



THE BRIDGE

WOODBIDGE SDA CHURCH

DECEMBER 2022

Many people review their goals, dreams, and accomplishments at the year's end. We ask ourselves, "Did I accomplish everything I intended to? If not, why not? Did something become more critical, or did we simply change our minds? Was there a blessing or tragedy that moved us off course?"

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 tells us there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven. As we reflect on all the things we did this year and our accomplishments, we have to thank God. As we think about all the things we failed to do this year, the things we failed to accomplish, we have to thank God. Why? Because with each new day or new week or new year, we get another chance - one more opportunity to take that chance or reach those goals.

Hopefully, one thing that we all have on our list of things to do today (and every day) is to share the love of Jesus. Whether you celebrate Christmas or not, one thing this time of year facilitates is the number of opportunities to talk about Jesus!



*Unto us a
Savior is born*

You might get a chance to engage in a fruitful conversation about the circumstances surrounding his birth. You might get a chance to talk about his sinless, sacrificial life. You might get an opportunity to tell someone that we don't have to celebrate him as a baby; we can praise him as a living Savior! My point is, don't be so set on not celebrating Christmas that you miss the opportunity to share the one gift that no one can live without - the gift of Jesus.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

-Elder Alison Legall

December Health Nugget

Psalm 144:15 Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.



Trust in Divine Power

This principle, I believe, heads the list for being the most important factor in our lives, and the very foundation or source of abundant health. Throughout the world, everyone trusts in some sort of a power, often really quite undefined. In reality, the only safe power to trust in, is the one that us with our creator. It is usually things that are done in or against the body that cause us not to recognize who controls the power of our being.

Jesus said, "Without Me, you can do nothing." This means that it is only through our creator that we can have divine power to help us in our pursuit of a healthy lifestyle that would include attainments of eternal value. All that is required from us is to first ask for divine help. After taking the first step, some sacrifices may need to be made, some indulgences given up, but the results are always beneficial to body and soul.

The only real security man can have today, is to trust in a higher being other than himself. This alone will assure him of a useful life here on this earth, enjoying the best physical, mental, and spiritual health and a hope for the future as promised to all who will inherit eternal life. Here are just two beautiful promises we can depend on: read John 10:10 and 14:1-3.

We all desire a deeper purpose and meaning in this life, but who can we safely trust? "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6. The bible is God's love letter to us- in it we find hope, purpose in living, and help with stresses of life. Radio co-host and counselor Dr. Laura Schlessinger comments by saying, "Humans find focus, purpose and meaning beyond creature comforts, needs and desires, through a relationship with God and adherence to His commandments."

An inspired author wrote, "The religion of the bible is not detrimental to the health of the body or of the mind. The influence of the Spirit of God is the very best medicine that can be received by a sick man or woman." E.G. White, Medical Ministry, pg 12 (since we have all been bitten by the disease of sin, that includes all of us).

Operation Occupy Continues!

We continue our collection of gently worn shoes! Remember, all proceeds will be given to Operation Occupy. Each bag of shoes must have 25 pairs of shoes in it. Shoes can be new or gently used. Sizes are from toddler and above. Types of footwear include dress shoes, work shoes, boots, sandals, rain boots, sneakers, cleats, and flip-flops. The following are NOT acceptable: shoes with holes in the soles, roller blades/skates, single shoes, and ice skates. Remember, the more shoes, the more money for Operation Occupy! Just bring your shoes to church on Sabbath. For those who live in Prince William County and do not attend services on Sabbath, but still wish to donate, please contact Bro Warren at 571-201-5006.

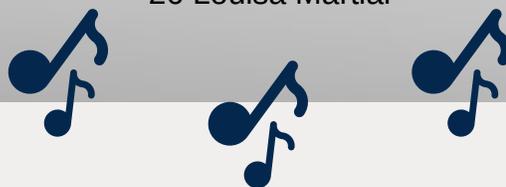


Social Committee

Do you like planning social events? If so, please consider joining The Bridge's Social Committee. If interested in learning more about the committee or joining please email GetSocial@Woodbridgesda.org.



- 2 Martha Fadlin
- 2 Linda Houslin
- 3 David Simons
- 5 Kerry Vaz
- 8 LuCindy Zelaya
- 10 Eugene Duncan
- 11 Sean Meyer
- 11 Raul Zelaya
- 15 Darrell Sumpter
- 16 Sanitra Reid
- 17 Joseph Kalemga
- 17 Brian Marchi
- 18 Joanna Watts
- 20 Dreu Patterson
- 22 Kalemwa Mwila
- 22 Nanteese Vaughn
- 23 Alison Legall
- 24 Rachelle Gardner
- 26 Louisa Martial



Music Ministry

Praise Team

Calling all Singers!
If you're interested in joining the Adult Praise Team or Choir, please email franchelle.beach@verizon.net



*"The beauty of Christmas is not in the presents, but in His presence. Christmas is also an opportunity to thank God for the love that manifests in our lives; love that takes the form of family & friends."
- Anonymous*

Bible School/Bible Study Coordinator Needed

Conduct the administrative affairs of the Woodbridge SDA Bible School, e.g. connecting those interested in bible study lessons with bible study teachers, keeping records, and keeping Elders informed about bible school needs, bibles, or other printed materials. **Please contact Elder Dennis Boone for more details.**

Upcoming Events

Dec. 17

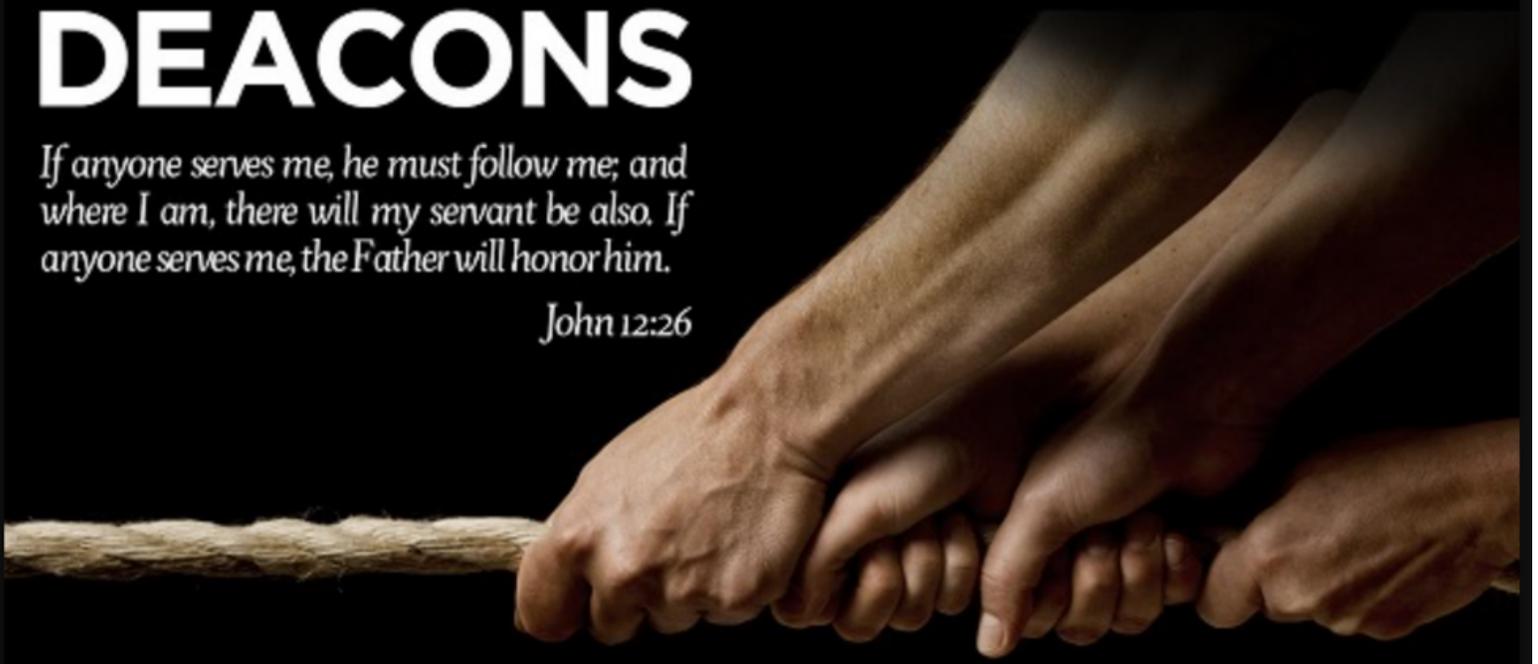
Christmas Program

Questions? Email us at
GetSocial@Woodbridgesda.org

DEACONS

If anyone serves me, he must follow me; and where I am, there will my servant be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

John 12:26



The Bridge: Blessed to be a Blessing

Thanksgiving Food Drive 2022



Christmas 2022



An Adventist Christmas

Like centuries of Protestants before us, Adventists have officially been cautious about the celebration of Christmas, whatever our private practices may be. Though some large congregations will light ranks of candles and trim sanctuary trees, in many Adventist churches there will be scant mention of the celebration of Christ's birth, as though turning our collective backs on the excesses of the holiday will somehow make them go away. Yes, we'll sing a carol or three—but chances are the Sabbath sermon nearest the holiday will more likely be about stewardship or self-denial than the mystery of the Incarnation. Concerned that we may be mistaken for those who sanctify the traditions of men, we back away from what we can't control.

Christmas, then, ought to be the most Adventist of holidays

And yet, and yet . . .

The doctrine captured in our very name—"Adventist"—proclaims to the world our unshakable faith in the Bible teaching that the Lord who once invaded history will yet do so again to ransom captive Israel: the Christ who came once as a defenseless baby will soon come again as our omnipotent Savior. Believing in the Second Coming only makes sense in the presence of an equally vigorous embrace of the truth of the First Coming: "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).^{*} Adventism, at its core, proclaims—and celebrates—both comings, reminding a thoughtless world that what began in Bethlehem will yet come to full expression only when we ourselves have found a room at an inn of the New Jerusalem.

Christmas, then, ought to be the most Adventist of holidays, an unparalleled opportunity for us to announce our faithfulness to the Bible's complete teaching about the comings of Christ. Rather than surrender to the culture's celebration, or worse yet, ignore it altogether, this is our season for announcing the best of the good news.

Yes, tell me the story of Jesus this Christmas, but don't leave Him helpless in a manger, wrapped in swaddling clothes. Make certain I also hear about the stone of Daniel 2, "cut out of the mountain without hands," who promises to bring all this world's kingdoms crashing down.

Yes, tell me again about the angels and the shepherds, but don't let me miss the truth about the Great Shepherd whose sheep still know His voice and follow Him when He says, "Come out of her, my people" (Rev. 18:4).

Come, let us adore Him. Be sure to tell me that even if I don't choose Him as my Savior, a day is coming very soon when "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10, 11).

And when you tell me that the wise men offered their gifts and bowed low, make certain that you invite me to "fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water" (Rev. 14:7).

Read the full article at:

<https://adventistreview.org/an-adventist-christmas-2016/>