

# YUCAIPA CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## YUCAIPA SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Editor: Linda Hill

January, February, March 2016

Volume 13 Issue 1

### TENTATIVE ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Community Services – Tuesdays – 9am – 1 pm  
Women's Bible Study - Tuesday evenings – 6:30 pm  
Wednesday Mornings' Study Group– 10:30 am  
Prayer Meeting – Wednesday evenings – 6 pm

#### JANUARY

1 Agape Feast  
2 Elder Care Music  
5 Community Services Opens 9 am – 1 pm  
6 Adventurer/Pathfinder Meetings – 6:30 pm  
9 Children's Church in the Main Sanctuary  
16 Senior Potluck  
16 Round table Inter-Generational Meeting 1:30 pm  
19 Community Services – 9 am – 1 pm  
**19 Finance Committee – 7 pm**  
20 Adventurer/Pathfinder Meetings – 6:30 pm  
21 School Board  
24 Pathfinder Teen Swim Test  
26 Community Services – 9 am – 1 pm  
**26 Church Board Meeting – 7 pm**  
30 Pathfinder/Adventurer Sabbath

#### FEBRUARY

3 Adventurer/Pathfinder Clubs Meeting  
6 Children's Church in Youth Center  
6 Pathfinder Picnic in Park  
6 Elder Care Music  
6 Pathfinder Valentines' Dinner Fundraiser  
16 Finance Committee Meeting – 5:30 pm  
16 Church Board Meeting – 7 pm  
17 Adventurer Club Yucaipa Rock Society 6:30 pm  
17 Pathfinder Club – 6:25 pm  
18 School Board  
20 Senior Potluck  
20 Pathfinder Meeting – 1:30 pm  
20 – 27 Schafenberg Meetings

#### MARCH

2 Adventurer/Pathfinder Meetings – 6:30 pm  
5 MGA Choir for Church  
5 Children's Church in Youth Center  
5 Elder Care Music  
15 Finance Committee Meeting – 7 pm  
16 Adventurer Club Tour Sorenson – 3:15pm  
16 Adventurer/Pathfinder Meetings – 6:30 pm  
17 School Board  
19 Senior Potluck  
22 Church Board Meeting – 7 pm

### PASTOR'S LETTER

The latest tragedy in San Bernardino, so close to home, once again shows us how evil is evil. Like many, we are discouraged and confused, our minds are filled with grief and frustration, yet as people of God, once again, we recognize our purpose of existence. This church has been a beacon of Light in this community for many years, God's hands to carry the healing and restoration in the world around us. Through this church's ministry God gives an opportunity for every one of us to be a part of His redeeming plan, bringing peace to our land and salvation to this broken World.

I know that around this time of the year, we all receive many requests for financial support from all kinds of organizations. As you respond to the ones that are most appealing to your heart and interest, please consider the needs and ministry of your local church. We have several projects in the development, to enhance our services to our own members as well as to the community. While the Church Improvement Committee, led by our Head-Elder Christine Neish, is working on the details, this year's Christmas Offering is expected to be a kick off toward one particular need of improving our Bathrooms. An architect is already working on the best solution to convert our existing space into a sufficient and ADA compliant facility, bringing it up to Code without major structural changes. While, the projected cost can be within several thousands of Dollars, our goal this Christmas is to reach at least \$6000 to start with the phase one. With God's help and blessing, we hope not only to achieve that goal, but to exceed our expectations according to the measures of our personal experience of God.

This special offering will be collected during the next 3 weeks, with the choice to place our donations on the Christmas tree at the church in person, put it in the offering plate during the collection time of any of the Services or mail it to the church office any time before midnight, December 31.

Please stay connected with your church family, as we rededicate ourselves to God's service, sharing our needs and support with each other, using our talents, time and God given resources to spread the Good News of Christ's soon return to rescue His people, and establish His will on earth as it is in Heaven. We wish you a Peaceful Christmas time with your family, and a Happier New Year!

## TREASURER'S CORNER

The year is winding down and I want to say thank you to all who have worked so hard in the treasurer's office. They count money every Sabbath and then come in during the week to verify all donations before they are reported to the conference office (who makes your end of year tax receipts). My Associate Treasurer is Robert Usery and the Assistant Treasurers are Lucille Ziegenfuss, Gloria Pohren, Ron Neish, Attarah Jaffery, and Sheila Klein. Without these people the work could not be completed.

But none of their hard work would be necessary without your faithful donations to your church to not only keep it running but to also help spread our good news to the local residents through our ministries. Thank you.

If the giving in December matches our previous years we will meet our yearly goal both in Church Budget and our Tuition Aid. We also have our special Christmas Offering which Pastor Elijah has told you about. Please remember that all donations must be in my office or postmarked by Dec. 31 to be counted in 2015. You are also welcome to use our online donation. Go to our website and click on the icon for online giving. You will need to register and then can use this handy tool.

Once again thank you and may God bless you as you give back to our Lord a portion of what he has given us.

## Family Ministries

### PAST EVENTS:

#### Adventurers

A growing and flourishing group of 25 children ranging from 11 months old to 9 years old has joined our Adventurer Club. We have also gained some more volunteers allowing for us, in the first time in over 5 years, to have two teachers for the Adventurer part of the Adventurer club. Thank you and welcome Bart & Sara Van Kooten! And a big thank you to all our Directors and leaders:

- Sharon Anderson leading Little Lambs
- Bart & Sara Van Kooten leading Eager Beavers

- Nancy Barro leading the Busy Bees and Sunbeams
- Director Robert & Co-Director Dorcas Usery leading the Builders and Helping Hands

Already this year the Adventurer club has taught families the importance of fire safety through a fun and eventful trip to the Yucaipa Firehouse. This year the Adventurer club took a tour of the Yucaipa Firehouse and even got the chance to experience what it is like inside two different fire engines. To kick off the Christmas season on December 2, the Adventurers had a Christmas celebration of their own as they relived the Nativity story through the program, "Happy Birthday Jesus." Every child had a part to play as children used their skills of imagination, role play and pretend to better experience and learn from the story of our Saviors birth in a deeper way.



If you have a child between the ages of 0-9 years and are interested in them learning more about the world around them, God's love for them, and connecting with other families with the same ambitions, please SIGN UP TODAY by emailing Director Robert Usery at [robertusery@yahoo.com](mailto:robertusery@yahoo.com) or call the church office. Our next meeting will be January 6 at 6:30pm in the Family Ministries room.

## Hallelujah Harvest Festival

On October 24 we filled the fellowship hall and parking lot with family bonding games and activities that were for fun and evangelism. Some of our readers may not know this, but when people come to these events from the community they are coming onto our property, to an event we are hosting, why? Why do we get almost 200 people who are a mix of church members, families, friends of Yucaipa Adventist Church and those whom have never stepped foot on the property of an Adventist church? Because they know that they can enjoy a free, fun, Christ-centered and safe event that is geared for their children.

There are many different ways to do evangelism. Through events like Family Fun Nights, VBS, and the Hallelujah Harvest Festival we appeal to relational needs by offering games and activities that create opportunities for bonding and interactive learning. But the thing about appealing to relational needs is you have to have people from the church there to relate with who are adamant about getting to know visitors. I introduced myself to one family and the mother said to me, "You are the only one who has shown us any love."

Even though the Hallelujah Harvest Festival may seem like nothing but entertainment and fun I hope that you would come and see that it is that and more. At each booth games and cards are offered that have information about particular ministries of the church that are geared for families. The program begins and ends with prayer. There is a devotional, this year it was done by Pastor Jamison Wallington illustrating how God cleans us out, carves His image in us and gives us His light to shine to the world. Many families commented on how they enjoyed the family friendly activities that were void of candy but instead offered a toy or creation that could be easily shared in time spent together. Others expressed much interest in particular events and even in returning to check out a regular church service. We had two families join our Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs from this event. And if nothing else those whom have

never met an Adventist person let alone come to an Adventist church now have "broken the ice" with us making it that much more inviting for them to consider worshipping with us, seeking Bible Studies from our church, or even just learning more about God.

As someone who saw the background of what was going on let me just give you a little taste of proof God has been working to make this event a success. I advertise the event on Air1 and KSGN's websites, which is free and they get to decide if they want to mention it on the air and when. KSGN and Air1, which said they would not, mentioned the event at prime times when businesses and families are listening to the radio. I was not able to get a flyer in the newspaper this year but God still showed His support. About two families explained to Pastor Jamison and myself that they saw our flyer in the Yucaipa NewsMirror. We later found out a church near ours advertised a Harvest Festival event for the same day but just a different time. So "by mistake" a few families came to our event instead of another church's event. There were many more stories like this where it just seemed evident that God wanted certain families to be at this event at this time.

It was a successful event that could not have been made possible without all our volunteers to whom I want to give a big



We appreciate you and recognize just how much effort and time this event took. We have further plans for follow-up that we need help with. If you are interested please let me know. Again, thank you for keeping this and events like it in your prayers as we see the Lord working on the hearts of those seeking Him.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Dec. 19:** Family Christmas Church Service at 11:00 am in Main Sanctuary

**Dec. 19:** Christmas Sing-Along at 4:30pm in Fellowship Hall

**Jan. 2 – Feb. 6:** 6 Week Marriage in Focus “Building Blocks” small group sessions on Sabbath mornings at 9:30am in Music Room



A comfortable and casual time to spend together watching material based on Dr. Emerson Eggerichs conference: “Love and Respect.” Please join us for 6 weeks of this light-hearted and humorous yet powerfully profound take on marriage. This is a must for those who need it and those who don’t.

**Jan. 9:** Children’s Sponsored Church Service at 11:00am in Main Sanctuary on “Isaac & Rebekah” & Sabbath School Graduation

**Jan. 23:** Vespers at the Larsons

**Jan. 30:** Adventurer & Pathfinder Sabbath at 11:00am in Main Sanctuary

**Feb. 6:** Children’s Church at 11:30am in the Youth Center on “Follow the Road Map: The Bible is God’s Word”

**Mar. 5:** Children’s Church at 11:30am in the Youth Center on “Three Way Intersection: Trinity”

[yucaipasda.adventistfaith.org](http://yucaipasda.adventistfaith.org)

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Regular office hours are from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00p.m., Tuesday through Thursday. Pastoral appointments are available as needed.

### Pastoral Staff

Senior Pastor

Pastor Elijah Grekov

Email: [elijahgrekov@gmail.com](mailto:elijahgrekov@gmail.com)

Associate Pastors

Christine Wallington

Email: [wallington.christine@outlook.com](mailto:wallington.christine@outlook.com)

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Secretary/Business Manager/Treasurer

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