am-2:00pm

Treasurer: Becky Lusk, treasurer1005@mwt.net

Organist: Mary Schultz

Indoor Custodian: Tracy Stellner

Choir Director: Mary Westphal

Church Council President: Karen Rude

Vice President: Karen McGarvey; Secretary: Sarah Ofte

Carl Holte, Nancy King, Pam Olson, Andrea Stakston,

 Brian Strangstalien, Ray Williamson