

ELMIRA
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2013



FROM THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Greetings, Dear Friends:

Where does your righteousness come from – Your fitness for heaven? Is it something you are exercising your will with all your might to gain through doing good works and overcoming your bad habits, or does the Lord want us to embrace another method of salvation? In my own experience, I've learned that the times I am defeated the most in my struggle against my sinful self is when I become so focused upon "overcoming" my bad tendencies that I forget that the real source of anything good in me is God and God alone.

I think it's safe to say that we are all like that. A prophet named Jeremiah wrote that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). You and I may be getting along pretty well, no major sins in our life, and we're feeling pretty sure of ourselves, that we're "good" people, and that somehow God owes it to us to take us to heaven when Jesus comes. Then, bam!! We're hit with a major temptation that we succumb to, and now we feel guilty, ashamed, frightened of God's judgment. How glad we are that Jesus died so that God can forgive us of our sins (1 John 1:9), but, oh how we wish we could just get victory over every sin in our lives. And we take our eyes off Jesus, and we fix our gaze on our moral performance, promising ourselves and God that "we'll do better." Ultimately,

we find ourselves caught in a cycle of sin and repent, sin and repent, until many get discouraged to the point of giving up and falling away from Christ completely.

What is the real problem? May I suggest that the human tendency many of us fall for is to rely too heavily upon a "works" based righteousness, as opposed to a grace-based righteousness to complete God's work in us and prepare us for heaven. My own experience, again, is that when I understand and embrace the Biblical teaching that not only salvation at the second coming, but also salvation from sin here and now, is a gift from God, purchased at the cross of Calvary, administered by the Holy Spirit, and received by humble faith, then I, in increasing measure, receive the victory over self and sin that God wants me to have, and with this victory comes the joy of the Lord. Paul reminds us, in 1 Corinthians 1:30, that "of Him (God) are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." It's all about keeping our focus on Jesus. It's all about entrusting to Him our salvation and hope. Look to Jesus and away from yourself and you cannot fail to be saved. May God bless you.

Pastor Kevin Dunn

CHURCH NEWS



BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study is held Tuesday evenings, 7:00 p.m. at the church.

BIBLE WORKER



Our Bible Worker, Michael Belknap, has arrived in Elmira. Many plans are being made for outreach in our surrounding area. As we work together with him, we strive to bring the Gospel to those around us. Let us all plan to be involved in witnessing, study, and prayer in the coming year.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN

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 receive or sponsor LIBERTY magazine, please contact Mac Dwyer, 739-7748.

ADVENTIST TELEVISION MINISTRIES



IT IS WRITTEN

The offering on February 9 will be for Adventist Television Ministries – *Breath of Life*, *It Is Written*, and *Faith for Today* – sowing the seed over the airwaves. We can support our church's media through this offering, as these ministries labor



to touch lives and change hearts.

RISE TO THE CALL

Lay Training Institute will be February 22-24 in Auburn. Speakers include: Eric Flickinger, Director of the Northeast Evangelism Training School; Will Froelich, PA ABC manager; J. Alfred Johnson II, NAD director of adult ministries; and Jose Cortes, Jr., Atlantic Union Conference Youth Director. Brochures with registration forms are at the greeter's desk.

UNION SPRINGS ACADEMY



The Senior Class of 2013, at Union Springs SDA Academy class trip March 10 involves a mission trip with the 8 Days of Hope foundation in La Place, Louisiana. In late August of 2012, Hurricane Isaac devastated the southern part of Louisiana. Seven thousand homes were flooded and over two billion dollars in damage resulted. Our class of 20 and 3 adults will be traveling down over a homeleave to help these houses be rebuilt. In order to pay for the traveling expenses and be able to pay for our graduation, our class needs to raise additional funds. Donations



can be sent to: Business Office, Union Springs Academy, P. O Box 524, Union Springs, NY 13160, Memo: Senior Class Trip. Please help us in our quest to share the love of Christ by completing this mission trip, and keep the senior class in your prayers. Thank you very much! – 2013 Senior Class Officers & Sponsors

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.



IN MEMORY



Irene Marr passed away Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at the age of 89. Irene joined the our church by Profession of Faith, October 8, 2011, a day that she had eagerly anticipated. After attending various other churches during her life, she felt that she finally had found what she was looking for. She loved music and enjoyed playing her organ. As a shut-in, she looked forward to a weekly Bible study, and spent many hours watching her “favorite TV station,” 3ABN. At her last Bible study, she was very pleased to be able to participate in the Lord’s Supper as she looked forward to the soon return of her Lord.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



25 units (19 whole blood and 3 donations Double Red Cells = 6 units) were collected at our drive January 8. Our next scheduled drive is Wednesday, March 13, 1:30 – 6:30 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Donation Types: Double Red Cell and Whole Blood.

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.

Post Cereal Company is now a part of the program, but not all cereals and crackers are included in the promotion. Look for products that say “Labels for Education,” and be sure to include the bar code. BoxTops for Education is a different program that gives the school cash. Clip the logo that has an Expiration Date. To date, 351,428 points have been collected in the Labels for Education account. For the 2011-2012 school year, they received \$4,962.70 from the BoxTops program. These monies help with campus vehicle expenses such as tag fees, insurance, maintenance, and repair. Thank you for your help.

PRAYER LIST

Don & Alice Congdon
 Ethan Curtis
 Heidy 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

*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed.
 The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much..*

James 5:16

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

SABBATH SCHOOL



Our Adult Sabbath School lessons during February and March continue in the series “Origins,” focusing on the doctrine of Creation. All are encouraged to study daily and join in for our class discussion on Sabbath morning.

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



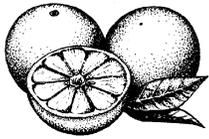
Mission DVDs are shown the last Sabbath of each month. This quarter they are from the South Pacific Division.

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: 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.

PATHFINDER BAKE SALES

Bake Sales at the Fruit Sales support our Pathfinder Club. Your baked goods and donations are appreciated.



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 – March 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



*. . . by and by the gates of heaven will be thrown open to admit God's children,
and from the lips of the King of glory the benediction will fall on their ears
like richest music, "Come, ye blessed of my Father,
inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."
. . . In view of the glorious inheritance that may be his,
"what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"
He may be poor, yet he possesses in himself a wealth and dignity
that the world could never bestow.
The soul redeemed and cleansed from sin,
with all its noble powers dedicated to the service of God, is of surpassing worth;
and there is joy in heaven in the presence of God and the holy angles
over one soul redeemed,
a joy that is expressed in songs of holy triumph.
Steps to Christ, Pages 125-126*





*Come now, and let us reason together,
saith the LORD:*



*though your sins be as scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they be red like crimson,
they shall be as wool.*



Elmira Seventh-day Adventist Church
813 Maple Avenue
Elmira, NY 14904



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED