GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2019

Bringing Unity, Events & News to the Churches of Almond, Oxford, Portage, Reedsburg & The Wautoma Company

"Self-control"

Many are sick and tired of "New Year's resolutions." They fail in the first week, so why bother? Perhaps it is because they are approaching resolutions in the wrong way. Here is a four-step process to being more successful with your New Year's resolutions:

- 1. Rely on God. If you do not believe in God, you can try skipping this step, but as a pastor I will not apologize for warning that you will be much less successful if you skip this step. We are all sinners who need a Savior (Romans 3:23), and sin enslaves us (Romans 6:6), holding us captive so we cannot do what we know is right (Romans 7:14-25). The scriptures tell us our old self needs to "die," and we need to look instead to Jesus.
- 2. Resolve to do right. This step is second for two reasons: first, because it is useless to try anything without God's power, and second because we cannot know what is right and wrong without looking to God first. We see what is good by looking at Jesus seeing His love, compassion, selflessness, patience, and sacrifice. Now we can make a good list of New Year's resolutions.
- 3. Control yourself. Through God's grace, He empowers you (Philippians 2:13). Self-control is one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:23). Is that not amazing? God restores to you the power to have control over yourself. A key component of self-control is temperance, the habitual moderation of indulgence. You cannot control yourself if something controls you. Good resolutions include overcoming overeating, laziness, alcohol, tobacco, pornography, adultery, and other similar vices that take over your life. Choose to be rid of those vices, and believe that God will cleanse you of them (1 John 1:9).
- 4. When you fail (and you will), go back to step 1. Rely on God. The restoration of your character is the work of a lifetime. Your New Year's resolutions will be successful not because you never failed them but because you kept trying. Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:1,2). He is our Creator and Redeemer, our King and our friend. All things are possible through Him (Mark 9:23).
- Pastor Justin Spady

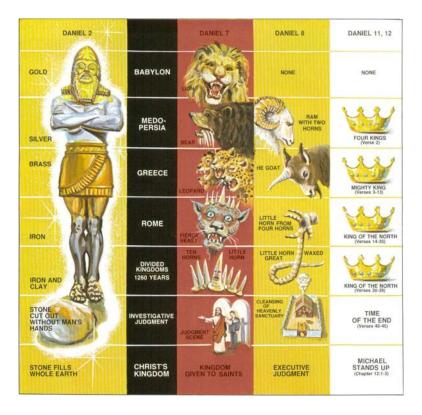
Weimar NEWSTART Program and the Eight Laws of Health #5

The Weimar NEWSTART Program uses the acronym NEWSTART to address the eight laws of health; N=Nutrition, E=Exercise, W=Water, S=Sunshine, T=Temperance, A=Air, R=Rest, and T=Trust in God. This article will focus on the benefits of Temperance. The information is taken from seminar notes from February 2018.

We know what temperance means. It is having self-control, doing everything in moderation. It is balance in all

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Adventism's Visitation (Part 9)

(John 16:7-15)

"The greatest and most favored nation upon the earth is the United States. A gracious Providence has shielded this country, and poured upon her the choicest of Heaven's blessings. Here the persecuted and oppressed have found refuge. Here the Christian faith in its purity has been taught. This people have been the recipients of great light and unrivaled mercies. But these gifts have been repaid by ingratitude and forgetfulness of God. The Infinite One keeps a reckoning with the nations and their guilt is proportioned to the light rejected. A fearful record now stands in the register of Heaven against our land; but the crime which shall fill up the measure of her iniquity is that of making void the law of God." Spirit of Prophecy volume 4, 398.

"The long reign of Uzziah [also known as Azariah] in the land of Judah and Benjamin was **characterized by prosperity greater than that of any other ruler since the death of Solomon**, nearly **two centuries before**. For many years the king ruled with discretion. Under **the blessing of Heaven** his armies regained some of the territory that had been lost in former years. Cities were rebuilt and fortified, and the position of the nation among the surrounding peoples was greatly strengthened. Commerce revived, and **the riches of the nations flowed into Jerusalem**. Uzziah's name 'spread far abroad; for he was marvelously helped, till he was strong.' 2 Chronicles 26:15.

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(Prophesy-Continued from page 2)

"This outward prosperity, however, was **not accompanied by a corresponding revival of spiritual power**. The temple services were continued as in former years, and multitudes assembled to worship the living God; but **pride and formality gradually took the place of humility and sincerity**. Of Uzziah himself it is written: 'When he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the Lord his God.' Verse 16.

"The sin that resulted so disastrously to Uzziah was one of **presumption**. In violation of **a plain command** of Jehovah, that none but the descendants of Aaron should officiate as priests, the king entered the sanctuary 'to burn incense upon the altar.' **Azariah the high priest** and his associates remonstrated, and pleaded with him to turn from his purpose. 'Thou hast trespassed,' they urged; 'neither shall it be for thine honor.' Verses 16, 18.

"Uzziah was filled with wrath that he, the king, should be thus rebuked. But he was not permitted to profane the sanctuary against the united protest of those in authority. While standing there, in wrathful rebellion, he was suddenly smitten with a divine judgment. Leprosy appeared on his forehead. In dismay he fled, never again to enter the temple courts. Unto the day of his death, some years later, Uzziah remained a leper—a living example of the folly of departing from a plain 'Thus saith the Lord.' Neither his exalted position nor his long life of service could be pleaded as an excuse for the presumptuous sin by which he marred the closing years of his reign, and brought upon himself the judgment of Heaven.

"God is no respecter of persons. 'The soul that doeth aught presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproacheth the Lord; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.' Numbers 15:30." *Prophets and Kings*, 303–304.

"The case of Uzziah the king reveals how God will punish the sin of presumption.... "Through successive generations iniquity has increased, until we are nearing the time when God shall say, the cup of their iniquity is full. In David's day the contempt placed upon the law of God led him to exclaim, 'It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.' The disrespect shown to the law did not lessen its value in the sight of the psalmist. Instead, he saw all the more need of standing in its defense; and as he saw it trampled under unholy feet, he exclaimed: 'Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.' In this age men have gone to great lengths in arrogance and in blasphemous denunciation of God's law. They have accepted a false Sabbath in the place of the day that God sanctified and gave to man as a memorial of creation. Their disobedience is great, and well may the prayer go forth from unfeigned lips, 'It is time for thee, Lord, to work: for they have made void thy law.' The boundary line will soon be reached. The crisis will soon come, and then God will interfere. When mercy's limits are passed, God will work, and show that he is God. The Judge of all the earth will vindicate his honor, and punish the rebellious inhabitants of the earth." Review and Herald, August 14, 1900.

"As the message of Christ's first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is **based on the prophecies**. The words of the angel to Daniel relating to the last days were to be understood in the time of the end. At that time, 'many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.' 'The wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.' Daniel 12:4, 10. The Savior Himself has given signs of His coming, and He says, 'When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.' 'And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.' 'Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.' Luke 21:31, 34, 36.

"We have reached the period foretold in these scriptures. The time of the end is come, **the visions of the prophets are unsealed**, and their solemn warnings point us to our Lord's coming in glory as near at hand.

"The Jews misinterpreted and misapplied the word of God, and they knew not the time of their visitation. The years of the ministry of Christ and His apostles,—the precious last years of grace to the chosen people,—they spent in plotting the destruction of the Lord's messengers. Earthly ambitions absorbed them, and the offer of the spiritual kingdom came to them in vain. So today the kingdom of this world absorbs men's thoughts, and they take no note of the rapidly fulfilling **prophecies** and the tokens of the swift-coming kingdom of God.

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New Feature of Grace Notes!

0&A

At our last district rally, we held a question and answer period. Anyone with any questions relating to the Bible or God or anything along that line, could submit it and the panel would answer it, best that they could. With that in mind, we are starting a similar feature here. Send your question to gracenotesnewsletter.com or through the regular mail and I will forward them, anonymously, to Pastor Justin who will answer them. Try and get them to me as soon as possible so that Pastor has time to research the answer for us. Someone gave me a question to start out with and here it comes. Thank you Pastor Justin for doing this for us and may God bless you in your efforts.

Q. I realize the Sabbath was part of the Lord's Creation Week but was the Sabbath kept in Heaven before Creation?

A. The simple answer is we do not know. The Bible focuses on human history, not on the history of the angels in Heaven or the other unfallen worlds. Jesus, who made the Sabbath, says in Mark 2:27 that the Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. Thus the Sabbath was made for us, the next day after our creation – but, very likely the other created beings in the universe also have a day set aside for worship and it is possible that it is the same day. We are told in Isaiah 66:23 that in Heaven we will continue to keep the Sabbath throughout all eternity, but will the angels keep it with us? And furthermore, we are also told that there will be no nights, which helps determine 24-hour periods, so how will Sabbath be defined? All these questions are left unanswered; and this is a good example of how, while it is not wrong to ask these questions, God calls us to be patient on things He has not revealed to us. All these questions will be answered in good time; let us concentrate on what we do know, that we are great sinners and Christ is a great Savior.

Portion of Letter From Kenneth Wells

I have wandered away from God until.... I began seeking my Lord afresh daily and I do give thanks to my God for blessing me with amazing, beautiful, and kind SDA Christians in my life! For the first time in my life I experienced an overwhelming joy, and it has been a huge blessing having you guys on the inside of my heart/soul. God has been so good to me lately! Jesus came to open our spiritual eyes. When we walk by faith and not by sight, we will have strength to weather this painful storm. Trust me; I am alive in this prison only because of my God's amazing grace. He has been putting the missing parts back together! I don't know much about the Bible, but this I do know: my God is real! I am not a scholar but I will continue fighting the good fight of faith, because my God is fighting on my behalf and I don't care what people say because I need to please my God before people!

Commentary: Are you one of those "amazing, beautiful, and kind SDA Christians? Then praise the Lord!

If you would like to be, then drop him a line at the address found elsewhere in "Grace Notes".

Submitted by Steve Collins, Portage SDA

FLU VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is looking at whether or not the flu vaccine is effective. Preliminary results indicate you'll get just as sick (with colds, flu, flu-like illnesses) if you got the vaccine than if you didn't. Why doesn't the vaccine work? In order to understand the answer, you'll need to understand some specifics about the flu vaccine and a bit about how immunity works.

There is no single virus that causes the flu; there is no one flu vaccine that protects against all of them. A flu vaccine is designed to confer immunity against the strains of flu that are expected to be most common and most serious. The vaccine is a sort of one-size-fits-all solution, even though there are more types of flu than covered by the vaccine and the flu types vary according to region. It takes time to produce vaccines, so a new vaccine can't be instantly produced when a new type of flu starts to cause problems.

The flu vaccine gives your body, parts of inactivated flu viruses. These virus parts correspond to parts of proteins floating around in your body. When the virus part contacts a chemical "match," it stimulates the body to produce the cells and antibodies that can remove this particular intruder. Antibodies are proteins that float in body fluids and can bind to specific chemical markers. When an antibody binds to a substance, it essentially marks it for destruction by other cells. However, an antibody for one type of flu won't necessarily bind to a virus part from another type of flu. You don't get protection against other viruses. A flu vaccine can only stimulate your immune system to protect you against very similar ones.

You may not even get protection against the intended virus. Why? First, because viruses change over time. The piece that was in the vaccine may not 'look' the same (chemically) as the real thing (months later, after all!). Second, the vaccine may not have given you enough stimulation to fight off the disease.

Is the flu vaccine a waste of time? Yes and no...the vaccine will be more effective some years than others. The CDC predicted that the vaccine developed for the winter of 2003/2004 wasn't going to be effective against most cases of the flu because the strains covered by the vaccine weren't the same as the strains that were common. Highly targeted vaccines work, but only against their targets! There's no point in accepting the risks of a vaccine for a disease you can't get. When the flu vaccine is on target, it's more effective. Even then, the vaccine isn't perfect because it uses inactivated virus. Is that bad? No. A live vaccine is much more effective, but much more risky.

The flu vaccine varies in effectiveness from year to year. Even in a best case scenario, it won't always protect against the flu.... In my opinion, however, the vaccine isn't for everyone and certainly shouldn't be required for otherwise healthy people. –Adapted from an article, Why the Flu Vaccine Doesn't Work, by Anne Marie Helmenstine, Ph.D. ~ Submitted by Dorothy Tess

Nature's Penicillin

(Another way to combat the flu or cold)

- 1 Grapefruit
- 1 Orange
- 2 Lemons
- 3 Cloves of Garlic
- 1/2 Large Onion
- 3 Drops Peppermint Oil
- 1/8 Teaspoon Cayenne Pepper

Cut fruit and onion into pieces. Place in a blender and mix well. You may need to add a little bit of water, and if you do, add just enough to get the mixture to blend.

Adults may drink one cup per day. Children may drink ½ cup per day. Take a spoonful periodically throughout the day as opposed to all at once. Keep refrigerated, but best to warm it before taking it.

~This recipe is sometimes called "Russian Penicillin."

Page 6 Grace Notes

Almond's January Events

Jan 2 Church Business Meeting (6:00 PM) (Lights)

Jan 4 Prayer Mtg. 7:00

Jan 5 Sabbath - Vegetarian Potluck

Jan 6 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30

Jan 8 Church Business Meeting (6:00 PM)

Jan 9 Patriarchs & Prophets Study 7:00 (J+D Tess home)

Jan 11 Prayer Mtg. 7:00

Jan 12 Sabbath - Vegetarian Potluck

Jan 13 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30

Jan 16 Patriarchs & Prophets Study 7:00 (J+D Tess home)

Jan 18 Prayer Mtg. 7:00

Jan 19 Sabbath - Vegetarian Potluck

Jan 20 Prayer Breakfast (Open to all)

Jan 20 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30

Jan 23 Patriarchs & Prophets Study 7:00 (J+D Tess home)

Jan 25 Prayer Mtg. 7:00

Jan 26 Sabbath - Vegetarian Potluck

Jan 27 Bible Study (Anderson Home) 5:30

Jan 30 Patriarchs & Prophets Study 7:00 (J+D Tess home)

Portage January Events

Portage SDA Church email address is:

portagesdachurch@gmail.com

Portage SDA Church Facebook:

Type: Portage Seventh-day Adventist

Radio station:

WPSA LP 93.5 FM

Bible study:

Every Tuesday at 6:30 pm at fellowship hall. Topical study from Mark Finley's "Studying Together"

RECIPE CORNER

Our potluck meals are the best.

Share some of your best vegetarian or vegan recipes for others to try. Send it to us and we'll share it for you.

Healthy food doesn't have to taste bad!

Happy Birthday!



January 2 Melinda Ferguson

3 Mary Kalepp

5 Stanley Cottrell

6 Wendell Springer

6 Michael Tess

11 Spencer Cook

11 Rick Felts

12 Matt Riggle

15 Gregory Hanh

16 Jonathon Dettmann

23 Mary Boehm

23 Joe Martingello

26 Jane Gerndt

27 Beatrice Rabine

29 Rachel Tess

30 Brenda Kemp

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Wautoma SDA Company January Schedule of Events

Date

1/5/2019	Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.
1/6/2019	Bible study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.
1/7/2019	Women's Group at the Anderson's @ 10:00 a.m.
1/7/2019	Healthy Cooking Class @ 7:00 p.m.
1/9/2019	Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.
1/12/2019	Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

1/13/2019 Bible study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.

1/14/2019 Women's Group at the Anderson's @ 10:00 a.m.

1/14/2019 Healthy Cooking Class @ 7:00 p.m.

1/16/2019 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.

1/19/2019 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

1/20/2019 Bible study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.

1/21/2019 Women's Group at the Anderson's @ 10:00 a.m.

1/21/2019 Healthy Cooking Class @ 7:00 p.m.

1/23/2019 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.

1/26/2019 Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m.

1/27/2019 Bible study at the Anderson's @ 5:30 p.m.

1/28/2019 Women's Group at the Anderson's @ 10:00 a.m.

1/28/2019 Healthy Cooking Class @ 7:00 p.m.

1/30/2019 Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ church @ 6:30 p.m.

Pathfinders from the Portage Church, made Christmas cards to hand out to the members that are not able to attend church! What a great blessing that was for the givers and the receivers...







Portage Community Supper—Dec 9









Portage Christmas Program













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(Prophesy-Continued from page 3)

"'But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.' While we are not to know the hour of our Lord's return, we may know when it is near. 'Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.' 1 Thessalonians 5:4-6." The Desire of Ages, 234–235.

"It is 'unto them that look for him' that Christ is to 'appear the second time, without sin unto salvation.' [Hebrews 9:28.] Like the tidings of the Savior's birth, the message of the Second Advent was not committed to the religious leaders of the people. They had failed to preserve their connection with God, and had refused light from Heaven; therefore they were not of the number described by the apostle Paul: 'But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day; we are not of the night, nor of darkness.' [1 Thessalonians 5:4, 5.]

"The watchmen upon the walls of Zion **should have been** the first to catch the tidings of the Savior's advent, the first to lift their voices to proclaim him near, and the first to warn the people to prepare for his coming. But they were at ease, dreaming of peace and safety, while the people were asleep in their sins. Jesus saw his church, like the barren fig-tree, covered with pretentious leaves, yet destitute of precious fruit. There was a boastful observance of the forms of religion, while the spirit of true humility, penitence, and faith—which alone could render the service acceptable to God—was lacking. Instead of the graces of the Spirit, there was manifested pride, formalism, vainglory, selfishness, oppression. A backsliding church closed their eyes to the signs of the times. God did not forsake them, or suffer his faithfulness to fail; but they departed from him, and separated themselves from his love. As they refused to comply with the conditions, his promises were not fulfilled to them.

"Such is the sure result of neglect to appreciate and improve the light and privileges which God bestows. Unless the church will follow on in his opening providence, accepting every ray of light, performing every duty which may be revealed, religion will inevitably degenerate into the observance of forms, and the spirit of vital godliness will disappear. This truth has been **repeatedly** illustrated in the history of the church. God requires of his people works of faith and obedience corresponding to the blessings and privileges bestowed. Obedience requires a sacrifice and involves a cross; and this is why so many of the professed followers of Christ refused to receive the light from Heaven, and, like the Jews of old, **knew not the time of their visitation**. [Luke 19:44.] Because of their pride and unbelief, **the Lord passed them by** and revealed his truth to those who like the shepherds of Bethlehem and the Eastern magi had given heed to all the light they had received." *The Great Controversy*, 315–316.

"The Lord will not be trifled with. Those who neglect His mercies and blessings in this day of opportunities will bring impenetrable darkness upon themselves and will be candidates for the wrath of God. Sodom and Gomorrah were visited with the curse of the Almighty for their sins and iniquities. There are those in our day who have equally abused the mercies of God and slighted His warnings. It will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for those who bear the name of Christ, yet dishonor Him by their unconsecrated lives. This class is laying up for themselves a fearful retribution when God in His wrath shall **visit** them with His judgments.

"Sinners who have not had the light and privileges that Seventh-day Adventists have enjoyed will, in their ignorance, be in a more favorable position before God than those who have been unfaithful while in close connection with His work and professing to love and serve Him. The tears of Christ upon the mount came from an anguished, breaking heart because of His unrequited love and the ingratitude of His chosen people. He had labored untiringly to save them from the fate that they seemed determined to bring upon themselves, but they refused His mercy and **knew not the time of their visitation**. **Their day of privilege** was ending, yet they were so blinded by sin that they knew it not.

"Jesus looked down through the centuries even to **the close of time**, and, taking in the cases of all who had repaid His love and admonitions with selfishness and neglect, and all who would thus repay Him, He addressed to them those solemn words, declaring that they knew not **the time of their visitation**. The Jews were gathering about themselves the dark clouds of retribution, and **many today, in like manner**, are drawing upon themselves the wrath of God, because of opportunities unim

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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

There is a family in need of a few items. If you have any of these to spare, please call me at the number above, email me at the address above or call Maria Frank @ 715-498-0305

2 Twin Beds Playpen Refrigerator

(Health-Continued from page 1)

aspects of our lives. The human body tolerates a lot of excesses, but balance in our total lifestyle is the key to enduring health and happiness.

As human beings we have neuroplastic brains. This means our brains are malleable, changeable and can be conditioned. This is how we can adjust to new situations and adapt to changes in our environment. Researchers have found that the choices we make and the actions we take actually result in physical changes in the brain. This is a reason why it is important to be temperate in all things. Avoiding such things as alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, drugs, and pornography which lead to addictions. We know eating too much, even if it's good food, is not good for our system. Having too much of even a good thing is being intemperate. God tells us in 1 Peter 3:3,4 to be temperate even in our outward apparel.

People today do many things in excess; over use of the internet, cell phones and television. Many people overwork. We all need to strive for balance in our lives.

"By practicing temperance in eating, in drinking, in dressing, in labor and in all things, we can do for ourselves what no physician can do for us." *Ministry of Healing*, p. 142.

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Page 11 Grace Notes

Oxford SDA Church

Sabbath Worship Times

Sabbath School @ 9:15 a.m.

Worship @ 10:40 a.m.

322 E Chauncey St Oxford, WI 53952-9064 608-586-5770

PASTOR: JUSTIN DANE SPADY PHONE: 260-413-3066

EMAIL: PASTORSPADY@GMAIL.COM

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: PastorSpady@gmail.com

Service Times:

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Reedsburg SDA Church

115 S. Oak St. Reedsburg WI 53959

Pastor Justin Spady Phone: 260-413-3066

Email: PastorSpady@gmail.com

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

We have bible studies on Wednesday evening's at 6:30 at the church. We are starting the book of John on video.

Almond SDA Church

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11:00

Potluck follows service each week!

1340 Elm St.

Almond WI 54909

715-570-2179

www.almondsda.org

Pastor Justin Spady 260-413-3066

Wautoma SDA Company

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Potluck follows service each week!

535 S. Cambridge

Wautoma WI 54982

920-765-0961

wautomawi.adventistchurch.org

Website under construction!

Pastor Justin Spady

260-413-3066

(Health-Continued from page 10)

"Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown. Therefore, I run thus: not with uncertainty. Thus I fight: not as one who beats the air. But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 NKJV

"Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31 NKJV. May we all strive to do all things to the glory of God. May we endeavor to be temperate and enjoy its benefits!

Jane Gerndt, Reedsburg Church member

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(Prophesy-Continued from page 9)

proved, the counsels and love of Jesus scorned, and His servants despised and hated for speaking the truth.

"There is no place on the face of the earth where so great light has been granted as at — —. Even Jerusalem of old was not more highly favored with the beams of heaven's light shining upon the way that her people should tread. Yet they have failed to walk, by faithful obedience, in the full radiance of the light, serving God night and day. A sickly, dwarfed religion is the result of neglecting to follow the revealed light of the Spirit of the Lord. Energy and love increase as we exercise them, and the Christian graces can be developed only by careful cultivation." *Testimonies*, volume 4, 191–192.

"In this our day, as in Christ's day, there will be a misreading and misinterpreting of the Scriptures. If the Jews had studied the Scriptures with earnest, prayerful, humble hearts, their searching would have been rewarded with a true knowledge of the time, and not only the time, but also the manner, of Christ's first appearing. They would not have ascribed the glories of the second appearing of Christ to His first advent. They had the testimony of Daniel; they had the testimony of Isaiah and the other prophets; they had the teaching of Moses; and here was Christ Himself in their midst, and still they were searching the Scriptures for evidence in regard to His coming. They were doing to Christ, at the same time, the very things that it had been prophesied they would do. They were so blinded that they knew not the time of His visitation, or what they were doing. Thus they were fulfilling the Scripture.

"Many are doing the same thing today, in 1897, because they have not had experience in the testing message comprehended in the first, second, and third angels' messages. There are those who are searching the Scriptures for proof that **these messages** are still in the future. They gather together the truthfulness of the messages, but they fail to give them their proper place in prophetic history. Therefore such are in danger of misleading the people in regard to locating the messages. They do not see and understand the time of the end, or when to locate the messages. The day of God is coming with stealthy tread, but the supposed wise and great men are prating about 'higher education' which they suppose originates with finite men. They know not the signs of Christ's coming, or of the end of the world.

"The evidence of the soon coming of Christ is right upon us, and many of us are asleep. We do not half gather up the important truths that are for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. If we did receive and believe the Word of God, we should be farther in advance spiritually than we are today. Iniquity abounds everywhere, and the love of many has waxed cold. Unless we understand the importance of the moments that are swiftly passing into eternity, and make ready a people to stand in the great day of God, we shall be registered in the books of heaven as unfaithful stewards. **The watchman is to know the time of the night**. Everything is now clothed with a solemnity that all who believe the truth should feel and sense. They should act in reference to the great day of God. The plagues of God are already just upon the world, and we need to be preparing for that great day. We have not time now to spend in speculative ideas, or in hap-hazard movements. We should fear to skim the surface of the Word of God. **When the light shines in our hearts, we shall, by all our words and works, live in accordance with that light, understand the words of God, and make it our spiritual, daily food, as represented by Christ as eating His flesh and drinking His blood. Then we will be prepared to teach the Word of God as we never have done before. We must sink the shaft deeper in the mines of truth. All the little things of life are but a mote now. Those that pertain to eternity are of great consequence." Sermons and Talks, 290–291.**

"The work of God in the earth presents, from age to age, a striking similarity in every great reformation or religious movement. **The principles of God's dealing with men are ever the same.** The important movements of the present have their parallel in those of the past, and the experience of the church in former ages has lessons of great value for our own time." *The Great Controversy*, 343.

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Wautoma Christmas Program

































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

Contribution deadline is the 23rd of the month

Disclaimer:

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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!

Ken Wells, Jr. #414034, John Burke Correctional Center, P.O. Box 900, Waupun, WI 53963-900

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"

Thanks,

Grace Notes Editor

Hello from Wautoma,

Happy New Year. Starting the first Monday of January, we will have a Healthy Cooking Class each Monday evening during the month of January. Classes start at 7:00 p.m. Come out and join us.

We had a really good turnout for the Christmas program on 12-15-2018 with 53 in attendance. See pictures in this newsletter...

After taking most of December off, our Sunday night Bible studies have resumed and we are currently in Luke, the 12th chapter. Come out and join us Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m. for a potluck supper followed by our bible study.

Work on the new church is proceeding as our new furnace has been installed and we now have heat. We have some replacement basement windows to install while other projects are ongoing. Tuesday's have been set up as work days and we plan to be cleaning and doing other projects.

I received some blessings from my friend Ken Wells in his last letter to me and I hope he doesn't mind if I share them with you. As we encounter challenges in 2019, Ken reminds us that Joseph overcame disappointment, going from a life of being a cherished son to a captive and a prisoner, but instead of becoming bitter he taught us how to trust God through the painful disappointments we have. Moses taught us to overcome obstacles by listening to God's voice. May we each make 2019 a year of rejoicing, praying and giving thanks all the time and in everything. Thank you Ken and may God help you also to overcome any obstacles in your life's path.

Alan Anderson