

CENTRAL NEWS OCTOBER 2017

STOCKTON CENTRAL SDA CHURCH
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ASSORTED

Blessings in the Beauty of Nature

Saddened by the thought that this might be the last intercessory prayer gathering at “the cabin”, men, women, and children gathered in the lovely hills of Arnold, on the deck of Cookie and Jim Bowden’s beautiful cabin—nestled amidst the towering pine trees— 22 of us sang, prayed, and fellowshiped together on a beautiful Sabbath morning and afternoon. Those of you who were unable to attend the intercessory prayer session last month missed a wonderful blessing!

We started the day with a lovely spread of fresh fruits, bagels, homemade granola, and all that goes with it!

Vera Simms-Guy and Marla Davis lead out in our Sabbath school lesson as we shared what God’s word says, and our thoughts on what it means to “walk in the Spirit.”

Lou Varela blessed us with a mini-sermon on “Division” and how Satan is trying to divide the church and create a hierarchy among “sinners”.

Following the mini-sermon, a delicious lunch, provided by the Prayer Ministry, consisting of haystacks, corn on the cob, homemade salsas and dressings was enjoyed as we fellowshiped together and recapped the morning services. Some took a nice walk out in nature—enjoying some of God’s creations while others just enjoyed being outdoors watching the humming bird feed by the deck.

Palischer Ratliff lead us in a heart-searching discussion and prayer session as we shared our favorite promises of God and what they meant to us, and asked The Lord to show us His divine purpose for each of us, and the role He expects us to play in the church in preparing souls for His kingdom.

The Prayer Ministry would like to thank Jim and Cookie for their graciousness in allowing us to use their cabin the past several years for our intercessory prayer retreats. We trust the future of the cabin to the Lord, for only He knows what the future holds.

Palischer Ratliff, Prayer Ministry Co-Leader

ANSWERED PRAYER

Can We Make Assumptions, Or, Do We Wait on the Lord?

Making assumptions is very easy to do; patience and waiting is more of a challenge. So, when we pray and expect an answer immediately and don’t get it (answer we want), does it mean that God is not answering? Each of us must give thought to this question and **pray** about it. The question is presented because for some time now, this column has been lacking in responses. So, I wonder if we are not in need of prayer, or, have we given up on our prayers being answered. Perhaps we are overlooking the fact that our prayers are being answered/have been answered and we failed to give recognition or acknowledgement. Perhaps we need to open wide our minds’ eyes—with help of The Holy Spirit.

Actively participating in Intecessory Prayer, many of us come to the session heavily laden with burdens that seemingly cannot be lifted. Yet, being surrounded by praying and supporting believers, leave with hope and burdens made lighter knowing that The Holy Spirit has dwelt among us.

Dear friends and fellow christians, look around us, see and hear what is going on around us—the condition of the world—know that the end-time is upon us and nothing but the ritghteous.....



Pray and BELIEVE!

PASTOR’S CORNER

“Quality” Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary defines it as a “degree of excellence,” a “superiority in kind.” This reminds me of 1 Corinthians 10:13—“do all to the glory of God.” Everything we do for God should be done to His glory and therefore must be quality. It must excel! This means we must strive to improve, grow, advance in our service to God. Everything we do as individuals for God and everything we do as a church for God must continually improve step by step. The more we develop our talents so we become excellent in the ministries we’re involved in and the more we use our means to acquire superior equipment, materials, technology, etc., the more glory we bring God. God deserves the best. But all we have to offer is *our* best. So let’s give Him the best we can today and strive to give Him something even better tomorrow.

Continue from Column 1: Grandparent’s Day

On 9/10/17, about 40 people gathered in Baskin Hall to celebrate Grandparent’s Day. A delicious breakfast was provided by Christian Women’s Ministries. Many people reminisced about the positive influence their grandparents had on them and the importance of the truth they were taught by them, stating they wouldn’t still be in the church if it weren’t for that influennce. A few had the privilege of attending with their grandparents, or the grandparents of their children.

A good time was had by all.

Psalm 103:17 “But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children.”

If there is anything you deem important or of relevance to the congregation as a whole, in addition to answered prayer, (name for answered prayer may remain confidential/anonymous), please contact Dr. Bobbie Berry-Sanford, Writer/Editor at bobbiejwb@copper.net or call 209.451.1818. 290.662.3811