

GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

Pastor's Newsletter

December 24, 2010

My friends!--

The weekend that kids and the whole world wait for, for months is finally here! Wherever you are, here at home or traveling, shopping or skiing, we wish you a Merry Christmas, and may you have a truly blessed time with your family and your favorite people this weekend!

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE: 7:00 – 8:00 pm tonight. We hope that most of you will find time to start your Christmas weekend by coming to our Candlelight service tonight. We think a lovely service has been planned for you, and it is just an honored tradition to sit quietly with your family in a worship service to remind the next generation that Jesus is the heart of the whole day. Then go celebrate your heart out with your family! The service will be from 7:00 – 8:00 pm, but with carol singing from 6:50 pm to 7:00 pm. The doors will open at 6:30 pm, and the church will be filled with Christmas music as you wait. There will be a Children's story, two children's choirs, and of course the Mass Choir singing "O Holy Night" and the "Hallelujah Chorus". There will be a Reception upstairs in the Fellowship Hall with cookies and hot drinks and Christmas music in the background.

SABBATH SERVICES:

DIVINE WORSHIP: We know that people will be spread out everywhere for Christmas Sabbath, but we also know that others will be here, so we have planned a truly great service filled with really superb music. We will have a processional, Children's story, and a baptism. Our musicians are bringing their very best, and I think you will truly enjoy the singing group that has been practicing for weeks singing some magnificent and "alive" arrangements of Christmas songs. I've enjoyed these practices as much as any music I've ever done! And wait until you hear Sheri on the piano!

SABBATH SCHOOLS: 9:30 am for all of them, except for my Pastor's ISSUES Class, which is at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Praise will begin right at 10:55 am, so we ask all SS teachers to close by 10:45 am at the latest! Thanks.

SERMON Text: Matthew 2:1-12, the story of the Three Wise Men and their gifts: To Discuss:

1. What have been the gifts you remember the most?
2. Why do we remember some better than others--size? Money?
3. What do you give to a King?
4. Why did they give gifts to a baby who had done nothing yet?
5. Why does God sometimes ask for gifts, and other times says He wants none of people's gifts?

There are no potlucks, committee meetings, The Gift Goes On meetings, or anything else--for you to have a truly memorable Christmas Sabbath!

And NO Committees, Meetings, or anything else this week, except for:

PRE-NEW YEAR'S EVE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY: Thursday night, 6:30 pm to 12:30 am, December 30, Fellowship Hall.

For Youth and Young Adults, but I think the doors will be pretty much open to anyone who wants to drop in and hang out! Bring some snacks to contribute! The volleyball court has been laid with the new floor, so we know how to put it together. It's going to be a great night to end the year.

FINANCES: We announced last Sabbath that, while we have been making Church Budget all year (thank you very much!), there has been a lot of deferred maintenance that came due this year, and several of those accounts were well into the red. As of last Sabbath, we needed \$39,000 to get all our accounts totally into the black by the end of the year, a truly tall mountain to climb! BUT--almost \$12,000 came in Sabbath the 18th! So we are down to only \$27,000 to go. We have sent a letter out yesterday with a stamped envelope, to make it as easy as possible for people. To be part of 2010 it needs to be in our hands or postmarked by midnight, December 31. All we can ask is that you do the very best you can to support the incredible vision of how we think this church is about to explode into ministry in our community and Orange County, and we will do our very best to be faithful with every single dollar to make it stretch as far as it can for God and GGSDA.

NEW YEAR'S SABBATH: January 1, another "holiday Sabbath," is being planned around a battle theme, as Jesus and John the Baptist announced the "KINGDOM" THEME IN Matthew 3. The message will be: "THE BATTLE BEGINS" and will include vision casting for the Garden Grove church for 2011 and the future. And Cynthia Figueroa will be baptized!

PATHFINDERS / ADVENTURERS: Thanks to everybody for the support of Sarah Caldwell's Nutcracker Ballet, which was just fantastic. Sarah was Clara, the star of the show and in virtually every scene, and was just unbelievable-- And the club raised over \$500! The next meeting is January 15, Saturday night.

GRAHAM MAXWELL FUNERAL: Has been set for Saturday afternoon, January 8, 4:30 pm, at the Loma Linda University Church.

CONGRATULATIONS: To all of our kids who performed at the Orangewood Academy Christmas Program, and especially Elise Newen, Nikki Nadler, Kyle Rumble, Vika Olivarria and Meagan Lopez who had solo parts! AND to Amanda Johnston and the Children's Choir who put on a great, great Cantata last Sabbath. It was just spectacular to see all of the kids up on the stage upstairs. And the Breakfast Banquet put on by Barbara Peck, Cindy Monty, and everyone on their team was just superb. The tradition is back!

And Thanks to whoever RAK'ed Hilda and me last week, in my office! That was very nice, whoever you are!

MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of you!
God bless--
Pastor Dan