

Pastor's Newsletter – October 23, 2009

Dear Saint,

Someone shared with me a whole folder of old newsletters that Pastor Norman Versteeg used to send out, which began to be known as "Dear Saint" letters, and they wished that that tradition could somehow be revived! And so here is an early test version! We have collected as many email addresses as we could, and hope that this will get out to a majority of the church. We'll keep adding until we have everybody! If we can find some money we will send out a paper version once in awhile to the whole membership, so that people who haven't been active at GGrove can hear about the energy and life that are happening, and come back and give us a new look.

YOUTH/YOUNG ADULTS: I wish you could have sat in on the potluck and meeting we had last Sabbath with as many of the youth, young adults, and leaders as we could find last Sabbath afternoon in the Fellowship Hall. As we walked in the Praise Team was singing, just awesome, the first time I had heard them. Bob and Marianna Maukovich helped the leaders with a beautiful potluck. And then over 30 of us gathered in one corner to discuss and dream.

First the decision was made to re-launch Youth and Young Adult Ministry (Triple eX) starting next Sabbath, Oct. 31. This Sabbath there will be SS, but as a few will be at the Orangewood Alumni Sabbath we will give it everything we have Oct. 31. Two Praise Bands were formed, and everybody will join for music 9:45 in the Youth Chapel. Others volunteered to provide spectacular food for everybody on their way in--one lady even volunteered to make a waffle breakfast one time! After 20 or more minutes of praise, the Youth will go to the Library, where several dynamite teachers have committed to lead the discussion there for high school-age youth. Four others volunteered to lead the Young Adult (Collegiate, 20somethings) in the Youth Chapel. Others volunteered to plan for beach vespers, gym nights at OAA, or basketball and volleyball right at our own church.

If everybody comes, there can just be a terrific group. One of the great things about being young is being part of a youth group that has great worship, small groups, sports, going on mission trips, etc., so make sure that this doesn't pass you or your kids by. These years can never be replaced or made up for! Get in the car and come!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE: Friday Night Live will be on next Friday night, Oct. 30, 7 pm, in the Youth Chapel. We'll all be there, looking forward to my first one!

BEACH VESPERS: Women's Ministry Beach Vespers tonight--6 pm, Aliso Beach, 3131 S. Pacific Coast Highway, Laguna Beach. There will be snacks, you can add to it if you wish! Parking is \$1/hr., but the first 5 get in free! Look for the fire pit with a yellow balloon or some other obvious marker! Any questions, call Lizz Randall, 714-913-3903.

WORSHIP SERVICE: There have some controversies over the Creation-Evolution issue across our denomination during the last few months, with one prominent pastor writing an open letter that specially challenged our universities over whether their professors are being careful and orthodox enough. The General Conference has set aside tomorrow, Oct. 24, as "Celebration of Creation" Sabbath, and churches all across the country are preaching on Creation, and having special seminars and discussions. Loma Linda has a huge program on tonight and tomorrow afternoon, and will be broadcast live on Hope Channel. I have preached a whole series on this in a University setting in the past, and will have a sermon on the highlights of this issue. Our Worship Committee has put together a very special Sabbath on this--it's going to be a high Sabbath!

ELDERS' POTLUCK: There will be an Elders' Potluck in the Fellowship Hall right after church, with all of the 2009 and 2010 elders, to dream about the future ministries of the GGrove Church! Next week the SS Council will have their potluck to do the same.

There's much more I'd love to share, but will stop for now! We have fallen completely in love with this church, and all the awesome people we have met. There is an energy and excitement building as we begin to feel what great potential this church has!

God bless you all--
Pastor Dan

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