

ELMIRA
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2012



FROM THE PASTOR

Hi Friends,

I like to read Romans. Samuel Coleridge, the great English literary giant, called it "the profoundest piece of writing in existence." Martin Luther, the reformer, wrote, "This epistle (Romans) is the chief part of the New Testament, and the very purest gospel, which indeed deserves that a Christian should not only know it word for word by heart, but deal with it daily as with the daily bread of the soul, for it can never be read or considered too much or too well, and the more it is handled the more delightful it becomes and the better it tastes."

Personally, I think Romans could be properly called "The Book that shook the world." It seems like, historically speaking, every time there is a major revival and reformation among God's church, the book of Romans is the major catalyst used by the Holy Spirit to turbocharge that movement. Not by itself, of course. Martin Luther also preached from the Psalms and other passages in his discovery of the simple truth that "The just shall live by faith." Romans, however, is the book that gives us (me at least) the clearest and most comprehensive insight on how to be a Christian, how to live an ever-increasingly victorious life over sin, how to be

accepted as holy and righteous before a just God.

A few early mornings ago, I was laying in my bed thinking about a particular spiritual struggle I've been having, when the Lord flashed a scripture verse into my mind: It was Romans 6:14, which states, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law, but under grace." A short verse, but packed with power. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are privileged to be released from the bondage of sin. This freedom is not achieved by heroically striving by my efforts to "do better," or by gritting my teeth and saving myself from doing sin by sheer force of willpower. Rather it is given to us by letting ourselves be placed in a state of grace – God's grace – which is powerful enough to change the vilest and most stubborn of sinners. (That's you and me.)

It's only as we learn what it means to be "under grace," and not "under law" that we will enjoy the personal revival and reformation God desires each of us to have.

May God help us toward a grace-filled and gracious faith each day as we walk with Him.

Pastor Dunn

CHURCH NEWS



Bible Study BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is held each Tuesday evening, 7:00 PM at the church with Pastor Brutus from the

Friendship Church. All are encouraged to come as we study together.

DISCIPLESHIP CLASSES



Discipleship Classes are scheduled each Sabbath with Pastor Brutus at 1:30 p.m. This is in preparation for our evangelistic series April 27 – May 12. This is for everyone!



BAPTISM

It is always a special occasion when we have a baptism. By Baptism we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members into His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our receiving of the Holy Spirit.

Mike Hicks has been studying the Bible for some time. He was baptized Pastor Kevin Dunn on December 10. We welcome him into our fellowship.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Our Liberty funds sponsor LIBERTY magazine to government officials and religious leaders throughout North America. It will also be used to support the North American division litigation fund, and to aid in religious liberty promotion and education in the Atlantic Union. Anyone wishing to sponsor LIBERTY magazine, please contact Mac Dwyer, 739-7748.

DISTRICT ELDERS' MEETING

February 5, 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon. Jim Schmeider will be making a presentation on “Depression” with the goal of setting up a ministry to help those with depression. **Everyone is invited to attend.**

WORK BEE

There will be a work bee at the Church, Sunday February 5, 1:00 P.M. All helpers are needed!

PATHFINDERS



Thank you to all those who donate and/or bake for the Pathfinder bake sales. Pathfinders are finishing the Christian Grooming and Manners Honor and will be getting into the Model Rocketry Honor soon. Other plans include maple sugaring and winter swimming at the YMCA.

VESPERS

Our next vespers is scheduled for Sabbath, February 11 at 4:30 p.m. A light supper will be provided following the program.

LAY TRAINING INSTITUTE

This year's New York Conference Lay Training Institute will be February 24-26 in Auburn. Speakers include Stephen Bohr and Russell Burrill. If you are interested in attending, contact Earle Stewart by January 31.



RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The next drive is scheduled for Wednesday, March 14, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE RALLY

There will be a New York Conference Rally at the Elmira Church, Sabbath, March 17.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS



Sabbath luncheon dates are as follows: February 4 will be Soup & Sandwiches and February 18 will be a regular luncheon. March 3 will be Soup & Sandwiches, March 17 will be a regular luncheon. Please mark your calendars accordingly. All are invited to join us for lunch and fellowship. Please bring a dish to pass.

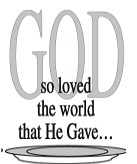


THE CHILDREN'S OFFERING

Just a reminder! The children's offering taken during the worship service sponsors our children at Camp Cherokee next summer.

3ABN UPDATE

Help upgrade Channel 21 to digital. Mark your tithe envelope 3ABN upgrade. We currently have \$11,588.00 toward our goal.



LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Please continue to save your General Mills Boxtops and Campbell's UPC symbols for the Holbrook SDA Indian School in Arizona. Boxtops and UPC symbols can be given Joyce Cmelko.

Check out our Church website at: www.elmirasda.com

Downloadable sermons are available at this site.

You are now able to return the Lord's tithe and your offerings online at our website as well.



PRAYER LIST

Don & Alice Congdon
Ethan Curtis
Hilda Dwyer
Bill & Marie Kaiser
Theresa Kerr
Frances Mc Millen
Ernie Miller



John & Martha Pack
Lorraine Parker
Doris Stewart
Harold Washburn, Sr.
Frank Ziegler
Ongoing Bible Studies
Our Shut-ins

SABBATH SCHOOL



Our Adult Sabbath School lessons during February and March continue in the series, *Glimpses of Our God*. All are encouraged to study daily and join in for our class discussion on Sabbath morning.

Please join us as we study each Sabbath morning. Song service begins at 9:20. Classes are provided for adults and children.



Our youth Sabbath School class just completed a fasting weekend to raise awareness and donations for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Your donations go to feed the hungry people of the world. Contact one of our young people to see an ADRA gift catalog.

INVESTMENT

Thank you for saving your newspapers, magazines, cans and bottles and health food labels for Investment. See Alvin Jackson, our Investment leader, to donate magazines and newspapers. Please be sure the UPC symbol is on the food labels. Labels that are accepted are: Worthington, Loma Linda, Morningstar Farms, Morningstar Farms Organic, Natural Touch. Labels not accepted are: Cedar Lake and Vibrant Life.



For the year 2011, \$442.78 of Investment funds were brought in. Thank you for remembering our Investment projects with your donations and in your prayers.

North American Division 2012 Mission Investment Projects include:

Atlantic Union Conference Projects

Save the Children, Save the World (Future): The Greater New York Conference has targeted churches and schools in New York City. Outreach will be in the form of health/obesity prevention classes, after school mentoring, counseling and teaching family values.

Light America Mission: The Southern New England Conference plans to target the largest metropolitan city in Massachusetts – Worcester and the Framingham area. The intention of this project is to foster evangelism by training lay members and equipping them with evangelistic tools that can be used to reach people.

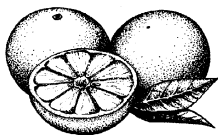
Pacific Union Conference

Public High School Student Discipleship Center: The Northern California Conference has targeted Adventist students

in public high schools through the initiative Public High School Ministries in the Lodi English Oaks SDA Church. This ministry is designed to develop a public high school student discipleship network and to help graduating students' transition to college. It will help students stay connected to their church and faith by meeting their spiritual needs.

San Diego Refugee Assimilation Project: The Paradise Valley SDA Church represents 32 different nationalities. They operate the Paradise Valley Community Services Center in an area where 90,000 refugees live in the county of San Diego. The Community Center has developed programs to assimilate these refugees into US culture through language skills, health skills and job readiness. This ministry is designed to meet physical needs and win hearts to Jesus.

FRUIT SALES



2011-2012 Fruit Sale Dates are planned for: February 19, March 18 in the Nature's Garden building. Sales will be from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Oranges and Pink Grapefruit are available by the full case, half or quarter. To order fruit or to offer your help, contact Malcolm Dwyer, 739-7748.

Pathfinders will hold a Bake Sale each month during our Fruit Sales. Our customers always look forward to your baked goods. Thank you for your support of our youth program.



NATURE'S GARDEN

STORE HOURS Thursday, 4:00-6:00 p.m., OR by appointment,
Call Larry Taft – 732-0463, Or Mac & Hilda Dwyer – 739-7748.



NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – March 20 – CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 732-9629 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 1302 West First Street, Elmira, NY 14905 or e-mail us at: shareyn@gmail.com



*Daily examine the foundation of your hope,
and see whether you are indeed in the love of Christ.*

*Deal truly with your own hearts,
for you cannot afford to run any risk here.*

*Count the cost of being a wholehearted Christian,
and then gird on the armor.*

*Study the Pattern; look to Jesus, and be like Him.
Your peace of mind, your hope of eternal salvation,
depend on faithfulness in this work.*

Testimonies, vol. 5 p. 333





*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God
with all thy heart,
and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind,
and with all thy strength:
this is the first commandment.*

*And the second is like, namely this,
Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
There is none other commandment greater than these.
Mark 12:30, 31*



Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church
c/o Jim & Sharon Reynolds
1302 West First Street
Elmira, NY 14905



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

