



Vallejo Central Newsletter

May 2023

Farewell Pastor Henderson

On April 8th, Vallejo Central Church members bid farewell to their beloved pastor, Jonathan Henderson. He called the church the “jewel of the Bay Area.” He also thanked many people who helped him while he was here. He said he was blessed to be here and that this was “his home.” From his youth, Pastor Henderson wanted to preach at Vallejo Central after hearing his grandfather, Bob Henderson, speak from the pulpit. An honorarium and a recognition award was given to Pastor Henderson in appreciation for his service to the church. Four dedications, a baptism, and communion made his last Sabbath here a memorable one. An evening program included tributes from the children’s divisions and remarks from Marc Woodson, Conference President, and Ed Fergusson, Ministerial Director. Music was provided by Tanglawan and Shayne Dixon. Heartfelt comments were spoken by various church members and a reception was held after the program.



Ed Fergusson



Marc Woodson



Kindergarten Class



Primary Division



Tanglawan



Junior / Earliteen Class



Pathfinder Bike-a-thon

April 2nd dawned sunny but cool as Pathfinders gathered for the annual bike-a-thon, Along with fellow Northern California Pathfinders, they gathered at the foot of the Sierra Buttes mountain range for a day of cycling. 190 riders donned helmets and mounted bicycles to raise money for their clubs. Nine Vallejo Mariners and one staff member participated while Brooke Fernander rode the most miles for our club, riding 50 miles. Another 200 attendees, including parents, leaders, and club cooks, provided tasty treats, including the ever-popular corn dog, cotton candy, pupusas, and potato tacos. The Pathfinders rode more than a combined 7,000 miles in support of their clubs, which serve the youth of their respective churches and community.



May Prayer List

Pam Ditto, Prayer Ministries Leader

Please pray for the following church members:

Avelino & Paz Belga
Michelle & Daniel Roh
Cesar & Angela Delgado, Ian and Jennifer
Paul & Noriko Fernander, Jarod and Brooke
Dale & Susan Hamlin
Pedro & Marivel Jimenez
Claudia Lindsley
Caroline Martinez
Sany & Amidya Rajagukguk
Horace & Gwen Sugick
Demetrio & Eunice Villar



ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES

In April, we served a total of 116 households and 265 individuals. The following people volunteered this month: Dale Hamlin, Emmy Vega, Ed Politano, Rudy Patricio, Jane Sarmiento, Pearlette Dobbins, Rose Lauglug, Donica Clapp, Leticia Aquino, Eunice Villar, Roland Dagona, Edith Gasmin, Nelma Traub, Cindy To, and Randy Brucker with a total of 370 volunteer hours.



April Church Board Actions

Motion 2023-051 2nd and PASSED Voted to publish in the bulletin an advertisement for an Outreach Committee Leader

Motion 2023 052 2nd and PASSED Voted to review three of five 3ABN book titles, after review, conduct an e-vote to commit to purchase one case of each title for outreach distribution. Funds from Evangelism.

Motion 2023 053 2nd and PASSED Voted to give PHAA Teachers and staff \$25 gift cards for Teacher Appreciation Day (May 9th).

Motion 2023 054 2nd and PASSED Voted to wait on assignment of the new Pastor before the Church Photo Directory is completed.

Motion 2023 055 2nd and PASSED To allow Pathfinders practice for the Pathfinder Fair at Carlos Aguilar's home and the Adventurer Club to have an outdoor picnic at the Miller-Knox Regional Shoreline.



From the Pen Of Inspiration

We may not feel today peace and joy, but we should by faith grasp the hand of Christ, and trust Him as fully in the darkness as in the light. - SL 90

Baptisms

Five young people took a stand for Christ when they were baptized on April 1st. Joshua Toloso, Kenneth Mamon, Aiden Politano, Nadia Politano, and Valerie Molina made the decision to be baptized as their fellow Pathfinders saluted them, Jonathan Tolosa was baptized on April 8th.

By baptism we confess our faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and testify of our death to sin and of our purpose to walk in newness of life. Thus we acknowledge Christ as Lord and Saviour, become His people, and are received as members by His church. Baptism is a symbol of our union with Christ, the forgiveness of our sins, and our reception of the Holy Spirit. The church family welcomes you into membership!



Jonathan





Ordination of Deacon & Deaconesses

The following people were ordained on April 1st by Pastor Henderson: Milcah Ordaz, Jessica Quiba, Nora Politano, Kisun Mamon, Glenn Ordaz. Mary Ann Johnston, Head Deaconess, looks on.

Adventists understand biblical ordination is the church's action that publicly recognizes those the Lord has called and empowered for local and global church ministry.

May Birthdays

Abraham Gacad	2
Rudy Raras	2
Gloria Gonzalez	3
Carmen Velasquez	3
Presmarie Tourville	5
Pearlette Dobbins	7
Julia Mae Mangrobang	7
Ava Dixon	8
Shayne Dixon	8
Joseph Bowlby	10
Karen Medina	11
Celeste Wong	12
Hailey Amador	13
Bic Lowe	13
Abraham Jacob	15
Joshua Duran	17
Terrence Capiendo	23
Jonathan Hendersin	24
Jennifer Lopez	24
Edna Asencio	28
Antoni Hamilton	28



Child Dedications

On March 9th the Hurst-Gacad family welcomed their third child, Gwyneira Farrah Gacad. With inspiration from the historic snowfall on Mount Diablo, her name was chosen as it means “Blessed Snow”. The family is feeling blessed and overjoyed by her presence, and her two big brothers, Zayn and Xander, are enamored with their new baby sister. Also dedicated were Ocean Masigan, {parents Peter Paul and Joana} Elena Nunez, {grandmother Aline Nunez} Olive Roh, {parents Michelle Chi and Daniel Roh). May the Lord bless these children and their parents and let us support them and keep them in our prayers.



Lenson Wong announced that the loan for the Arches repair was paid in full and 10 years sooner than the 15 year loan due date. Larry Leach thanked Lenson for all the work he did during the entire project.





An Award and Honorarium was presented to Fredericka Black for her years of service as church clerk. Her daughter Becky accepted the award for her mother who was not able to attend but watched the service on Facebook. Fredericka served as church clerk for 15 years. Other positions held were Primary Room teacher, Sabbath School Secretary, Assistant Sabbath school superintendent, Counselor in the Pathfinder Club, Librarian, helped in Vacation Bible School, Church Pianist, Church Board Member, and several years as Community Services Secretary.



Larry Leach and Rebecca Black



Mexico Mission Trip

Isabel and Ruben Contreras went on a mission trip to our sister church in Baja, Mexico to conduct a cooking school during Spring Break. Following is her report of the event.

Camping or cooking school? As I visited my hometown in Baja Mexico in November 2022, My niece who lives in the area asked me if I could teach her to cook vegetarian food, She has experienced losing some of her father's family members who suffered from chronic sickness at a very young age, She expressed her concern about dying young. She told the pastor's wife what a great vegetarian cook I was. The Pastor's wife approached me to ask if I could teach a vegetarian cooking class for the church. If the Lord wanted me to serve him in this capacity, I will try my best. What can I teach when there's no kitchen at church and people do not use ovens or crockpots? I asked some of the ladies in our church for ideas. Greta, Lynda, Angelina, Ruth, and Pam had some suggestions. I got a donation of pans, pots, skillets and kitchen utensils from Jessica and Mel Quiba that was a great blessing!!! Thank you church family, you're the best!! We had to carry camping gear to present the cooking classes, we brought a stove and 2 canopies and did what we could do. I started with a lecture, teaching what the bible teaches about food since the creation, the emergency changes after sin and flood, the classifications that God gives us in Leviticus, and the confusion that men developed with Peter's dream in Acts 10. I had to create a menu that could be easy, with ingredients that they could find in the town, and that can be cooked on top of the stove. I presented haystacks, they loved them, carrot salad and apple salad, crepes filled with mashed potatoes and sautéed mushrooms, garlic and onions, sautéed spinach with onion and tomatoes also cream cheese, and sweet ones with rainbow fruit salad and whipping cream, finishing with soy meat ceviche serve in tostadas. They loved all the recipes. I translated and copied the recipes to give to them. They asked for more recipes, but there was no time to teach more, maybe next time. We donated the canopies and kitchen utensils for their church, They are in need of camping gear like tents and camping chairs for their children's clubs as they have none right now and will go on camping trips. If you happen to have some and do not use them and want to donate, bring them to church so we can bring them the next time we make the trip Thank you for your love to our sister church in Baja, Mexico.

Isabel Contreras



Guest Speakers in April



With the departure of Pastor Henderson, guest speakers have been lined up to preach until a new Pastor has been voted in by the Church Board members. It is a process where possible pastors are interviewed by the board and then voted on. It may take awhile for the board members to decide on the person they think would be a good fit for our church. The Northern California Conference is also a part of the process. On April 15th, Pastor Marlene Rodriguez, associate pastor at the Gracepoint Adventist Church in Rocklin, CA delivered the message. Her sermon was based on Matthew 16:24, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me”. {NLT}

Adam Cabrera thrilled the hearts of the congregation as he sang “I Will Stand as a Witness of Christ”.



The guest speaker on April 22 was Tuwan Ussery. He is a former pastor who now works at Pacific Union College as a professor of Social Work and Director of Service learning. His message was based on the gospel story of Mark 6:35-44. There we find the story of the miracle of feeding 5,000 with 5 loaves and 2 fishes.

“Christ cares for those in need,” said Pastor Ussery. We can also learn that “Service is the centerpiece of the gospel”, He pointed out. One of his responsibilities is to serve at the food pantry on campus. A network was created for people without medical or dental insurance and connects them with local doctors and dentists who will do the work Pro Bono. This summer, he will take a group of students to Kenya on a Mission Trip.



Dale Hamlin provided the Special Music singing “*Hide Thou Me*” with his soothing voice.



Jose Baltodano was the guest speaker on April 29th. He is a PUC graduate with a BA in Theology. Married to Jeimy Baltodano, they have two children, Adrian and Jazmin. The message was titled “When the Night Comes.” It was a reminder that Jesus is with us even in our darkest moments.

Special Music was sung by Marayha Lowe. The title of her song was “*He Wants It All*”.

