

Bowman Hills Binder

Fall 2013



“And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Col 3:14 (NIV)

The Church That Prays Together...

Prayer is an integral part of our spiritual lives as individuals and as a church. “Not only will [prayer] bring about a closer relationship with our Father in heaven,” says Pastor Dwight Herod, “but it will draw us closer together as a community of faith.”



That is why our church is emphasizing the importance of prayer and taking steps to make prayer a bigger part of our lives.

“As I have observed the challenges we are facing in our families and as a church, I have realized there are no easy answers,” says Pastor Herod. “As I have sought God’s guidance in my own prayer life, I have been impressed that prayer is the answer.”

Currently, Pastor Herod is preaching a sermon series on prayer, but that isn’t all. More time is being set aside for prayer in prayer meetings and Sabbath Schools, and the elders of the church, as well as their spouses, are being challenged to spend at least one hour per day in prayer and reflection.

“In the frantic pace of life, this has meant loss of sleep for some and some juggling of priorities and commitments for others,” says Tyson Hall.

“However, the elders are claiming the promise that

God ‘will keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on [Him].’”

Want to increase your prayer life? Pastor Herod has this suggestion: “If you are used to spending 10 minutes in prayer, spend 15.”

Let us all make the commitment to pray more and “unlock heaven’s storehouses.”



Prayer Meeting

by Aimee Hunt

Prayer meeting attendees have been surveying the Bible Wednesday nights at 6 p.m. for more than a year. They take a book

from the Bible and do an overview of it, studying historical context, key characters, and the overall theme of the book. Just recently, a twist has been added to the prayer meetings. For about the first 15 minutes, people have an open sharing time. They share testimonies, prayer requests and praises and then pray. Attendees seem to love this new addition, and it helps them start the perfect *prayer* meeting.

Passing the Ministry Baton

Like a baton being passed in a relay race, each year several of our church's ministries change hands. With new energy, the new leader picks up where the previous leader left off and runs forward in what Paul described as the "good race." Meet some of this year's runners and get a glimpse of the direction they're headed with their ministry batons.

Community Services



The nominating committee was stumped. Who would take over the work of the Community Service Center? But God was already working on someone's heart. Vicki Moore, who had volunteered with the center off and on for several years remembers thinking, "I wouldn't mind running this sometime in the future." Unaware that there was a need for a new leader until she saw the blank space on the Nominating Committee report, Vicki spoke to Pastor Dwight Herod. "We've been praying and praying for months for someone to take over," he told her. "We were afraid we were going to have to shut it down!" "Don't do that," she responded. Instead of the center shutting down, the Community Service Center is now moving forward as Vicki searches for new ways to connect it with those in need, providing resources for their spiritual needs as well as their physical needs. "I know what it feels like to be in that situation," Vicki says. "I wanted to give back in any way I can help."

Women's Ministry



Helen McClellan was quietly reading at home when the phone rang and she was asked to serve on the Women's Ministries team. Hesitantly, she agreed then asked who was the leader. "No one yet," was the reply. Out of nowhere, she heard herself say, "If you can't find anyone else to do it, I will." Immediately, she wanted to take it back. That week, she kept arguing with God about if she should really take up this ministry, but instead of letting her off the hook, God only promised to work through her. With a team of talented women to help her, Helen has already organized a beach-themed day retreat, Bible studies, and workshops, as well as activities for teenage girls. In November, the Women's Ministries team will be hosting a second retreat, the "Cozy Mountain Lodge," and in December, she is planning a woman-to-woman Christmas party. "It is my prayer," she says, "that in all we do that we not only have fun and fellowship but, more importantly, draw closer to God."

Youth Sabbath School



When Chadd Reese stepped down as lead teacher of the youth Sabbath School, LaRayne Hall, who has taught in that department for several years, was asked to take his place. "One of the traits I've appreciated about Chadd is his strong belief in the abilities and hearts of our youth," LaRayne says. She plans to continue what he started by encouraging more youth to try co-teaching the class along with one of the adult teachers. "I really love teens," LaRayne says. "I like that they want to tackle real issues and have a heart for serving. I love their passion and openness. They're just fun to be with." Along with this change in leadership within the Sabbath School class, the church board is looking for someone who would be willing to take on a newly elected position of youth department director. This person would work with the various youth ministries in our church (Sabbath Schools, Pathfinders, school, etc.) to coordinate and plan events, develop a vision for youth ministry, engage in problem-solving, and facilitate projects. If God is calling you to this ministry, please talk to one of the pastors.

Let's Move Day Hike

by Lora Lucas

Bowman Hills Church participated in Let's Move Day on September 22 by inviting members to join the pastoral staff on a hike starting at the Ocoee Whitewater Center.

Due to the availability of trails with varying terrain, three hikes were formed. One hike stayed on the trails surrounding the center for ease of those with a stroller.

Another hike went up Old Copper Road, and those requiring more of a challenge hiked the Bear Paw Loop trail.

Fourteen hikers joined the fun, ranging in age from toddler to seniors.

Shield the Vulnerable

by Miguelina Santana

Being a Social Worker, I could talk for hours about the lasting scars that abuse of any type leaves in our children and, subsequently, in our society as a whole. I feel compelled to tell you a true story about the survival ordeal of a sexual abuse victim.

Not long ago, while I was in Georgia presenting a domestic violence workshop, I met a youth pastor whom I'll call "George." I was impressed with his energy level and his love for the Lord. George decided to dedicate his life to work with youth and openly raise awareness about sexual abuse. During the afternoon session, George freely talked about his traumatic experiences, about how when he was a child his mother

abandoned her husband and her four children. As a result, his father struggled as a single parent. George and his siblings were frequently cared for by church members.

Throughout his childhood George was sexually abused many times. Years have passed, and the scars can be seen in his family. Therapy has followed many times because of his inexplicable spurts of anger or negative behaviors. As an adult, George has a voice, he has a normal life with children and a loving wife who know where he is coming from. Yet, there are places in George's mind that are hidden even from himself because sometimes that is what it takes to go on.

George's story illustrates that even Adventists aren't immune to sexual abuse. To protect our children from experiencing trauma such as George faced, the Adventist Church has established a Shield the Vulnerable program. Through this program, those who work with children and youth will be screened and go through an online training process.

Any person who is volunteering to help with children and youth activities in our local schools and churches will need to be screened and trained through this program.

"Seventh-day Adventists place a high value on children," says Pastor Dwight Herod. "We endeavor to offer Christian education as well as learning experiences in Sabbath School and Pathfinders. In the light of the Bible, they are seen as precious gifts from God entrusted to the care of parents, family,

community of faith and society-at-large. Attention to their care, protection and development is extremely important. That is why we must do our part as a community of faith to protect them, and that is why we are offering the program Shield the Vulnerable to our church family."

On Monday night, the board voted me in as the volunteer service administrator for this program. We will begin training in the new year.

Monthly Vespers

By Sarah Hunt

For the past several months, Bowman Hills has been holding Friday night Vespers meetings once a month.

Vespers is meant to provide a restful prequel to Sabbath, setting us in a mindset for worship. Vespers leaders also wanted to provide an environment for people to fellowship together in a more casual setting. The most important reason for starting Vespers was to inspire people to action.

"Vespers should not be just another program where people come and sit, say 'amen,' and then go home unchanged," says Pastor Matthew Shallenberger. "Instead, we want Vespers to inspire people to go out and do something with what they've learned and experienced."

The programs themselves are focusing on the parables of Jesus.

The next service will be on November 1 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.



“Revive Me, Lord”

By Pastor Matthew Shallenberger

There’s a well-known Ellen White quote about revival and reformation: “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work” (Selected Messages, Book 1, p. 121). These words stir our hearts and remind us of the promised latter rain. We exclaim, “Amen! The church needs revival!” Then we wait, watch, and wonder where the revival is.

But what are we looking for? The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in other people’s lives? A miraculous display in the church that will alert us to the latter rain’s arrival? If that’s the case, we may be sorely disappointed. “Are we hoping to see the whole church revived? That time will never come” (p. 122).

This is no reason to despair, though. God’s power is fully available to us. Revival can happen! But it won’t happen while we merely watch and wait. “We must enter upon the work individually. We must pray more, and talk less” (p. 122). That’s where the revival starts! I can only change one person—myself. If I pray more, seek more of God in my life, and invite Him to change me, then maybe the transformation in my life will influence those around me. Maybe they will become motivated to seek revival in their own lives. Instead of asking God to revive the church and then wondering why nothing is happening, maybe I should start by asking God to revive me. Lord, change me. Pour out the Holy Spirit on me. Revive me. That is a prayer God loves to answer. “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13, NIV).

Welcome, New Organ

Have you enjoyed singing along with our church’s new organ? Whether you appreciated last week’s musical worship service commemorating the Great Disappointment or last month’s special hymn sing Vespers program, this organ has already played a key role in helping our congregation sing praises to God. This all-electric Rodgers organ was selected for its quality sound after the church’s previous organ became unusable with unknown potential costs for repair. As the several-months-long installation process came near completion, guest organist Richard van Auken presented a workshop for local organists. Beginning his workshop, van Auken reminded organists that the Bible directs us to “play skillfully with a loud noise.” Certainly this organ, along with the talented musicians who play it each week, is helping our church follow this direction.



Carleen Bolin

“I love the beautiful music at Bowman Hills Church! Music has always been an important part of my life.”



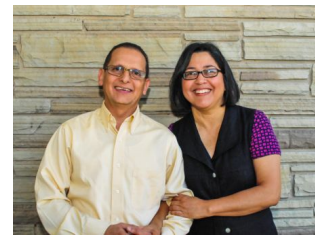
Beth & Bill Cruttenden
Courtney

“We’ve been going to Apison but have been living in the area for seven years.”



Simonique & Jason Dietz
Naomi

“The Lord brought us together during missionary work. He has called us to ministry.”



Dante & Miguelina Santana

“We are thrilled that God has been gracious and has given us blessings in our imperfections.”