



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

December 2025

Sequim Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter
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Welcome to Pastor Cristian Boboceu!

November 8 was a special day for the Sequim Church as we welcomed our new Pastor to Sequim. Led and organized by our Women's Ministry Team, Sandi Whitney officially welcomed Cristian and Simona on behalf of the church, and presented them with the gifts many of you brought. Our Head Elder, Merwin, closed the little "ceremony" with a prayer for God's blessings on Cristian as he ministers to us and with us as we reach out to our community about Jesus' love.



1942 Birthday Party by Donna Bottgenbach

The 1942 Gang celebrated their birthdays on November 9 for the fourth annual party. (Mike Judd was missed)

After a soup lunch, the group played games, exchanged gifts and visited.

Back left: John Werner, Ed Nelson, Bruce Winters

Front from left: Jeanie Kongorski, Diana McGuire, Sandi Garvey, Donna Bottgenbach



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Pathfinders

by Twyla Luke

November was a busy month for Pathfinders! We had our new member Induction Ceremony and “officially” welcomed 6 including 2 staff. Shari Byers has been helping but we figured it was time to make it official! We also continued doing our Classwork. Every month we work towards completing a classwork that at the end of the year culminates with earning that level. Donna Bottgenbach has stepped up to teach our Friend Class, Shari Byers has the Companion Class, Dawna Krause is doing Explorers and I have the Ranger Class. November is also PIE month! I decided to do the Baking Honor with this group! We tackled the first of the pies, the no-bake pie! They could choose between Peanut-Butter/Chocolate or Lemon! Surprisingly, most chose Lemon! It was a fun wild night! We plan to have a full baking day over the Christmas Break to knock out the rest of the requirements! A BIG thank you to everyone who purchased a pie from our fundraiser! I hope you have had an opportunity to reflect on Gratitude and all the things we have for which to be Thankful! God Bless!



Aide for PAES

Peninsula Adventist Elementary School is looking for a paraprofessional (aide), 20-24 hrs / week, working Monday through Thursday, 8:45 am to 2:00 pm. Responsibilities include academic support with K-2, classroom supervision during teacher breaks, recess supervision, grading, and general classroom support tasks. Starting hourly pay at \$16.66. The ideal candidate is a SDA Christian, enjoys children, and can complete WA Conference onboarding requirements quickly.

Interested or know someone? Email Josh Bonifant:
jbonifant@peninsulaadventistelementary.org



Adventurers

by Jay Richmond

Can you believe another month has come and gone? Here are some highlights for what we have been doing.

Our Oct 26 meeting, we had a mini Induction Service with family members. Eight new members have officially joined the Club. As this was our third meeting, we also had an Investiture for the awards earned so far.

After the Services, we talked about prayer and made prayer placemats. Each Otter was encouraged to spend time daily talking to God.

For November 3, the Otters learned about magnets and had fun exploring four stations- magnetic force, attract or repel, strength of a magnet, and find the lodestone. I think the kids had the most fun with repel as they made floating magnets and pushed cars across the floor. We had a show-n-tell for those who brought magnets from home, toys, refrigerator magnets, etc.

While the Beavers continued exploring and playing with magnetic toys, the Builders each made an electromagnet and a temporary magnet. This so far is my favorite meeting yet. The year is still early so I may be saying that again as time goes on.

I feel totally blessed to be the Director of these precious little ones.

Please keep the Adventurer Club in your prayers.

And again, we thank you for your continued financial support of our wonderful Otter Club.



Candlelight Christmas Program

by Beth McBride

The Sequim SDA Church is hosting a Candlelight Christmas program on Sabbath afternoon, 4 p.m., December 13, at our church. The lovely music, spoken word and beautiful Christmas decorations create a special Christmas atmosphere for the holiday season. This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and family members to attend this Christmas worship celebration.





Fellowship Meal Changes **by Donna Bottgenbach**

Beginning in January, the Sequim Seventh-day Adventist Church will be hosting only ONE fellowship meal a month. It will be held on the first Sabbath of the month. This will be in place unless otherwise advertised.

The purpose of the change is to give our 10-year Fellowship Meal Teams a bit of a break. We appreciate these teams for the amazing jobs they have done. These teams will continue to function on a regular basis, but not so often.

This change will also open up opportunities for our members to use the fellowship hall for their own Sabbath lunches if they choose to invite visitors, friends, or groups. There are already a lot of members inviting friends and guests to their homes for a meal. We hope that will continue and more homes will be blessed by doing so as well.

If you have any questions, you can call Donna Bottgenbach, 360-461-2548.

Elder Appreciation **by Donna Bottgenbach**

The church family showed their appreciation with gifts and words of encouragement to our Church Elders for the amazing work they have done during the absence of a pastor. The Children's story was interrupted to surprise the unsuspecting Elders. The spouses were also given a gift for their support. The Deacons and Deaconesses laid their hands on these workers for the Lord as Daryl Trowbridge prayed and thanked God for them. The church also surprised our Church Secretary, Jay Richmond, who held the church together as we waited for our new pastor. In fact, many in the congregation have been blessed with her help with their ministries as well.



PAES Christmas Program

The PAES Christmas Program will be December 16 at 6:30 pm at the church. Come a little early so you don't miss any of the program!



Isn't God Good!

submitted by Doug Woods

"Inasmuch..."
by Beverly Moody

At Christmastime in 1958 my husband and I had been married six months. We were living in a one-room basement apartment in Takoma Park, Maryland, where my husband was attending the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary.

We wanted to share what little we had with someone as we celebrated the birth of our Lord and King. Our own families were too far away to visit, so we decided to adopt a family for the day.

We asked the local Community Service Center staff if they knew of a family we could bring to our home for Christmas Day.

"Yes," the director said, *"we have just the family for you—a mother with several children. The father is not with them right now. They live about an hour's drive out of town and have no telephone."*

This was just the kind of family for whom we were looking. I told the director I would drive out to see the family.

About a week before Christmas I drove through the rolling hills of the countryside, praying that I would find the place. I found the family crowded into a little house, and I was gratified to realize that I would be able to fit them into our small apartment. The mother was pleased with the invitation and said she would have the family ready by ten o'clock Christmas morning, when I promised to return for them.

As an afterthought, she asked, *"Do you cut hair? Would you please bring scissors and cut the children's hair before we go to your house?"* I agreed.

Preparations for Christmas took on a new meaning for my husband and me as we got gifts for the family and prepared a special holiday dinner. While looking through a magazine for an idea for a special holiday dessert, I was drawn to a picture of a layer cake with white icing and pretty red-and-green trimming on it. I've forgotten the rest of the menu, but that cake turned out to be special.

When I arrived in our VW bus at the family's little house on Christmas morning, armed with scissors and comb, the children greeted me with shouts of *"Daddy's home, Daddy's home, and it's his birthday."*

What a pleasant surprise! We'd gladly find some way to squeeze one more adult into our little place, and that decked-out layer cake would serve well as a birthday cake, complete with candles left from my husband's recent birthday. I finished the hair-cutting and hurried the family back to the dinner awaiting us.

Needless to say, the time sped quickly by as the children opened their gifts and devoured their dinner. Eyes sparkled as I brought out the birthday cake, shining with candles. We sang, "Happy birthday, dear Daddy" and "Happy birthday, dear Jesus," since He was the real reason for the celebration.

By the time we were ready to take the family home, it was dark outside. However, our hearts were full of light, joy, and happiness. We headed out into the hills with my husband driving and leading out in singing. We were pleased to hear our guests joining us. The parents could harmonize, and the time passed quickly while we had fun singing all the way to their home. To this day I am often reminded of this experience when I sing, "Do, Lord." It was a Christmas I shall never forget.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40.

[taken from **Over & Over Again!**² 150 Adventists Share Personal Faith Stories About Stewardship. 2000. NAD. Edited by Ronald Allan Knott]



Veteran Recognition

by Michael Schmoll

This year we celebrated Veterans Day on November 15th. 13 Veterans were in attendance including Sgt Stormy Brandt of the Grand Olympic Chorus and our guest speaker Captain Mike Hakanson. 8 Veterans were not able to attend. Many thanks are due to Darlene Thomas, Linda Tash, Dee Gregory and Beth McBride for so beautifully decorating the Church, the Grand Olympic Chorus for the inspiring music, our Audio Visual team for all the last minute changes, and Joanie Schmoll for her photography. 2025 is also the year we celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States Army and Marine Corps. Veterans, because of your commitment, we live in a safer, freer world. Thank you for standing strong when it mattered most. Your Nation is proud.



December Birthdays

- 1 Donna Bottgenbach
- 2 Michael Schmoll
- 4 Linda Yip
- 6 Oliver McClure
- 9 Holly Gauthun
- 9 Sandra Whitney
- 19 Jesse Blake
- 19 Dawn Hulstedt
- 22 Georgia Bullard
- 26 DeLise Dizbon
- 29 Rayan Van Auken
- 31 Bill Needham





Broken But Useful

submitted by Bonnie Sanford

As I walked in from the store with my arms full and a brand new candle in my bag. I struggled to get it all on the counter, one bag dropped and I heard the glass break. My new candle was ruined as the glass shattered. Frustrated, I was ready to throw the whole thing away. My husband refused to let me do so. "It will still light; it will still serve its' purpose," he stated. Immediately, I began to argue back.... "But it's broken and ugly and glass is everywhere. It's just not the same."

I walked away and when I came back, he had placed the candle on the counter and lit the wick. My heart immediately was drawn to the light. How often do we do this in our own lives or with others? Things don't turn out the way we want them to. Plans fail. Dreams shatter. Goals hit the floor. People break our hearts. And we are ready to throw the whole thing in the trash. Even though it can still light.... still shine.... still bring the fragrance of goodness. It just may not be pretty or in the package that we wanted or imagined.

May this story reminded us that even in the brokenness and cutting edge of life, there is still goodness and purpose and light. We simply must be willing to not throw it all away and allow the redemption to take place. There are times that our story will simply speak a little louder and impact even more people when we are willing to allow the broken places of our life and story to shine for others to see and understand.

- Author Unknown

Fall Festival

Thank you so much to all the volunteers who helped make the Fall Festival possible this year! It was a wonderful night filled with fun, food and fellowship! We look forward to putting it on again next year!



Dec. 2025 Church Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>Adventurers 3:30pm Community Christmas Chorus Practice 6:00-9:00pm</i>	2 <i>ACS 10:00am-12:00pm Ladies Christmas Party at 2:00pm Chorus Practice 6:00-9:00pm</i>	3 <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	4 <i>Backpack Program, Deacon/Meal Leaders Training at 4:00pm Chorus Practice 6pm, Pathfinders 6:30pm</i>	5 <i>Community Christmas Chorus Concert 7:00pm</i>	6 <i>NO Fellowship Meal Community Christmas Chorus Concert 2:00pm</i>
7 <i>Community Christmas Chorus Concert 2:00pm</i>	8 <i>School Board Meeting 6:30pm</i>	9	10 <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	11 <i>Backpack Program 8:00am Ladies Bible Study 2:00pm Pathfinders 6:30pm</i>	12	13 <i>Deacon Meeting 12:15pm Church Christmas Program 4:00pm</i>
14 <i>Adventurers 1:30pm</i>	15	16 <i>ACS 10:00am-12:00pm PAES Christmas Program 6:30pm</i>	17 <i>Prayer Meeting 6:30pm</i>	18 <i>Backpack Program 8:00am Pathfinders 6:30pm</i>	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 <i>Church Office Closed</i> 	26 <i>Church Office Closed</i>	27
28	29	30	31	<u>Upcoming Events:</u> January 2 Fellowship Hall Use - Pathfinders January 10 Communion		

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