the Bethlehem STAR December 2013

Bethlehem First United Methodist Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ



In This Issue

December Birthdays Anniversaries pg. 5 Monthly Calendar pg. 6

Christmas Offering pg. 2

Charge Conference pg. 4

A Christmas Carol

In the bleak mid-winter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter Long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign: In the bleak mid-winter A stable-place sufficed The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.





Enough for Him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk And a mangerful of hay; Enough for Him, whom angels Fall down before, The ox and ass and camel Which adore.

Angels and archangels May have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air, But only His mother In her maiden bliss, Worshipped the Beloved With a kiss.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb, If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet what can I give Him, Give my heart.

...Christmas Offering...

Each year, many people spend money on gifts for friends and family to celebrate the birth of Jesus. And if you are like me, you cannot remember what you got for Christmas three years ago. What if you could give a gift that would be remembered longer than three years? What if you could give a gift that has eternal significance?

During the month of December, our church will minister to more people than we have seen all year. December is statistically the most charitable and hospitable month and is the best opportunity our church will have to connect with many people who are unchurched and/or in need of assistance. Over the last year, we have seen an increase in our outreach and missions as we serve more people and share the love and grace of Jesus Christ. On December 22, we are asking for 100% of the people at Bethlehem First UMC to give their largest Christmas gift to Jesus. As we have all heard recently through the Stewardship Journey, there are many great things happening at Bethlehem First UMC and your gift this Christmas will **continue to allow our church "to** make disciples of Jesus Christ for **the transformation of the world."**

Inside today's newsletter, you will find an envelope for you to use in making your Christmas gift to Jesus. If you cannot access an envelope and would still like to give a Christmas offering, please designate that your gift as "Christmas Offering." You can also give online at bigwhitechurch.com/donations. Click the <u>Online Giving</u> link on the left side of the page and follow the instructions to log in (don't forget to designate your gift as "Christmas Offering").

Please prayerfully consider this Christmas Offering and prepare to participate on December 22. We will be collecting this special offering in all worship services. If you know you will not be in worship on December 22, you may send your offering to the church office early.

Thank you for your prayers and participation in this special offering. Have a wonderful Christmas!

Blessings!

Rev. Matt Parker Associate Pastor



THANK YOU!... To the BFUMC Crochet Group

A sweet lady who has no family and suffering from cancer received a crocheted hat from the BFUMC crochet group. According to her caregiver, she was so appreciative and said it felt like an early Christmas present. The caregiver sent our group a note saying, "Thank you all for what you do. You will never know how much these sweet people need and appreciate it."

The members of the BFUMC Crochet Group are: June Baggett, Sue Breedlove, Sandy Brooks, Joyce Corbin, Cindy Crawley, Tonya Dillard, Mary Lee Howard, Judy Neel, Rodney Radford, Judy Rainwater, and Lynn Smith.

The BFUMC Crochet Group has crocheted 15 prayer shawls, 195 caps for Northeast Georgia Cancer Care and Northside Hospital Cancer Center, 24 for STMH Neonatal ICU and 65 for the Appalachian Trail recipients through Nudge Ministries. For more info contact group leader - June Baggett, 770-868-0273.

Left to Right: Rodney Radford, Judy Rainwater, Lynn Smith, June Baggett, Joyce Cor<u>bin, and Sue Breedlove</u>

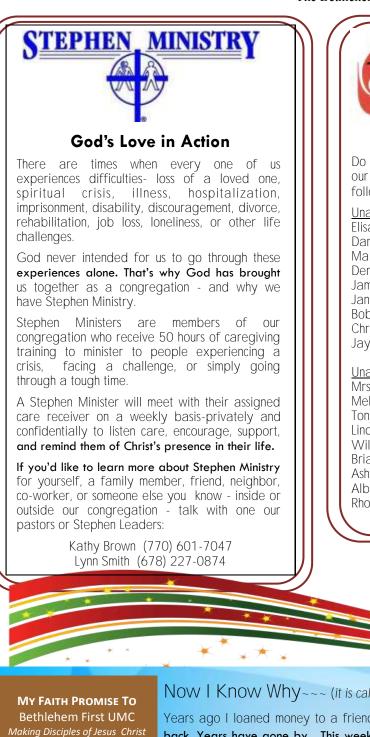
> My life is but a weaving Between my Lord and me, I cannot choose the colors He worketh steadily.

Ofttimes he weaveth sorrow, And I in foolish pride Forget he sees the upper And I, the underside. Not 'til the loom is silent

And the shuttles cease to fly Shall God unroll the canvas And explain the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful In the Weaver's skillful hand As the threads of gold and silver In the pattern he has planned.

—Author Unknown





Across the Street ^ Around the World

Now I Know Why~~~ (it is called a Faith Promise)

Years ago I loaned money to a friend. I loaned the money knowing that I might never get it back. Years have gone by. This week, that friend who I haven't seen or heard from in a long time called me and left a message saying, "I am working a good paying job. I will be sending the money I owe you." I called him back and we had a nice conversation.

After I had hung up the phone it hit me - - God had just provided the rest of my Faith Promise pledge! (God is Good, All the Time! All the Time, God is Good!)

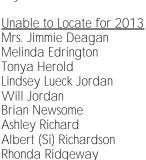
I was introduced to Faith Promise in the 1970's. Since then I have heard many, many testimonies of how God supplied the funds when someone stepped out on faith and made a pledge. Now I have my own personal story to share.

If you made a faith promise pledge at our Global Impact Celebration in 2013, remember, it is by faith and asking God to provide beyond what we have budgeted that we fulfill this promise. So, be sure to have your eyes open when He provides the funds for your faith promise pledge. May you recognize it and rejoice as I have done! ---Rich Tuttle

Charge Conference Bethlehem First UMC Tuesday, December 10th in the Sanctuary

Do You Know Where They Are? We are looking for some of our members. If you know how to contact any of the following, please contact June Baggett, 770-868-0273.

Unable to Locate for 2012 Elisa Kay Blackburn Danny Ray Bowen Malinda Denise Bowen Derrick Brownlee James E. Bulman, Jr. Janine A. Bulman Bobbie Sue Stewart Holdaway Christy Martinez Jay Martinez





Volume 12, Issue 12

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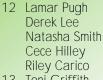
Judy Rainwater Terry Abbett Jim & Carolyn Brewer (ann)

- 2 Lisa Vandergriff Alissa Wood Elizabeth Rivera Hailey Campbell
- 3 JP Boyd Hazel Allen Vickie Suggs Amelia Daniel Nicole Schulz Ramon Rivera



Birthday

- Aaron & Crystal Kaspriskie (ann) 4 Keelie Weinmann
- Matt & Mandy Rose (ann) 5 Luis Rivera
- Cindy Crawley Randall Sanders
- 6 Herman Allen Tommy Perine Larry & Rita Ruth (ann)
- 7 Scudday Horner Jarratt & Brenda Pryor (ann)
- 8 Thomas Turpin John Bradford Howard Knowles Jay Partee
- Laura Nunn Allen Parrish Bryson Clark Asher Christenberry Marvin & Nancy Keech (ann)
- 11 Marcus Hovis Eliza Manders



- 13 Toni Griffith Kristen Pettibone Madelyn Hawkins Chace Vang
- 14 Donnie Truelove Sarah Zahm Carley Cockfield Colin Fiene Lee & Amber Wigley
- Lee & Amber Wigley (ann) 15 Takoda Pettibone Cadence Stevens Brian & Carolyn Ford (ann)
- Brian & Carolyn Ford (ann) Chris & Tonya Royal (ann) 16 Bettie Luenzmann
- Bob & Joyce McCready (ann) 17 Bob Blanford Beth Blanford Sonnie Neblett
- Bobby Griggs Philip Robertson Landon Horacek Capri Garritano
- 19 Janice Cauley Sammy Looney Kojo Ansah Tina Ashe
- 20 Robin Scarborough Becca Smith John & Harriet McCauslan (ann) James & Amy Watts (ann)

22 Buddy Neel Esther Robertson Vincent Tonelli Cecil & Judy Williams (ann) Chris & Erica Boswell (ann)

niversaries

- 23 Dwight Austin Michael Hughes Brooke Duke Joe & Sandy Brooks (ann) Johnny & Brenda Fleeman (ann)
- 24 Gail Davison Tonya Herold Kaylie Carter Alex Suggs
- 25 Makena Helms Charlotte Scott
- 26 Ashley Russell Will Whisenant Austin Spencer Lexie Spencer
- 27 Karen Whitehead Brian Parsons Jon Scott Afua Ansah
- 28 Russ Rose Matt Kiesler Lindsay Weinmann David & Phyllis Austin
- 29 Shane Martinez Natalie Hughes
- 30 Parker Benson Roger Rutledge Allen Bowen
- 31 Jack Dunster Adam Stanley Mitch & Angela King (ann)



Please make our new members feel welcome:

- ♦ Give them a call,
- ◆ Send them a note of welcome,
- Invite them to sit with you at the Wednesday night meal,
- Invite them to your Sunday School class,
- ♦ Greet them on Sunday morning.

Jeremy & Katie Holder706-338-1699 (Cash) Katie 478-501-1986 1080 Pannell Rd., Monroe, GA 30655

Richard Wheatley770-757-1671 2029 Hwy. 82, Statham, GA 30666

Michelle Powell678-425-6536 551 Saddle Ridge Dr., Bethlehem, GA 30620



New members will receive a name badge. Orders are placed once a month (between the 10-15th). Please **pick up your name tag off the "name board" located at the reception desk** across from the Stars Cafe. Thank you ©

NEED A NAMETAG?

Please contact the church office 770.867.3727 office@bigwhitechurch.com.

5



C Chapel

Gym

SC Stars Café UG Upper Gym

G

S

FH Fellowship Hall

Sanctuary

WC Worship Center



SUNDAY~ December 1 (1st Sunday of Advent) 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service (C) 9:00 a.m. Pray for Our Pastors (120H) 9:30 a.m. 9:30 Worship Service (WC) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (127) 11:00 a.m. Children's Church (G) 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Svc. (WC) 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Svc. (S) 12:30 p.m. Health & Wellness Ministry (123) 4:15 p.m. 5th/6th Handbells (S) 5:00 p.m. 5th/6th Choir - Dress Rehearsal ("Wonderful Joy") 5:30 p.m. Youth – Open Gym (G) 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Supper (FH) 6:15 p.m. Youth Group (8pm) 7:00 p.m. Love Lights Service (S) MONDAY~ December 2 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. PreK/K Santa Shop (114) 9:00 a.m. Zumba (G) 10:00 a.m. Spin Mix (UG) 6:00 p.m. Circuit Mania (G) 7:00 p.m. UMM Exec. Mtg. (128) 7:00 p.m. Vision Team Mtg. (127) 7:00 p.m. PreK Board Mtg. (114) TUESDAY~ December 3 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. PreK/K Santa Shop (114) 9:00 a.m. Kenpo Kickboxing (G) 9:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study (123) 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness (G) 6:00 p.m. GO Team Mtg. (114) 6:00 p.m. Insane Strength (G) 6:00 p.m. Run for God (125) 6:30 p.m. Handbell Practice (S) 7:00 p.m. Church Council (128) 7:00 P.M. Zumba (G) 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Band Practice (WC) WEDNESDAY~December 4 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. Fun with Crocheting (128)

9:00 a.m. Fun with Crocheting (128)
9:00 a.m. PreK/K Santa Shop (114)
5:30 p.m. WNL Fellowship Meal (FH, SC)
6:00 p.m. Soul Spin Mix (UG
6:15 p.m. Children's Christmas Program (FH)

6:30 p.m. Youth Group (130) 6:30 p.m. Yoga (WC) 7:00 p.m. The Many Moods of Christmas Open Dress Rehearsal (S) THURSDAY~ December 5 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. PreK/K Santa Shop (114) 9:00 a.m. Yoga (WC) 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness (G) 6:00 p.m. Stephen Ministry Training (128) 6:30 p.m. Power Sculpting (UG) 7:00 p.m. Card Making Class (127) 7:00 p.m. 9:30 Band Practice (WC) 7:00 p.m. Zumba (FH) FRIDAY~ December 6 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (6pm) 9:00 a.m. PreK/K Santa Shop (114) 9:00 a.m. Insane Cardio (G) 10:00 a.m. Muscle Madness (G) 7:00 p.m. The Many Moods of Christmas Concert (S) THURSDAY~ December 12 SATURDAY~ December 7 8:00 a.m. Fitness Center (6pm) 9:00 a.m. Prek/K Santa Breakfast (FH) 9:30 a.m. Yoga (WC) 9:45 a.m. Prek/K Santa Breakfast (FH) 10:15 a.m. Prek/K Santa Breakfast (FH) 3:00 p.m. The Many Moods of Christmas (S) SUNDAY~ December 8 (2nd Sunday of Advent) 8:30 a.m. Blood Drive (1:30pm) (FH) 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service (C) 9:00 a.m. Pray for Our Pastors (120H) 9:30 a.m. 9:30 Worship Service (WC) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening (101) 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (127) 11:00 a.m. Children's Church (G) 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Svc (WC) 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Svc. (S) 12:00 p.m. Blood Pressure Screening (101) 12:30 p.m. Hand & Foot Card Playing (128) 4:15 p.m. 5th/6th Grade Handbells (S) 5:00 p.m. 5th/6th Grade Choir (119) 5:00 p.m. Disciple I (124) 5:00 p.m. Disciple III (128) 5:30 p.m. Youth Open Gym (G)

6:00 p.m. 5th/6th Bridge (129)

6:00 p.m. Youth Group Supper (FH) 6:15 p.m. Youth Group (8pm) 7:00 p.m. BFUMC Handbell Concert (S) MONDAY~ December 9 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. Zumba (G) 10:00 a.m. Spin Class (UG) 6:00 p.m. Cardio Kickboxing (G) 6:00 p.m. United Methodist Men (FH) TUESDAY~ December 10 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. Kenpo Kickboxing (G) 9:15 a.m. Ladies Bible Study (123) 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness (G) 6:00 p.m. Insane Strength (G) 7:00 p.m. Zumba (G) 7:00 p.m. Charge Conference (S) 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Band Practice (WC) WEDNESDAY~December 11 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. Fun with Crocheting (128) 10:30 a.m. Prayers & Squares Quilting (128) 6:00 p.m. Soul Spin Mix (UG) 6:30 p.m. 5th/6th Grade Bridge Christmas Party (129 6:30 p.m. Youth Group 6:30 p.m. Yoga (WC) 7:00 p.m. Adult Choir (119) 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) 9:00 a.m. Yoga (WC) 10:00 a.m. Senior Fitness (G) 6:30 p.m. Power Sculpting (UG) 7:00 p.m. 9:30 Band Practice (WC) 7:00 p.m. Zumba (G) FRIDAY~ December 13 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (6pm) 9:00 a.m. Insane Cardio (G) 10:00 a.m. Muscle Madness (G) 6:30 p.m. Friendship Class (FH) SATURDAY~ December 14 8:00 a.m. Fitness Center (6pm) 8:00 a.m. Mision Latina Food Distribution & Yard Sale 9:00 a.m. Family Friendly Zumba (G) 9:30 a.m. Yoga (WC) SUNDAY~ December 15 (3rd Sunday of Advent) 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion Service (C) 9:00 a.m. Pray for Our Pastors (120H) 9:30 a.m. 9:30 Worship Service (WC) 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 11:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School (127) 11:00 a.m. Children's Church (G) 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Svc (WC) 11:00 a.m. Lessons and Carols (S)

Volume 12, Issue 12

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Svc (WC)

11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Svc. (S)

5:00 p.m.	Disciple III (128) 5th/6th Bridge/Youth Christmas Program Rehearsal (WC)	
Monday~ December 16		
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (9pm)	
9:00 a.m.	Zumba (G)	
10:00 a.m.	Spin Mix (UG)	
6:00 p.m.	Circuit Mania (UG)	
7:00 p.m.	United Methodist Women (128)	
TUESDAY~ December 17		
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (9pm)	
9:00 a.m.	Kenpo Kickboxing (G)	
9:15 a.m.	Ladies Bible Study (123)	
10:00 a.m.	Senior Fitness (G)	
	Insane Strength (G)	
	Zumba (G)	
	Contemporary Band Practice (WC)	
7:00 p.m.	Trustees Mtg. (114)	
Wednesday	<u>~December 18</u>	
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (9pm)	
9:00 a.m.	Fun with Crocheting (128)	
6:00 p.m.	Soul Spin Mix (UG)	
	Yoga (WC)	
	Community Christmas Concert (WC)	
8:00 p.m.	Adult Choir (119)	
THURSDAY~ December 19		
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (9pm)	
9:00 a.m.	5 ()	
10:00 a.m.	Senior Fitness (G)	
12:00 p.m.	STARS (at the home of John &	
6.20 n m	Shirley Griffing) Power Sculpting (UG)	
	Zumba (G)	
	9:30 Band Practice (WC)	
Friday~ December 20		
	Fitness Center (6pm)	
	Insane Cardio (G)	
	Muscle Madness (G)	
SATURDAY~ December 21		
	Fitness Center (6pm)	
9:00 a.m.		
9:30 a.m.		
	ecember 22 (4th Sunday of Advent)	
8:30 a.m.	Holy Communion Service (C)	
9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m.	Pray for Our Pastors (120H) 9:30 Worship Service (WC)	
9:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m.		
9.30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	5	
11:00 a.m.		

4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hand & Foot Card Playing (128) Wiseman 5k Live Nativity on the Square Live Nativity on the Square	
Monday~ D	ecember 23	
	Barrow Co. Christmas Break 🦙	
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (9pm)	
9:00 a.m.	Zumba (G)	
10:00 a.m.	Spin Mix (UG)	
6:00 p.m.	Cardio Kickboxing (G)	
7:00 p.m.	Live Nativity on the Square	
7:00 p.m.	Live Nativity on the Square	
Tuesday~ D	ecember 24 (Christmas Eve)	
	Barrow Co. Christmas Break	
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (12pm)	
9:00 a.m.	Kenpo Kickboxing (G)	
4:30 p.m.	Family Christmas Eve Svc. (WC)	
7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion Svc. (S)	
WEDNESDAY~ December 25 (Christmas Day		
	Barrow Co. Christmas Break	
	Church Office Closed	
	Fitness & Wellness Center Closed	
Thursday~	December 26	
	Barrow Co. Christmas Break	
	Church Office Closed	
	Wellness Center Closed	
8:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (6pm)	
	No Classes or Childcare	
7:00 p.m.	9:30 Band Practice (WC)	
FRIDAY~ December 27		
	Barrow Co. Christmas Break	
	Church Office Closed	
6:00 a.m.	Fitness Center (6pm)	
	No Classes or Childcare	
SATURDAY~ December 28		
8:00 a.m	.Fitness Center (6pm)	
	No Classes or Childcare	
	ecember 29 (Family Worship)	
	Holy Communion Service (C)	
	Pray for Our Pastors (120H)	
	9:30 Family Worship Service (WC)	
	Sunday School	
	Adult Sunday School (127)	
	Contemporary Family Worship Svo	
(WC)		
. ,	Traditional Family Worship Svc. (S)	
Monday~ December 30		
	Barrow Co. Christmas Break	

Church Office Closed

W

6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (9pm) No Classes or Childcare

TUESDAY~ December 31 Barrow Co. Christmas Break Church Office Closed 6:00 a.m. Fitness Center (12pm) No Classes or Childcare

Twas the Diet After Christmas

Twas the day after Christmas, and all through the house Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse. The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste At the holiday parties had gone to my waist. When I got on the scales there arose such a number! (less a walk than a lumber) I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd prepared; The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared, The wine and the rum balls, the bread and the cheese And the way I'd never said, "No thank you, please." As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt And prepared once again to do battle with dirt-I said to myself, as I only can "You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!" So-away with the last of the sour cream dip, Get ride of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip Every last bit of food that I like must be banished 'Till all the additional I won't have a cookie not even a lick I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick. I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie, I'll munch on a carrot and guietly cry. I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore -But isn't that what January is for? Unable to giggle, no longer a riot. Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!

Bethlehem First UMC 709 Christmas Ave. Bethlehem, GA 30620

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The Bethlehem Star

www.bigwhitechurch.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

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- <u>matt.parker@bigwhitechurch.com</u> Rev. Michele May, Pastor of Discipleship & Families, ext. 18

michele.may@bigwhitechurch.com

Rev. Debbie Huckaby, Congregational Care Minister, ext. 19 <u>debbie.huckaby@bigwhitechurch.com</u>

Special Ministers

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Custodian Jack Chilcote, 770-712-7336 (cell)

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Music Minister Karen Smith ext. 12 karen.smith@bigwhitechurch.com

Nursery Supervisor Renae Elenbaas renae.elenbaas@bigwhitechurch.com

Office Assistant Gretchen Hill, ext. 10 gretchen.hill@bigwhitechurch.com

Jennifer (Jenny) Pohl, ext. 10 jennifer.pohl@bigwhitechurch.com

<u>Organist</u> Brenda Fleeman <u>brenda.fleeman@bigwhitechurch.com</u> <u>Parish Nurse</u> Kathy Brown, RN, FCN, ext. 25 kathy.brown@bigwhitechurch.com

Pianist Katrina Wilson <u>katrina.wilson@bigwhitechurch.com</u>

PreSchool/Program Director Lizzy Sheffield, ext. 24 Preschool: 770-867-3724 lizzy.sheffield@bigwhitechurch.com <u>Fitness Coordinator</u> Tracy Self, ext. 15 <u>tracy.self@bigwhitechurch.com</u>

<u>Recreation Coordinator</u> Laura Puckett, ext. 15 <u>laura.puckett@bigwhitechurch.com</u>

<u>Security</u> J.P. Boyd, 770-867-9551

Youth Ministry Dawn Bradberry (H.S.), ext. 14 dawnleigh21@yahoo.com

Amy Watts (M.S.), ext. 14 amywilmothwatts@yahoo.com

