

ELMIRA
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER 2012



FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER



Hello Friends,

In the last few years we have experienced multiple disasters throughout the world, upon our nation, and of course upon our communities. We in the Southern Tier of New York have certainly had our share of crises, especially with the floods of 2006 and 2011. Think of the devastating fires that burned out of control this last summer in the western states. And, of course, the incredible devastation of Hurricane Sandy is still fresh on our minds. Is this the end? Is the great termination of earth's history as we know it about to happen? Or are these events, disastrous and heart-rending though they be, simply occurrences that have no special significance for our time?

To put it all in perspective, let's go back into history as it relates to Bible prophecy. It's a fact that devastating events have always been a part of our earthly experience. Think of the millions of lives lost during the wars of the middle ages. Remember the infamous Black Death, which claimed the lives of about a third of the population of Europe in the mid-fourteenth century. And let's not forget the two world wars – along with hundreds of other bloody conflicts – that have characterized the twentieth century. So, the question remains: Does the fact that we continue to experience disasters in the world today really point us toward the end of time, or are Bible believers simply making too much out of them?

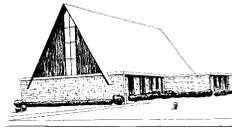
My answer is this: The Lord Jesus Himself has warned us that when we see these events taking place, not only with increasing frequency, but with ever greater capability to destroy life, then we who believe the Bible must be aware that His coming is near. For the first time in our history, mankind lives under the hanging sword of nuclear, biological, or chemical annihilation. For the first time in our history, we are really seeing the destructive power of the ocean, as hurricane upon hurricane, tidal wave upon tidal wave, slam into ours and other nation's shores. That's significant! Because it was Jesus who also said that, along with signs in the sun, moon, and stars, there would also be a display of the oceans' destructive power (Luke 21:25). Those who study history can testify to the facts of the "Dark Day," when the sun didn't shine and the moon shone red like blood. They can also research and find the day when, for all appearances, the stars fell from the heavens.



And now we are experiencing in an unprecedented way the effects of the ocean upon our planet. All of these events I've described have been foretold in the book of prophecy, the Holy Bible. Is Jesus coming soon? I believe He is. May we be found ready to meet and greet Him when He comes.

Pastor Kevin Dunn

CHURCH NEWS



BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is held Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. at the church. There will be no Bible Study December 25 and January 1.

COMMUNION

Sabbath, December 22 is our next service of foot washing and the Lord's Supper. *Every disciple is called upon to participate publicly, and thus bear witness that he accepts Christ as a personal Saviour. It is at these, His own appointments, that Christ meets His people, and energizes them by His presence....All who come with their faith fixed upon Him will be greatly blessed.* The Desire of Ages, p. 656.



The Master ordained the service of foot washing to signify renewed cleansing, to express a willingness to serve one another in Christlike humility, and to unite our hearts in love. Fundamental Beliefs, 15.



CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sabbath, December 15, we will be remembering our Savior's birth with music and scripture.

IN MEMORY

We extend our sympathy to the families and friends of Marie Kaiser, who passed away October 19, and Hilda Dwyer, who passed away November 10. We look forward to the earth made new when we will be reunited with our loved ones. *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4*



NOTES FROM FAR AWAY

It was good to hear from Pastor Mike Ortel, Northern New England Conference President. As a former pastoral intern in this district, he remembers many of those on our prayer list and continues to pray for them.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The next drive is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Donation Types: Double Red Cell and Whole Blood.



VISIT A SHUT-IN

Let us remember to send a card or letter, or stop by and visit our sick and shut-in members, not only in this holiday season, but throughout the whole year.

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEONS

Luncheons are planned for the first and third weeks of each month. The first week will be Soup & Sandwiches. The third week will be a regular luncheon. Please bring a dish to share. All are invited.



THE CHILDREN'S OFFERING



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

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

Downloadable sermons are available at this site.



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 to Joyce Cmelko.

PRAYER LIST

Don & Alice Congdon
Ethan Curtis
Bill Kaiser
Frances Mc Millen
Ernie Miller
John Pack
Lorraine Parker
Linda Probst



Alta Raymond
Doris Stewart
Cindy Taft
Harold Washburn, Jr.
Harold Washburn, Sr.
Ongoing Bible Studies
Our Shut-ins

Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

1 Thessalonians 5:17, 18

If you have someone to be added to our prayer list, please let us know.



SABBATH SCHOOL

"Creation is the foundational truth of Scripture. All other biblical teachings...are founded upon the truth that our world was created by the Lord." Our Adult Sabbath School lessons during the first quarter of 2013 will be "Origins." This study will focus on "the doctrine of creation as depicted in Genesis 1 and 2 and explores its implications for a number of our beliefs." Adult Bible Study Guide, p. 112. All are encouraged to study daily and join in for our class discussion each Sabbath morning.



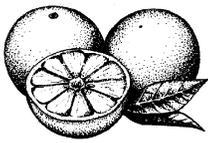
Please join us each Sabbath morning. Song service begins at 9:20. Classes are provided for adults and children. Mission DVDs are shown the last Sabbath of each month.

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, and Natural Touch. Labels not accepted are: Cedar Lake and Vibrant Life.



FRUIT SALES



2012-2013 Fruit Sale Dates are planned for: December 16, January 20, February 17, and March 17 in the Nature's Garden building. Sales will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Oranges and Pink Grapefruit are available by the full case, half or quarter. To order fruit or to offer your help, contact Mac Dwyer, 739-7748.

NATURE'S GARDEN

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

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – January 20 – CONTACT Sharon and Jim Reynolds at 734-1560 with newsletter information. You may also send your articles to: 813 Maple Avenue, Elmira, NY 14904 or e-mail us at: shareyn@gmail.com



*His birth was without worldly grandeur.
He was born in a stable and cradled in a manger;
yet His birth was honored far above that of any of the sons of men.
Angels from heaven informed the shepherds of the advent of Jesus,
and light and glory from God touched their harps and glorified God.
They triumphantly heralded the advent of the Son of God
to a fallen world to accomplish the work of redemption,
and by His death to bring peace, happiness, and everlasting life to man.
God honored the advent of His Son. Angels worshiped Him.
The Story of Redemption, p. 196*



*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
The same was in the beginning with God.
All things were made by Him;
and without Him was not any thing
made that was made.
In Him was life;
and the life was the light of men.
John 1:1-4*

**Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church
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Elmira, NY 14904**



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED