

GATHERED WORSHIP SERVICE

for the
**Glory of God
and the**

Renewal of His People

December 25, 2011

Christmas Day and Covenant Baptism of James Hood

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(If the temperature of the building is too cool, please avail yourself of shawls in the lobby near our water fountain)

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort;  
to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior;  
to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;  
and to all who will come, this church opens wide her doors  
and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*



Southside Community Church exists as a *community redeemed* by and *dependent* upon *God's grace*, that we might be engaged in and renewed by the *worship* of the triune God, *matured* by His truth, as evidenced by *love*, and engaged in His *mission of renewal* to *His world*.

## REFLECTION and PREPARATION

### *Christmas Grace – God becoming Like Us*

In the real world of relationships it is impossible to love people with a problem or need without in some sense sharing or even changing places with them. All real-life love involves some form of this kind of exchange. Consider parenting (either what you received or have given). - all life-changing love toward people is a substitutional sacrifice. If you become personally involved with them, in some way, their weaknesses flow toward you as your strengths flow toward them. In the *Cross of Christ*, John Stott writes that substitution is at the heart of the Christian message:

*The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We...put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God...puts himself where we deserve to be.*

Tim Keller, *The Reason for God*



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## BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT... THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM

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(\*Indicates where congregation is invited to stand, as able)

### \*CALL to WORSHIP

*from Luke 2*

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child.

And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.

But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### SONGS of ADORATION

#### **O Come, All Ye Faithful**

Words and music: John Francis Wade, 1751

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;  
Come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

*Chorus:*

*O come, let us adore Him!*

*O come, let us adore Him!*

*O come, let us adore Him Christ, the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
O Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest!

*Chorus*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, late in flesh appearing!

*Chorus*

*Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat*

*Minister: My soul magnifies the Lord,*

**People: and my spirit rejoiced in God, my Savior.**

*Minister: he has looked on the humble estate of his servants...and called us blessed.*

**People: he who is mighty has done great things for me!**

*Minister: and holy is his name.*

**Good Christian Men, Rejoice**

Words: Medieval Latin Carol; Music: German Melody, 14<sup>th</sup> Century

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today!  
Earth and heav'n before him bow,  
And He is in the manger now:  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye hear of endless bliss:  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
And man is blessed evermore:  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice  
With heart and soul and voice;  
Now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
To gain His everlasting hall:  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

*Mary's Song of Praise: The Magnificat*

*Minister: Why does God give us faith to trust in Jesus Christ for salvation,  
and not faith in ourselves?*

**People:** God's mercy is for those who fear him  
from generation to generation.  
He has shown strength with his arm;  
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;  
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones  
and exalted those of humble estate;  
he has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has helped his servant Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy,  
as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

*The Curse of Sin on Mankind and the World*

To the woman God said,

"I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;  
in pain you shall bring forth children.  
Your desire shall be for your husband,  
and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam God said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife  
and have eaten of the tree  
of which I commanded you,  
'You shall not eat of it,'  
cursed is the ground because of you;  
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;  
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;  
and you shall eat the plants of the field.  
By the sweat of your face  
you shall eat bread,  
till you return to the ground,  
for out of it you were taken;  
for you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return."

Note:

*To sin, like Adam and Eve, is to fail to keep the commands of God.  
Jesus taught that all of God's law is summed up in two commands:*

- (1) Love God with all your mind, heart, soul, and strength.*
- (2) Love your neighbor (everyone) as you love yourself.*

*To confess, ask yourself, "How have I failed to love God and anyone else? or  
How have I shown that I care more about myself than God or others, thus doing what I want to do and what is right in my own eyes?"*

*(please confess your sin silently; then the following in unison)*

**Father, just like our first parents,  
we have rebelled against you  
and we have attempted to hide from you.  
Help us to call to mind times this week  
that we have gone our own way  
and draw us again to your presence.**

SONG of CONFESSION and RENEWAL

**How Deep the Father's Love for Us**

Words and Music: Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love for us,  
How vast beyond all measure,  
That He should give His only Son  
To make a wretch His treasure.  
How great the pain of searing loss.  
The Father turns His face away  
As wounds which mar the Chosen One  
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross,  
My sin upon His shoulders.  
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  
Call out among the scoffers.  
It was my sin that held Him there  
Until it was accomplished;  
His dying breath has brought me life,  
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything;  
No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom;  
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,  
His death and resurrection.  
Why should I gain from His reward?  
I cannot give an answer.  
But this I know with all my heart:  
His wounds have paid my ransom.

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**BLESSED ARE THE MEEK...FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH**

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**The Sacrament of Baptism**

*James Gregory Hood*

**Reception of the Newly Baptized**

*Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

**People: Amen.**

*Minister: Let us welcome the newly baptized.*

**People: We receive you into the household of God.  
Confess the faith of Christ crucified,  
Proclaim His resurrection, and  
Share with us in His eternal priesthood.**

**\*WORDS of ASSURANCE**

*from Genesis 3:15*

*Minister: The LORD God said to the serpent...“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”*

**People: Father, we rejoice that you are a God who pursues us.  
Thank you for providing a means of redemption and a door from death to life in your Son.**

**The Baptismal Collect**

*Minister: Almighty God,  
by our baptism into the death and resurrection  
of Your Son Jesus Christ,  
You turn us from the old life of sin:  
Grant, that being reborn to new life in Him,  
we may live in righteousness and holiness all of our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
Who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.  
Amen.*

**People: Amen.**

*Minster: The peace of the Lord be always with you.*

*People: And also with you.*

## God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Words: 18<sup>th</sup> Century English Carol

Music: 18<sup>th</sup> Century English Melody

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;  
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's pow'r and might."  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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## BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS...THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED

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### MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

*Fellowship Books.* Please take a moment to fill out the information on the attendance pads located underneath the seat on the inner aisles, providing any information to enable us to better serve you. When you finish, please pass the pads down the row so everyone has the opportunity to do so.

### PRAYER of COMMITMENT for our OFFERINGS

### GIVING of OFFERINGS

#### *The Jesse Tree*

The Jesse tree, at the center of our stage, is an artistic tradition, dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, and can serve as tool to visibly wed history and the story of God's redemption in the coming of Jesus Christ. Its name comes from the biblical book of prophecy, *Isaiah*, which offers this metaphorical description of the descent of the Messiah from Jesse of Bethlehem, through his son David.

*"There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him..."* –  
Isaiah 11:1

Today's Themes:

The Birth of Jesus

Symbols:

Manger Nativity Scene

*Children's Worship.* We welcome children in our entire worship service. However, if you feel a child would benefit from a setting specifically designed for 4-8 years of age, you may escort them to Children's Worship down the west hallway of our building after our offering.

### PRAYER for GOD'S PEOPLE and HIS WORLD

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**BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL, PURE IN HEART,  
PEACE MAKERS, PERSECUTED...**

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**READING of GOD'S WORD**

*Ecclesiastes 6*

<sup>1</sup> There is an evil that I have seen under the sun, and it lies heavy on mankind: <sup>2</sup>a man to whom God gives wealth, possessions, and honor, so that he lacks nothing of all that he desires, yet God does not give him power to enjoy them, but a stranger enjoys them. This is vanity; it is a grievous evil.

<sup>3</sup>If a man fathers a hundred children and lives many years, so that the days of his years are many, but his soul is not satisfied with life's good things, and he also has no burial, I say that a stillborn child is better off than he. <sup>4</sup>For it comes in vanity and goes in darkness, and in darkness its name is covered. <sup>5</sup>Moreover, it has not seen the sun or known anything, yet it finds rest rather than he. <sup>6</sup>Even though he should live a thousand years twice over, yet enjoy no good – do not all go to the one place?

<sup>7</sup> All the toil of man is for his mouth, yet his appetite is not satisfied. <sup>8</sup>For what advantage has the wise man over the fool? And what does the poor man have who knows how to conduct himself before the living? <sup>9</sup>Better is the sight of the eyes than the wandering of the appetite: this also is vanity and a striving after wind.

<sup>10</sup>Whatever has come to be has already been named, and it is known what man is, and that he is not able to dispute with one stronger than he. <sup>11</sup>The more words, the more vanity, and what is the advantage to man? <sup>12</sup>For who knows what is good for man while he lives the few days of his vain life, which he passes like a shadow? For who can tell man what will be after him under the sun?

*The God-Given Task      Ecclesiastes 3*

<sup>9</sup>What gain has the worker from his toil? <sup>10</sup>I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. <sup>11</sup>He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. <sup>12</sup>I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; <sup>13</sup>also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil – this is God's gift to man.

<sup>14</sup>I perceived that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it. God has done it, so that people fear before him.

**HOMILY**

***"Victory and Meaning Born in the Midst of Vanity"***

*from the series,*

*"Waiting for Jesus to Come –  
What Gain is there from What I Do in the Meantime?"*

## **CELEBRATION of HOLY COMMUNION**

*Feel free to bring children forward. If they are not partaking the bread and wine/juice, they may indicate simply by clasping their hands. Upon request, our servers will gladly pray for and with your children.*

*If you are unable, physically, to process forward but do wish to partake, servers will come to your seat with the elements.*

**Minister:** *Bethlehem means “house of bread.” He who was born in Bethlehem came to be the “bread of life.” As we prepare to feast in our hearts upon this life-giving bread, let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**People:** **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### **Words of Institution**

**Minister:** *Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.*

**People:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**Minister:** *The gifts of God are for the people of God.*

### **Serving of the Elements** *(wine is in the outer ring of the trays; juice in the inner)*

#### **Prayer for Those Searching for Truth**

*Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth and the life. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open to me the reality of who you are. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. Give me an understanding for you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life that you promise. Amen.*

#### **Prayer of Belief**

*Lord Jesus, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever before believed, but through you, I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared to hope. I thank you for paying my debt, bearing my punishment on the cross and offering forgiveness and new life. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior. Amen.*

\*SONG of RESPONSE

**How Sweet and Awesome Is the Place**

Words: Isaac Watts.  
Music: ancient Irish tune.

How sweet and awesome is the place  
With Christ within the doors,  
While everlasting love displays  
The choicest of her stores.

While all our hearts and all our songs  
Join to admire the feast,  
Each of us cries, with thankful tongue,  
“Lord, why was I a guest?”

“Why was I made to hear Your voice,  
And enter while there’s room,  
When thousands make a wretched choice,  
And rather starve than come?”

’Twas the same love that spread the feast  
That sweetly drew us in;  
Else we had still refused to taste,  
And perished in our sin.

Pity the nations, O our God,  
Constrain the earth to come;  
Send Your victorious Word abroad,  
And bring the strangers home.

We long to see Your churches full,  
That all the chosen race  
May, with one voice and heart and soul,  
Sing Your redeeming grace.

\* SONG of EXULTATION

**Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come**

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719; Music: George Frederick Handel, 1742

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: Let men their songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness  
And wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.

\*BENEDICTION

*from Luke 2*

*Minister: Fear not, for I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people!  
For unto you is born this day, in the city of David, your Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord!*

**People:** *(Loudly) Glory to God in the highest!*

*Minister: Rejoice, your King has come and is coming again!*

**All:** *(Very loudly sung)*

*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*We praise the Lord for our accompanists this morning  
– vocalists and instrumentalists and audio and video technicians.*

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, English Standard Version, © 2001 Crossway Bibles,  
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*The artwork of the bronze cross and Jesse Tree on our cover and throughout the guide is used with permission of Creator Mundi.  
You may view more of their art at [www.creatormundi.com](http://www.creatormundi.com).*



**Opportunities to Know, Connect, and Serve**

*Today*

**Lord's Supper.** A practical encouragement to prepare -

*"before they come, prepare by examining themselves of their identity in Christ, of their sins and their wants, of the truth and measure of their knowledge, faith, repentance; love to God and the brethren, charity to all men, forgiving those that have done them wrong; of their desires for Christ, and of their new obedience; and by renewing the exercise of these graces, by serious meditation, and fervent prayer." (Westminster Confession of Faith)*

Such preparation can make the Lord's Supper very meaningful for you, reminding us both of our deep need for a Savior and of the deep love of God that He provides the sacrifice to forgive and make us whole.

**The January Activity and Ministry Calendar is available in the narthex.** If you are unable to serve the Sunday you have been assigned please contact the office at your earliest convenience, thanks.

**Nursery Volunteers Needed.** Currently we have 12 volunteers for Sunday Worship. If you would like to volunteer for this ministry please contact LaVaughn Lundgaard at [lt\\_1@cobridge.tv](mailto:lt_1@cobridge.tv) or 361.727.1527

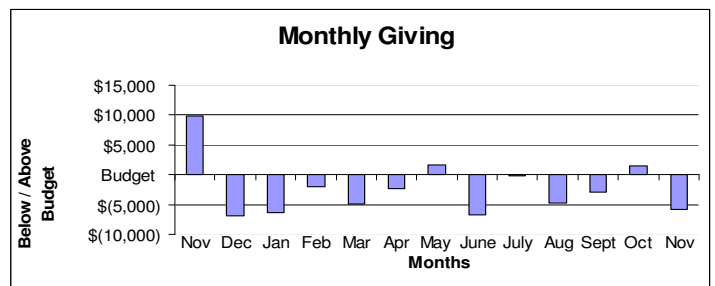
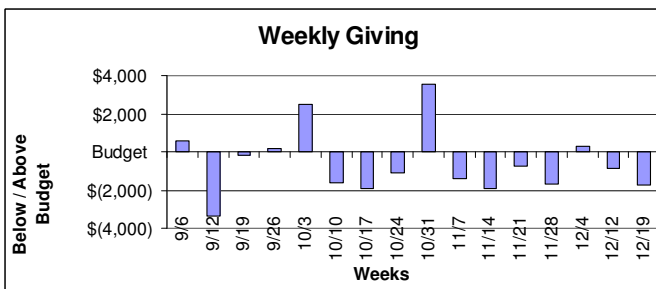
**Closure (partial) of Airline Road.** Airline Road will be closed between Saratoga and Cousteau. Access will remain to Southside via Airline from the south and from Rodd Field road. We are endeavoring to invest in detour signs, as well as, add helpful direction on our website. *Note: Given that the area of closure on Airline could change at anytime, planning to come to Southside via Rodd Field road will be to the advantage of all.*

*Upcoming*

**First Friday Interfaith Prayer Service.** Friday January 6th, 7:30am – 8:15 am at Corpus Christi First United Methodist Church, 900 Shoreline Boulevard. Complimentary breakfast to follow.

**Women's Half day retreat, Saturday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.** at Southside. Childcare provided. Contact person - Meredith Hood.

**Financial Update**



*Giving Month-to-Date: \$ 15,826.00*

*Budget Month-to-Date: \$18,153.00*

*Giving Year-to-Date: \$ 208,563.00*

*Budget Year-to-Date: \$ 228,953.00*

**Rummage Sale and Mortgage Reduction:**

*Proceeds from the November rummage sale totaling \$1,830.89 and a matching gift of \$2,500.00 served to reduce the principal of our mortgage. The principal remaining on our mortgage as of December 8<sup>th</sup> was \$121,225.49.*

**Save the Date**

- **Jan. 1** – No Christian Education classes
- **Dec 26<sup>th</sup>** – Office Closed
- **Dec 30<sup>th</sup>** – Office closes at noon
- **Jan 2nd** – Office to reopen at noon
- **Feb. 25th** – Womens' Retreat

## **\*\*Ongoing Bible Study and Opportunities for Service with Groups**

### **Sunday Christian Education Classes – 9:15 - 10:15**

|                     |                                                            |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ages 2 - 3</b>   | <i>A Sure Foundation</i>                                   |
| <b>Ages 4 - 9</b>   | <i>Camp Southside – "...so they set their hope in God"</i> |
| <b>Ages 10-13</b>   | <i>Serve Camp Southside</i>                                |
| <b>Ages 14 - 18</b> | <i>Serve Camp Southside</i>                                |
| <b>Adults</b>       | <i>The Pauline Epistles</i>                                |

### **Sunday Morning Worship Service 10:30 am**

4-8 Years, Children's Worship (children dismissed prior to Homily)  
Staffed nursery for newborns - 3 years for Education Hour and Worship Service

### **Weekly Meetings**

#### **Tuesday Morning @ Town & Country Café**

**6:30 am Men's Study** *The Minor Prophets*, by James Boice

**7:00 am Women's Breakfast**

Contacts: Bill and Jean Newberry at 537-0549 or 537-9681 or Gordon and Linda Landreth at 992-3046.

### **Wednesday**

**Fall Midweek Study 11:00 am** Study *-Through His Eyes, God's Perspective on Women in the Bible* and meal.  
**No meeting this week. Resumes January 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Meredith Hood at MeredithHood730@yahoo.com or 361-232-1364.

**Youth Gathering** Fellowship with study and food, 7:00pm.

**No meeting this week. Resumes January 18<sup>th</sup>.**

Contact Stephen Shepperd at 537.2281 or Shepshep3@gmail.com

### **Monthly Meetings**

**Women's Book Club** Contact Jeanie Cotten @ 991-6478 or jcotten@stx.rr.com

Our next Book Club gathering will be Thursday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012!!!

Our newest book is *Wish You Well*, by David Baldacci.

It's the story of Louisa Mae Cardinal, a precocious twelve-year-old girl living in the hectic New York City of 1940 with her acclaimed but sadly underpaid writer father, her compassionate mother, and her timid younger brother, Oz. For Lou, her family's financial struggles are invisible to her. Instead, she is a daughter who idolizes her father and is in love with the art of storytelling.

**Tuesday Women's Noon Fellowship** Contact Andy Beaver @ 442-2721

### **Mercy and Service Opportunities**

**Mission 911 "The Center Peace"** Contact Paige Peden @ 290.2174 or hydrangeasplendor@yahoo.com  
Nutrition, Reading and Fun. If interested in volunteering please contact Paige for more details.

### **Elder on Call**

Ed Arvin Dec 25 – 31

Harry Lundgaard Jan 8 – 14

Andy Folley Jan 1 – 7

Gordon Landreth Jan 15 - 21

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