

# CENTRAL MARCH 2018

STOCKTON CENTRAL SDA CHURCH

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

To the congregation: There is so much to write about, yet so difficult to write. Decisions to make relative to the appropriateness of its place in a/the Church Newsletter are difficult. Attempts to determine whether or not there is sufficient interest to justify its existence is at the forefront of my mind. As I sit at my desk each month and begin to write, I must give great consideration to my reading audience. I am reminded of a constant refrain to my "future teachers" and "new teachers" when I was still teaching Language Arts (which included Reading and Writing at the university level prior to my retirement. That is, "Everything you write, someone reads; and everything you read, someone has written". Yet, there is so much going on in society—in our city; our neighborhoods, across the country that affects the lives of each of us. If we are not affected by what is happening, we are, in *my opinion*, spiritually weak—or spiritually dead—perhaps just numb.

**You** can become a change agent! You can submit information re activities in which you are in charge at our church or an extension thereof to me and I will write it up and get it published in our Newsletter I imagine our members would be interested in knowing what is happening in our church and the kind of participation taking place. (Just a thought.)

## Something to Think About

Remember the days when schools were thought to be safe havens for children? Then, they began to be occasional targets of angry/unstable people. And now, they are major targets of people. Some of us might say, "Not my neighborhood." Well we must do some re-thinking. Intercessory Prayer Group has, been and continues to pray for our children. We must now include **children** everywhere. Won't you join us in praying in your homes, small groups, or wherever?

## St. Patrick's Day

So much can be said about St. Patrick's Day—some fact, some fiction. There are many myths that can be researched which one will likely find interesting to read. It is said and believed as factual that day is celebrated on March 17<sup>th</sup> around the world. The celebrations vary from religious services to family gatherings to parades and on and on and on. For more information, spend some time researching. You will find the historical patron saint quite interesting. And the story of "green", being the color of the Irish on St. Patrick's Day, well, don your green and go for it!



## ANSWERED PRAYER

God has His time and manner in which He answers prayer. When we pray, we present our petition to Him, we should leave it believing that He has heard us; according to His will and time frame, He will answer.

My husband and I had traveled to Los Angeles on Tuesday for an early Wednesday morning medical appointment at a medical institute and as always he plans our trips on a precise schedule. I pray for God's traveling mercies—safe arrival at our destination and a safe return home on Wednesday evening. Of course, my husband had predicted a home time arrival. He's wonderful and dutifully about packing the car so that we can leave the institute and head for the freeway. As usual, that is what we did—after I put on my traveling clothes in the doctor's office. He was content that we were leaving *on time*. I said my usual prayer for traveling mercies and a safe arrival at home and we were off for I-5! I was quiet because I like to look—take in the scene, look in stores of interest, etc. but not my husband. We Have /had miles to travel. He of course was keeping track of miles per gallon as well as miles per hour. We had traveled quite a distance when he realized we had not gone over the Grape Vine. We concluded that we just had not been paying attention. So he exchanged light chatter. Then I realized I had not seen any of eh Factory Stores I usually saw and soooooo wanted to stop and browse in. But we continued. After a while, he commented that there were very few trucks on the road. A bit later he commented that it looked as if we were in the desert. I sat up and took notice and agreed with him. I began looking for road signs for him and we saw miles of wind mills. We knew something was awry. Soon we saw signs that alerted us that we were in the Mo java Desert. We both had a hardy laugh.

He had earlier turned off the GPS and said, "Well, I guess I can turn this off, I know how to get home from here. We have no clue when we got off I-5, missed getting onto 99 and getting into the desert, but it all happened. So I said, "So you do make mistakes, eh?" He said, "Yes" and with both laughed heartily." It was great! We took it in stride; found our way out of the desert and back to 99 after he turned the GPS back on and had a great and ride home despite the rain storms alternating with sunshine and more storms with blinding rain.

It was a lesson for both of us. And kept us safe through the storm(s) and the sunshine. It was great to be home and I give God the glory.



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 at [bobbiejwb@copper.net](mailto:bobbiejwb@copper.net) or at 209.451.1818. 209.662.3811

