



CHURCH MEMBERS MINISTER TO THE ELDERLY- by Janet Van Why

Ponder for a moment and ask yourself....what would it be like to spend all day in a place that wasn't a place like the one you grew up in, built your life around, raised your family in or grew old in? Instead of comfortable surroundings, you find yourself in a place that is big and noisy and filled with equipment and staff dressed in scrubs scurrying about. A place where there are big rooms with shiny sterile floors and the bedrooms are small and might only contain a twin bed or two, a dresser with a few personal belongings and little else. You might have a roommate; maybe you recently just met. A place filled with unfamiliar sounds where the days can be long. Activities might consist of looking out the window hour upon hour, hoping to see something interesting. Or might be endless days filled with TV. Sometimes there may be a few brief moments of bingo or arts and crafts or an occasional family visitor..... but.. mostly just sitting or lying in bed for long periods of time. Waiting. A place where the meals you eat, you did not shop for or prepare yourself and might not like. Maybe your hands or mind are not functioning well enough to even feed yourself. You hope the staff member close by sees that drip of soup on your chin that you can't reach yourself. A place where your medications are given according to the notes in your chart and vitals are checked often. There could be times you wonder... who am I and why am I here? Am I forgotten? Each day hoping to experience a warm hand on your shoulder, a kind smile, a kind word or two. Maybe days like this are why the residents at Ravenna Assisted Living are so happy when members of the Central SDA Church come to sing to them and ask them to sing along with them! What hope and uplift it must be!! Johnny Mata, Ravenna outreach leader, strums songs on his guitar that reflect the love, peace and hope that is found in Christ while volunteers and residents sing along. After song service, members can visit with residents and their family members if they wish to. Personal stories and prayer requests are often exchanged. Anyone young or old is welcome to join in this ministry! Check the church bulletin or church website (www.abqcentral.org) for this and other uplifting events as we spread the love and joy of Christ to others!

Central SDA Church Messenger

Spring 2019

CENTRAL SDA CHURCH



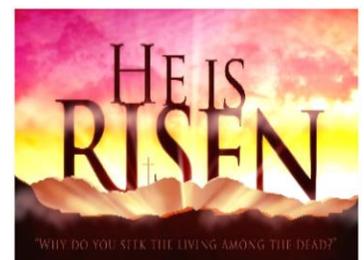
Albuquerque Central SDA
Church

2201 Estancia Dr. NW
Albuquerque, NM 87120
(505) 836-1845

www.abqcentral.org

**Main Worship Service:
Saturdays @ 10:50am**

Please join us!!





A Time to Grow

By - A Simple Seeker (an anonymous church member)

Warmer temperatures and longer days bring new life to the desert each Spring. Sure, this season also brings the wind, but if you take the time to go out into the wilderness and just watch and listen, you will find life emerging all around you. God established a natural rhythm to the seasons, and all of Creation responds to it.

This is no less true for members of God's church. As believers, we are called to examine and re-examine our lives, to continually peel off the layers of this world and of our sinful self, as we pursue a deeper relationship with our Lord. And during Springtime, when the external world is being reborn, it is also a good time for each of us to remember first the blessings God has given to each of us, beginning with the most precious gift of salvation, and then to recommit our lives to hearing God's call and acting on it.

This is no easy path, however, and the journey is one that will take all of our time on earth. And despite our love for the Lord, there are times when we can hit obstacles in that path, obstacles which force us to both seek God more deeply in prayer and look into our hearts to see what shortcomings we may be unaware of, or may still be clinging to in our selfish nature. Jesus spoke of this process – and its difficulty -- when He said that if any are to follow Him, he/she must “deny himself, and take up his cross daily...” (Luke 9:23).

But we are not alone – we have a Savior who loves us, and “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and **to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**” (1 John 1:9). What a blessing! God is always ready to forgive us and free us from the burdens we carry in this life. When our earthly bodies are dirty, the feeling of being clean is both liberating and a relief. When God cleanses our spiritual bodies, the freedom and peace He provides is without measure and without worldly equal.

And God has put people on this earth to help us along the way, as well. The church family at Central is a warm, loving, and understanding body of believers. By no means are we perfect, but we love the Lord, and we can share that love with each other wherever we are. Take every opportunity to lend a hand, or lend a heart, or lend an ear to a brother or sister in need. None of us was meant to make this journey alone, and we are bound together by the love Christ has for each one of us, and by the love we then can share with each other through Him.

So as Spring comes to the desert and changes the landscape, also let the love of Christ take root and blossom anew in your lives. Remember the encouragement of our Lord: “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35). Amen.



Darrell Dady played a beautiful tribute, "Beyond the Sunset", in remembrance of his dear friend, Jon Schriver, who passed away earlier this year. Jon was Darrell's musical partner for many decades. The two travelled around to play at various venues and created a number of duet CDs.



All things new – by Pastor Bill

My favorite time of the year is spring. Warmer weather, blossoming flowers, and budding trees remind us of new life. It was spring when the Israelites left Egypt and God established that month as their new year. Imagine starting every year with new life—the harshness of winter becomes a memory.

I like that God views spring as the beginning of the year. God is in the business of renewal. When we choose to follow Him, we become a new creation. (2 Corinthians 5:17). He can give us new hearts (Ezekiel 36:26) and new lives (Colossians 2:13). These are all spiritual spring times we can experience and enjoy during our lives.

But there's a greater "Spring Time" ahead. In Revelation 21:5, while John is witnessing the Holy City and the beginning of eternal life, God says, "Behold, I am making all things new." What a wonderful promise! No matter how harsh of a spiritual winter we have experienced (or are experiencing), we can look forward to the day when God brings new life out of all of this suffering. Oh, what a day that will be!



NEED PRAYER? WE HAVE A CHURCH PRAYER LINE FOR ANYONE WHO WOULD LIKE PRAYERS FOR ANYTHING THEY OR FAMILY MEMBERS ARE FACING IN THEIR LIVES.

CALL IN YOUR PRAYER REQUEST TO:

Prayer Line (505) 836-1480

(And... If you would like a call back, leave your name and number as well! ☺)

Elijah Barton was baptized by Pastor Bill Kasper on January 26, 2019!!!



FREE FITNESS CLASSES TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS @ 6PM

Come enjoy a workout in Kenpo, Yoga, Cardio, Stretch or Abs at Central SDA Church!

Weekly class rotations. Contact Richard Wical at: (520) 559-6067 or wicalrd@comcast.net for schedule or more info! Info also found on the church website at abqcentral.org