

Pastor's Newsletter - November 27, 2009

Dear Saint!

Happy Thanksgiving! Hope that you had a special time with your family or whoever you celebrate these times with. Because we are the most centrally located we had the entire extended family at our house, which was just terrific.

I received a treasured email last week. One of my youth from 35 years ago in Portland, OR, somehow found my name, and wanted to write a Facebook message thanking me for what I had done for her when I was her youth pastor. I was 21 years old, right out of college, and had no youth training or guiding principles, but I poured my life into that youth group for 2 years, and now at 50, with her own teenagers, she felt enough about it to find me 35 years later! What a gesture! That email goes into the keepsake box! Who do you need to send a note to, to thank them for some ministry or thoughtfulness that impacted your life? Don't wait until all you can send is flowers!

SABBATH—THANKSGIVING PROCESSION: We have set aside 5-6 minutes during church tomorrow to say thanks. We will give everybody a chance to come to the front and put some symbol of something you are thankful for during the last year, down onto special tables. It could be a picture of your family or a special person. It could be something cut out of a magazine, a picture of a new car, or house, or a trip you got to take. It could be an offering put into a basket, or some food we will give to one person in our church who I found out this week is homeless (they have been sleeping on a bench every night, the only food they had last weekend was the wedding cake we served at church, heartbreaking. \$350 would give them a room for a month until we can get the Social Services to figure something out).

So please sit down with your family tonight, and figure out what you can bring to the front. If you can't think of anything, there will be a blank card at church, and you can write what you are thankful for and bring that to the front while the thanksgiving music plays and the slide show reminds us of what a gift it is to be here in America.

The sermon is on Romans 8, "THE SECRET!", and concludes this mini-series on Romans, which we will finish in January (December will be an Advent series from Luke 2). Jim Woods will be leading out in our Thanksgiving Songs of Gathering and the special music of worship. AND there will be another special treat after church in the eastern patio, thanks to a very gracious donor! We can't do it every week, but we do want this holiday Sabbath to be spectacular!

TUITION AID: Something around \$1100 was raised Sunday for Tuition Aid for our students at Orangewood Academy. Thanks to Josh and a whole crew of volunteers who were there Sunday working hard to keep our kids in school, Combined with the cash and pledges already in, AND a special project by Melissa Olson and her Earliteen Class, I think we are very close to fulfilling our commitment of \$9900. Thanks to God, and to all of you!

PATHFINDERS AND ADVENTURERS: We were all thrilled to see over 20 Adventurers get “inducted” last Sabbath. In the afternoon many of our young people and others went out collecting cans, which, combined with what the rest of you brought, will bless many families this week and in the weeks to come. The articles in the paper show that food banks are down all over OC, so it was very moving to see our people come through. The next meeting for Adventurers and Pathfinders will be December 12, at 6:30. Alex Caldwell and the Pathfinders will swing into high gear that night as their first official meeting.

VIETNAMESE GROUP: December 12 at 6:30 pm is also the next major evangelistic event for the Vietnamese group. Being so close to Little Saigon, they feel a great burden to have grand cultural events where they can invite non-Adventist and non-Christian Vietnamese to attend. We are blessed to have this group as part of our church.

DECEMBER 5: Dr. Bill Chunestudy and his Men’s Chorus which tours all over Southern California will bring us 30 minutes of magnificent Christmas music as part of our worship service December 5. Combined with our choir, it will be a high Sabbath of music as we begin our Advent Christmas series.

DECEMBER 11: Friday night will be the Orangewood Academy Christmas Concert in our church.

CHURCH RENTAL: A Hispanic congregation will begin to use our church this coming Friday night. All the agreements have been voted and signed. These young pastors are just terrific, and we are hoping that we will have a great relationship for the years that they are with us. They will be using our Sanctuary primarily on Friday and Sunday nights, though we can make adjustments if we ever have a conflict. They have very careful protections in place to make sure that our facility is kept in perfect condition and that everything is left just as they receive it every night. If there is ever any concern let us know.

Again, Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Sabbath to you all!

Pastor Dan