

GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

Pastor's Newsletter

November 25, 2011

Happy Thanksgiving, Everybody!

We hope that you had a lovely Thanksgiving Day with your family or whoever you spent it with! We had Hilda's family here from the East Coast, all the cousins wanted to play flag football and soccer at the University's field, and the two fathers in their 50's are sore all over today! We hope that you were blessed by the day, you took time to be thankful, and that all your teams won!

THANKSGIVING DAY MINISTRY: We are proud of Filemu Filemu and his brand-new Men's Ministry, who provided a Thanksgiving Day dinner for something like 200 in Orange County yesterday. With our company we could not come, but we hear that 20 showed up to serve, from both GGSDA and Westminster. A truly gracious, servanthood ministry.

YOUNG ADULTS: 3 Big Events:

(1) FNL: Friday Night Live is on tonight--7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. "Our very own, young adult, pastoral intern and elder, Filemu T. Filemu, will be speaking for us on a theme that ties God's grace, our highest commitment, and Black Friday all in one convicting message."

(2) SABBATH SCHOOL begins at 9:30am in the Fellowship Hall with a holiday brunch before diving into God's word through NOOMA and our lesson in Galatians.

(3) GYM NIGHT: Saturday night, 6:00 pm, Orangewood Academy. "Then, to linger in our fellowship together, young adults (plus family and friends) are all invited to our open gym night at Orangewood Academy. Volleyball and basketball begin at 6:00 pm. Food and drinks for sale. Thank you, church family, for all your love and support! Happy Thanksgiving!"

SABBATH SERVICES:

9:30 am--All SABBATH SCHOOL classes in their usual places--except perhaps my Pastor's Bible Class--watch for signs!

We have purchased and installed two new heat/AC units for two of the Divisions, and the others will have multiple space heaters and should be comfortable and warm! Some of the ancient heaters were red-flagged, and the small space heaters we bought were not quite adequate in a couple of the rooms this last Sabbath and we apologize to our teachers and young people! Our Maintenance Committee has gone into high alert this week to get this problem solved as quickly as possible. We will get the rest of it done as soon as we see how these work.

11:00 am--DIVINE WORSHIP in the Sanctuary, with praise, drama, beautiful Thanksgiving decorations, and some very special choir anthems for Thanksgiving. The message is "DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER!" based on the parable of the Pearl of Great Price in Matthew 13:44-46. Is what you are getting now from your relationship with God worth "selling all that you have"?!

NEXT WEEKEND:

FRIDAY NIGHT: 7:30 pm, at our Church--"*The Joyous Sounds of Christmas*, an evening vespers of carols, anthems, and Scripture, featuring the combined choirs of Orangewood Academy, the GGSDA Choir, the Handbells of Orangewood, and Orangewood Elementary's 'Fearless, Fabulous, Few'."

CHRISTMAS ADVENT SERIES: We will start our Christmas series next week, with all our fantastic Christmas decorations, Advent Candle, Christmas Carols, and all our other traditions! The series will be: "RODEO DRIVE GIFTS!"

POTLUCK: A huge Christmas potluck in the Fellowship Hall, our regular potluck for December!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: Meeting in the Fellowship Hall immediately after the potluck, to plan the next two years!

MOVIE NIGHT: Youth Ministry, Youth Chapel

COMING UP:

PATHFINDERS: Pinewood Derby classes, TJ Wallace home, Sunday--appointments set by the Staff.

CHURCH BOARD: Tuesday night, 7:30 pm

EL TORITO NIGHT! Monday night, Dec. 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm. El Torito is giving us 25% back as a fundraiser. You can also go for lunch (12:00 - 3:00 pm) and from 3:00 to 6:00 pm, but we think it would be very cool for 150 or more to just take over the whole place that night! And we will make hundreds of dollars for the Church Retreat next April! This is the El Torito at THE BLOCK in Orange, and you will need one of the flyers we will pass out tomorrow and next Sabbath.

WOMEN'S TEA, Saturday night, December 10, 5:30 pm. **It's Holiday Tea Time at GGSDA Church again!**

"Doesn't a lovely evening menu of tea, sandwiches, soup and scones shared alongside warm friendship sound like the perfect things you need during the stressful holiday rush? Join us for this year's Women's Ministries Holiday Tea taking place on Sabbath, December 10, 2011 starting at 5:30 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall. A \$15 per person donation is requested in advance of the Tea and must be received by Women's Ministries by Sabbath, December 3, 2011. Entrance is \$20 per person on the night of the event. Reservation forms will be available in the bulletin and in the foyer. Checks may be made payable to "GGSDA Church" and placed in the offering plate. In the memo line, please write "Annual Holiday Tea". Deadline to RSVP is *Sabbath, December 3, 2011*. For information, please talk with the Women's Ministries Holiday Tea organizing committee.

Ladies, we hope to see you there! If you would like to help host and / or decorate a table, your talents are invited and most welcome. Please contact the chair of the GGSDA Women's Ministries, Marilyn Krell, at mjkrell@aol.com"

Have just a terrific holiday weekend! God bless--
Pastor Dan

If you would like to be added to Pastor Dan's weekly email newsletter list, submit your request to: pastordan@gardengrovesda.com