

moments with God, laughter, time alone to pray or praying with others. Giveaways, walking the boardwalk, creating cool take-home and/or sharing items, singing, the Nature Center, worship, mini music concert, Saturday evening entertainment and MUCH more!

**SABBATH SCHOOL BEGINS** at 9:30 am. There are classes for babies on up to adults. We would love to see you all in Sabbath School.

**BABY SHOWER:** January 24, 6:30 pm for Sharla Lowden at the Community Services Center.

**EVERYONE IS URGED TO ATTEND THE NEXT CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING** (7:30 pm) which will be held January 16 after prayer meeting.

**COMMUNION,** January 26. Please prepare your hearts for this important service. Communion setup and practice will be held on January 25.

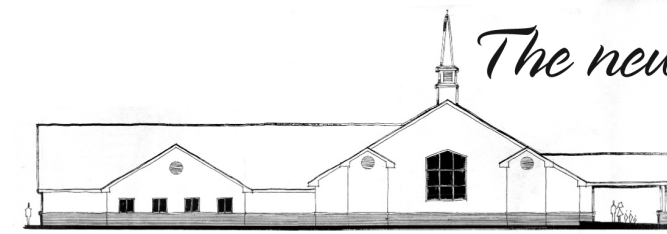
**HEALTH FOOD** is available for sale at the CSC on Tuesdays, 11 am, to 4 pm. Please contact Janet Allen for more information.

**PRAYER CHAIN** for prayer requests is available to all church members. If you have a request that you would like to have the church pray for, please email Pam Little at iris482007@gmail.com or call 517.796.0540.

**A CALENDAR OF EVENTS** is listed at www.jacksonsdachurch.org. Join us on FACEBOOK and be sure to visit www.jacksonsdachurch.org for more information.

**ALERT – ALERT:** New phone number for Pastor Torres is 517-395-6497.

**THE FOURTH SABBATH** of every month is Community Service Center donation Sabbath. Please bring your non-perishable food items and place them in the basket in the church lobby.



The new

**JACKSON SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH**



# NEWSLETTER

3600 County Farm Rd • Jackson, MI 49201  
517.784.2957 • www.jacksonsdachurch.org

JANUARY 2019

## PASTOR'S PAGE

As we come to the beginning of a New Year a mixture of thoughts and emotions fill our minds. Many are making New Year's resolutions of what they would like to improve and change. Others are so disappointed at their failure to follow through on their resolutions that they vow to make none at all. Some feel abundantly blessed as they look back at the previous year, whereas others are simply thankful that they somehow managed through.

The fact that many begin the year by writing out a litany of plans and goals reveals that we like to be in control. But if I have learned anything from countless failed resolutions and unforeseen circumstances of a new year, is that I am never in control. No amount of forethought or strategic planning could have prepared us for the ups and downs, blessings and trials that we experienced. The question then for many is how do we plan for a successful year? Is it even possible to do so? Has the problem been our goal or rather our focus in reaching that goal? We have already established that if our focus is on our preparedness and planning ahead, peace will allude us. Well where is our focus to be then?

The story of the Children of Israel and their Exodus to Canaan reveals to us the key to success as we face a new year with many uncertainties. The Israelites like us had no idea of what trials, temptations, missteps or crises would befall them. As they began their journey from Egypt they likely assumed that after a couple of weeks of travel they would settle down in their homes in Canaan. We know all too well that what should have been a seven to ten day journey became a forty year crucible in the wilderness. Yet regardless of the hardships, failures and unforeseen circumstances, God faithfully led His people through and gave them a successful entry in the promised land. The key phrase here is "God faithfully led His people." You see we do not need to know what lies before to know everything will work out. We do not need to know what crises we will face so we can approach them unshaken. We do not need an explanation why God allowed such and such to happen to have peace. The One that ensures that everything will be OK is God. The One that enables us to stand unshaken regardless of circumstances is God. The One that promises our peace is God.

You see, the Good News of the Gospel is seen all throughout the Old Testament and in God's dealing with Israel of old. The Gospel is that regardless of Satan's attacks upon us if we will trust in Him, He will see us through. One of the most powerful promises to ancient Israel is found in Deuteronomy 6:10 & 12 "So it shall be, when the Lord your God brings you into the land of which He swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give you large and beautiful cities which you did not build,...then beware, lest you forget the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage." God speaks of Israel's successful establishment in Canaan as a given while it was still a future event. For Him there was no question whether it would take place or not. Friends, this promise stands true for us. Regardless of everything that will happen between January 1st and December 31st, God is in control and He will see you through. As we look to a new year, may we look past our planning and resolutions, and rather learn to look in faith to Him who has promised that He will see us through.

Pastor Raymond Torres

*Happy New Year Everyone.*

*"For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord:..."*

— Jeremiah 30:17 —

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Michigan Conference of SDA..... 517-316-1500  
Church Bulletin-Gin Donna ..... 517-787-1131  
Bible Answers..... www.BibleInfo.com  
Prayer Chain-Pam Little ..... 517-796-0540

**COPY DEADLINE** – January 15. Bring your written items for the newsletter to the church, or fax them to 517-423-2074. You can also mail them to Madlyn Hamblin, 109 E. Logan St., Tecumseh, MI 49286 or email to madlynh@hamblincompany.com

**TREASURER'S CORNER**

**END OF THE YEAR:** A reminder that the donation statement process will begin around the 10th of January and all will be mailed no later than January 31st 2019. Donations for 2018 must have been post marked by December 31st. Have you moved? Did you turn in your address change? If you have questions you can call me on my cell 517-392-0701. Pam Little will be handling things locally as I will be available only by phone until April.

**ENTRANCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT UPDATE.:** The project is complete. The balance needed was taken from the Home and School fund that was on hand when we closed the school in 2010. Any donations that come in for the project will be transferred back into that fund.

**BIBLICAL CALL FOR GIVING:** "It's an act of the heart, not the head. Take for an example the widow's giving all that she had, it doesn't make financial sense for her to give away more than she can afford but she does anyway. As Christians we can give without restraint because we know that God will take care of us and reward us abundantly. But we're not driven to give primarily because of an expectation to receive (2 Corinthians 9:5) but because we have already received. (John 3:16) "Christian Today 10 Sept. 2016

**COMBINED BUDGET OFFERING REPORT:**

December Budget \$4,831.75  
 Month to 12/15/16 short -213.25  
 Year to Date Short -\$2,535.24

**NEW CHURCH BUILDING UPDATE:** As of December 15th, \$302,191.52 was available to be used for the New Church Project.

**LET'S NOT FORGET** "When a man makes a vow to the Lord or swears an oath to put himself under an obligation, he must not break his word; he must do whatever he has promised" Numbers 30:2

**ON LINE GIVING:**

Just log on to [www.jacksonsdachurch.org](http://www.jacksonsdachurch.org) and click on the Menu located in the top left hand corner. Scroll down in the menu to the On Line Giving tab. It is easy to use and can be done at your convenience while offering privacy. If you have questions, feel free to call me.

**DONATION ENVELOPES:** Please write your FULL NAME at the top of the envelope and include the check number at the bottom of the offering envelope. No name/address means no end of the year receipt for your donations. If you do not designate where the donation should be used it will go to the offering appeal of the day.

-Bette Wozniak, Treasurer

**BIRTHDAYS:** Happy January birthday to the following individuals:

**January:**

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 Betsy Burns                     | 20 - Gene Churchill               |
| 7 Ginger Garcia, Logan Rohatynski | 22 Charlene Harman                |
| 9 Brooke Gagnon                   | 23 Marla Coleman                  |
| 13 Madlyn Hamblin, Gilbert Poole  | 26 Joe Birchmeier, Timothy Mulkey |
| 17 Arlene Kleinert                | 28 Mary Birchmeier, Mary Hammond  |
| 19 Grace Heistand                 | 29 - Scott Larsen                 |

**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY:** Family fun & fellowship. Held at the Adventist Community Service Center, 8:00 pm – 12:30 am. Bring: Your favorite table game; your favorite "Adventist-appropriate" drink, your favorite snack to share. We will provide popcorn, cocoa and surprises! Help beat Dan Henning and Janet Allen at Mexican Train Dominoes! Come ready to have laughs and a good time! Be prepared: Everyone will need to chip in at 12:30 am to help clean up. Many hands make light work! RSVP to Gin Donna 517.212.5412 or [gindonna@att.net](mailto:gindonna@att.net). Donations for child care services greatly appreciated!

**WEEK OF PRAYER AT THE CHURCH**

January 9 – 19. Come and prepare yourself for a wonderful new year with the Lord.

**FAST:** Beginning in January, two small groups are being formed to discuss FAST. You are welcome to join either group. If you have any questions, please contact Joe Badgley or 517-206-1601. These groups will meet on Monday – 6:30 pm and Wednesday 1:00 pm at the Adventist Community Services Center.

**PRAYER MINISTRY:** "For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord:..." Jeremiah 30:17. Please pray for Dave Jennings, Ben Huitt, Jr., Junior Carvely, Nelson Vance, Mary Birchmeier, David Craig, Cassie Stephenson, Vince Bodde, Carl & Gloria's niece, Donna Mayo, Nancy & Dick Friend, Ray Hamblin, Paula Herr, Vicki Stephenson, Bob Marsh, Viola Jennings, Diane Blossom, Marge Greene, Our Church School, Our New Church, BibleStudyOffer.com & our Shut-Ins/Missing Members.

**WHOA!** Have you seen the cars parked hither and yon in the parking lot? The concern is whether an emergency vehicle, such as an ambulance, can make it to the front entrance. So, beginning with the new year, we will have a new parking system for Sabbath services. Handicap parking and cars dropping people, food, etc., will enter the first entrance to the parking circle – so cars are driving counter-clockwise. Handicap parking will be on the OUTSIDE of the circle ONLY. No parking on the inside of the circle. The pastor will have a designated parking spot close to the church. All others will park appropriately in the main parking lot. Thank you for helping us out with this! Confusing? We will have signs. Questions? Please ask Craig Radala.

**REVELATION OVERVIEW:** January 2, 2019 – 6:30 pm. There will be a video on an overview of Revelation shown during prayer meeting. You won't want to miss this!

**SERMONS** are available for your listening pleasure on the church website: [jacksonsdachurch.org](http://jacksonsdachurch.org).

**THE CHURCH BOARD HAS VOTED IN THE FOLLOWING:** Prison Ministry Leader: Pastor Ray Torres, Prison Ministry Assistants: Andrew Watson & Alex Martinez.

**FOR THOSE WHO ARE HARD OF HEARING:** The Audio Assist Head Phones are now available for use during the sermon. Please contact Craig Radala.

**THE 4TH SABBATH OF EVERY MONTH IS DESIGNATED AS COMPASSION SABBATH.** This outreach to our own members and others is sponsored by Dave Bycraft's Class. Plan to stay after Fellowship

luncheon on this Sabbath and visit shut-ins and others. "Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak: for your work shall be rewarded. 2 Chronicles 15:7.

**THE FIRST SABBATH OF EVERY MONTH** is the time we visit Ganton's Countryside Home. This outreach is sponsored by Ray Hamblin's class. This facility considers us a "church service" for the residents. We simply come and provide a time when we all sing hymns together. The residents love this and many of them who come in the room seem totally out of it, but once we start singing they perk up and most of them sing along with us. We sing familiar hymns and someone usually has a few words to say or a story to tell. We are very happy that the Summit SDA church often joins us in this outreach. We would encourage those of you who want to make a difference in someone's life, to join us also. We also need small gifts to hand out to the residents. We always need donations and appreciate all of you who are generous to the ministry. The dates are January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, etc.

**PLEASE CHECK THE ATTACHED CALENDAR FOR THE DATES AND TIMES OF PERSONAL MINISTRIES COUNCIL, ELDERS MEETING AND CHURCH BOARD MEETING.** It is very important if you are a member of any of these groups that you are in attendance. Thank you in advance for being on time.

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY RETREATS** are coming the first three weekends in April. Several Jackson ladies are going the first weekend in April. If you are interested, you can register ONLINE or by phone beginning Monday, February 4, at 9:00 AM. Go to [www.misda.org](http://www.misda.org) and click Departments, then Ministries, then select Women's Ministries. The link to register will be on the WM home page. There is a basic registration fee of \$110.00. This years' theme is "REFLECTING CHRIST" Jill Morikone who serves as the General Manager of Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) will be the main speaker. Seminars include "instant Pot", "Addictions, Identifying & Recovering," Bible Verse Mapping," "Who am I in Christ," and "Planning Effective Sabbath School Programs." You will enjoy spending quiet, unrushed