

PARKWOOD ECHOES

HEALTH PRESENTATION

by Lorna Peterson

The November 15th Health presentation was the extended Interview of Forks over Knives. The facts presented were informative and appreciated.

The suggestion to have both of these DVD's available in the Church library will soon be a reality so others can learn or review at their own convenience.

The participants appreciated receiving free cookbooks of their choice.

We do have two cookbooks that are available at a cost:

1. Too Few Cooks in the Kitchen
by Irwin, Chef at Weimar Institute which is totally dairy-free, plant based, and gluten-free for \$18.50

2. Fast Cooking in a Slow Cooker EveryDay of the Year
by JoAnn Rachor which is vegetarian cookbook for \$10.50

For more information contact:
Lorna Peterson (209) 985-4887



“ What shall I return to the Lord for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.”
(Psalm 116:12-13, NIV)

by Pastor Miranda

Little Brian wanted to buy a special Christmas gift for his mother. His genuine, 8-years young heart eagerly searched his piggy bank and found it to be empty. “Mom,” he endearingly calls. “May I have \$20, please?” “For what, dear?” his mother asks in surprise. “To buy your Christmas gift!”

It’s a fitting parallel that portrays our inability and insufficiency to give to God anything that is originally our own. The truth is, anything we give to God has its beginnings in God Himself. What we offer Him is from the overflow of what He has given us. Our ability to give anything to God, like little Brian, is only made possible by what He has given to us.

In my younger years, my siblings and I would often learn and sing trios together. Around the holiday season, one of those songs asks a simple but significant question in its chorus:

What can I give to the King
Give to the One who has everything
What can I give, what gift can I bring?
What can I give to the King?

Whatever our answer, whatever we give to the King, it should always be seen as a response to what God has first given to us: He has given His best, His all, His only begotten Son. So what can we return and render to God for all His goodness to us (Ps. 116:12-13)?



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Share in the joy of giving by supplying food items for our Community Services Christmas Baskets.

With your generosity we will be able to make this possible for individuals and families who otherwise would not have a traditional holiday meal.

Parishable items are needed!

For further information please contact:

Shellie Vasquez (209) 499-1405

Peggy Herman (209) 204-2213

MaryAnn Green (209) 559-3286

..."You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land." Deuteronomy 15:11

ARTICLES

by Lorraine Sandoval

Church Family



Reminder that all are welcome to submit articles, photos, etc for publication in the Echoes.

Please feel free to share

by email at:

myparkwoodchurch@gmail.com or drop your articles off at the Church Office's mailbox.

DEADLINE is the 21st of every month. Submissions received after the 21st will be printed for the following month.

May our Lord continue to bless our Parkwood Church

cont' from pg 1

Give Him our first and best. Jesus defended and endorsed Mary Magdalene's act of worship when others criticized it as excessive and wasteful (Mark 14:6). Why? Because God really is deserving of our firsts, not just our lasts. He's the King who deserves our finest, not our leftovers (Mal. 1:8, 14). Let's be sure that whatever we offer Him — in priority, in profession, in possessions — is from the prime cut (Mt. 6:33; Prov. 3:9-10).

Give Him our little and least. This isn't a contradiction of the previous point, but it is meant to balance the reality that when we give God our first and best it doesn't always equate to what's flashy or grandiose. When we feel like our first and best won't make a drop in the bucket, that's not our cue to keep it from God. Just ask the widow who gave her two measly mites to the temple treasury (Lk. 21:4) and the lad who shared his little lunch to feed the multitudes (John 6:9). We should never settle for mediocrity when giving to God. But when we, or others around us, are tempted to question the value of our honest efforts or gifts, let's remember that a little becomes much in the Master's hands.

Give Him our all and whole. From the biggest to the smallest, and everything in between, God is deserving of it all because He has given His all. The apostle Paul knew a thing or two about God's infinitely giving heart of mercy. The self-proclaimed "chief of sinners" (1 Tim. 1:15) declared that, in view of God's mercy, we ought to offer our lives as living sacrifices to God, and he went on to assert that this offering is our "reasonable," rational, non-exaggerated but a fully common sense act of worship (Rom. 12:1). On the top of God's wish-list is our whole hearts, our whole selves, given in whole and entire loyalty to Him (2 Chron. 16:9).

MENS MINISTRY

by William Ray

Parkwood gentlemen, just a reminder that **every second Sunday of the month** we have been getting together for breakfast.

Our first two get togethers have been at 8:00 am but we've found that **9:00 am** seems to work better for everyone.

On **Sunday, December, 13th** we'll meet at *Home Town Buffet* on Prescott, just north of Briggsmore.

At our November meeting Richard Dalton, of the famous Dalton Gang and Ren Anaya retold true adventures they had heard at the recent Men's Retreat held in Soquel.

Our December meeting coming up may or may not have its adventures to tell, but we can develop our own by creating a program to assist our fellow man. Let us pray for our Men's Ministries.

PARKWOOD LIBRARY

by Gwen Barnett

Library hours are between Sabbath School and 15-20 minutes after Church Service is dismissed.



Book Samples

I WAS A CATHOLIC PRIEST

- (He began as a Catholic Priest and studied himself out of it)

THE URGENT VOICE

- (The story of William Miller)

ROMANS FOR THE EVERYDAY MAN

- (A Bible study in Romans)

SOME CALL IT HERESAY

- (A young Pastor takes a second look at his Church)

MORNING WORSHIP

REMINDER "church family" worship in the main sanctuary 9:15am. Choruses and prayer time for ALL divisions.

At 9:30am we will separate to our individual classes.



PARKING LOT RENOVATION

The Building and Grounds Committee has been working faithfully and diligently, along with the help of experts Crolie Lindsay and Dennis Bailey, in a special attempt to renovate our parking lot. Most recently, the committee met with Dennis Bailey on November 23. In view of the fact that the county offices have been slower than expected in granting us a permit to move forward with our plans, Mr. Bailey explained all the possible timelines and scenarios for actually getting started on the project.

Currently, the three factors that now influence the timing of the renovation are: 1) obtaining the permit from the county, 2) maximizing the usability of our facilities during construction, and 3) minimizing expenses. While some would have liked construction to already be underway, none of us would have wanted to be stuck with a muddy mess and an unserviceable campus throughout the winter. The best possible scenario at this point is to begin underground work for drainage and electrical improvements through the existing asphalt in January 2016, which could potentially be followed up in March 2016 with a speedy process of gravel grinding, grading, and paving.

So what can we do now? **First**, your pray for unity and patience as we move forward in replacing the parking lot. **Second**, pray for God's timing in obtaining permits and starting work. **Last**, but not least, pray that we individually will respond to God's promptings about what we can pledge and contribute financially to this project. We give praise to God for all that He has done and brought us through. Coming together, praying together, working together, we can succeed together. With God's help, we can do this.

Parking Lot Renovation

Received/Pledged
\$261,502

Remaining
\$119,498

The Adventists & Blueprint to Air on PBS

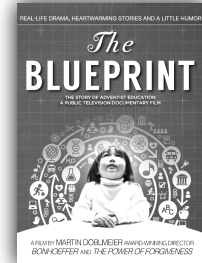
Martin Doblmeier's documentaries *The Adventists* and *The Blueprint*. PBS WORLD now reaches 66% of American television-viewing households, and the rebroadcasting of these shows is an amazing blessing for our church that provides positive exposure of who we are particularly timely in light of the current presidential candidates. Encourage your friends and neighbors to watch. (Times listed below are in Eastern Time.)

The ADVENTISTS will air

- Sat Dec 19 at 8 pm
- Sun Dec 20 at midnight
- Mon Dec 21 at 9 am
- Mon Dec 21 at 3 pm

The BLUEPRINT will air

- Sat Dec 19 at 9 pm
- Sun Dec 20 at 1 am
- Mon Dec 21 at 10 am
- Mon Dec 21 at 4 pm



And, for this holiday season, why not get a set of the three films as a gift for a friend, neighbor, relative or co-worker? **The Adventists Trilogy** is available at your Adventist Book Center. **1-800-765-6955** or adventistbookcenter.com.



Sabbath School Department

by Jean Hill

As we walk through the doors, we see our church that we love and adore attending every Sabbath.

We feel comfortable with God's presence as Glen & Ethel Coon stated in their book *Delightful Discoveries in Prayer*, "The "A" of claiming Bible promises is ask. *Matt. 7:7* & the "B" in claiming Bible promises is believe. *Mark 11:24*. Last but not least, the "C" in claiming Bible promises is to claim, or receive. *Matt. 21:22*.

These Bible text are the **A,B, & C's** of God's promises to His children. When it comes to our Sabbath School Expense fund, it is so important to ask, believe, and receive God's promises.

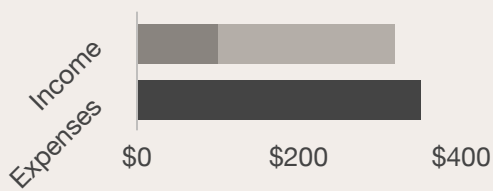
Please remember to give to Sabbath School Expense regularly. We count on each one's contributions to continue providing supplies, such as:

Our Little Friends, Primary Treasures, Junior Guides, Adult Quarterlies & etc.

Thank you in advance for all your prayers and your faithful giving!

Monthly averages for SS Expense Fund:

- **\$350** = monthly deductions
- **\$317** = monthly offerings received (\$217) plus transfer from Local Church Budget (\$100)



What is Church Investment #1

by Ei Lavea

First of all, I'd like to thank everyone who has been filling out the investment cards with their money and turning them in during the last few months. For those who haven't turned them in yet, please continue to fill the cards with money you've been earning, and turn them in as soon as you can – hopefully before the end of this year.

Many of you, especially our new members, have been asking me, "What does the investment money go to?" Investment offerings have been around for many years. We have had investment leaders in the past, who have not been able to get our church involved with investment projects.

Investment is a partnership with God – one that never fails! It might be briefly defined as a plan to invest our human resources of money, materials, time, and talents in a faith venture with God, praying and expecting that He will add divine power and blessings to ensure an increase for the benefit of His world-wide gospel work.

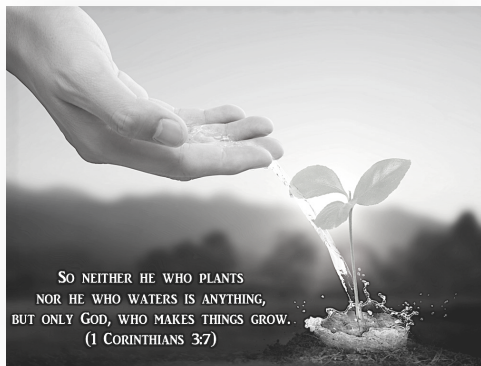
The investors carefully and prayerfully choose a plan. They then invite God's participation as a business partner. Heaven's blessings on human effort brings results that at times are nothing less than miraculous – as many happy and surprised investors can testify.

All "Investment Funds" go for special projects which are selected by each of the world division committees. Ten percent is allocated to projects in the North American Division; 90% is divided among the other divisions, prorated according to their needs.

The divisions are to use these special funds for projects that open up new work (frontier evangelism) or for large city evangelism.

The 75% of Investment not used for special projects is added to the World Mission Fund, which is divided among all the divisions to be used at the direction of the division committees.

Every six converts won through the use of Sabbath School offerings could be credited to the "Investment Fund"





DECEMBER BIRTHDAY'S

- 1st Olga Aragon
- 1st Jared Rheinor
- 2nd Donna Anaya
- 2nd Peggy DeGroot
- 2nd Ammy Rheinor-Peebles
- 6th Andrew Anaya
- 6th Amanda Brasuell
- 6th Gina Vazquez
- 7th Valeriana Salgado
- 8th Brandon Hoover
- 8th Jandell Ko
- 8th Greg Spencer
- 12th Keagan Dalton
- 13th Yesenia Vasquez
- 15th Jhaun Bowen
- 20th Robyn Reeve
- 21st Thomas Ruiz
- 23rd Isabella Anaya
- 23rd Ryan Turner Jr.
- 25th Joaquin Cortez-Serrano
- 26th Sara Gomez-Rutledge
- 28th Judy Lindsay

ANNIVERSARIES

- 1st - 52 years Ron & Jean Hill
- 20th - 45 years Robert & Carol Henshaw



RECIPES

Morning Detox Smoothie

Ingredients

- 1 cup kale
- 1 cup mango
- 2 cups raspberries
- 1 cup coconut water
- 1 cup orange juice
- 3 inches ginger
- 1 lemon juice



Instructions

Put all of the ingredients into a blender and pulse blend for 30 seconds. By working with wonderful fresh create, natural if probable, and a blender, you can conveniently whip up these uncomplicated peasy detox smoothie recipes in your personal kitchen and conserve income. This detox smoothie is nourishing and delightful its good for your digestive system it swiftly and conveniently breaks down the nutrients into a conveniently digestible high detox drink.

Raw Vegan Chocolate Cheesecake

Makes one 8" cake

Crust - choose any crust recipe you prefer or an idea could be a simple almond raisin or almond date crust.

Filling

- 2 cups cashews
- 2/3 cup maple syrup
- 2/3 - 3/4 cup water
- 2/3 cup cacao powder
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup melted coconut oil
- 1/4 cup melted coconut butter



Blend the cashews, maple, water, vanilla and salt until smooth and creamy in a high speed blender. Add the coconut oil and butter. Blend to incorporate. Add the cacao powder last and blend again. The mixture is thick. Pour over the crust and set in the fridge for at least 12 hours or in the freezer for 6 hours and then transfer to the fridge for a few hours.

December 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SABBATH
		1 6pm Pathfinders 6pm Adventurer Club	2 9am –noon Community Service 7pm "House of Prayer"	3 10am Ladies Bible & Prayer group-Virginia's Home 7pm Ladies Bible Prayer group-Barnett's Home 6:30pm CVCA Elem. Christmas Program	4	5 Speaker: Pastor Miranda SS. Nina Herman Offering-Church Budget Fellowship Luncheon Grp#1 Watson & Verde 1:30pm Christmas Choir Practice SUNSET: 4:45
6	7 6pm Quilting Class Bible Study @ Barker's Home	8 6pm Pathfinders	9 9am –noon Community Service 7pm "House of Prayer"	10 10am Ladies Bible & Prayer group-Virginia's Home 6:30pm Parkwood Preschool Christmas Program 7pm Ladies Bible Prayer group-Barnett's Home	11 7:30 pm CVCA High School Christmas Program	12 Speaker: CVCA Youth Team SS. Ei Lavea Offering-Adventist Community Service Fellowship Luncheon Grp#2 Lavea & Todd (Birthday's & Anniversaries) SUNSET: 4:46
13 Men's Ministry – Breakfast at 9:00am (Home Town Buffett)	14 6pm Quilting Class 6pm Preschool Board Mtg. 7pm Church Board Mtg. Bible Study @ Barker's Home	15 6pm Pathfinders & Adventurer Christmas Party in Bellman Hall	16 9am –noon Community Service 6:30pm CVCA Kindergarten Christmas Program 7pm "House of Prayer"	17 10am Ladies Bible & Prayer group-Virginia's Home 7pm Ladies Bible Prayer group-Barnett's Home	18 Christmas Choir Practice — Time TBD SUNSET: 4:45	19 Annual Christmas Breakfast and Program SS. Elma (Toadie) Barker Offering-Church Budget Fellowship Luncheon Grp#3 Hill & Barnett 4pm Caroling & GLOW SUNSET: 4:47
20	21 6pm Quilting – Pls. Call Peggy first (209)204-2213 Bible Study @ Barker's Home	22 6pm NO Pathfinders	23 9am –noon No Community Service 7pm "House of Prayer"	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26 13th Sabbath Speaker: Pastor Miranda SS. Youth Ministry Offering-Conference Faith Adv. Fellowship Luncheon Grp#4 Reeve & Gomez SUNSET: 4:51
27 Mission 4 Christ Outreach	28 6pm Quilting Class Bible Study @ Barker's Home	29 6pm Pathfinders	30 7pm "House of Prayer"	31 New Year's Eve 7pm New Year's Party in Bellman Hall	1 New Year's Day 6pm - Agape Feast & Communion in Bellaman Hall	

December 2015

DEACONESSES-DECEMBER – KAY TODD, ANA LUPERCIO, ANITA WATSON, JENNIFER WHITE
HEAD DEACON - CHUCK FLORES (DEC 5th & 19th) MEYNARD, THEARTIS, ANDREW, KEN & JOSUE
HEAD DEACON – DOUG TODD (DEC 12th & 26th) RICHARD, FRANK, DON, SARGE & LARRY