

# GRACE NOTES

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 2

MARCH-2020

## **BRINGING UNITY, EVENTS & NEWS TO THE CHURCHES OF ALMOND, OXFORD, PORTAGE, REEDSBURG & THE WAUTOMA COMPANY**

### SURGERY

"He's going to need surgery." I watched my mom's eyes go wide in disbelief when she heard those words. That wasn't supposed to happen. I was just a precocious 4 yr. old boy who had slipped and cut his chin. Stitches? Sure. But surgery? That seemed a bit extreme. I wasn't sure what that even meant to tell the truth, but I could tell from my mom's reaction that it wasn't ideal. She was usually unflappable, and as she tried to explain everything in a way that my young mind could grasp her voice remained calm and reassuring - but her eyes gave her away. She was worried. And if she was, I was too. What the doctors told her, and she in turn told me was - my jaw was broken. Or had been, when I was born. The joint had healed in a way that prevented growth for those 4 years of my life. It left me with a limited ability to open my mouth, and if left untreated, would make things like eating and speaking difficult at best, impossible at worst. There wasn't any debate - surgery it was. The next few weeks were full of tests and x-rays, scans and blood draws. Visit after visit to the doctors and specialists. And with each whirr and click of the x-ray machine, with each sharp sting of the needle as they drew my blood again and again, that worry turned to fear. I was scared. My parents did their very best, reassuring me that the docs were the best in the world, that everything would go smoothly, and I would be fine. And I believed them, for the most part. But the pain that these preliminary procedures produced had me on edge because I knew that when I had the actual operation things would get a lot worse. And that anticipation, coupled with the unknown had little 4 yr. old, me, terrified by the time it came to go under the knife. The day before the operation the nurses had to come in and draw my blood 3 separate times. By the time they came in for that 3<sup>rd</sup> draw, I was running and hiding in the hospital room, crying that I didn't want to do this anymore. Pleading to be taken home. They had to hold me down to get that final stick, and it left me in a state of meltdown and fear that was unlike anything I had ever known. Nothing the doctors or nurses could say would help. My mom couldn't even calm me down. I was inconsolable. Finally, my dad sat me down. It was 10 o'clock the night before my surgery. The latest I had ever stayed up. My father took me on his knee and told me he had something to tell me. Curious, I stopped sniffing long enough to ask him what it could be. He said, "The doctors told you who will be in the surgery with you tomorrow, right?" Yes, that was right I assured him. The doctor, the nurses, and the anesthesiologist. (If you're wondering how a 4-year-old boy was able to say that word, let me assure you, he wasn't. I called him the "sleepy doctor". But I digress) "But they didn't tell you the most important person who will be in that room with you" my father said. Who, I asked, wondering what else I needed to fear? "Your guardian angel" my father responded. "Who's that?" I asked. And it was then that my dad proceeded to tell me that God had given each person born on this earth a guardian angel, tasked with keeping them safe. "And I have one just for me?" I wondered. "Yes indeed" my father said, "And he will be right there in the operating room with you to make sure the doctors do a good job and that you stay safe."

All my fear melted away in that moment. The knowledge that the God of the universe, bigger than the biggest thing I could think of (the planet Jupiter, for those interested) and stronger than the strongest thing I could comprehend (my dad, of course) had made a point of sending me my own personal angel to look after me was all I needed to know. If God was taking a personal interest in what was going on in my life, with all the other things He had to worry about, then it must mean He loves me. And if He loves me enough to give me my own bodyguard, then there wasn't anything I needed to worry about anymore. I went to sleep that night calm, secure in the knowledge that no matter what happened, I was in God's hands and in His plans, and that was good enough for me. The next day I woke up early and went into the waiting room. The doctor came in and asked me if I was ready. "yes sir, I am." And knowing how worried I had been, he went over everything he would do, what I could expect and who would be there, listing himself, the nurses and the "sleepy doctor". When he had finished, he asked if I had any questions or anything to say. "Yes, you forgot somebody who will be with us" I said. "Oh really?" he asked. "And who might that be?" "My guardian angel" I replied matter-of-factly. "He'll be there to make sure you do a good job and I'll be safe. And with that declaration I hopped down off my dad's lap and grabbed the doc by the hand. "I'm ready now" I said with a smile on my face. I was in God's hands and in His plans. And I still am. That's good enough for me.

*Pastor Stephen Hall, Jr.*

**Almond's Events**

Sundays-5:30 Supper and Bible Study @ the Anderson home

Wednesdays-10:00 AM Study at the home of John & Dorothy Tess, (Prophets & Kings)

Thursdays-6:30 Study at the home of Randy Wilson

Fridays-7:00 Prayer meeting @ the church

Saturdays-Sabbath School 9:30, Sabbath Worship 11:00 with fellowship meal to follow service

March 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM-Prayer Breakfast

(All Welcome)

April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 AM-Prayer Breakfast

(All Welcome)

April 12<sup>th</sup> after breakfast-Business Meeting

**Wautoma's Events**

Bible Study @ the Anderson's starting at 5:30 p.m. (Every Sunday of each month, same time.)

Women's Group starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Andersons (Every Monday of each month, same time.)

Prayer Meeting/Prophecy @ 6:30 p.m. (Every Wednesday of each month, same time.)

Sabbath School/Church @ 9:30 a.m./11:00 a.m. (Every Saturday of each month, same time.)

**Shoot and Shout**

The virtue of the camera is not the power it has to transform the photographer into an artist, but the impulse it gives him to keep on looking. Brooks Atkinson So shoot a picture and shout out a lesson we can learn.

With slight variation here are some Bible texts: Exodus 3:5 And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy boots from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Exodus 12:11 And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your boots on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's passover.

Deuteronomy 11:24 Every place where on your boots shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be.

Deuteronomy 29:5 And I have led you forty years in the wilderness: your clothes are not waxen old upon you, and thy boot is not waxen old upon thy foot.

Deuteronomy 33:25 Thy boots shall be iron and brass; and as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

Joshua 4:13, 18 And it shall come to pass, as soon as the boots of the priests that bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of Jordan, that the waters of Jordan shall be cut off from the waters that come down from above; and they shall stand upon an heap. 18 And it came to pass, when the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord were come up out of the midst of Jordan, and the boots of the priests' feet were lifted up unto the dry land, that the waters of Jordan returned unto their place, and flowed over all his banks, as they did before.

(Continued on page 9)

## Lay Pastor Program

January 31- February 2, leaders gathered from around Wisconsin for Lay Pastor Training at our Conference Center in Fall River. Here is a brief synopsis for those unable to attend, and an encouragement for those who may be considering joining these trainings as God places it upon your heart....

Revitalizing Worship – Revitalizing Mission. There is no better way to open our learning sessions than with worship of our great Creator God. Have you considered that each Sabbath Worship includes everybody? Pastor Rowell Puedivan from the Madison Community District presented biblically that GOD IS OUR AUDIENCE, not the congregation. The musicians who prayerfully prepare, practice, and rehearse no matter the level of musicianship are not getting up as the congregation's personal entertainment...NO WAY! We are humbly presenting worshipful gifts and words to our one and only God. And worship is not a spectator sport...those in the congregation should be joining in. *(And by the way, the musicians are not providing background music for your conversations with each other either... please be respectful of our God, His sanctuary, and His people and take those conversations out to the narthex, even during special music or concerts.)*

Give God the worth He deserves. Worship shows we understand God's free grace...when that is the central theme, Jesus as the Way the Truth and the Life...it is about God not our ability...we do it because we know we have been saved by His grace. The only response we can make is worship...and that includes each individual.

Want to personally read what is the biblical role of worship and specifically music in worship? Here are just a few texts: Psalm 27:6, Psalm 150:3-4, James 5:13, Psalm 32:7-8, Ephesians 5:18-19, Psalm 40:3. Spiritual music= spiritual people: 1 Chronicles 23:3-5, 2 Chronicles 5:12-14, 20:15,18-24. We are to give everything in worship: body, mind, and spirit.

We were also given creative worship ideas for including generations and music talents for our mission oriented churches.

Worship. Sabbath morning, Adam Case, Wisconsin Conference Ministerial Director, spiritually fed this faithful bunch with a message about Jesus' anticipations...His birth, His ministry, His death...Yet even more so, His resurrection and victory over death. Now He has tremendous anticipation over coming back and getting to spend all eternity with you!

Church Doctrine: Our Fundamental Beliefs. And then, our group got to explore our 28 Fundamental Beliefs. Hang on: Don't fall asleep or check out now.... have you read them or are you blindly going on what you've heard from someone else? Our beliefs as Seventh-day Adventists are beautifully Christ-centered and are not a dry list of "do's and don'ts"... And they are not our Creed. The Bible is our unchangeable Creed. Our beliefs are a framework; statements that may and can be changed to be more inline for enlightenment through scripture. As an educator for 26 years, I assign you the task of reading and studying these for yourself and with your family...please know for yourself, as you should the Bible, and not just take my word, or rely on anyone else's. "Come, let us reason together." Isaiah 1:18

Church Discipline. Adam Case delved into the ever hot and uncomfortable topic of church discipline: Why do we do it? Our church has created careful guidelines to maintain harmony amongst the body of Christ. Focus needs to be maintained on loving persons enough to point them back to Jesus, reclaiming people for Christ mercifully through redemption. And note: avoiding necessary corrections is as wrong as disciplining in a wrong or mean-spirited way. There are biblical precedences and steps to follow, which again, our leadership has outlined. Church discipline should be done as little as necessary, but as often as needed.

Sharing Time. Pastor Titus Naftanaila, from the Green Bay District, set aside time for each member present to give a testimony as to how Jesus is leading in their lives and in the current service to each member's local churches. This is truly a collective of servant leaders, and God inspired people. And there is room at the table for more individuals....

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Lay Pastor-(Continued from page 3)*

Cultivating a Gossip-resistant Church was the next subject addressed by Pastor Titus. Gossip is defined as bearing bad news behind someone's back, out of a bad heart. And gossip is everywhere: on line, television, in the workplace, in our families, and even our churches. The Bible has clear words about gossip as can be found in the book of Proverbs 20:19, 17:4, and 26:22. So why do we do it? Everyone loves a story and unfortunately we humans are attracted to the wrong stories, often out of anger and unhappiness, or to feel superior over someone else.

A basic rule to keep at the forefront of our thoughts: we don't gossip if we are loving people...we want to cover and protect them instead.

Instead of gossip speaking, say nothing at all, and/or provide encouragement. Talk to people, not about them, and offer words of mercy. Talk to and about the Lord.. bring Him into the equation.

There is oh so much more to be said on this topic, yet each person can check out what the Bible has to say in dealing with this in such texts as 2 Corinthians 12:20, 1 Timothy 5:13, Matthew 18:15-17. Regarding guidance for church leadership: 1 Timothy 5:19-21, Proverbs 6:16-19.

How to Lead a Small Church. Are you a member of a small congregation? Be not afraid. When Jesus is leading, there is a specific purpose only your group can fulfill. As a little David (small church) you don't need to put on Saul's armor (a larger church's mission) to fight the Goliath in your community. God has got you; keep your focus on what He can do, is doing, and His victory...it's all about Him anyway! The American Dream says "bigger is better", and that may not be God's way...remember Jesus stuck with twelve disciples. Do what you as a collective do well, and your unique connections within your communities. Fulfill the Great Commission while equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry.

Pastor Titus shared these good, common sense tips with our Lay Pastor group: Stop doing "come and watch" events and instead think in terms of the following: Come and Help, Come and Give, Come and Have Fun with us, Come and Learn, Come and Worship.

*"Not every church is called to be bigger, but every church is mandated to do effective ministry, and every church can."*

#### Finding Jesus in the Book of Daniel

On Sunday morning, Pastor Myoung Kwon from the Waukesha District beautifully helped us to rediscover Jesus as the main character of the books of Daniel and Revelation. Also, the seminar about the Intergenerational church emphasized the idea that all generations have to worship, have fellowship, and minister together as a spiritual family of God.

Jill Ahrens, Sparta SDA Church, La Crosse District

We are honored to have 2 Lay Pastors in our district. Let's hear from them next.

#### **Lay Pastor Eric Anderson, Wautoma Company**

What does serving as a Lay Pastor mean to me?

By Eric Anderson

First and foremost, I feel that being given this opportunity to serve as a Lay Pastor has really enriched my walk with God in really meaningful ways. It has given me opportunities to serve God and my church in deeper ways than I have ever been able to do before.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## 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.

920-240-6570

or [gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com](mailto:gracenotesnewsletter@yahoo.com)

### To give away:

Hamilton Beach Food Processor

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Do you need a printer for your computer? I have some to donate. Let me know what you need and I probably have one for you.

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I have a 30" X 60" X 1/4" mirror in good condition. This is not in a frame and is held on the wall by mirror mounts that you can buy at Walmart or any hardware store.

I have no use for it any longer.

### Someone is in need of the following:

Patience, needed as soon as possible!

#### 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](http://www.almondsda.org)

Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095

#### Wautoma SDA Company

Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.

Potluck follows service each week!

429 W River Street

Wautoma WI 54982

920-765-0961

[wautomawi.adventistchurch.org](http://wautomawi.adventistchurch.org)

## Communion

On February 22, 2020, the Wautoma English Company celebrated communion for the first time in their new church building. We had twenty people in attendance and the service was accompanied by our beautiful stringed musicians. This was the first time in twenty-five to thirty years that communion had been celebrated in this building. Praise God that this building was able to be utilized again as a church, so that we can continue taking back territory from Satan and saving souls for Jesus. It has taken a lot of hard work by a lot of dedicated people to renovate our building and we are still not done, but we are happily serving God with what we have. We have willing minds and hearts that want to do the will of God and it continues to bless everyone involved.

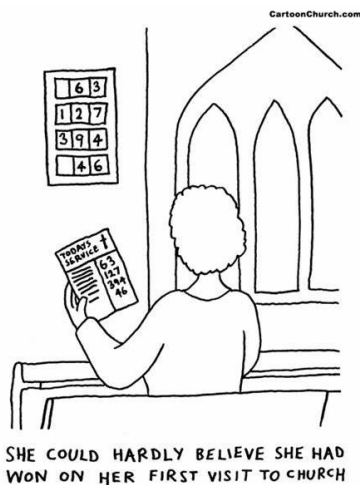


## Hello from Wautoma.

We just held our first Communion Service at the 429 W River Street address for the Wautoma English Company church in over twenty five years. We also recently completed the Final Empire Series and shared the interesting program with two couples from Wautoma.

Our Wednesday evening prayer and prophecy events are highlighted by a study of the Mysteries of the Lost Ark. As we look forward to the changes in color outside from the white of snow to the green of spring we are also making plans for Vacation Bible School.

Alan Anderson



### WISE SAYINGS

THERE IS ALWAYS DEATH AND TAXES; HOWEVER DEATH DOESN'T GET WORSE EVERY YEAR.  
 ANYTHING FREE IS WORTH WHAT YOU PAY FOR IT.  
 IF IT AIN'T BROKE, FIX IT TILL IT IS.  
 IN JUST TWO DAYS, TOMORROW WILL BE YESTERDAY.  
 YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN YOU GET THE SAME SENSATION FROM A ROCKING CHAIR THAT YOU ONCE GOT FROM A ROLLER COASTER.  
 ONE OF LIFE'S MYSTERIES IS HOW A TWO POUND BOX OF CANDY CAN MAKE A PERSON GAIN FIVE POUNDS.  
 THE REAL ART OF CONVERSATION IS NOT ONLY TO SAY THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME, BUT ALSO TO LEAVE UNSAID THE WRONG THING AT THE TEMPTING MOMENT.  
 BRAIN CELLS COME AND BRAIN CELLS GO, BUT FAT CELLS LIVE FOREVER.  
 AGE DOESN'T ALWAYS BRING WISDOM, SOMETIMES AGE COMES ALONE.  
 LIFE NOT ONLY BEGINS AT FORTY, IT BEGINS TO SHOW.  
 YOU DON'T STOP LAUGHING BECAUSE YOU GROW OLD,  
 YOU GROW OLD BECAUSE YOU STOP LAUGHING.

*(Lay Pastor-Continued from page 4)*

Serving as Lay pastor has driven me much deeper into God's word by the very nature of the duties that come with the job. I went from preaching to my local church once a quarter to preaching twice a month. I really need to stay in the Bible a lot more in order to be able to break the bread of life that often. Visiting and praying with members has really warmed my heart in ways I had not expected.

On a practical side, serving as Lay Pastor has also been teaching me better time management skills. I have a full time job and a young family in addition to writing two sermons a month and every other duty that God brings into my path. God has been helping me see what the most important things in life are and helping me get rid of the satanic distractions that our lives are laden with. Little by little God is drawing me further out of the world and further and further into His loving embrace.

When the stress of balancing all of these things seems to get overwhelming, the Lord has been providing. I have seen huge answers to prayer in highly unexpected and wonderful ways. Even though Satan tries his hardest to derail us, dishearten us, and distract us, God is still in control. God continually protects us and provides for those who abide in Him and His Word.

### **Lay Pastor Jeff Veldman, Oxford Church**

I was born in Appleton, Wisconsin and have lived in Wisconsin my entire life. All twelve years of my education was spent in our SDA schools. After graduating from Wisconsin Academy in 1987, I moved to Oxford and have been a part of the Oxford church since.

My great, great grandmother was a founding member of the Oxford church joining in the late 1800's. And because of that stand she took so many years ago, I am very fortunate to have been born into the Seventh-day Adventist faith.

After a wilderness experience for about 12 years, I was re-baptized and fully committed my life to Him. In 2000, I married Carrie, who has always been there for me with support and spiritual guidance. Carrie works as an RN and has her own Massage practice in Portage.

For ten years I enjoyed being involved in prison ministry at the Oxford correctional institute. Prison ministry was the starting point for growing out of my comfort zone. While doing studies with the men I also grew spiritually. I have also been blessed to be able to serve my church through the years in many different capacities, including Head Deacon, PA (sound system), Health and Temperance Leader, Adult Sabbath School Teacher, Head Elder and now as Lay Pastor.

Around 2012, I started going to the Lay Pastor Cohorts and in 2018, I was commissioned as a Lay Pastor. I have always enjoyed learning and studying, so joining the Lay Pastor cohort was a great fit. It was sometimes a challenge to get to three weekends a year while trying to farm, but the Lord blessed in allowing me to get to at least part of the weekends. The program has been such a blessing helping me to learn how to become a better servant leader.

When Pastor Spady transferred from our church to the Wausau district there were many people who expressed the desire for me to become the Pastor at Oxford church. This was something I had not anticipated or even necessarily desired.

After about three months of discussions and prayer the doors kept opening for me. In July it was voted that I fill the Lay Pastor role. God is faithful and has blessed, molding me and giving me the experience and spiritual growth that I need. I am trying to learn that when God opens the doors who am I to shut them. God does not call the qualified but qualifies the called.

I am reminded of Gideon who stated, "How can I save Israel? My clan is the weakest in Manasseh, and I am

*(Continued on page 8)*

*Lay Pastor-(Continued from page 7)*

the least in my family” Judges 6:15. This is how I feel, I am the weakest, what do I know? But God does not want me to rely on my own strength but to rely on His strength. God can only use us when we are obedient and dependent on Him. He doesn’t call the qualified; He qualifies the called. God isn’t looking for ability, He is looking for availability.

“Gideon deeply felt his own insufficiency for the great work before him. ...The Lord does not always choose for His work men of the greatest talents, but He selects those whom He can best use. Individuals who might do good service for God, may for a time be left in obscurity, apparently unnoticed and unemployed by their Master. But if they faithfully perform the duties of their humble position, cherishing a willingness to labor and to sacrifice for Him, He will in His own time intrust them with greater responsibilities. (ST. June 23, 1881)

I feel this quote fits me very well. I have grown from being a very shy person to someone who through the Lord’s help has the courage to stand up front and speak the messages that He lays on my heart.

My vision for our church is to become more Christlike in character. I feel the closer our walk with the Lord, the closer our walk with each other will be. Right now, I am preaching a series on worshiping God, family worship, prayer, importance of Bible study, forgiveness, Christian fellowship, fasting, giving, and serving. It has been a real blessing for me and our church family to explore these topics.

Carrie and I enjoy going to other churches ministering with the word and music. We haven’t been traveling as much, as I have been busier with duties at church. But if an invitation comes, we do our best to fulfill the request.

In our free time Carrie and I enjoy, camping, hiking, and traveling, visiting National Parks and together we have been to all 48 of the lower states, the Bahamas, and Canada.

## **What is the Lay Pastor Program and how has it helped me?**

*By Eric Anderson*

The Lay Pastor Program in the Wisconsin Conference is a continuing education training program that meets three times a year. It is lead and organized by Pastor Titus Naftanaila. The content of the training program consists largely of classes and seminars by presenters from all over the Wisconsin Conference and beyond. The topics are on various aspects of ministry, from church doctrine to how to use well prepared music to enhance the worship service. All the seminars are highly instructive and encouraging. The meetings help build teamwork in ministry as well as helping build networks with others that are involved in ministry.

On a personal level, the program has instilled a deeper sense of respect for those in ministry and has given me a greater confidence as I serve in my local church. It has also instilled in me a very deep respect for the position of Lay Pastor that the Wisconsin Conference and my local church have asked me to take. It is a huge responsibility and I do not want to take it lightly.

The entire Lay Pastor Program, its trainers and presenters, as well as all of the lay ministers and lay pastors that are enrolled in the program have strongly encouraged me to keep stepping out in faith into different roads and avenues of ministry. The Lord qualifies the called. We must be willing to take the first step. I truly thank the Wisconsin Conference leadership team and my local Church for giving me this opportunity.



*(Shoot & Shout-Continued from page 2)*

I Corinthians 12 is a well-known chapter that teaches us we each have a work to do which may look very different from your neighbor, but God has given each of us just the right size and kind of boots to further His work. We aren't to look down on others or ourselves as we look at the cool boots others or ourselves have. These boots are each suited for different weather and jobs but each serves a great purpose without which we could not accomplish the task at hand. General Patton is quoted as saying, "A soldier in shoes is only a soldier. But in boots he becomes a warrior". So put on your God-given boots and get busy! He not only gives you your boots He gives you the energy, desire, strength, and knowledge to put your best boot forward enabling you to accomplish great things for your amazing God.

If God knows the number of hairs on your head don't you think He knows what boots you wear? Each step you take? Where your next step will lead you? How afraid you are of stepping into the unknown? How easily you step in the wrong direction? How often you use your boot, to boot one of His beloved children? But He still loves you with an everlasting love. He will never leave you nor forsake you He will walk beside you when you need a friend. He will walk in front of you when you need a guide. He will walk behind you when you need a good push. He will hover over you when you need protection, and He will live in your heart when you give Him room.

Ephesians 6:15 Put on your boots so that you are ready to spread the Good News that gives peace. God's Word Translation (GW)

When you see someone putting on his Big Boots, you can be pretty sure that an Adventure is going to happen. A. A. Milne

You want to be happy? You want to be well? Then put your boots on. Norah Vincent

None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody - a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League crony or a few nuns - bent down and helped us pick up our boots. Thurgood Marshall

My optimism wears heavy boots and is loud. Henry Rollins

A lie travels round the world while truth is putting her boots on. Edgar Allan Poe

I'd like to die with my boots on. Daniel Berrigan

One should always have one's boots on and be ready to leave. Michel de Montaigne

In the matter of boots, I defer to the authority of the boot-maker. Mikhail Bakunin

The holes in my boots and the holes in my jeans make me whole! Avijeet Das

Don't judge another until you have walked a mile in his boots.



### Portage Events

Portage SDA Church email address is:

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

Portage SDA Church Facebook:

Type: Portage Seventh-day Adventist

Radio station:

WPSA LP 93.5 FM

*The next issue of Grace Notes will be published on May 1st.*

*Please have your articles, announcements or thoughts to us by April 23rd.*

*We appreciate your contributions and depend on them.*

*May God Bless you in all that you do!*

### The Two Angels

My wife, Jody, and I went to town Monday afternoon Jan. 6, 2020 . It was not snowing too bad but when we were on our way home it was snowing more and accumulating. I was turning off of Highway 73 onto Cty W and realized I was going too fast, for I turned the wheel but the car kept going straight into the ditch .

We missed the stop sign and went in a gradual incline and came to a stop in a dry ditch . I tried to move but could only move a few feet forward and back . There must have been 5 inches of wet snow. I asked Jody to call our friend Dan, but no answer .

Then I asked her to call a tow truck . They told her they had 2 roll overs to help before they would get to us. I said a short prayer to Jesus for help to get us out of our trouble and a few minutes later a guy in a pickup truck stopped and asked if we needed help. He said maybe he could help push the car back on the road. A minute later another gentleman stopped and came and assisted the other one to help push the car. I went forward and then back to get up the hill back on the road. It took about 6 attempts and we were finally back on the road, Praise the Lord. I thanked the 2 and they left. I know that they were two angels that God sent to show he cares; and that if you were going to go in the ditch it was the best possible place to do it. There was no damage to the car or us .

Thank you, Jesus for watching over us and loving us. Amen

Richard Lucas

#### 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: STEVEN HALL

407-461-2095

#### Portage Seventh-day Adventist Church

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

Pastor: Steven Hall 407-461-2095

#### 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: Steven Hall 407-461-2095

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.

# GRACE NOTES

Mailing Address:  
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c/o Rick Felts  
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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...

Pictures are best viewed on the website. <http://www.almondsda.org/district-newsletter/2019>



## 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.

*What would you like to see in future editions of Grace Notes? Let us know and we'll see what we can do.*

## Letters to the editor...

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

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

Thanks,  
Grace Notes Editor

## Birthday Calendar Portage District

Ethan Pixler	3/1	PORTAGE		
Megan Damit	3/3	PORTAGE		
Elizabeth Tess	3/5	ALMOND		
Tina Leake	3/5	REEDSBURG		
Luella Zipsie	3/6	REEDSBURG		
Harlow Peterson	3/8	ALMOND		
Luke Anderson	3/16	ALMOND		
Ellie Pavek	3/20	OXFORD		
Narcissa Schmidt	3/20	PORTAGE		
Ken Wilson	3/23	ALMOND		
Lois Schweitzer	3/23	ALMOND		
David Jones	3/24	OXFORD		
Keni Gillingham	3/24	REEDSBURG		
Juanita Spychalla	3/25	PORTAGE		
Maezo McKnight	3/26	PORTAGE		
John Tess	3/29	ALMOND		
Marc Anderson	3/29	ALMOND		
Jared Dana	3/31	PORTAGE		
Erlinda Boyd	4/2	REEDSBURG		
Andrew Jorgenson	4/3	OXFORD		
Doug Bruder	4/5	ALMOND		
			Richard Kastner	4/5 REEDSBURG
			Jeff Veldman	4/6 OXFORD
			Jody Lucas	4/7 ALMOND
			Marta Martingello	4/11 OXFORD
			Daniel Muhlenbec	4/12 REEDSBURG
			Earl Hodge	4/15 REEDSBURG
			Tori Klemp	4/15 OXFORD
			Dorothy Tess	4/21 ALMOND
			Dan Hodel	4/22 OXFORD
			Linda Jones	4/22 OXFORD
			Lorna Hahn	4/26 REEDSBURG
			Tammi Baker	4/26 OXFORD
			Renata Svachova	4/30 REEDSBURG



Someone called out,  
"Johnny, stop that!  
The cat is afraid of water!"  
Johnny looked up at her and said,  
"He should have thought about that  
before he joined my church."

