

NORCO CHURCH TIDINGS

NEWSNOTES FROM THE NORCO
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



Our Church Family Newsletter

October—Dec. 25, 2018

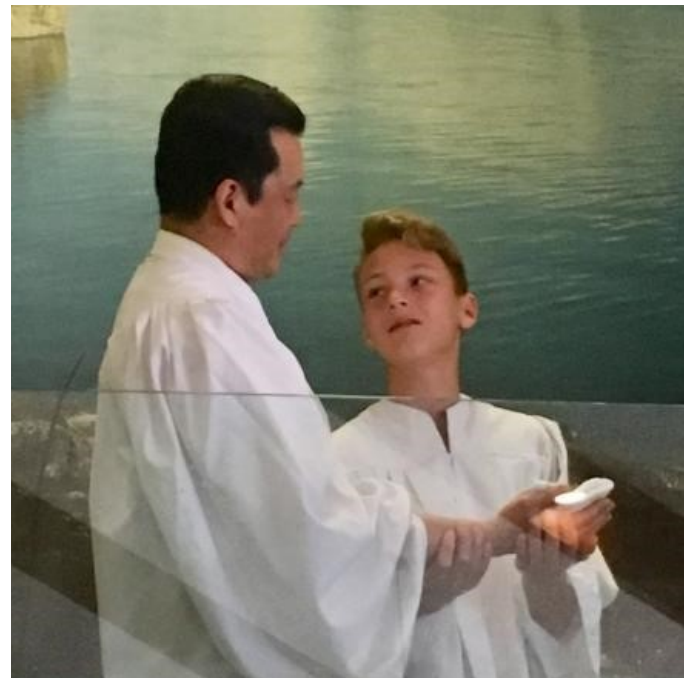
Celebrating the Baptisms of our Pathfinders!!

Our hearts sang as our Pathfinders, Daniel Fernandez, Matthew Gordon, Nickolas Konek, Jose Morales, and Stephen Sanchez chose to show their commitment to Jesus Christ through baptism.

Manty thanks to all of our church family as well as those who studied and worked with them: Bryan Donker, Pastor John, Pastor Rob, and most of all, to Susan and Jaime Sanchez and Frances and Jim Racobs for their part in leading and teaching these young men.



Nick Konek, Daniel Fernancez, and Jose Morales were baptized on November 10 by Pastor John

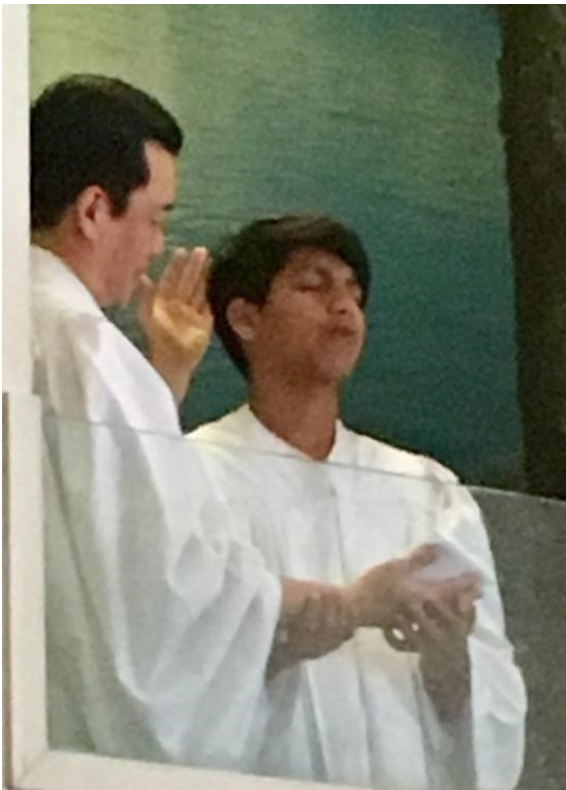


Many thanks to all of our church family members who have loved, mentored, and prayed for our young men

Baptisms are such a special celebration!



Matthew Gordon and Stephen Sanchez were baptized on November 24 by Pastor Rob. We are so blessed to have all of these Young men as part of our Norco Church family.



Member Spotlight—Craig and Kathy Jones

Craig's Story:

I'm a second-generation Californian: My mother was born in San Francisco, my father in La Verne. I was born at Pomona Valley Hospital. My parents were living in San Dimas at the time. I have one brother and one sister, and I'm the eldest of the three kids.

I attended public school from kindergarten to twelfth grade, first in San Dimas and then after my parents moved to Ontario CA, I went to school there. Around 1959 my parents had a house built in Los Serrano (what is now known as Chino Hills). In the summer of 1965 my parents bought a house across the street from Chino High, so from 4th to 12th grade I attended Chino schools, where I graduated in 1966. I went to one year of Jr College before I went into the Navy. When I got out of the Navy I used some of my GI Bill to attend the second year of college, and took an accounting class and a computer class.

I was raised a Methodist. My parents didn't go to church even though my mom went to Catholic School when she was growing up. Dad was raised a Methodist.

My grandparents on my father's side also lived in San Dimas, just about ten miles from my parents' house. They owned a chicken ranch. I would go visit them whenever I could. When I was around five years old, I started going to the San Dimas Methodist Church with them. In 1958 they moved to Chino and started another chicken ranch. I would go over during the summer when I had time off from school to help feed the chickens and collect the eggs. They had over three hundred chickens. As I got older, I stopped going to church.

My time in the Navy: I was in the Navy from December 1967 to Oct 1st 1971. Went to boot camp in San Diego, then in March '68 flew from Travis AFB to Subic Bay in the Philippines and boarded my first ship: USS Ponchatoula AO-148. It was a fleet oiler; we would refuel ships off the coast of Vietnam. I was on this ship from '68 to the first part of '69. My next ship was the USS MARS AFS-1; this was a supply ship. We would deliver items such as canned food, housekeep-

ing supplies, and miscellaneous supplies to ships also off the coast of Vietnam. Both ships were assigned to the Western Pacific. Some of the ports we docked at were Yokosuka and Sasebo, Japan; Hong Kong, and Singapore.

My third and final duty station was from Nov 1970 to Oct 1971 in the Polaris Material Office in Bremerton, Washington. Our duty there was to call on the phone to Guam and see if the Polaris subs stationed there need-



ed any supplies or spare parts. If so, we called Naval Supply back in Pennsylvania to make arrangements to have supplies shipped to Guam. When I was discharged, my rank was Storekeeper Second Class (E-5).

When I got home from the Navy, my parents were on vacation back in Atlanta, Georgia. They had driven back in their RV so I flew back from Ontario Airport and met them at Atlanta. We then drove to Key West Florida for a couple days and headed home through the Southern States, getting home by end of October.

Some of my professions, besides Navy Service: I applied at JC Penney at Montclair Plaza and worked through Christmas Season in their stock room until July 1972. My next job was with the State of California working for the California Institution for Men in Chino, in August of '72. I worked in the Inmate Canteen, where inmates could buy snacks and personal items. The inmates

didn't use real money; they used cards called 'ducts.'

My next assignment was the Main Warehouse, where I issued supplies to the Departments of the Institution, such as office supplies, forms, housekeeping supplies, canned and bagged goods for the kitchens, etc. Also at the Warehouse we received items from outside vendors that the different departments ordered, mostly medical items and food items. I spent most of my career working in the Warehouse and Inmate Clothing Room, where we exchanged their dirty clothing for clean. And yes, I was working directly with the inmates. I retired December 1, 2007, after thirty-five years.

How I came to Adventism: It was through my first wife, whom I met in '74. She was living in La Sierra and I was still living in Chino with my parents. One of the men I worked with introduced us. She was going to the Mira Loma Church with her two aunts and uncle. I had Bible Studies with Pastor Lake who was pastoring there at the time. I was baptized at the Mira Loma Church in April '75. It was still an English-speaking church at the time. My wife and I got married in June of '75. The marriage lasted only two years. After our divorce, I began attending Arlington SDA Church.

But then I met Kathy! I knew a couple Mr. and Mrs. Orville Bates that lived in La Sierra. One day when I visited them they told me about the City Parish Church in Downtown Riverside; this was the latter part of '77. I started attending there.

One Sabbath I met Kathy at the Bates, and she needed a ride to her apartment after lunch. Around the middle of 1978 I asked her to marry me. She said 'yes' but wanted to wait until she graduated LSC which was June of '79. We got married July 8 that year at the Mountain View SDA Central Church; her parents and grandmother were living in Mountain View at the time. We honeymooned in Crescent City and rode the 'Skunk Train.'

I've served as deacon and Assistant Treasurer at Norco Church.

Our favorite restaurants are Carl's Jr and Rodrigo's.

Member Spotlight—Craig and Kathy Jones

Kathy's Story:

I was born and raised in Palo Alto, CA; our home was just a couple blocks from downtown so we could walk a few blocks to do shopping and business.

My grandparents lived just a couple blocks on the other side of the main drag so we easily rode our bikes to see them, and enjoyed Grandma baking cookies and treats for us. I remember when my brother was drafted into the Army and Grandma would bake a batch of his favorite cookies, individually wrap each cookie and fill a coffee can full every Sunday. Monday she'd wrap it all up and take it to the Post Office to send to Viet Nam. Our Grandma also taught us three girls to crochet granny squares so we could each make an afghan.

My dad owned his own janitorial business and worked out of the house. He had several trucks and men working for him. Mom helped by scheduling, answering phones and making out work orders.

During my growing up years my family attended a Presbyterian Church down the street.

Grandma and or Grandpa would walk me to a school near their home, Lytton Elementary School, for Kindergarten. My mom was looking for better education for us and talked with friends The Perry's about it. They recommended Miramonte Elementary SDA School in Mountain View as their son had attended there. They were SDA, and Paul worked for my dad. So Martha Perry took us there, where I started in first grade. We went on through Mountain View Academy; we three girls graduated from MVA, but David my brother asked to attend his senior year at public school.

Growing up going to an Adventist church school helped shape my beliefs and taught me the way to live; it became a way of life for me. I was baptized July 4,

1970 at the Sunnyvale SDA Church.

I knew that I wanted to be a kindergarten teacher from before I even went to college. I enjoyed babysitting and loved little children. So when I went to PUC I started taking basic courses, but it didn't work out. My mother encouraged me to slow down and take classes I enjoyed and not so many classes. Then PUC started a new major: 'Early Childhood Education,' and that seemed right up my alley. I shined taking those classes, and graduated with a two-year degree in ECE. I was four years at PUC and two years at LSC.

Meeting Craig: My sister invited me to go with her husband to visit friends Orville and Elva Bates of Grand Terrace. After visiting with them several times, I met Craig who was visiting there too. He asked if I'd like for him to take me back home to my apartment in La Sierra. That's when we started getting to know each other better: He would call me to talk or come get me and we'd go out. He was starting to get serious and asked if I would marry him. I told him I wouldn't get married until I finished school.

I always remembered something my mother told me: the reason she never became a teacher is because she married and had kids so she never finished school. So Craig and I kept dating. I would go to the church he attended. It was the City Parish Church, led by Dr. Charles Teel, Jr,

who ran it like a branch Sabbath School, held at a church Downtown Riverside next to the Main Public Library.

After I finished school, we got married, and have been for thirty-nine years.



I've traveled to Trinidad, Bahamas, Panama Canal on a cruise, New Zealand and Australia, and a cruise to Hawaii.

My various professions: I started working at age 16 at a snack bar in a retail store 'Alec's' for a couple years until I cracked my ankle snow skiing on a Senior Year Ski Trip. My younger sister got my job after I couldn't work!

Since then: Barricini's Candies at the Mayfield Mall in Mountain View;

Bank of America when I finished school at PUC; Discovery Land Day Care Center; Loma Linda Children's Center; Terrace Elementary School; Norco Christian School where I taught kindergarten; Child Care; and Kmart where I spent my last working days for 23 years, part-time.

Coming to Norco Church: Living at Sierra Vista Apartments while going to La Sierra College, my two roommates were like adopted daughters to Harold Sharpnack a professor at LSC and his wife. They would have evening vespers and invited us to join them, and we'd bring our boy-friends with us. They also invited us to family picnics and we enjoyed time with their family. When Charles Teel, Jr closed City Parish Church, we tried Arlington Church, LSC Church and Corona Church. One time we were talking to Harold Sharpnack and he suggested we come try Norco.

We were really happy there and felt right at home with everyone. There was a job for anyone willing to help. I was put into Children Sabbath School right away. We enjoy attending Norco because it's like a family with a lot of love for each other.



It's Been a Short, Successful Fundraiser!



PRAISE THE LORD and Congratulations! We have reached our goal to raise \$15,000 in 90 days to replace our ailing heat and air conditioning units.

In fact, we have done so well that we exceeded the goal with enough to also replace the ailing unit in the Youth Chapel.

To date we have raised

\$18,066.50

What a miracle and a testament to the power of working together to achieve a common goal!



Our A/C Units are Tired, Old, and Sick—but not for long!

Thanks and Hallelujahs to all who sold items, scrimped, and saved to help us reach our



Fall Community Outreach and Thanksgiving

The months of October and November brought us two special musical groups who filled our hearts and sanctuary with praise to the Lord.

We were blessed by the Sweet Tidings Gospel Jam with their bluegrass renditions of favorite hymns and wonderful testimonies.

The icing on the cake was the His Voice Men's Chorus who not only blessed our Thanksgiving worship service, but also performed an afternoon concert of praise.



Our fantastic Norco cooks prepared a beautiful and delicious Thanksgiving Dinner that was enjoyed following the worship service!



Pathfinders in Action—Camporee and Christmas Outreach



Our Norco Pathfinders attended the annual camporee is sponsored by the Southeastern California Conference of SDA. Pathfinder clubs from all over the Southeastern California Conference territory joined together to camp at the Rancho Jurupa Campground in Riverside. The boys attended classes to earn honors and participated in marching drills and joined in the spiritual feast offered through guest speakers.

The club members also helped with an outreach project, wrapping gifts and preparing socks for distribution to the needy.



December Work Bee—Tumbling Tumbleweeds and Planting Trees!



Many thanks to all those who came to work on Sunday, December 2. Over 100 La Sierra college students joined us for breakfast and lunch. They raked tumbleweeds into huge mounds, planted trees and shrubs, and lifted our hearts and spirits with their helping hands! Special thanks to the Thomas family, they came and worked all day! And bless those who helped with the meal preparations!



Sharing in the Remembrance of our Saviour's Birth



The month of December was filled with special celebrations of fellowship and gratitude for the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Guest artists and musicians, visiting students from the La Sierra University School of Criminal Justice, and special gifts for our Pathfinders who presented a wonderful vespers re-enactment of the story of David and Goliath. All of these events reminded us you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving!



Norco Seventh-day Adventist Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sabbath
Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. <i>Philippians 3:13-14, NIV</i>		1 	2 NO Prayer Meeting	3	4 Sunset - 4:54 pm	5 9 am Prayer Ministries 9:30 am - Sabbath School 11 am - Worship-Pastor Rob 12:30 pm—Fellowship Dinner Sunset - 4:55 pm
6	7	8	9 7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting Pastor John	10	11 Sunset - 5:00 pm	12 9:30 am - Sabbath School 11 am - Worship-Pastor John 12:30 pm—Fellowship Dinner 1:15 pm—40 Days of Prayer 2:00 pm Singing Bands & Pathfinders 5:30 p.m. Vespers/Social Sunset - 5:01 pm
13 TUMBLEWEEDS... 8 a.m. to Noon All Church Work Bee Bring your gloves and elbow grease!	14	15 6-7 pm - Elders Meeting 7-8:30 pm Church Board	16 7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting Elder Rob	17	18 Sunset—5:07 pm	19 9 am Prayer Ministries 9:30 am - Sabbath School 11 am - Worship-Guest Speaker 12:30 pm—Fellowship Dinner 40 Days of Prayer Sunset - 5:08 pm
20	21 	22	23 7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting Pastor John	24	25 Sunset - 5:14 pm	26 9 am Prayer Ministries 9:30 am - Sabbath School 11 am - Worship-Pastor John 12:30 pm—Fellowship Dinner 1:15 pm—40 Days of Prayer 2:00 pm Pathfinders 6 p.m. Church Business Mtg Sunset - 5:15 pm
27	28	29	30 7-8 pm - Prayer Meeting Elder Rob	<u>Pastor</u> John Choi 909-677-9892 jniecchoi@hotmail.com	<u>Head Elder</u> Robert Roth 951-870-0718 pastorrob13@gmail.com	<u>Bulletin and Calendar Secretary</u> Julie Roth 707-339-2666 julieannroth@gmail.com

Pastor's Corner

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Every year it seems to fly by faster and faster. 2019 is upon us and with the new year I hope you will take advantage of this fresh start. God has given us time frames such as a day, a week, a month, a year, etc., to help us leave behind mistakes and regretful things, hit the reset button and look forward to new opportunities. I want to challenge you in 2019 to choose **one thing** in your life that you and God will work on changing together. Something that may be weighing you down or is unhealthy and is impeding you from being all that God meant for you to be. As you focus on this **one thing** and really work on overcoming it, you will find that the blessings from that victory will spill over into other parts of your life. Even if you mess up, don't throw in the towel. You don't have to call it a resolution, just think of these new beginnings as a gift from God that keeps on giving. May God bless you all this year with good health, happiness and passion for walking and working daily with Jesus. Pastor John Choi

Contact Us

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

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