

# NORCO CHURCH TIDINGS

NEWSNOTES FROM THE NORCO  
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Our Church Family Newsletter

January-February 2019

## Celebrating a New Year and a New Life!



*There is nothing more heart-warming than seeing a family bring a newborn baby to the Lord for dedication.*

*What a joy it was on Sabbath, January 5, to celebrate the dedication of William Thomas, son of Marc and Patricia Thomas, along with sister Jessica and brother Nathan.*

*It is our prayer that this little one grows in the love and nurture of our church family. It takes a village...*

## Tumbleweed Work Day

Sunday, January 13, a faithful work crew came and helped move the tumbleweed mountain from the parking lot to the ground where we will be able to burn them as soon as they dry out from recent rains!



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## We Joyfully Welcome New Members and Sadly Bid Farewell



### Welcoming Two New Families!

What a joy it is to welcome **Ron and Carol Sue Bowes** (pictured above) and **Abraham Castaneda, Brenda Rodrigues, and daughter, Alyssa** (pictured above right) to our church family.

We look forward to getting better acquainted with these two families and are proud to have them join our congregation.

In the short time Abraham has been with our church family, he has joined our Audio Visual Team and helps out tremendously in the sound booth and running our AV programs. (pictured below)



### Farewell to Brother Nelson Morales

With great sadness we bid **Nelson Morales**, our dear brother, farewell on Sabbath, February 16. After over forty years of service to our church as a deacon and beloved member of our congregation, Nelson has decided to move to Costa Rica and do some traveling. We send him with our heartfelt thanks for his dedication to our congregation and wish him traveling mercies.

Enjoying the Gifts of Music, Worship, Fellowship, and Friends



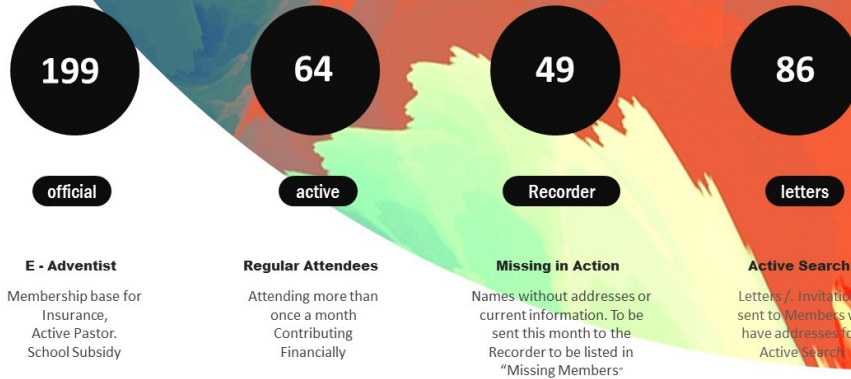
On Sabbath, February 23, the La Sierra Academy Chorale and Band filled our worship service with beautiful music and greatly enriched our worship service.

What a joy it is whenever our church is full with worshippers. Our own Pastor John also blessed us with a special song that day to close his sermon.

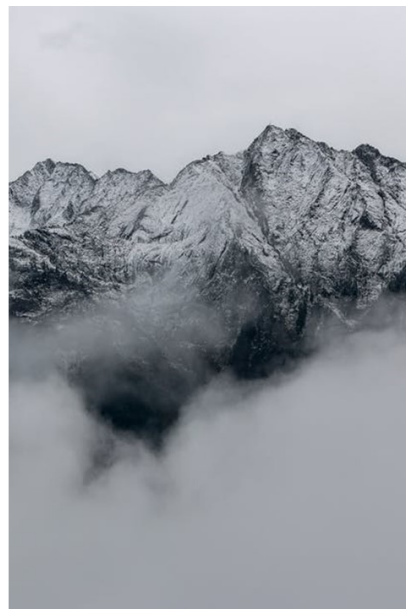
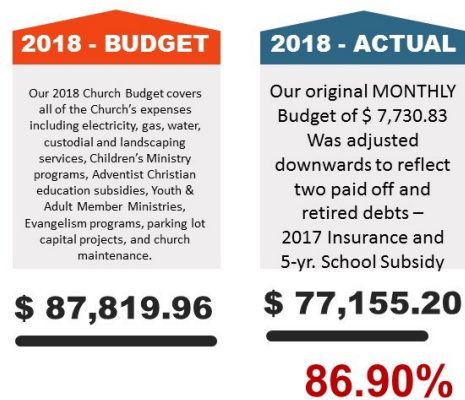
Following the service a number of the choir and band members and their families. It was a delightful day!



## Membership Statistics



## 2018 – Church Budget



## More About The Team

-  DEACONS
-  SABBATHSCHOOL
-  HOSPITALITY



### Membership News:

In January the church met in business session to review the 2018 membership report and vote on several items of business, not the least of all the air conditioning bids submitted for replacing our ailing A/C units.

### Air Conditioning Update:

It was the consensus of the members present to award the Dynamo Company the project. At the February Church Board Meeting it was announced that the other bidding company, BWR, had come back with a more appealing offer. After sharing the offer with Dynamo, they agreed to match the offer from BWR, so the contract has been awarded to Dynamo and work is expected to begin on March 18.

### Church Budget News:

In 2018 we met 86.9% of our budget. This is the best giving record our church has achieved for several years. Let's all work hard in 2019 to make 100% of our financial needs.

### Church Officers Report:

A number of ministries are active in our Norco Church family. Jaime Platas has agreed to serve as an elder along with the team of Rocio Castellanos and Robert and Julie Roth. Morena Diaz and Jaime Sanchez are leading the deacons team in service to our church.

Prayer Ministries is being led by Jaime and Christine Platas, and they are also coordinating our Fellowship dinners the first and third Sabbaths of the month. The Hospitality Committee covers the duties on the second and fourth Sabbaths.

We are blessed to have so many active and committed officers.

# Pathfinders— Service and Socials



Learning social graces and etiquette...which fork is used for what? Why two spoons?? LOL!



Working hard to help beautify our church property. What would we do without these strong young men who help in so many ways?!!



Raising funds for the trip to Oshkosh for the Pathfinder Camporee!



Our Pathfinders did themselves proud on the evening of February 17. The young men set the tables, helped prepare the food, and served a wonderful three-course meal to thirty-five guests, including members of their own families as well as our church family.

The evening culminated in the showing of the movie *Soul Surfer*. When the donations were counted, the evening netted \$450 for the club's trip to Oshkosh for the International Pathfinder Camporee this August.

# Pathfinders— Service and Socials-continued...



Plating, prepping, setting, hosting, and serving...they did it all!!



It took a lot of work to put this event on, and the club members rose to the occasion! They used all their recently learned skills in social graces and created lovely centerpieces, folded napkins, laid the tablecloths, set out chargers, glassware and place settings.

In the kitchen they plated all the salads, helped make the desserts, breaded and fried gluten steaks, and sliced potatoes. Then they helped plate the meals and desserts and served the guests with finesse.

Many thanks to the leaders who mentored and taught the boys, guided, cooked, and helped...Susan and Jaime Sanchez, Jim and Frances Racobs, and Rob and Julie Roth.

**Blessed by Guest Speakers and Story-Tellers who have Enriched our Worship Services**



We have been blessed by a number of wonderful speakers in January and February...our own Nicole Castanon, Paul Levy, and Jaime Platas, (pictured above, left to right) all members of our congregation, shared messages from their hearts on the Sabbaths Pastor Choi was not with us. In addition, Christine Platas (below left) shared an exciting Children's Story about her horses, and guest Patrick Johnson shared with us a message from the book of Ruth. We are grateful to all of them for blessing us with their messages!



## Pastor's Corner



I read the other day that the entire State of California is officially no longer in a drought. After what seemed like was going to be our inevitable condition as a State into the foreseeable future, thanks to consecutive above average rainy seasons, our reservoirs are full and our snow packs levels are more than 100 percent. Despite the fact that this winter seemed like nonstop rain and cold, it will be so nice to not hear the word drought anymore, at least for a while. However, we should all continue to conserve water, I am grateful we won't have the mandatory water use restrictions imposed on us for the time being .

In 1 Kings chapter 17, Elijah announces a great drought that will begin in the land because of the sins of Ahab, Jezebel, and the nation. This certainly caught their attention. To make a long story short, once they repented of their Baal worship and fully turned back to God, Elijah prayed and God answered with a huge storm to end the

drought. It is important that we do not overlook the correlation between the dry condition of the literal land and the dry condition of their souls as a people .

Jesus said, I am the Water of Life. He who drinks of this water will never thirst. In fact, this water will become a living spring within us welling up into everlasting life. What is the condition of your soul? Let us fully turn back to God and experience the "Latter Rain" that God promises for those who live in the last days, so that we live each day overflowing with the joy of the Holy Spirit.

Pastor John Choi

## Contact Us

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# Save the Date for an October Church Family Camp Trip

**Our Norco Church Family has been invited to join Pastor and Mrs. John Choi and family along with the members of the Colton Church at a church camp retreat at Pine Springs Ranch October 11-13, 2019. Watch your bulletin for more details and an interest form to complete. We need to know how many of you are interested in attending this event.**

