

# NORCO CHURCH TIDINGS

NEWSNOTES FROM THE NORCO  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Our Church Family Newsletter

March/April 2017

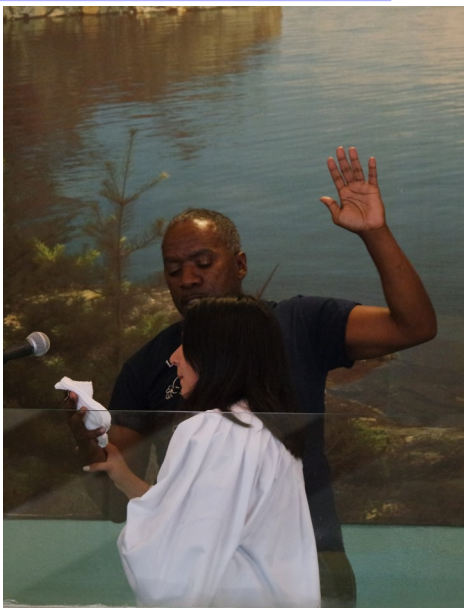
## Age of Elohim Series Results in Decisions for Jesus

*How blessed we were to experience the series, Age of Elohim, led by Evangelist Robert Edwards. His illustrations and explanations gave us a clearer picture of Jesus and his love as revealed in the final book of the Bible.*

*At the close of the series eight individuals chose to be baptized to evidence their life-long decision to serve Jesus.*



**Pastor Edwards welcomed 25-50 guests each night of the three – week series held from February 25 through March 18.**



Kaylina Castellanos and Jim Racobs were baptized on March 18, and we celebrated the baptisms of Juliana and Gary Smith on April 2. Five more baptisms are anticipated on April 23. Praise the Lord!

# I Have Two Dollies—by Dwight Nelson

The article below was read for the devotional at the Church Business meeting on March 22. Dwight Nelson is the pastor of Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan.

When I was a boy in Sabbath School, I remember the leaders teaching all of us little tykes a ditty that has hung around in the back room of my mind ever since—did you learn it, too?

I have two dollies and I am glad;  
you have no dolly and that's too bad.  
I'll share my dolly, for I love you;  
And now you have a nice dolly, too.

Ostensibly this little chorus was to impress upon our young minds the credo that sharing is the right way, the happy way, the Jesus' way. (I don't recall a verse for us boys about sharing—perhaps at that age we all played with dolls!)

But now that we've all grown up, of course, there are no more ditties to sing and dollies to share. And as the chorus bemoans, "and that's too bad." Because life really is about sharing, isn't it?



After all, John the Baptist thundered to the crowds in the wilderness: "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same" (Luke 3:11). "I have two dollies."

Why even Jesus in His epic Sermon on the Mount declared: "If anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well—give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you" (Matthew 5:40-41). "I have two dollies, and you have none."

Paul joins the chorus: "Share with the Lord's people who are in need. . . . For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings" (Romans 12:13; 15:27).

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16). "I'll share my dolly, for I love you; and now you have a nice dolly, too."

Think of how blessed this world would be if this notion of sharing were the operative way of living. Rich nations sharing with poor nations. Regions with surplus sharing with communities in need. People with extra sharing with people without. "I have two dollies, and you have none."

And how about congregations? And churches? Does this obviously strong biblical credo apply to them? To us?

Here on the campus of Andrews University the Pioneer Memorial Church has been blessed with an abundance of space for children in Sabbath School, youth in study, for people—for many, many people and families—in worship. "I have two dollies, and I am glad." And we should be—God long before any of us came on the scene made certain our forefathers and foremothers wisely built a very big "House of Prayer for All People" (as the chiseled words above our front doors declare).

But what space shall we share?

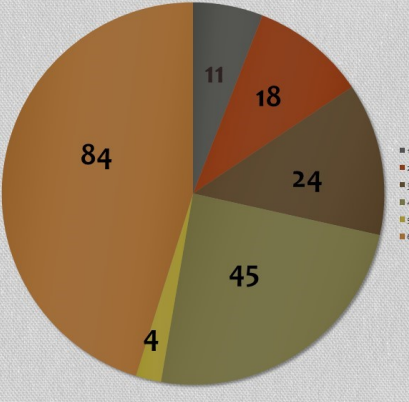
In multiple circles over the past few days people have been contemplating that question. Is there space in the Pioneer Memorial Church that could be shared with others who need such space? Space for what? Space for worship. The conversations continue. Because the chorus is still true—"I have two dollies, and I am glad; you have no dolly and that's too bad—I'll share my dolly, for I love you; and now you have a nice dolly, too." Sharing dollies, sharing space—it can't be that much different, can it?

Especially since God invites us, "to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share" (1 Timothy 6:18).




# Church Board and Business Meeting Report

At the March Church Board and Business meetings the following items were discussed and motions carried:

<p><b>Membership Report</b></p> <p>Norco Seventh-day Adventist Church 3621 Corona Avenue Norco, California</p> <p><b>182 – INACTIVE MEMBERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>11 – Transfers</li> <li>18 – Deaths</li> <li>24 – Moved Away</li> <li>45 – Post in Recorder</li> <li>4 – Duplicates</li> <li>84 – Future Study</li> </ul>	<p>Norco SDA Church Membership - 2017 Inactive Membership</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Norco SDA Church Membership - 2017 Inactive Membership</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Category</th> <th>Count</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Future Study</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Post in Recorder</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moved Away</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Deaths</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transfers</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Duplicates</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Category	Count	Future Study	84	Post in Recorder	45	Moved Away	24	Deaths	18	Transfers	11	Duplicates	4	<p><b>MOTION #1:</b></p> <p>In order to provide a more efficient assessment of our current Norco Seventh-day Adventist Church membership, We move to “prune” our records in the following manner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ 45 names to post to Pacific Union Recorder</li> <li>✓ 84 names for Future Study</li> <li>✓ 51 names for immediate release</li> </ul>
Category	Count															
Future Study	84															
Post in Recorder	45															
Moved Away	24															
Deaths	18															
Transfers	11															
Duplicates	4															

At the Business Meeting held on Wednesday, March 22, a total of 25 members were in attendance. The first item of business was the church membership report. It was noted a total of 222 members are listed on the church books. Currently there are 41 active members with 181 identified as inactive. It was voted to post 45 of the inactive names to the Pacific Union Recorder to try to locate those for whom we do not have contact information; the 84 names for whom we have addresses will be contacted, and 51 names will be released due to death, transfer, or duplication.

<p><b>CHURCH BOARD RECOMMENDATION</b></p> <p>“After careful study and prayer, the Norco Seventh-day Adventist Church Board moves to recommend to the Norco Seventh-day Adventist Church Business Session that we entertain the idea of renting our Church Campus to other Christian churches.”</p>		<p>The second item of business was the Church Board’s recommendation to rent the Church Facility to other Christian Congregations. Recently the Pastor was approached by three different Protestant congregations who inquired about renting our church for their worship services.</p> <p>There was sincere discussion on the pros and cons of renting our Norco Church facility to other Christian congregations. Those present who desired to voice an opinion were given two minutes to speak to the group in favor of or against the recommendation of the Board. Discussion was also held on whether to restrict the rental to the Chapel and Fireside Rooms, excluding the Sanctuary.</p> <p>A spirit of love and acceptance was exhibited during the discussions, and when the vote was taken,</p>
--	---	--

the overwhelming majority voted (23/2) to rent the entire Church Campus, including the Sanctuary.

When the two churches who had requested to rent our facility were informed that we had voted approval, both informed us they were withdrawing their request. Therefore, at this time we will not be renting the facility. The Board has appointed Pablo Diaz, Frances Racobs, Marc Thomas, and Robert Roth to serve as the Facilities Committee. This group is preparing policies and regulations to present to the congregation at the next business meeting.

Renting the Church would provide much-needed funds to meet our monthly obligations. However, since this has not come to fruition, it is even more important that each of us prayerfully consider increasing our giving to the Church Budget in order to meet the financial needs of our congregation.

**Leona and Josias Robinson**

**J:** My name is Josias Lionel Robinson. I was named after my father and my great-grandfather. Great-grandfather was a doctor in Civil War Days and was glad to take a commission as a doctor but only if the governor of Indiana allowed him to treat both sides of the conflict, and the governor of Indiana agreed. The name skipped a generation though, my grandfather's name was Leola, and then my father was Josias Lionel Robinson, Sr., and I'm Jr. And I have a son Josias the Third, and a grandson Josias the 4<sup>th</sup>, and a great-grandson Josias the 5<sup>th</sup>!

I was born August 7 1935 in my mother's house in Long Beach, California. My ancestry is from Oklahoma. My dad and his family migrated from Oklahoma back to Indiana where they had originally come from, and then around 1920's two of my dad's brothers and my dad hopped a freight train and came out to California and landed in Santa Monica. My dad looked around and said, 'Boy am I glad to get out of this fur coat! I'm going to stay around here for the sunny weather!' Then my dad met my mother at the FourSquare Church, Aimee Semple McPherson's church in Los Angeles. My dad was playing the violin for the church service and my mom met him and he said, 'I'm marrying that lady!'

**L:** I'm Leona Pearl Robinson, and my family came from Canada. They came to Maryland and I was born there, at the Washington Sanitarium and Hospital, in Oct 14 1932. I moved out to California in 1967, and I met Josias in 1980 in February, and we were married April of that year. My family background is Adventist. My grandfather was an Adventist minister in Canada; my father died when I was three years old—of cancer—and my mother raised two of us, my younger sister and myself. I attended J. N. Andrews all eight grades (and Leona has a wonderful photo of her eighth grade graduating class, the girls all in white dresses). I went to Takoma Academy through the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Then I went down and got my 'MRS' in Tennessee! We were in TN for one year and then moved back to Maryland where my family was so we could be around family. We had four daughters. The oldest is over 65 now and the youngest is 61.

**J:** I joined the Navy—I was onboard a destroyer for four years. When I got out of the Navy, my dad was a marine painter down in Newport Beach. So I got into that line of work. I worked at the Harbor and worked on boats of celebrities such as John Wayne and Buddy Ebsen. I did all the painting on boats there. I got a job working for the County of Riverside through one of the church members who worked for the county—that was for five years. Then after that, Nelson Morales (member of Norco) told me there was a job opening at La Sierra University, and I worked there for 25 years.



Josias and a few of his sailing ships!

My hobby involves painting too: oil-painting. My dad inspired me, as he loved to paint. One of my first paintings was my Redwood Trees painting (with a beautiful wood frame!) and dad praised that. And I sold a few paintings. I also painted 'The Hanging Gardens of Babylon' and also a fall scene with trees in orange and red. I did another painting back in high school of Rudolph Valentino. I've done a number of paintings! I still paint but not recently. I painted pictures for each one of my children so they'd have something to remember me by.

And I also collect little sailing ship models, too. And I have a sailboat that's 36' long, remote-controlled, and take it down to the lake at Fairmount Park to sail it, and I also have a 12-ft sailboat. So I've been involved with boats and painting one way or the other.

**L:** My hobbies: I like collecting little music boxes and little crystal animals, and also Princess House. I sold Princess House products for several years and I have quite a collection. As far as my professions: my first husband and I had a business in Maryland. We dedicated it to the Lord when we began. We made a double each year for ten years—and then my husband of that time decided not to love the Lord, and that business went down faster than anything I've seen. Then I started a business out here in Riverside, with La Sierra University doing copies of their books. It was called Loma Linda Printing but it was right here in La Sierra. I've been out of work for a few years so it must've been around '82.

I have four daughters; they're each one in a different state. Josias has five children but only two of them live in this area, one in Calimesa and one in Yucaipa, the others are out of state. Most of our grandchildren are out of state but a couple in Calimesa. I became a member of Norco Church since we came...2007.

**J:** But I go back further as a member in Norco. I started in 1966. My eldest daughter Kathy – we were watching a parade on Sixth St in Norco, the Labor Day Parade. That was in '66. We moved to Norco in '65. So '66 or '67 the parade was going on. The Pathfinders had a float, a big Noah's Ark, and there were Pathfinders riding on it. And the float sign said 'Norco Pathfinders.' Kathy saw that float with that sign advertising this group called 'Pathfinders.' And she was interested. Terry, my oldest son, had been in Cub Scouts, and so Kathy was kind of jealous that he was in an organization like that. She thought she'd join Pathfinders. When





***“We’ve been married 37 years, and the Lord brought us together.”***

she joined, the pastor at that time, E. Toral Seat, gave her Bible studies. The pastor came to our house and gave the whole family Bible studies. I wanted to know what she was getting into! My background was FourSquare, where my mother and father met. When Kathy wanted to join Pathfinders, we let her do that, but I said, I want to go out with you one time to where you’re camping and meet the people who are in Pathfinders. When I did, they invited us to join Pathfinders, and that’s how we got into the SDA Church. Nelson Morales came to give me Bible studies so I took Bible studies, and Kathy was taking studies from Pastor Seat. The studies made sense to me from my FourSquare background. I remember when, in the studies, they mentioned the Sabbath, and I said, ‘it’s Sunday!’ But they pointed to a calendar and I said, ‘you’re right, it is Saturday!’ And along with the other studies, I was really interested in ‘the message.’ And right after I was baptized, well actually I was going on campouts as a dad before baptism. After, I was director of Norco Pathfinder Club for three or four years. We had a nice-sized club, 25-35 kids. We’d go out Ingathering and all the Pathfinders would show up. In fact, while we were Ingathering along Corona Ave. we met a family that had eight children in it. And they had no money and no food, so we supported that family for awhile and some of those children joined our Club. But Pastor Seat and Nelson Morales were in charge of Ingathering and they’d send us out to different locations. We had about 300 in the congregation at that time, around 1967.

The Norco Sanctuary was just finished—(Josias showed a photo of a baptism and people are sitting on folding chairs on the platform—the carpet was just installed). A lot of the members came from La Sierra. People who worked at the LS Campus and brought their children. My children were going to Academy and Grammar School and their friends wanted to be with my children, at the same church with us. So I was ‘brought in’ because of Pathfinders. I was with Pathfinders about three years and then was elected as Head Deacon in 1980, and my family kind of broke up a little bit, and I left the church for a time. Then when I met Leona, I returned to Adventism.

**L:** I met Josias through the PhiloSDA Club. I was treasurer of the Loma Linda Club. My president was a friend of the president of the La Sierra Club and that president asked her over to play games one night, and invited Jo to play games too. At the time I was in Denmark with my daughter. When I came back home, I asked my friend Jane, ‘what have you been doing?’ and she said, ‘I’ve been going out!’ So I told her if she had anyone for me to meet, to introduce us. And she introduced me to Jo! PhiloSDA was an Adventist Singles Club.

**J:** One of the students who worked on my Paint Crew at LS University, his mother knew Jane. So that’s how we met. I didn’t want to be single. I’d already been single almost 12 years. I prayed about it, and God provided the man! And I really believe God brought us together because we’ve been married 37 years on the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month!

**J:** We had an interesting wedding: Las Vegas—because it was cheaper! I was living in a little trailer near the road that runs near the Physical Plant, just below, where the Visual Arts Building is. I was living as a single person. My youngest son was living with his mother. My other children were married except for Josias my #2 son, who got married in the Norco Church after we got married. So I was in a single-wide trailer on that La Sierra Campus, and it was a really quick way to get to work! When I first went to La Sierra, I didn’t know anything about the campus at all. I walked into the Paint Shop and there were twelve students there waiting for me to tell them what to do! But I didn’t know the campus! I had someone who had been taking over temporarily and he showed me the ropes. I worked there for 26 years. We painted every building on that campus, inside and out! I was there until I retired in January 2001.

**L:** We’ve been married 37 years, and the Lord brought us together. When we first came back to the church, we came back to Norco. We also attended other churches—we had a pastor down at the Beach and we had our kids—he had five and I had four and they were mostly living around here. And on Sabbath, on the weekend, we wanted to get away so we went to an Adventist Church down there on the beach. And this pastor said, you’ve got a little motor home, bring it down and stay in it overnight and have Sabbath with us, and that’s what we did.



Hanging Gardens of Babylon—oil painting by Josias Robin-



Back in the day . . .

**J:** I attended other SDA churches together, we were trying out churches. I went from La Sierra Church, then to Arlington Church and then decided to check out Norco in 2007. So that became our home church. At that time they had a good Pathfinder Club doing well. And we already knew Nelson Morales—he was the first person in the church that I met besides Pastor Seat.

**L:** When we first came back to the church, someone named Shay ?Fernandez put his arms around Jo and said ‘so good to have you back,’ and that was such a blessing!

**J:** I’ve served in various capacities at Norco: Deacon, Elder, Personal Ministries. Even though I don’t live down the street from there anymore, it’s our home church!

**L:** My advice to married couples: keep God in your family, or you won’t make it!

**J:** And if you have disagreements, make sure you settle them before you go to bed at night! Never get into arguments at night! 😊



## Our Pathfinders in Action—Gardening and Fun Activities!



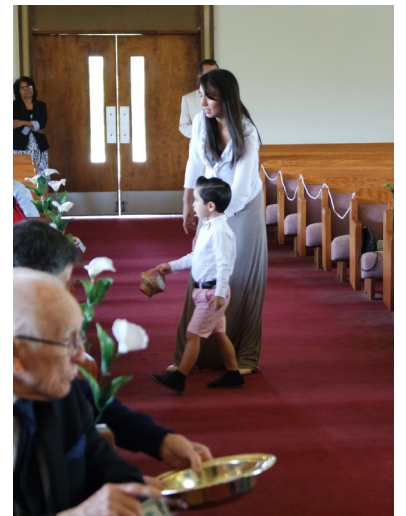
Sunday mornings our Pathfinders are more than busy! In addition to having breakfast together and spending time in Bible study, the boys head out to work in the garden.

But, as you can see, they also find some time for a friendly game of soccer or basketball!

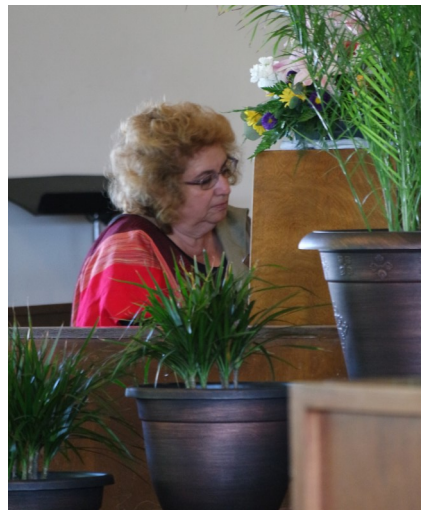
Many thanks to Susan and Jaime for their dedication to the Pathfinder Club.



## Blessed with the Gifts of Children, Music, and Celebrating Birthdays!



The Children's Offering and story as well as special musical presentations and celebrating birthdays all add up to make our church a very special place to be each Sabbath!





## Sermon Series for April—Got Prayer?

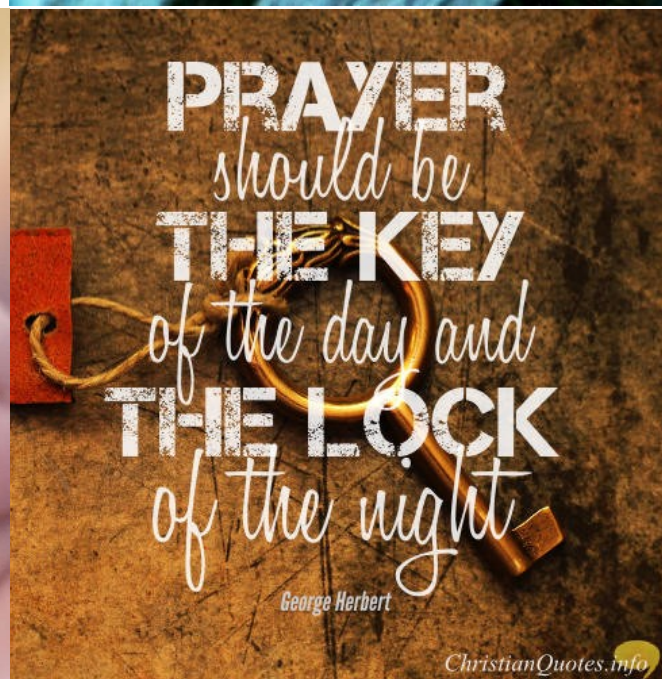
In order to maintain a strong and healthy Christian life with a deep connection to God, we need to spend time in prayer. Ellen White says that prayer is the opening of the heart to God as a friend. She also advises that we spend more time in prayer:

“There is necessity for diligence in prayer; let nothing hinder you. Make every effort to keep open the communion between Jesus and your own soul. Seek every opportunity to go where prayer is wont to be made. Those who are really seeking for communion with God will be seen in the prayer meeting, faithful to do their duty and earnest and anxious to reap all the benefits they can gain. They will improve every opportunity of placing themselves where they can receive the rays of light from heaven.: Steps to Christ, p.98.

Got Prayer? Is a four-part sermon series that will begin on April 15. Let’s join together in strengthening our prayer life!

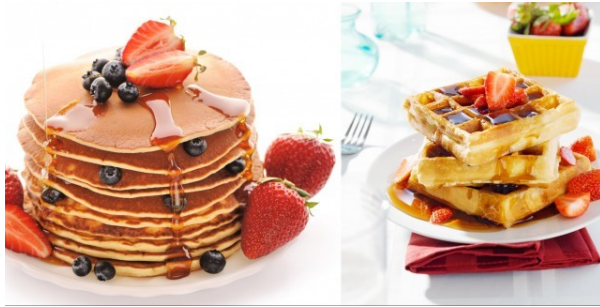


Therefore I tell you,  
whatever you ask for in  
**prayer,**  
**believe**  
that you have received it,  
and it will be yours.  
Mark 11:24



*We must be much in prayer if we would make progress in the divine life. When the message of truth was first proclaimed, how much we prayed. How often was the voice of intercession heard in the chamber, in the barn, in the orchard, or the grove. Frequently we spent hours in earnest prayer, two or three together claiming the promise; . . . Our perils are greater now than then. Souls are more hardened. We need now to be imbued with the spirit of Christ, and we should not rest until we receive it. Testimonies, v.5, p.161*

All Church Family Social—Potluck Brunch  
 Sunday, April 16—10 a.m.  
 At the home of Pastor Rob and Julie  
 9690 Avenida San Timoteo  
 Cherry Valley  
 Optional hike in Bogart Park to  
 Walk off all those yummy calories!



## Contact Us

Have a story or announcement for the newsletter?  
 Submit to:

[Julieannroth@gmail.com](mailto:Julieannroth@gmail.com)  
 707-339-2666

Interim Pastor  
 Adrian Pressley  
 951.415.6261  
[presamp@aol.com](mailto:presamp@aol.com)

Head Elder  
 Nelson Santana  
 909-260-6202  
[bearpaw61@gmail.com](mailto:bearpaw61@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web at

# Norco Seventh-day Adventist Church

## April 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
<p><u>Interim Pastor</u></p> <p>Adrian Pressley                      951.415.6261  <a href="mailto:presamp@aol.com">presamp@aol.com</a></p>	<p><u>Administrative Pastor</u></p> <p>Robert Roth                      951-870-0718  <a href="mailto:pastorrob13@gmail.com">pastorrob13@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><u>Head Elder</u></p> <p>Nelson Santana                      909-260-6202  <a href="mailto:bearpaw61@gmail.com">bearpaw61@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><u>Bulletin and Calendar Secretary</u></p> <p>Julie Roth                      707-339-2666  <a href="mailto:julieannroth@gmail.com">julieannroth@gmail.com</a></p>			<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am - Sabbath School                      10:50 am - Worship-Pastor Roth                      1:00 pm Fellowship Dinner</p> <p>Sunset - 7:11 pm</p>
<p>2 8 am - Pathfinders                      Breakfast &amp; Gardening</p>	3	4	<p>5</p> <p>7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting/                      "Secrets to a Thriving Church"</p>	6	7	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am - Sabbath School                      10:50 am - Worship-Pastor Pressley                      NO FELLOWSHIP DINNER                      2:00 pm Pathfinders/Adventurers                      5 p.m. Wildlife Vespers—LLU Church                      Sunset - 7:16 pm</p>
<p>9 8 am - Pathfinders                      Breakfast &amp; Gardening</p>	<p>10</p>  <p>6-7 pm Stewardship Team                      7-8 pm - Board Meeting</p>	11	<p>12</p> <p>7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting/                      "Secrets to a Thriving Church"</p>	13	14	<p>15</p> <p>got prayer? - 1</p> <p>9:30 am - Sabbath School                      10:50 am - Worship-Pastor Roth</p> <p>NO Church Social                      Sunset—7:21 pm</p>
<p>16</p> <p><b>HE IS RISEN!</b></p> <p>Resurrection Brunch                      10 a.m.—Roth Home                      Cherry Valley</p>	17	18	<p>19</p> <p>7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting/                      "Secrets to a Thriving Church"</p>	20	21	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am - Sabbath School                      10:50 am - Worship-Pathfinder Sabbath                      1:00 pm Fellowship Dinner                      2:00 pm Pathfinders/Adventurers                      3 p.m. Spiritual Parenting Seminar—LLU Church                      Sunset - 7:27 pm</p>
<p>23/30</p> <p>8 am - Pathfinders                      Breakfast &amp; Gardening</p> <p>23—Adventurer Fun Day                      SECC Conference Office</p>	24	25	<p>26</p> <p>7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting/                      "Secrets to a Thriving Church"</p>	27	28	<p>29</p> <p>got prayer? - 2</p> <p>9:30 am - Sabbath School                      10:50 am - Worship-Pastor Roth</p> <p>Sunset - 7:32 pm</p>