

RIDGETOP SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2022

Thank You, Ridgetop and Cross Plains

Dear Church Families,

After much sincere prayer and seeking God's will, Daniela and I have decided to accept the position as pastor of the Lexington, Kentucky Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This has been one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. While we are excited to see what God has planned and look forward to serving with the good people there, we have loved being here with you. Although we have received gracious calls and opportunities in other special places, we never sensed they were what God wanted us to do. But this time was different.

We have never asked or looked for another opportunity somewhere else. This is something we were asked to prayerfully consider, and we are accepting this position because we believe this is what God is leading us to do. We genuinely love our church families in Cross Plains and Ridgetop and Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School. Your love and support for our family, especially our children, has meant more to us than you will ever know. You have been friends and family more than church members.

God is not dependent upon any of us, and He will continue to guide our churches and school forward. I still love the people we serve with, the direction we're going, and the ministry we get to do. Special things are happening now, and I have no doubt things will continue to grow and move forward with God's help and blessing.

We will be here through the end of February, and we will begin serving in our new position in March. We look forward to spending as much time with you as possible between now and then, as

well as planning together with the church and school leadership teams so that the ministry of our church families continues to move forward smoothly.

The church leadership team in Cross Plains and Ridgetop can look forward to working closely with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as the process of prayerfully searching for a new pastor begins, and I know that God will certainly lead and guide here as He always has.

Being your pastor has been one of the greatest honors and privileges in my life. Each of you make this a very special place to be, and I will always treasure the nearly nine years we spent with you. We will look forward to seeing you at camp meeting and any opportunity we can. I have truly loved being your pastor. Thank you so much for your love and kindness, your generosity and your support all these years. Please keep us in your prayers, and we will also be praying for you.

We love you all.

Sincerely,

Pastor William, Daniela, Emi, and Liam



Ridgetop Christmas Cookie Drive *by Sherry Pitt* Women's Ministry

Back in 2020 when COVID-19 hit the nation, lifestyle activities such as public functions quickly went into a state of dormancy. Planned parts quickly got squashed, including the Annual Ridgetop SDA Christmas Parade Cookie Drive. Despite it being 2 years ago since the last event, our church members did not forget the blessings that the outreach has had on the community.

So, when it was announced 2 months ago that the drive will be resumed, excitement filled the air as members happily dusted off their cookie recipes and put their mixers to work. Friends chatted together about what they would make, what new cookies they will try this year, and tips and hacks to make the best cookies. A day was even set aside to have a bake off and maybe or maybe not some cookies were intentionally burnt so that they could be munched down by our "cookie monsters".

The day of the parade was not an ideal one; it was a wet and chilly day. Our church members did not hold back though, and on the evening of the event, it was estimated that after requesting about 1,000 cookies, we were blessed with approximately 1,600 cookies. Our volunteers were optimistic and went ahead with the plan of setting up the tables. Oh – those cookie platters were designed to impress children and adults alike.

One could tell that the best Christmas cookie recipes were done. There were many options to choose from. There were peppermint, buttercream, gingerbread man, snickerdoodle, sugar flavored, cream cheese, chocolate



crinkles, peanut butter, million dollar chocolate chip cookies, and gluten-free, vegan cookies to name a few. I mean, you name it, we had it! So, what goes best with cookies? Yes, you got it right! Mr. Berger's hot chocolate was so deliciously satisfying, I could still reminisce about dipping my lost count of cookies in it.

Despite the rain during the parade, we still had a good turnout. In fact, when the news got out that the cookie drive was in full swing, people cheerfully flooded the tent ready to nibble on not just 1 cookie, but as many as they liked. Instead of just grabbing some cookies and walking away some people stayed behind and asked about our church. Even Santa, Mrs. Clause, and some reindeer were chatting away with our volunteers as they munched down on the cookies. The Grinchies, who were in no way trying to steal from the Christmas spirit, were also having a good time.

There was a cookie and hot chocolate for everyone. I think everyone went home with a satisfied palate that night. An event like this could not be possible without the cooperation of our church members. It's such a blessing to be a part of a church family that is always willing to partake in activities that serve the community.





Bonnie's Never Fail Pie Crust



- 4 cups flour
- 2 cups shortening
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 egg
- water

Blend dry ingredients and set aside.
Will be messy.

Beat 1 egg and pour in measuring cup add 2 tbsp. lemon juice and beat together. Fill to 1 cup with water. Blend dry and wet ingredients, will be messy. Divide dough in 4 balls dust with flour. Freeze balls in double zip lock bag for later or roll out on floured, surface to make 2 double crust pies.

Seniors Going All Out!

Last month after a three-year hiatus due to COVID, the Ridgetop SDA Church Senior Group announced plans to partner with the Cross Plains and White House SDA Churches to launch a broader faith-based community senior citizens group. The first monthly luncheon was held in White House on Wednesday, December 7, at the BBQ Place, an establishment known for having the best veggie burgers in town. Despite the cold, rainy day, warmth and sunshine radiated inside as twenty-two people, including the pastor and his family, fellowshiped together, enjoying good food and delightful conversation with friends.

Regularly scheduled luncheons are being planned for the first Wednesday of each month. Seniors of all ages are invited to the next get-together on Wednesday, January 4, at noon. Watch for more details on the location still being determined. Please direct any questions to Richard Spotts at (817) 487-6504. Come discover that old people can still have fun!

by Dick Spotts



Christmas In Jericho

Prayer to our Heavenly Father takes many forms. The disciples asked Jesus to teach them how pray. Each of us have said our own prayers. But what is the value of a church staying in its 4 walls serving each other? Christ gave the mission to seek the lost. He gave the disciples the Great Commision. Much time has passed but we still have the same mission. "Go ye unto all the world seek His lost sheep".

At Christmas time, Ridgetop Church took the challenge to go out into Ridgetop. Yes, we moved the walls of our church to include all of Ridgetop. As did the children of Israel, marching and praying around Jericho walls. We marched around the streets of Ridgetop. On Sabbaath Decembder 10, our trumpets and our shouts came in the form of Christmas carols and thanks to Ridgetop community. Seven teams of 5-7 people went where the Pathfinders have trod for over 29 years collecting can goods for food baskets.

Multiple church ministrys engaged in supporting the call of Jericho. We knocked on doors delivering Christmas gift bags of cheer.

Each bag had an invitation to Visitors Day and a thank you for their supporting the Pathfinder Can drive for over 29 years. Other items, in the bag were cookies, candy, book marks, pamphlet on prayer.

We culminated our evening in the sanctuary sharing our heaven blessed experiences. As we engaged with the people. Courage ran high as we exchanged the day blessings.

A pizza supper was served, a good time was had by all. So why do a prayer walk gift bag delivery? It is planting seeds that the Spirit blesses. We don't see beginning to end, but we rely on the commision to "Go into all the world".

Our world is Ridgetop. Christmas in Jericho planted seeds for Christ that we will see grow in heaven. The fields are ripe the laborers few, but Christmas in Jericho prayer walk had a wonderful turn out. I am so proud of them all they planted seeds/prayers fofr Christ. Keep praying. Even if one is reached for Christ. "well done good and faithfull Servents".

by Bonnie Armantrout

Dedication of baby LEILANI AIDETTE ORTIZ



Community Service Report

Workers:5

Hours worked: Over 400

Families helped: 75.

Family members: 270

Items of food given (other than food boxes):
1,255

Thanksgiving and Christmas boxes given:14.

Gift cards were given with these.

Clothes distributed: 667

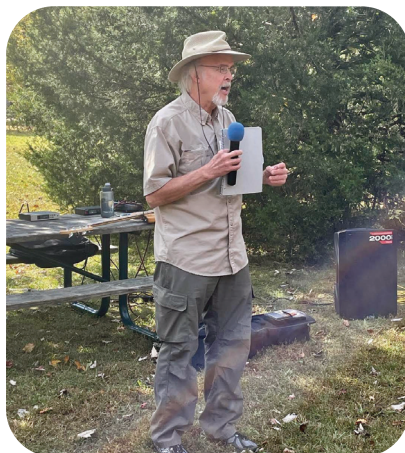
At our thrift store we sold many items that have been donated.

The Community Service Center was open every Tuesday, except one due to bad weather.

Church Campout at Henry Horton State Park

Our church campout this year was held on October at Henry Horton State Park. The group campsites at this park is a beautiful field filled with hardwood trees and cedars. The fall colors were out in their full display of bright yellows, reds, and oranges. The campout was successful weekend with a wonderful speaker, Elder Terrna Edwards. His message went out not only to our group but others from the campground that came to join our service. Many stayed for the entire week end and the weather was beautiful despite a little rain Sabbath afternoon. We are looking forward to future campouts at this location.

by Shane Stewart



School Year Begins With A Splash

by Michelle Comstock



The school year began with a splash as RAES Home and School prepared an open-house pancake breakfast with a waterslide included. What fun and enjoyment we all had coming together laughing and playing to initiate the beginning of our 2022-2023 school year. Even baby Eevee came out to say “Hi”, she brought her mommy and daddy of course.



The first semester sped by with Fall Week of Prayer, School pictures, Life Skills Days, Pathfinders, Adventures, the Southern Union Camporee, and a trip to the Bottom View Farm. We had barely caught our breaths when it was time for our annual REAS Spirit Week, Bike-A-Thon, and Church Christmas Program. What a blessing to participate in serving our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Pathfinder Events 2022

This year Ridgetop Ridgerunners has 13 club members, eight of them are first time Pathfinders. Our September camping trip to Bledsoe creek was the first time some of them had ever been camping. We worked on some camping skills and learned knife safety. Persimmons found during our hike provided a very valuable object lesson on patience.

October was a very busy month for us. This was the year for the Southern Union Camporee at Camp Kulaqua in Florida, a first for the entire

club. All of the activities and making new friends has them looking forward to the International Camporee in 2024. The end of the month was our annual Can Hunger food collection. We appreciated the additional volunteers from the Church our efforts resulted in over 2500 items collected. The Operation Christmas child project collected 47 shoeboxes in November. We are very blessed to have such wonderful support for our Club from our Church family.

by Becky Massey





Congratulations Marlana & Ian

On November 5th, 2022 Marlana Bell and Ian Petersen joined in marriage at Kevin and Cassie Kenerson's family farm. They were officiated by Andrew Jamieson, their high school chaplain. While the day began with a drizzle, it ended with a beautiful sunset that set the tone for the rest of the day.

Marlana and Ian met in their freshman year of high school and became close friends. After they graduated they went their separate ways for universities. Once Covid of 2020 hit they were reunited at home and a deeper relationship began to grow. They have enjoyed their first few months of marriage, ringing in the new year as Mr and Mrs Petersen. They look forward to growing in their marriage together with God.

by Marlana Peterson



A New Look For Ridgetop Church



Welcome Rivera Family *Jeremiah, Lindsay, Lorna Carlina*



11th Annual Adventurer Camporee

On November 10-12, our Adventurers and their families went to Indian Creek Camp for a camporee. They were prepared to have a wonderful time.

The theme of the camporee was "A Series of Calamitous Events". A Three-Act-Play portrayed in a modern way the story of Job.

The children were able to see two live Reindeer. They learned a lot of facts about them. They were so excited to be able to be so close to the animals.

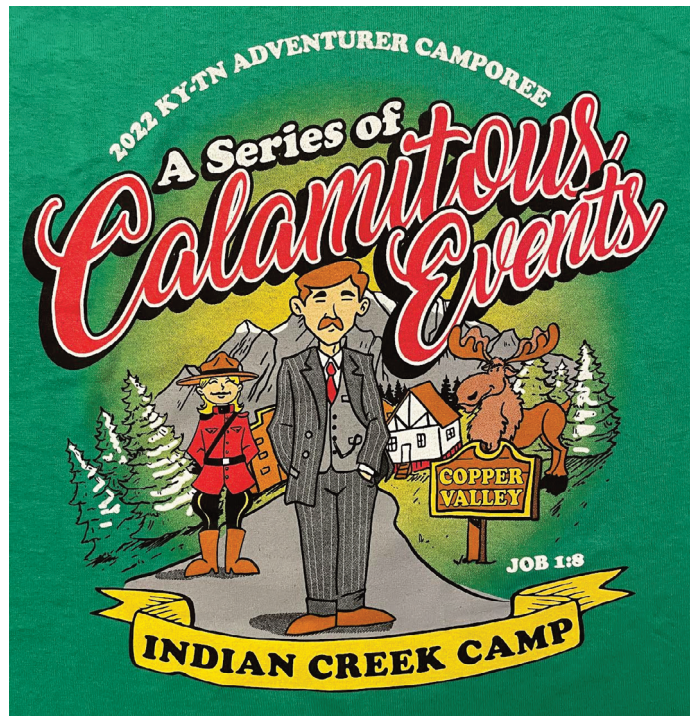
The new Adventurers Award was earned, Learning Stations were set up, as they walked around, important facts were learned about the moose. When they were finished, they earned a beautiful token as a souvenir.

We played games that included questions about our Bible Story, and they made a brown moose to take home.

Of course, there was good food to be enjoyed. The children enjoyed the meals, and the parents did too.

In evening we had a Carnival with food, rides, a Bucking Bull and everything that made for a great time. Some of the parents wanted to ride the bull, and it was really funny to watch some of them as they tried to hold on. Ask Shane Stewart and Bryan Beard
See you next year! Blessings!

by Marilyn Kenerson





RAES

Christmas Concert

