

Oakhurst Seventh-day Adventist Church

NEWSLETTER

Volume 29, Number 3
March 2008



RESURRECTION

The promise of resurrection
Is not only told in the Book;
It is heralded in the springtime
By every happy brook.
It is announced by violets
And by the dogwood trees.
It is chanted by the mockingbird
And the buzz of myriad bees.
It is echoed every Easter
By the lily's perfumed breath,
When every sleeping plant awakes,
Triumphant over death.

—Emily May Young

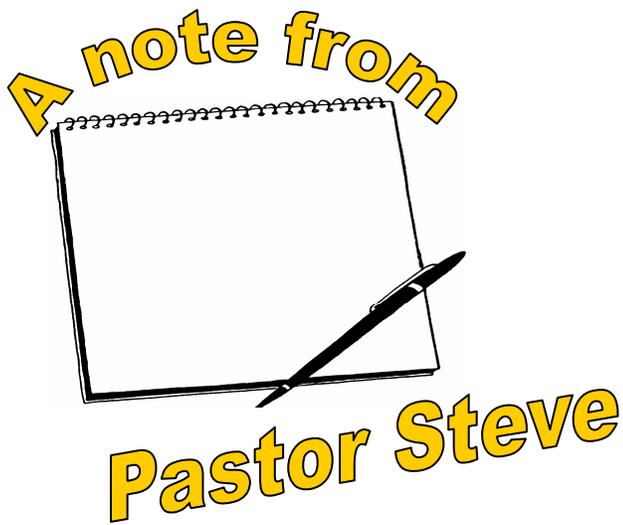
RING, BELLS OF EASTER

Ring gladly, bells of Easter;
Ring God's message over vale and hill
That Christ is risen from the dead,
His lasting promise to fulfill.
Ring gladly, bells of Easter;
Ring your song of faith for all mankind:
A risen Christ, the Savior lives,
With death and sorrow left behind.

—Marian L. Moore

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Hello church...

There is sunshine outside. Praise the Lord! I was so tired of wet and cold.

Wouldn't be terrible if seasons didn't change? If we got stuck on one season. If spring didn't progress into summer or summer refused to change into fall.

I submit that this is a trap that is easy for us to fall into spiritually. We tend to progress only so far in our Christian experience. As a church, we tend place a lot of emphasis on baptism, but what about the other steps in the Christian life? Continuing to learn and grow through study and fellowship, then that progressing into active service or ministry.

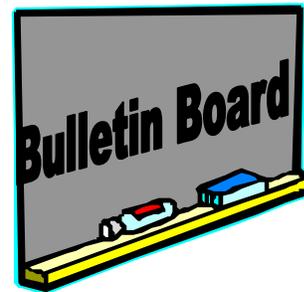
As terrible as it would be for a season not to change, I believe it is more tragic for a Christian to become stymied in an area of growth. All through the gospels Jesus illustrated that conversion is an organic process. It has a natural progression; it must grow. He pointed out that it should be like a fountain of water (water that is going somewhere) not a stagnant pool. That fig trees should not be

satisfied to be just pretty trees, they should bear fruit.

I pray that we are a church that is focused on growth. That we will not be content with status quo in our personal lives. That the words of the old hymn will ring in our ears and be the prayer of our hearts. "Lord plant my feet on higher ground"

May God bless you each day

—Pastor Steve



MimicCreme is a product made of almonds and cashews that can be used in recipes calling for heavy cream. It makes very tasty vegan ice cream. For more information check with Delinda Hamilton, Lindsay Pratt, or Rosalind Hansen. (Currently we are experimenting with recipes.) We are considering ordering it by the case and splitting it among those interested. It comes in shelf-stable quart boxes with unsweetened, sweetened, and artificially sweetened varieties. The price is \$4.59 per quart. It contains 10 calories and 1 gram of fat per tablespoon. It can also be ordered on line at mimiccreme.com

Dreyer's Custom Upholstery:

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YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE!

SOLO BC (Solo Oakhurst Ladies Open Birthday Club) will meet to celebrate February & March birthdays on Sunday, March 16, in the home of Victoria Glines, 40902 Hodges Hill Road, Oakhurst. For directions call Victoria 683-8848- home or 760-1281- cell. Single ladies of all ages welcome! See you there.

Thank You to the Rumble family for our winter decorations in Holbrook Hall. It made our meals very festive during the cold winter months! We appreciate all the members who take special care of our decorations so they can be used again at a later date. It helps to keep things looking festive, and to keep our cost down. If you would like to decorate for a season or help with the Sabbath potlucks, please call Karen 683-4580.

Missing Books. Pastor Steve is trying to set up a quiet office space upstairs next to the sound room. He has his books there. Some are now missing. If you have taken any book from that area, please return it promptly. Thank you.

Collegiate Bible Study Collegiates, you won't want to miss out on this. There will be a Bible Study on Friday nights from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. We will be studying different topics from money management to trust in God. Bring your Bible and friends and we'll see you there. If you have any questions feel free to call Raquel Rodriguez at 559-760-2238

Academy Days March 16 & 17. You are invited to Monterey Bay Academy's open house event, Academy Days. This is the best time for you to see all that

MBA has to offer. Visitors will learn about MBA's campus ministries, academics, athletics and music programs, as well as our student work program, dormitory life and financial aid opportunities. Visitors will also have the chance to visit classrooms, meet MBA students and faculty, and win prizes. To reserve your spot at this event call 831-728-1481, ext. 1221.

Celebrate!

Birthdays

March

(1st week)

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Jeannie Garza | 15 Ed Moore, Sr. |
| 2 Michael Vogel | 16 Evelyn Young |
| 3 Maria Betat | 18 Carol Howe |
| 3 Sharon Davis | 18 Dora Moore |
| 5 Paula Lutz | 20 Carmyn Scharffenberg |
| 5 Joyce Norman | 21 Wanda Nelson |
| 8 Marietta Kolstad | 22 Tom Norman |
| 9 Deb.Vecchiarelli | 24 Hazel Meyer |
| 10 Rick Britton | 27 Elisabeth Lutz |
| 10 Dan Guthrie | 28 Dale Cottrell |
| 11 Nic Vecchiarelli | |

April

(1st week)

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 3 WillFranger | 8 Marshall Hollingsead |
| 4 Marland Hansen | 8 Bob Kiser |
| 6 Rosalind Hansen | 8 Thomas Sisco |

Anniversaries

March

- 15 Sonny and Jackie Garcia
22 Dustin and Angela Ginter
23 Don and Beth Crisp

April

(1st week)

- 7 Don and Jo Ann Ericksen

PRAAYER CORNER



The early church knew the secret of overcoming obstacles through the glorious weapon of prayer. They seemed to live by the Throne. There is an urgent need today for believers everywhere to “stand in the gap” and to pray for the pastor, teachers, church officers, evangelism, special needs, and for specific individuals.

Retirement, for many, brings a change of pace. “Closet Ministry” is a special time each day or each week that can be devoted to a prayer time, either as individuals or groups. This can make a difference that can only be measured in eternity. Shut-ins, invalids, and those with various disabilities are finding new vistas where they can serve and serve powerfully.

Prayer—the still place in the storm, p. 33
—Ruthie Jacobsen

Hour of Prayer

Wed. 9:15-10:15 a.m. Church Office
Karen Bergh

Prayer Ministries

Contact Persons:

Kathy Fagan: 683-5210 if you have a request for the prayer chain

Karen Bergh: 683-4580 or **Don Bray:** 683-5440 if you have a personal request or interest in a prayer group.

“It is not the capabilities you now possess or ever will have that will give you success. It is that which the Lord can do for you.” *COL* p. 146

Praise For—

Safe trip to/from Honduras and the children/staff blessed while there
Safe arrival of the Christmas box and quilts at the orphanage
Those recovering from the flu
Fearn Hiten & Gerry Shipp are home again
Marie’s (Kathy Fagan’s daughter) successful surgery

Pray For—

Those with health problems—

Lisa Menke	Mary Plumlee
Glen Bowen	Evelyn Maynard
Irene Frederico	Helen Aved
Pauline Hunter	Mim Schooley
Fearn Hiten	Betty Axt
Kay Mickel	Eduardo Que
Linda Garlick	Rosalie Brown
Miriam Bergh	Evelyn Davis
Kathy Brix	Darlene O’Neil
Thelma Pemberton	Marge Bacchus
Barbara Hayen	Gerry Shipp
Jeri Kolstad	Evelyn Young
Joy Kiser	

Specific requests—

George Allen in the loss of his stepfather
Karen Bergh’s stepdaughter, Karen Sue, in the loss of her husband and for a hedge of protection around her in the settling of affairs.

Those who have made decisions at the Prophecy Seminar
Barbara Hayen (Beth Broomfield’s mother) as she undergoes chemo after breast cancer
Mark, Trudy, & Jonah Squires in Nepal
“Missing” members to return
Those who God would have you reach
Ongoing Bible studies
Children/grandchildren

Tristan Smith, Scott Guthrie, Rick, Grant Bray, Greg Bray Merrilee Bray, Karen Wood, Billie Rankin, Tarik Rogers, Toby Peterson, Jon Grabast, Bob Dibble, Charlie Wiseman

8:15-8:30 a.m.

Daily

Pray with our school

OAKHURST MOUNTAINEERS

Spring is in the air and our club is enjoying a little more daylight each week. Now that we have a little more light, we have resumed our drilling and marching practice. The kids are learning the fine art and discipline of marching in step, executing precision turns and a variety of other marching commands.

We continue to work on our first aid honor. The Pathfinders are learning about bleeding control, treatment for shock, how to splint broken bones and how to treat a snake bite. All good stuff for our outdoor lifestyle.

While not technically a Pathfinder event, two of our Pathfinders, Alison Guzman and Brent Pieffer, took some of the knowledge they acquired preparing for the Pathfinder Bible Bowl last month, and competed in the Central California Conference Bible Challenge held in Clovis last week. They competed against nine other schools in the conference and managed to place second overall! The going was a little rough in the early rounds, but our team excelled as the questions got harder. In the end Los Banos came away with first place and our school was the runner up.

Much credit also goes to Roland Ott, the teacher's aid, and Gayla Rumble our teacher/principal. Pathfinders, school and church all go hand in hand.

We sang again at the Oakhurst Living Center last Sabbath. As is our custom, we sing there on the first Sabbath of each month. We are pleased to have so many other church members join us in song as we give the gift of music these residents who rarely leave the confines of the facility. In turn, we receive a

wonderful blessing through the act of giving to others.

The club is planning a beach campout in April. Date and place have yet to be confirmed. Stayed tuned for more details. Our kids deserve a weekend of fun at the coast.

Ruby's Ramblings

FROM NOT SO FAR

Ruby did not have much news this month, but her daughter Brenda sent some spring poems from Ruby's collection for this month's issue. Brenda is in New Zealand waiting the arrival of a grandchild.

HE WILL PROVIDE

Oh, lonely goose on a frozen lake,
Through rock-hard ice you cannot break.
Things didn't used to be this way;
Must wait 'til spring to splash and play.

We mortals, too, need to wait 'til spring
For flowers that make our sad hearts sing.
God, our Creator, by our side,
Can see our need and will provide.

—Elma Helgason

A SPRING RECIPE

A dash of cold, chilly air,
A squeeze of a breeze
Make a mixture of these.
A sprinkle of rain, sliding
Down a windowpane;
A drop of thawing sod, waiting
For a seed to grow;
All being churned and
Turned from below.
Garnish with a bit
Of fertilizer.
A yellow and green world
Begins to grow.

—Beatrice Engle

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

Pastor Paul Charles from South Africa told his life story during Sabbath School on March 1. He was born to alcoholic parents and was one of 10 children. He was taken by Social Services when he was 8 years old and placed in a succession of 4 different orphanages until he was 16. At the last orphanage school one of the workers (an elderly woman) invited him to go to church. He was baptized and preached his first sermon at age 15. Soon a movie in English will be made of his life and conversion to be shown on the Hope Channel. He was driven up to Oakhurst by Mireslov Stanic, DDS, and his wife Katrina of Visalia.

Fearn Hiten was injured when the front of her pickup slowly rolled over her. Her pelvis was broken in two places, but the bones were not displaced and should grow back together just fine. She really appreciated the food the ladies of the church brought to help out after the accident.

To celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, Pat and Irv Curtis are planning a trip to Europe. They leave on March 19 and will be posting photos and news of their experiences on a blog. The address to access it is <http://50sblast.blogspot.com>

We hope to have a cello or two in our Sabbath School orchestra. Bill Lapham and Marland Hansen are interested in learning to play the cello. We are thankful that we had 7 violins playing about a month ago. Tom Sheldon plays flute with us now when he is not playing the organ.

About mid February Art and Helen took their motor home to stay at Sonora for a week to help Helen's sister Bea

Dunn pack up her belongings, also hold a moving sale. Bea is moving to Waycross, Georgia so that she can be near her son Larry Dunn and his wife Aleta. Her two granddaughters also live nearby. Until the end of March Bea is staying with Helen and Art at Coarsegold. During early April she will visit with another sister (Hazel & Earl Meyer) at Ceres, CA. Then mid April her son is coming to take her back with him to Georgia. Bea used to live in Oakhurst and attended our church here until about 2 or 3 years ago, when she moved to the Sonora Community Estates at Sonora, CA.

Jo Ann Ericksen says all is well with them. There are many shopping, educational and just fun trips to keep them busy. Don's cracked rib is healing, and they hope the vein in his ankle will not rupture again. Rosalie Brown, who lives next door, is having problems with her eyesight and has a lot of pain. Remember her in your prayers.

New e-mail address for Judi Guthrie is judi.guthrie@yahoo.com



CONGRATULATIONS to Mary Bowman and Helen Dalglish! They found the backwards paragraph, in last month's *Newsletter*, deciphered it, and called the editor.



YOUTH HONDURAS TRIP

We just returned from our fifth annual youth mission trip to Honduras. This year our group had four high school students, seven 18 – 20 something-year-olds and seven more “mature” individuals. We had a very wonderful trip and feel so blessed to be able to go and be a part of helping others.

As usual we worked at the Pan American Health Service in Pena Blanca. You can visit their website, panamhealth.org, to learn more about their ministry. Our first task was to paint the exposed steel framework on the almost completed children’s home. In the humidity of the tropics this framework rusts very quickly so it needs a coating of anti-rust paint. This is sticky stuff and gets all over us in the process of painting the beams over our heads. It took two days to get this finished.

Next we decided to help out a family in a near-by community who recently lost their oldest daughter (13) to kidney failure. The truth is she died just the week before we arrived. This family also lost their simple home to a very hard rain storm five years ago and have been living with relatives ever since. Our hearts went out to them and we felt we could put something together in a few days that would protect them from the elements and be sturdy enough to last for 10 years. We built walls around the still standing wood frame and tin roof. The process was new to all of us and we were amazed to see it really work. After digging trenches and pouring a cement perimeter foundation

wire was wrapped around the wood frame. On this we layered tarpaper, chicken wire and then cement. This made sturdy waterproof walls. The top portion of the walls was finished with plywood. The Honduran family helped with the building and was extremely grateful to have a home again.

We made the four hour trip (one way) to Copan again this year – the site of extensive Mayan ruins - and hiked up a nearby mountain to the rain forest.

The very best part of our mission trips is getting to know our Honduran brothers and sisters in Christ and experiencing their world. We come away feeling so loved by them!

—Calle Wieg

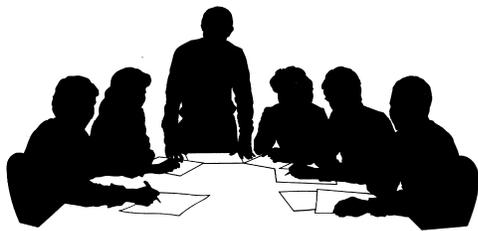
LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you to whomever returned the missing *SDA BIBLE COMMENTARY*, vol. 5. It is part of a set of 10 volumes in our church library that are each labeled “Reserved”. That means that they are **not** to be removed from the library. Now Volume 6 has disappeared from the shelf! Please bring it back.

A book entitled *CREEPING COMPROMISE* written by Joe Crews several years ago has been republished, and addresses in a bold uncompromising approach some of the controversial issues facing our church. A copy has been ordered for our library and should be available to you by the end of March or early April. God has impressed Ernie Knoll, a lay pastor, that this book is very important and should be read by all church members. He has a very interesting web site:

www.4hispeople.com

—Helen Dalglish, librarian



Business Meeting
February 10, 2008

- **REVIEW of 2007:** Pastor Steve talked about the momentum of the church, his wish list and church attendance going from 110 --160 - - 190+. One third of the congregation is under 35. The school attendance is also growing.
- People who haven't attended church in awhile are coming back. Membership transfers "incoming" are increasing. People are also coming because somebody told them: "The SDA church is a good place to go".
- Thank you to Jacob Gibbs for his work this last year with the school and our youth programs.
- Board meetings are a blessing and Pastor Steve is proud of this church and it feels like home to him and his family.
- **GROWING OUR CHURCH HEALTHY:** Mona Guzman and Pastor Steve gave brief review of the upcoming Marriage Seminar.
- **NCD SURVEY:** Irv Curtis used power point to show the results of the survey taken last spring.
- 20 Youth and Young Adult and 25 Board members took the survey.
- Finding: Need-Oriented Evangelism is the area most needed to work on.
- Gift Based Ministry is area most needed to work on for the youth.

- **WHAT'S AHEAD IN 2008:** Bible Worker Jasmine Valentine will be working in Milpitas, California.
- Alexi Hughes will be going to Australia. Lindsay Pratt will continue until June 2009.
- Intentional Outreach Seminars: "Best Life Ever", Health, Family Seminars are planned.
- Church life, social activities are being planned. Ministry opportunities, potluck.
- **2008 BUDGET:** Irv Curtis presented 2008 Budget that was reviewed at January 2008 church board meeting, and answered questions from audience.
- **VOTED:** Accept 2008 budget as it reads.
- **INVESTING IN KIDS AND FAMILIES: Kids in Discipleship (K.I.D.)**
- Irv presented a 5 minute video which explained KID program. Pastor Steve and 3 church members will be attending a training seminar in the near future.

"The best proof that Christ has risen is that He is still alive. And for the immense majority of our contemporaries, the only way of seeing Him alive is for us Christians to love one another."

—Louis Evely

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson