

GARDEN GROVE SDA CHURCH

Pastor's Newsletter

December 2, 2011

Dear Saints!

We are printing a December calendar for everybody for tomorrow, and will email a copy to all of you also. The challenge has been to make the boxes big enough to fit everything in, and still have the calendar fit onto your refrigerator! We know you have to make some choices of what you can get to, but we are proud and blessed to be part of a church that is just rockin' with things happening, for every kind of group in the church.

TONIGHT: 7 pm, Friday night, Dec. 2--CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS CONCERT, ORANGEWOOD ACADEMY. All their music groups, with our own Covenant Singers joining in on two of the songs. Refreshments afterward, a spectacular night to get the Christmas season started! The Vietnamese Group will meet at 6:30 pm in the Community Services Center, and then join us.

MONDAY NIGHT: Please note the big EL TORITO event Monday night, Dec. 5, at The Block on City Drive. You can go eat any time between 12:00 noon and 8:00 pm, but most of us are trying to go between 6:00-8:00 pm, so we can all be together--we're just going to take over the restaurant! 25% of all that we order comes back to the church to help for the Church Retreat, but more than that it will just be fun to do this together! But you need to bring one of the flyers we will have as an insert tomorrow.

PARKING: We are in serious discussion about needing to go to two worship services--BUT in the meantime we could use everybody's help on parking! If you can come early and park on side streets, that will be a tremendous gift to our visitors and people checking out GGSDA--we don't want to lose a single possible church member in our community because they drove around, couldn't find parking, and left. AND--because of the current trend everywhere of making parking spots narrower in order to get more in--we need everybody to be especially careful to park within the lines on all sides, so no two spots are taken up by one! Thanks, everybody!

MUSIC GREETINGS: There will be an insert tomorrow that will give you a chance to bless our GGSDA Music Ministry AND express your love and greet the whole GGSDA church family. We will print a special insert on "Christmas Sabbath" Dec. 24 with the names of everybody who wishes to be included on a list of those greeting the church AND who financially support the growing music ministry of GGSDA, \$25 per family. We are bringing in special singers, we will have 4 string players from the LA Philharmonic, we have more great plans for Easter and the rest of the year, and we could really use the support of those who appreciate great music in church!

SABBATH:

SABBATH SCHOOL: After some shuffling, here are the SS classes as I know them:

9:30 am--All Children's Divisions.

Tom Neslund - North Room, Filipino Fellowship - Community Services, Lopez Class - Library, Vietnamese - Mothers' Room.

Pastor's Bible Class - settled officially into the Pathfinder Room, come in from the back parking lot.

DANIEL 9 tomorrow!

9:40 am--Youth and Earliteen, Youth Chapel; Young Adults, Fellowship Hall.

For Bible study / Discussion, the Youth and Earliteen split

Young Adults will split: University Students (18-25) will be in the center section of the FH

Young Professionals (25-35) in another section of the FH. Curtains should be up next week to divide it all off!

DIVINE WORSHIP: 11:00 am. A truly great worship service has been planned, with the best Christmas carols, choir numbers by Covenant Singers, and the message: “COMFORT FOOD--HOW TO FEEL LOVE FROM A GOD!” Followed by a sample of my favorite comfort food for each person, at the back door, prepared as a gift of love by my mother, with her recipe as a bulletin insert!

PHILIPPINE MISSION TRIP: 12:30 pm, North Room--Everybody interested or curious at all about our Mission Trip for next year, June 26 to July 17 (or any part of it), is invited to meet in the North Room for an information meeting. 20 minutes!

POTLUCK: Our monthly potluck is tomorrow. Bring a dish if you can, but you're welcome either way. The Christmas decorations are beautiful up there also, this is our main December social event for the month, so stay by to eat with us!

THE REST OF THE SABBATH:

PATHFINDERS / ADVENTURERS: Eat with the general church potluck, then the regular meeting, 1:30-3:30 pm. Parents' small group meets at the same time!

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE: 2:00 pm, right after the potluck, to make a 2-year plan. Anybody interested at all in outreach and building our church up for the glory of God is invited to have some say in this Master Plan!

VIETNAMESE FELLOWSHIP: 4:00 pm, with Pastor Hoang Pham, the former pastor in Oakland, speaking.

YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT: 7:00 pm, Fellowship Hall. Food, fundraiser.

REST OF THE WEEK:

PATHFINDERS /ADVENTURERS: Nursing Home visit, 10:30 to 11:30 pm, Pacific Haven, 12072 Trask, singing Christmas songs!

EL TORITO: Monday night, 12:00 noon – 8:00 pm but primarily 6:00 – 8:00pm, Dec. 5, at The Block on City Drive.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Tuesday night, 6:30 pm, Boardroom.

PREACHING GROUP: Tuesday night, 7:15 pm, North Room, how to prepare evangelistic sermons, especially for the Philippines.

EAT PRAY GO: Wednesday night, 6:30 pm, the team, plus elders, visiting SEARCH guests and members of our church.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Thursday night, 7:00 pm, Boardroom

CHOIRS: Thursday night--Praise at 7:00 pm, Covenant Singers at 8:15 pm.

NEXT SABBATH: Pastor Garrett's inaugural sermon!

WOMEN'S TEA: The annual Women's Tea, Saturday night, Dec. 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall. Pastor Shiphrah is planning a very special Christmas message, woman to woman. Gorgeous china table settings, great decorations, catered dinner, music. And a chance to be served by the best-looking men in Orange County. \$15. You can drop a check in a tithe envelope, or sign up at the Kiosk in the Lobby.

SAVE THE DATES:

Pathfinder / Adventurer Party--Dec. 11, 4:00 – 6:00 pm, Fellowship Hall.

All GGSDA Council and Ministry Leaders Meeting--Tuesday night, Dec. 13, 7:30 pm.

Orangewood Academy Christmas Concert (secular)--Dec. 15, 7:00 pm, Orangewood Chapel

Children's Ministry Drama, Children's Choir program--Saturday afternoon, Dec. 17, 4:30 pm

Youth Christmas Party--Saturday night, Dec. 17

Pathfinders / Adventurers--Pine Springs Ranch, Sunday, Dec. 18, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm, our group is helping serve food for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Pathfinders in our Conference. Games, prizes, hay rides, go carts, just a great day.

Candlelit Christmas Eve: Saturday night, Dec. 24, 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, early enough to get you home or out to dinner for your traditional family celebrations!

FNL: Friday night, Dec. 30, 7:30 pm.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: "GGSDA young adults begin the month of December with a new feel to Sabbath School to accommodate specifically for our young adult group of students (18-25) and young professionals (25-35). Be a part of any circle you feel most comfortable with! Also this weekend, we are looking for volunteers to help with our young adult outreach to the Orangewood Children's Home on Friday, December 16. Young adult volunteers can sign up to work with the age bracket of 14-18 year olds. We are asking for church support from those who are able to donate snacks for us to take, such as cookies, brownies, juice boxes, etc. Elianna Campos has been working hard to organize this year's trip again and the Program Coordinator of the Children's Home would like us to know the kids are extremely excited for our visit. Sign up and be a part of the effort! We're also hoping to finalize our list of attendees to the One Project Gathering in Seattle, February 2012. It's no big-band big-lights conference but this gathering is a big deal. Check it out online if you haven't already: www.the1project.org - Blessings!"

I'm sure I've missed something! But we hope you will find something in this month to truly experience the best of Christmas!

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