

Vallejo Central Newsletter



April 2020

The Chosen One

Three months before our son, Nathan, was born, we became foster parents of a beautiful 16 year-old named Jessica. Yes, my first foray into parenting was with a teenage daughter. Jessica had been in the foster care system for all but the first two years of her life. As anyone might imagine, she struggled intensely with belonging. She was a wonderful sister to Nathan, but it was impossible for her not to question her place in our family, especially in comparison to Nathan's perceived biological advantage. At 18, we officially adopted Jessica, but that still didn't silence all her fears of abandonment or of not feeling fully accepted. She was searching for what made her truly belong to this family.

It took me a while to really find the right words to reassure her, but I eventually settled on what was the truth. I told her, "You are my first child. You will always be my first. You'll be the first I teach to drive; the first I have the talk with; the first I see graduate; the first I had meaningful conversations with and laughed with; the first where I could sit down and watch 'our show' together." I continued, "The thing is that... we chose you. Whereas with Nathan, we chose to have a child, but we didn't know who he was going to be. With you, we knew beforehand everything we were getting—personality, temperament, fears, history, etc.—and we chose you. Our family is not complete without you."

We are all God's chosen ones. You might think you are an afterthought, but God says you are a forethought: "I knew you before you were born" (Jeremiah 1:5). Even if no one else gets your name right, God knows it. And He "...chose us in him before the creation of the world . . . to be adopted as his sons [and daughters] in Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:4-5, NIV). God chooses you!

~Pastor Jonathan Henderson

Church Board Actions

- Motion 2020-013 2nd and Passed: Accepted the February 2020 Church Board Minutes..
- Motion 2020-014 2nd and PASSED: Acceptance of the Financial Report.
- Motion 2020-015 2nd and PASSED: Approved to continue to pay employees who do Maintenance, Grounds, and Janitorial Services during the State and County required “Shelter in Place.”
- Motion 2020-016 2nd and Passed: Neighborhood Cleanup date has been changed to April 19th
- Motion 2020-017 2nd and Passed: Interim Co-Head Deaconesses will be Greta Henderson and Kay Tibbits until the Nomination Committee can meet to get new officers.
- Motion 2020-018 2nd and Passed: Buy new AED pads for the 2 AED machines (4 sets-2 Adult and 2 Child) plus one training set for each of the 2 machines.
- Motion 2020-019 2nd and passed: Purchase a low table to seat 8-10 children for the Kindergarten Class.

***Our Church Board continues to conduct business via conference calls. Contact the Pastor or Elder Larry Leach if you want to see an item placed on the agenda.



Chinaza Elizabeth Siatta Nwekeala was dedicated to the Lord on March 14th during the church service. Her parents are pictured above. Her mother is Tiana Theresa Sisay and her father is Prince Chinwendu Nwekeala. Remember the family in your prayers as they seek to bring Chinaza up to love and serve the Lord.



Community Services has stayed open during this time of Shelter in Place to help those in need of food. Here, Luis Gomez is seen wearing personal protective equipment as he serves the clients. Thank you to those committed volunteers who place themselves in harms way to serve others.



April 2020 Prayer List

A Couple Words of Encouragement from Pam Ditto

“Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7 NIV

“Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the Lord your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:7 NIV

With Coronavirus in the news all day, the talk, pleading, precautions, fears and hand-wringing and warnings of handwashing, there is not much more for me to say about it except to encourage you find the texts of scripture that bring you comfort and promise of God’s protection. I have shared above, one each from the Old and New Testament, that give me courage. I remind you that this is an opportunity to share God and His goodness with those you come in contact. NCC has asked us to unite in prayer each night at 7:00 p.m. until this pandemic passes Here is our April prayer list.

- Camilo Barberena
- Tu & Trinh Bui, Tim and Treveo
- Bryan & Joelly Da Silva
- Pearlette Dobbins
- Guillermo & Buenaflor Galsim, and Jasmine Tenoria
- Martha Hardy Lee
- Nimfa Jimenez Umali, Finianne Umali and Jill Domingo
- Claudia Lindsey
- Antonio & Victoria Lopez
- Charles & Carla McKinney, Justin Lee, Marcus, Jayla Cruz and Joshua Davis
- Leticia Pacas, Jose, Mario and Pablo Garcia
- Rudolfo & Goldie Raras, Christopher, Marlee and Marcus
- Horace and Gwen Sugick
- Demetrio & Eunice Villar

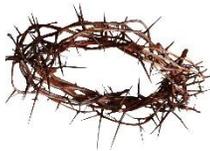
Converge Sabbath School

The Converge Sabbath School Class for young adults recently underwent a remodeling project. The color scheme compliments the Pastor's new office just down the hall. Currently there are 15 members in the class. The church continues to make improvements in the various rooms throughout the building. Upstairs bathroom renovation is the next project. If you would like to donate to the beautification of God's house, mark your tithe envelope upstairs bathroom renovation. For online giving go to the website vcsdachurch.com. Click menu in top right hand corner. Scroll down to Online Giving.



Vallejo Central Poll Workers

In the early morning hours of March 3rd, faithful church members arrived at their Adopt a Poll place on Amador Street and worked until 10pm closing the polls and putting away equipment. Many of those working are donating the funds they earned for the Arch Repair. The jobs included: Inspector, Greeter, Equipment Clerk, E-Roster Clerk, Ballot Clerk, and Provisional Clerk. Training was provided by Solano County Registrar's Office. Volunteers will be needed for November's election. Speak to Lenson Wong if you are interested in helping. Not Shown: Dale Hamlin & Larry Leach.



The Saviour's Condensation

~Ellen White

Jesus humbled Himself to man's nature. He did this that the Scripture might be fulfilled; and the plan was entered into by the Son of God, knowing all the steps in His humiliation, that He must descend to make an expiation for the sins of a condemned, groaning world. What humility was this! It amazed angels. The tongue can never describe it; the imagination cannot take it in. The eternal Word consented to be made flesh! God became man! It was a wonderful humility.

But He stepped still lower; the Man must humble Himself as a man to bear insult, reproach, shameful accusations, and abuse. There seemed to be no safe place for Him in His own territory. He had to flee from place to place for His life. He was betrayed by one of His disciples; He was denied by one of His most zealous followers. He was mocked. He was crowned with a crown of thorns. He was scourged. He was forced to bear the burden of the cross.

He was not insensible to this contempt and ignominy. He submitted, but, oh! He felt the bitterness as no other being could feel it. He was pure, holy, and undefiled, yet arraigned as a criminal! The adorable Redeemer stepped down from the highest exaltation. Step by step He humbled Himself to die—but what a death! It was the most shameful, the most cruel—the death upon the cross as a malefactor. He did not die as a hero in the eyes of the world, loaded with honors, as men in battle. He died as a condemned criminal, suspended between the heavens and the earth—died a lingering death of shame, exposed to the tauntings and revilings of a debased, crime-loaded, profligate multitude! ...

All this humiliation of the Majesty of heaven was for guilty, condemned man. He went lower and lower in His humiliation, until there were no lower depths that He could reach, in order to lift man up from his moral defilement. All this was for you.

We want to encourage you to stay in touch with each other, family, and friends during this time through social media. Sit in your yards and get sunshine and fresh air. For those of you who cannot exercise due to a physical limataion, join in and watch "Sit and be Fit". Check your local listng for time and channel. Gentle exercise from the comfort of your chair!

Library Corner April 2020

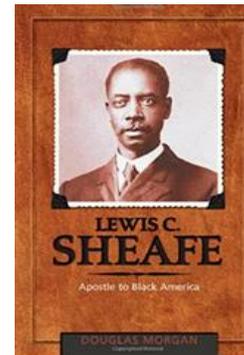
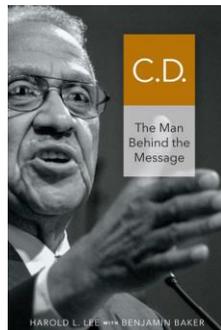
Pam Ditto, Librarian

Black History Month was two months ago, but we acquired two new books in the library that are about Black History in the Adventist Church. Both books are a must read!

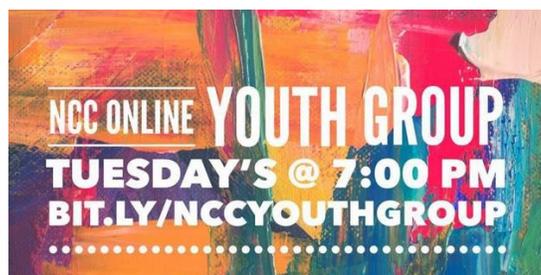
The first one is **“C. D. The Man Behind the Message”**. It is the story of C. D. Brooks, a famous preacher in the SDA church and the founding speaker of the Breath of Life program. No doubt you have seen one of the programs on 3ABN or Hope Chanel and before these, on BET. Read this fascinating biography of a man used by God to win more than 15,000 souls to Christ.

The second book is **“Lewis C. Sheafe, Apostle to Black America”**. This is a person you have probably never heard of before in Adventist history. His name may be new to you as you don't usually see it in the list of pioneer names such as White, Daniells, Wagoner and Jones. Sheafe was already a well know preacher, but came across Adventism, because of his poor health, at Battle Creek Sanitarium. This biography of one of our church leaders will take you into the struggles of race relationships and the story behind our church being different in that there are no separate Black and White Adventist denominations as you see in some other denomination. Sheafe was another powerful preacher. The story does not end as you would suspect.

Frank Gonzalez	2
Justin Keating	2
Jerald Magbanua	4
Nora Politano	5
Nicole Dicen	6
Jasmine Tenorio	8
Carlos Deras	11
Jonathan Tolosa	11
Andrew Killam	13
Justin McKinney	13
Brian Webb	14
Remedios Dalida	15
Christine Jacob	16
Melissa Arce	18
Martha Hardy-Lee	18
Gregory Daniell	21
Stephen Reyes	21
Arleen Wong	22
Alexi Cabanez	28
Sue Miller	30
Catalino Patricio	30



If we missed your birthday, please update the Church Clerk, Pam Ditto or Assistant Clerk, Fredericka Black with your information.



New Online Group Brings Youth Together

The newly formed NCC Online Youth Group met for the first time on Tuesday evening, hosted by Youth Director Eddie Henrich and conducted by several youth pastors. About 75 teenagers and pastors from around the conference played a Family Feud-style game, joined in an icebreaker discussion, and participated in a Bible study presented by Andrew Uyeyama, Grass Valley church youth pastor.

“We want to provide a resource to support our youth during this difficult time,” said Henrich. “It is also a fun way for them to interact and be social.”

The group will continue to meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. Please help spread the word to the teens in your church.