

# GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2018

## Pastor Justin Spady

"Hi, everyone! My name is Justin Dane Spady and I am the pastor of the Portage district. My wife Jennifer and I have enjoyed ministering here since January 2016. I was born in California but grew up in Indiana, and consider myself a small-town midwesterner through and through. I was privileged to grow up in a wonderful family that loved the Lord. My parents set an example of Seventh-day Adventist Christianity to my brother and sister and me. They made sure we had regular family worships every evening, and found creative ways to remind us that God is central to each moment of our life. I credit in large part those experiences for my knowledge of the scriptures and my passionate relationship with God. Jennifer and I continue that dedication to family health and commitment, always putting God first.

Many today do not have the same privilege I had to be a part of a healthy, whole family unit. Our adversary the devil is working harder than ever to tear families apart. Satan knows that there is great blessing and power in the two institutions our heavenly Father set up in the Garden of Eden: the Sabbath and mar-



riage. God, full of grace, has given us means of familial support to stem the tide of evil. Even if our earthly father or mother disappoint us, God is better than any father or mother (Isa. 49:15). Even if the love in our marriage runs cold, God's love never fails (Romans 8:37-39). Even if our siblings betray us, we are siblings as children of God, and joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:14-17). As that old hymn goes, "I'm so glad I'm a part of the family of God!" It is a terrible shame when church is once a week putting on a fake smile and never developing relationships with each other beyond a superficial level. Be real with each other. Take time for each other. Share with each other what God is doing in your life. Spend time together outside

*(Continued on page 2)*

## District Rally

On December 30<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin Rapids SDA Church, sponsored our final District Rally. That doesn't mean we are angry with each other and will never get together as a family of believers again. It only means that due to the reorganization of churches and their respective districts, we will not get together in the same way. We are still family, we are still friends and we will never forget each other. We will still be involved with each other and events of each of the churches. On a positive note, our church families are not being separated, they are being enlarged just as Jabez prayed to have his territories enlarged, our family is growing with the addition of our new brothers and sisters in our newly appointed districts. It's an exciting time. A new year, new districts, new friends but the same God that loves us all.

A new year is always exciting and also a little bit fearful of new changes. The district reorganization holds that same excitement and fear but we all have to remember a couple major things. God is in control. He knows the beginning from the end and has our best interest at heart. He will never leave us or forsake us and I truly believe that God has a major blessing in store for all of us as we accept this new adventure and trust in Him completely.

May God bless us all as we draw closer to Him!

Happy New Year!

*Grace Notes Editor, Rick Felts*

*(Pastor Spady—Continued from page 1)*

Wautoma company into our district with big smiles and big hugs. To those at the Almond church and Wautoma company, I encourage you to continue the friendships you have cultivated from your previous district. Do not look at this as goodbye, but rather that your family is growing. We are not here on this earth to build a church, or a district, but to win many souls to the kingdom of God. This is not our home; we are only passing through. We look forward to a city, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10,13-16). Soon and very soon, Jesus will return, and then there will be no more goodbyes. In the meantime, let us be lights for Jesus, so that others who have not yet been touched by the love of God will not have to say goodbye; that they too, can be part of God's family for all eternity. Wherever God has called us, let us joyfully work for the Master in proclaiming the everlasting gospel, keeping our eyes fixed on Him, the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2). "

Our family has had some changes. We have a new district. To those at the Oxford, Portage, and Reedsburg churches, I urge you to welcome the Almond church and

win many souls to the king-

dom of God. This is not our home; we are only passing through. We look forward to a city, whose builder and maker is God (Hebrews 11:10,13-16). Soon and very soon, Jesus will return, and then there will be no more goodbyes. In the meantime, let us be lights for Jesus, so that others who have not yet been touched by the love of God will not have to say Justin

Pastor Perricellia comes to Wisconsin from the Iowa/Missouri Conference where he has pastored for nearly six years. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Adventist University, with a BA in Theology, and a minor in Practical Religion.



Joseph gave his heart to Jesus for the first time at an Amway Convention. When he told his wife, Elena, about his conversion he discovered that she too had recently given her heart to Jesus while watching a TV evangelist. "What are we going to do about this?" asked Elena. "Well, all I know is that we're supposed to go to church," replied Joseph. Receiving an invitation in the mail to attend evangelistic meetings,

they decided to attend. "I asked a lot of questions," said Joseph. "and was very impressed that the pastor never told me what he thought. He always turned to the Bible for an answer." In April, 1993, Joseph and Elena were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church.

"My passion is to seek and save the lost by introducing them to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," said Joseph. "He has driven me to ever grow and develop into a greater instrument in the Master's hands. Christ has been able to take me from a heathen non-believer to servant-leader. Praise His Holy Name! My focus now is on every aspect of evangelism, personal and public. I love evangelism."

Joseph and Elena have one daughter, Bella. They enjoy spending time together as a family, especially hiking in the woods and enjoying God's creation. Joseph also enjoys fishing and motorcycle riding.

Tom Michalski, new pastor in the Wausau District, which includes Antigo and Stevens Point Churches, comes from the Iowa/Missouri Conference where he has pastored the Moberly/Hannibal District since 2007.

Tom was born and raised in Wisconsin. At age 18 he and a buddy moved to Alaska. While there he met several Seventh-day Adventists. "They all shared the Bible truth with me," said Tom. "But I was a wild rebellious man, and it took me eight years to be baptized."

It began with Tom's wife, Melody, becoming interested in spiritual things. She read her Bible through from Genesis to Revelation and believed every word. Tom told her, "If you really want to learn about the Bible, go study with the Adventists. I don't know if they have everything right, but whenever I've asked them a question, they always gave me a Bible answer."

They started attending an Adventist church, but were moving at that time to live out in the bush of Alaska. The church gave them a Bible, a syllabus, and mailed them Revelation Seminar tapes. They studied themselves into the truth and were baptized on May 10, 1980.

"It's really exciting to move back home to Wisconsin," says Tom. "I feel the Lord has something planned for the Wausau District, and I pray He can use me to accomplish it."

Tom and his wife, Melody, a registered nurse, have been married for 36 years. They have three children, Joshua, Caleb and Kesiah.

In his free time, Tom enjoys being outside gardening, camping and canoeing. "I try and make at least one 10-day trip a year canoeing the north country wilderness," says Tom. He also enjoys woodworking and rebuilding things with his hands.



## ISSACHAR - The plodder

Issachar was Leah's fifth son and Jacob's ninth. (Gen 30:18)

Do you remember the incident when Reuben came into the camp with mandrakes? It was a potato-like plant that they thought was physically stimulating. Rachel and Leah argued over who was to get them. Finally they struck a bargain. Rachel could get the mandrakes, but Leah could get Jacob for the night.

Gen 30:16 When Jacob came in from the fields in the evening, Leah went out to meet him and said, "You are going to sleep with me tonight, because I have paid for you with my son's mandrakes."

To make a long story short, Leah's child resulting from that incident was Issachar, meaning, "a man for hire." He did not come as a child of love and devotion, but rather as the offspring of bargain and barter.

The family of Issachar formed a tribe of five great families. Num. 26:23, 24, and at the numbering at Sinai the clan stood 54,000 strong. During the wilderness wanderings almost another 10,000 were added to their ranks.

In the settlement of Canaan, Issachar received more than a dozen towns in the fertile land west of the Jordan (Josh 19:17-23, thus becoming an inland tribe.

Here the Issacharites seemed to have developed into the prosaic character delineated for them by Jacob as "a strong donkey, crouching between two sheepfolds. Gen 49:14. He was a born settler, not an adventurer. Patient in labor, domesticated, He rejoiced in his tents Deut. 33:18. Moreover, he saw that a resting place was good, and that the land was pleasant; so he bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a slave at forced labor. "(Gen 49:1, 15)

Unfortunately, most of Issachar's land remained under the control of the Canaanites. When the Israelites arrived as a nomadic desert tribe in the highly cultured cities of Canaan, the contrast was dramatic. Of course the high standard of living, the conveniences of the cities, to say nothing of the delectable new foods available in the "promised land," all dazzled them. Consequently God's command to destroy and take over seemed most unreasonable to many people. To preserve and to learn seemed more sensible, especially to Issacharites. The impulse to settle down, to plant, harvest, to build, and to enjoy comfort was almost irresistible. In exchange for such security Issachar sacrificed political freedom, even to the point of paying tribute to his overlords. Mild and unambitious, he gave industrious service - the strong donkey doggedly bearing the burdens. Although the donkey has little grace, beauty or swiftness, he is surefooted and usually willing.

He toiled like a beast of burden in field and vineyard. He saw what needed to be done and got on with the job. His descendants were simple and practical, and were commended for their part against Jabin. (Jude 5:15). The Chronicles remarked that "the children of Issachar...were men who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do" (1 Chron 12:32)

They were among the earliest to rally to David's standard when he was proclaimed King at Hebron. Two hundred of their number counseled David and received the accolade as "men who had understanding of the times 1 Chron 12:23. They would offer practical hardcore wisdom learned at the grassroots level of life. It contrasted sharply, no doubt to the philosophical flights David had come expect from his advisors. What Issachar's advice lacked in sophistication it made up for in sound common sense.

"The sons of Issachar ...were valiant men of might, "no generals, but effective foot soldiers. (1Chron 7:1.2) The judge Tola presided over the nation in peace for 23 years. In contrast, another Issacharite, King Baasha, ruled over the northern kingdom for 24 war-torn years. His murderous tendencies and his penchant for evil in general make him out of character among most of the rest of the Issacharites, who were solid and reliable citizens. (1Kings 15:27, 28; 16:7),

In the time of Hezekiah we find many people coming from Issachar to participate in the restoration of the Passover cele-

*(Continued on page 9)*

# MONTHLY HEALTH NUGGET

## The 2017 Flu Vaccine Might Not Be Very Effective This Year

Some years the CDC guesses correctly regarding which influenza strain will dominate the local human population, and provide accurate vaccine protection. But some years, like this one, they guess incorrectly.

In 2017, it looks as if the predominant flu strain is H3N2. The vaccines they are using in the US this season were tried in Australia during their flu season. Unfortunately they were estimated to be only 10% effective there!

This means that there will probably be more incidence of the flu this winter. We all should take extra precautions to avoid transmission of the virus. Our main weapons will be the old fashioned common sense interventions listed below.

1. Staying home when you are sick. If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
2. Covering your mouth and nose. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
3. Washing your hands. Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
4. Avoiding touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
5. Disinfecting contaminated surfaces. Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill.
6. Keep your immune system strong. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, take large amounts of Vitamin C and eat nutritious food.

### Who is at high risk for flu complications?

Children younger than 2 and adults over 65

Pregnant women

Nursing home residents

Native Americans

Those with medical conditions that put them at higher risk for flu complications (including heart disease, lung disease, asthma, and a long list of others.)

Make this a safe flu season. Take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Submitted by, Freddie Ramirez



Rejoice evermore.  
Pray without ceasing.  
In every thing give thanks: for this is the  
will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.  
1 Thess. 5:16-18 KJV

# *Day of Celebration*

December 30, 2017 @11:00 a.m.

**WRAO Christian Radio**

**MORTGAGE  
BURNING**  
Celebration

**As of 12-30-2017 WRAO Is DEBT FREE!!!**

**611 24th Street North, Wisconsin Rapids**

This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes - Psalms 118:23

Pictures on Page 8

## Almond's January Events

- Jan. 5 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM @ the church
- Jan. 6 Sabbath Services 9:30 Sabbath School, 11:00 Service (Pot Luck after service)  
Revelation Speaks Peace Seminar held Sabbath afternoons about 1:30 PM
- Jan. 7 Bible Study @ Anderson's 5:30-7:30 with pot luck
- Jan. 8 District Elders Meeting @ Oxford Church 6:00-8:00 PM
- Jan. 10 Desire of Ages Study @ home of John and Dorothy Tess 7:00PM
- Jan. 12 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM @ the church
- Jan. 13 Sabbath Services 9:30 Sabbath School, 11:00 Service (Pot Luck after service)  
Revelation Speaks Peace Seminar held Sabbath afternoons about 1:30 PM
- Jan. 14 Prayer Breakfast/2018 Planning Meeting 9:00 AM
- Jan. 14 Bible Study @ Anderson's 5:30-7:30 with pot luck
- Jan. 17 Business Meeting at the church 6:00-7:00 Desire of Ages study to follow
- Jan. 19 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM @ the church
- Jan. 20 Sabbath Services 9:30 Sabbath School, 11:00 Service (Pot Luck after service)  
Revelation Speaks Peace Seminar held Sabbath afternoons about 1:30 PM
- Jan. 21 Bible Study @ Anderson's 5:30-7:30 with pot luck
- Jan. 24 Desire of Ages Study @ home of John and Dorothy Tess 7:00PM
- Jan. 26 Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM @ the church
- Jan. 27 Sabbath Services 9:30 Sabbath School, 11:00 Service (Pot Luck after service)  
Revelation Speaks Peace Seminar held Sabbath afternoons about 1:30 PM
- Jan. 28 Bible Study @ Anderson's 5:30-7:30 with pot luck
- Jan. 31 Desire of Ages Study @ home of John and Dorothy Tess 7:00PM

### Important Dates

**Business Meeting**  
**Jan. 17th @ 6:00 PM**

Revelation Speaks Peace  
Sabbath Afternoon

**Jan 14 Prayer Breakfast—9 AM**

Desire of Ages - Wed @7PM @ John and Dorothy Tess home

## Showers of Blessings

*Emily Thurman*

Well, I started into my day, thinking I knew just what I would accomplish on my list. I started the water on the washing machine, so I could achieve that early this morning. Then I came up to do something else quick while it filled. I do have a clean washing machine-since I never made it back down to fill it with clothes. The plans I had for my day, were derailed, when my husband came in with an armload of kittens he'd found in the pole barn. They looked up at me with eyes of fear, and snuggled close into my arms. So there I sat-frustrated at whomever dropped off all the feral female cats in our yard. The 'blessings' I wanted to pray for them actually sounded more like a curse. As I sat there thinking of all the expense to deal with yet another set of kittens, and still needing to catch 2 of the mothers-I started to whine at God for allowing his money to be wasted in this way. He must just chuckle sometimes-he gently reminded me that He doesn't need my help to decide about His money, or his creatures. He asked me if I had all I need, and whether I was willing to trust him to continue to provide for me AND his creatures. As my husband continued to look, he found the others one at a time. The 4th kitten came into the house hissing, biting, clawing, and trying desperately to find a place of escape! She had bitten my husband's hands, and they were bleeding. We settled her some, and then took her to where the others were snuggled up. She erupted from his hands in a fierce attempt to be free of whomever/whatever had ensnared her precious self. The dagger eyes that returned my glance into her corner, said it all. She held tight to the corner, while I bandaged up his hands. Slowly, she edged over to the comfort of her siblings. As my husband continued to look, he called me out to help with the last one. The hay/barn had taken a different arrangement, as he searched through the crates underneath the hay, for the last little kitten. She evaded us by running from crate to crate, until finally, we narrowed down the last 2. She looked out at me, with big eyes of wonder, and slowly edged my way. Then she turned, and slipped out into my husband's chest, where he was lying on the ground beside the crate. He snuggled her close, and carried her into the house, where she could be reunited with the rest. As I thought about how we only mean to help them to be safe, and fed, and loved, and yet they fight against us, unsure, unfamiliar, and untrusting, I thought about how much God intends to bless us, and yet too, we push, and run, and fight back-in fear of the unknown. Thankfully, even when his hands are torn and bleeding, and his heart is broken in two, he still reaches those hands out to us, to gently calm and hold us, to feed and provide for us. What an awesome God we have! And somehow, God was able to change my heart, so instead of wishing curses of bills upon the ones who dropped them off, I could realize God's love for ALL of his creatures, and ask him to bless them, and provide for them, -and understand that there may be a need in their lives, that led them to the point of dropping off their cats where they could be fed. (Even if, only from the garbage pile). Their brave mother, has worked hard to give them life, and to preserve it. So thankful, that God allows us all that privilege. Isn't it awesome, that he interrupted his life, bloodied his hands, and reached down into the dirty, broken corners, to rescue us?

## Listening Skills

*Emily Thurman*

Went out to feed the horses today, and whistled my special whistle, which brought 2 eager faces neighing around the corner in one pasture. I called my son's mini by name when I went to the other pasture, and he just stood there looking at me, enjoying the sunshine too much to be lured in. Usually he runs to me. I thought about my listening skills. God may call in different ways to my heart, but am I tuned in like Toby and Miracle-no matter how I call, or, do I choose how comfortable I am, and whether or not I want to respond. It's not just about the hearing, but listening, and then responding. Prince missed out on the treat I had brought for him (my pony didn't mind a bit). How often do I miss out on gifts from God, just because I don't tune in?

# WRAO Mortgage Burning



## Happy Birthday!

### January Birthdays



- Jan 1 Caren Churkey
- Jan 2 Angelina Diaz Barriga  
Melinda Ferguson
- Jan 3 Cindy Bergman
- Jan 6 Michael Tess
- Jan 9 Beth Ruehl
- Jan 11 Spencer Cook  
Rick Felts
- Jan 15 Jeremy Blader
- Jan 16 Jonathon Dettmann
- Jan 19 Sam Lopez, Sr.
- Jan 22 Janet Graham
- Jan 23 Mary Boehm
- Jan 29 Rachel Tess
- Jan 30 Brenda Kemp
- Jan 31 Aubry Shelly

If we missed your birthday and you would like to be recognized, please let us know so that we can update our records.

## Wisconsin Rapids Calendar of Events

- Jan 3 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 8 Church Board meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan 10 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.

## Wisconsin Rapids Calendar of Events

- Jan 17 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 24 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.
- Jan 31 Bible study & prayer, 6:00 p.m.





*(Issachar -Continued from page 3)*

bration (2Chron 30:18.) Their act revealed a simple, direct commitment to God.

The church, as well as the world at large has always had need of Issachars. It is no accident that this ancient tribe was a large one. The Issachars are the ones who bear their responsibilities with quiet dependability. They are the retiring, humble people, always “preferring others.” The backbone of every successful enterprise, they’re the secretaries in offices, keeping the machinery running efficiently while the bosses are away at conventions. Perhaps they work on assembly lines in factories, perform the janitorial tasks, and spend hours weekly doing welfare assistance. They’re the silent wives standing beside, or behind, clever or famous husbands. Or they’re the little educated fathers of bright professional children. Because they are in no way “public people,” others mistake them as being “dumb”. But, Issachars aren’t stupid. Instead they’ve simply recognized their limitations and have chosen to be content working within them. So, they toil faithfully on, usually without praise, recognition, or any other ego-building compensation. Consequently, they’re the endurers and perseverers rather than the climbers.

Great achievers, of course, find it hard to understand those people who willingly assume secondary roles, who do the spadework, who lay the foundations, who take up the slack, and who perform a thousand little ministries to their fellow men that the busy people higher up have no time to consider. The Issacharites have ever been the strength of the church.

The world is full of spectacular remarkable people, bursting with talent and intelligence. You can’t miss them, and it’s impossible to be unimpressed. But to a far greater degree than any of them would care to admit, they owe their success to the services of the Issachars- those who have borne the common burdens of the everyday and who continue to do so with strength and consistency.

God’s work has a vital need for Issachars – and plenty of them. They are absolutely essential members of the cast. Who is to say that the labors of the Issachars, the “strong donkey” are not, in their own way, equal to the work of Judah the administrator or even Levi the priest?

Many of the sealed and saved in Rev. 7:7 will march into the Holy City under the banner emblazoned with the name of Issachar.

His New Testament counterpart was the transformed John the Beloved, the gentle writer on love trust and revelation. His was a life of service.

Submitted by Freddie Ramirez

## **Are You In Need of ?**

This section is intended as an outreach to help those with needs, also helping those with the need to free up space in their homes by donating those un-needed items to someone who may have a use for them. May God Bless you for your generosity. If you have items to donate to someone, please let us know.

715-572-0650 or [gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com)

**Oxford SDA Church**

Sabbath Worship Times

Bible Study @ 11:00

Worship @ 9:15

**LOCATION**

322 E Chauncey St  
Oxford, WI 53952-9064

608-586-5770

**Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church**

2100 E State Road 33  
Portage, WI 53901-1468  
608-742-4695

Pastor: Justin Dane Spady  
Phone: 260-413-3066  
Email:

**Service Times:**

Sabbath School: 9:30 am  
Worship Service: 11:00 am

**Reedsburg SDA Church**

115 S. Oak St.  
Reedsburg WI 53959

Pastor Justin Spady  
Reedsburg SDA Church

Join Us This Saturday  
Service times:  
Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

**The Shepherd's House**

Previously: Wausau SDA Church

Address: 6300 Bittersweet Rd

Wausau WI 54401-9465

Mail: 6300 Bittersweet Rd

Wausau WI 54401-9465

Phone: 715-241-7722

Fax: 715-241-7723

Pastor: Tom (Thomas) J Michalski

Sabbath School begins at 10:00 AM

Church Service begins at 11:20 AM

**Antigo SDA Church**

1515 3rd Ave.

Antigo WI 54409-1481

Bible Study @ 10:15

Worship @ 9:00

Contact

715-623-4168

Pastor Tom Michalski

[tommichalski@gmail.com](mailto:tommichalski@gmail.com)



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**Comfort**

Comforting words of Jesus, the man of Galilee

“Let not your heart be troubled, Kenneth, only believe on me,”

A blind man cried in discomfort, discouragement filled his soul.

Jesus came to the blind man and made him whole.

Nicodemus came by night, tired of his way of sin.

Jesus told him in softest words, “You can be born again.”

Mary and Martha, troubled with loss, called to the Savior in grief.

Jesus called dear Lazarus forth to walk the dusty street.

All through the ages many have come to follow the Lamb of God,

Some walk the streets today, others are beneath the sod.

But all their names are recorded, God keeps a book, you see,

And we will all gather around that shore in God’s great eternity.

As Seventh Day Adventists Christians one day soon!!!

**Prison Nights**

As I lay still in my prison bunk, am I the only one awake?

My heart is eager, Oh Dear Lord, until morning, I can’t wait.

I really need to talk to you about something on my heart.

I have so much to say but Lord where do I start?

Let me first thank you, Lord, for this life you’ve given me,

And though I’m still in prison, my eyes are clear to see.

This isn’t the plan you had for me. You had greater things in store.

But now I’m ready to follow you and choose to sin no more.

Sometimes you teach us lessons, Lord, thought they may be hard,

In order to see your light, we must first flee from the dark.

You spared my life many times, you see the good in me...

And though I am a filthy rag, your blood has washed me clean.

Father Jesus, I come humbly before you, I’m down on hands and knees.....

Praying that you touch a life just as you have touched me,

For those that may not know you, Lord, for those too blind to see.

May they see your power and glory through the change you made in me.....

*(Continued on page 13)*

Hello From Wautoma,

Both the Wautoma English Mission Group and the Wautoma Spanish Mission Group have officially been approved by the conference as "Companies". We received an email informing us that three new companies were recently approved, our two companies as well as the Eau Claire Company. This means we will be meeting soon to establish an operating board and system of officers. One of the offices to be elected will be Treasurer and we will begin handling all financial affairs ourselves as opposed to channeling it through our Mother Church, Almond. We will be doing this early in 2018. Pastor Spady has indicated he will be assisting and guiding us through this process. We are not yet able to function fully as a church and do have some limits on the activities we can conduct, but we are ever inching forward toward eventually becoming a church. We are working through the process of establishing our membership which involves transferred membership from whichever church our membership is currently held, to the Conference Church rather than the Wautoma Company.

Improvements to our church building continue, but at a slower pace than over the summer. We have installed some new doors downstairs and have put carpeting in our Children's Sabbath School room. Other projects are still in the planning process. We are continuing to have services weekly for both the English and Spanish companies. Our Christmas program was successful and included a skit from Bethlehem with shepherds, wise men and included animal sounds as they may have been heard near the manger where Baby Jesus lay.

Alan Anderson

Jan. 3, 2018	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Prophecy Study
Jan. 4, 2018	7:00 p.m. Revelation Speaks Peace
Jan. 5, 2018	10:00 a.m. Women's Study Group
Jan. 6, 2018	9:30/11:00 Sabbath School/Church
Jan. 7, 2018	5:30 p.m. Anderson Bible Study
Jan. 10, 2018	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Prophecy Study
Jan. 11, 2018	7:00 p.m. Revelation Speaks Peace
Jan. 12, 2018	10:00 a.m. Women's Study Group
Jan. 13, 2018	9:30/11:00 Sabbath School/Church
Jan. 14, 2018	5:30 p.m. Anderson Bible Study
Jan. 16, 2018	6:30 p.m. Business Meeting
Jan. 17, 2018	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Prophecy Study
Jan. 18, 2018	7:00 p.m. Revelation Speaks Peace
Jan. 19, 2018	10:00 a.m. Women's Study Group
Jan. 20, 2018	9:30/11:00 Sabbath School/Church
Jan. 21, 2018	5:30 p.m. Anderson Bible Study
Jan. 24, 2018	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Prophecy Study
Jan. 25, 2018	7:00 p.m. Revelation Speaks Peace
Jan. 26, 2018	10:00 a.m. Women's Study Group
Jan. 27, 2018	9:30/11:00 Sabbath School/Church
Jan. 28, 2018	5:30 p.m. Anderson Bible Study
Jan. 31, 2018	6:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting/Prophecy Study

## Wautoma Company Schedule of Events

*(Ken Wells-Continued from page 11)*

**Guide Me Please**

Oh, Lord , have mercy on this sinner's soul,  
 For the life I've lived is taking it's toll...  
 Scars are all I have to show,  
 But I'm more than willing to learn and grow.....  
 This is not the place I wish to grow old.  
 I's sick and tired of the dark and cold.  
 False dreams and false hopes are what Satan sold.  
 I need guidance from above so victory will unfold.....  
 Oh, Lord, have mercy on this sinner's soul...  
 Please help me regain full control.

**Untitled**

I'm staring at the bars in my cell, wishing to get out but I'm sentenced to hell.  
 Sorrow and pain are all I've known, sitting here wondering if I'll ever make it home.  
 I've wasted most of my life with these crimes, Knowing I should have given it to God all these times.  
 I often wonder if I'll survive when released from this prison—or maybe I'm simply destined to fail?  
 I sit here struggling to remain sane and find a norm. I'm battling my demons in this self-centered storm.  
 I'm tired of being alone. I need that Agape love. You say I can only get that from God above.  
 So I fall on my knees with no hope in sight, Here me, Jesus. Help me to make it right.  
 This wasn't your plan for my life. You have greater things in store—You ask that I repent, give my life to You and sin no more  
 I know Jesus heard me when I called His name because since I prayed, I haven't been the same.  
 Ken Wells

**CORRECTION**

**CORRECTION**

**CORRECTION**

Please take note that the address of the Almond SDA Church in our newest directory, is wrong.  
 The correct address is:  
 1340 Elm St.  
 Almond WI 54909

# GRACE NOTES

Mailing Address:  
Grace Notes  
c/o Rick Felts  
9162 Boelter Lake Drive  
Almond WI 54909-9729

Phone: 715-572-0650  
E-mail: [gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com)

Contribution deadline is the 23rd  
of the month

## Disclaimer:

The stories, views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the original authors and other contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Grace Notes or any of its staff. Thank you...



## Mission Statement:

Fostering Unity

## Vision Statement:

To be a resource which encourages and inspires unity in our church district; through inspirational thoughts, informative articles and testimonials; preparing for the soon coming of Christ.

## Ministry

### From Home

Have you ever thought of having a prison ministry? You don't have to leave your home to have this. A letter changes the life of an inmate every time they receive it. Pray that God will lead you to write an inmate. Give an inmate a blessing!

Kenneth Wells Jr. #414034  
Red Granite Correctional Institute  
PO Box #925  
Red Granite WI 54970-0925

## Letters to the editor...

If you have ideas, thoughts, complaints or opinions, write to us. This column will appear each month.

Send emails to  
"[gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com)"

Thanks,  
Grace Notes Editor

## Grace Notes needs your help!

We have all been blessed in many different ways and I would like to ask that you share some of your talents with us. I've seen first hand the results of this newsletter and it's effect on the people that became friends and family rather than strangers.

Since we have this new arrangement of districts, it's even more important for us to stay connected, to get to know one another. How can we do this? It's simple. Even if you think you don't have good writing skills, write up something and send it to us anyway. I promise that no one will laugh. Write up your testimony to share. Something that God has placed on your heart or just something that is important to you. How about a good recipe that you want to share? Are you in need of something? Write us and we'll put it into the newsletter and God will provide those needs. Speaking of needs, here is a big one.

We need someone from each church to be the go-to person for the newsletter. I'm not asking you to be an editor, I'm not asking for hours of work. What I need is someone to get me a schedule of upcoming events you want to promote, your weekly schedule, birthdays of your members and maybe give some encouragement to others to write up something to share with the rest of us. It's not as big of a job as you might think but please give it some thought. I believe that Grace Notes can continue to be a blessing to all of us and I pray that you would want to be a part of that blessing.

I look forward to putting out the newsletter, with God's help and with yours too!

And of course, in all that we do...

To God be the Glory!

Rick Felts, Grace Notes Editor