

Offerings for January

Budget	6377.00
Received	1119.50
Rental	00.00
To Go:	5986.41

TODAY'S OFFERING:

Washington Conference Ministries

(Please prayerfully consider giving to our Local Church Budget. We have repeatedly had a shortage for our monthly budget. The church's ministry depends on each member faithfully giving!)

To designate your offering for Tithe or Church Budget, or any other specific need at any time, please use a Tithe envelope located on the hymnal rack on the pew. All loose offering goes to the offering of the day.

If you would prefer, you may place your offering in the box at each rear door of the Sanctuary at any time Sabbath.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Cancer: Patrick Dwyer (Young-Hee's husband), Stephen Bushley; Mickey Reddy (Pastor's brother-in-law); Francisca Conde; Kania Russell and Samantha Steenberg (Jeanette's nieces); Wilbur Howell

Health Issues: Bobara Tally; Eileen Neligan's sister Joyce; David Karpilow; Cindy; Rochelle Ybarra; Thelma McAdoo; Bob Milne Jones; Annie Hurd; Sara (Cindy's cousin)

Healing: Cindy; Becky & Stephanie; Sam Chetty; Isaac Ybarra

Work: Roger Ybarra; Cindy; Linda Renfroe

Prayer Requests – notify Sara Howell at 425-488-2467

(Hebrews: continued)

Dogmatism, is an arrogant opinion about a tenet of faith without adequate biblical grounds while declaring authoritatively and unequivocally that this is the only way to do things. It is generally fueled by pride, one of the 7 deadly sins, and is always accompanied by a judgmental attitude. Dogmatism is a very pernicious distortion of truth. Dogmatism is a very destructive tool used by the devil in the hearts of those who “*have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge*” (Romans 10:2) Dogmatic people assume a dogma is right because a church teaches it or their fore-parents have believed it. They thrive on arrogantly putting down others and their beliefs and are busy taking the speck out of the eyes of others while ignoring the beam in their own. (see Matthew 7:3)

Traditionalism, the belief or practice of those who blindly adhere to a set of ancestral teachings that are no longer relevant or important to eternal life or the edification of the body of believers. Their opinions are expressed in the seven most famous words of the traditionalist: “it's never been done that way before!” ...

If God, who did not approve of polygamy, could look favorably upon and generously bless with His grace those like Abraham, David and Solomon, who practiced it, why then do we sinners, seeking salvation by grace, dishonor God and alienate each other with ridiculous, man-made traditions?

We need to lay aside these weights along with other things that so easily encumber us. The church and bride of Christ, must put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12). It is the *fine linen, bright and clean*” (Revelation 19:8) that empowers us to run the grace-race and not get tired. It gives us strength to walk the distance for and with God and not become weary as we wait on the Lord (Isaiah 40:31)

Book: Anticipation (Waiting on Tiptoes for the Lord) by Hyveth Williams, senior pastor of Loma Linda University Church.

Volunteer Park Community Focus

Weekly Newsletter of Volunteer Park Seventh-day Adventist Church

Vol I

Issue ii

January 10, 2009

Jeanette Mills, Editor

Comments on Hebrews 12:1-2
Excerpt from Anticipation
by Hyveth Williams

“Let us lay aside every encumbrance (weight) and the sin that so easily entangles us.” Hebrews 12:1-2

Contestants in ancient Olympiads trained with weights strapped to their bodies. On the day of the race they laid them aside along with all their other attire, stripping down to their naked bodies, so that they would feel weightless as they competed. That was the background for the writer's call to believers to “*lay aside every weight [or encumbrance]*” ie, everything that hinders us from running the Christian race without restraint.

What are some of the weights constraining Christians today? Certainly not overt lying, stealing, cheating and adultery although, regrettably, these things are still numbered among us. The majority of us have gone to great lengths to lay aside those weighty things. But we've neglected the little sins that easily entangle us, wrapping their tentacles tightly around our hearts to impede our spiritual progress and rob us of our delight in God. Some of these are too many un-confessed secrets – the lust for material things, and three religious concubines listed below.

Legalism is a strict, literal, excessive conformity to the moral law and other ceremonial codes at the expense of grace. The Pharisees whose name means “one who is separate,” were notorious legalists who in their determination to uphold the law, conspired to and participated in the murder of the innocent One, Jesus Christ our Lord.

No matter what day we worship on as our Sabbath (Saturday or Sunday), Judeo-Christians have inherited some aspects of legalism in the expression of our faith. Some who regard Saturday as the Sabbath and a “high day” on which to concentrate the expression of their love for God, in their zeal may cause those who have not been so convicted to feel like spiritual infidels. On the other hand, some people who worship on the first day of the week as their Sabbath are so dogmatic about some aspects of their faith, such as the defense of their choice to worship on Sundays or speaking in tongues, that it makes me wonder if they plan to live with each other in the same heaven throughout the eternal ages after the coming of Christ. (continued on back page)

January Birthdays

01 Marina Corpus
08 Linda Renfroe
08 Daniel Conde
13 Paul Wright
18 Sara Howell
19 Jefry Hetharia
23 John Bassham
27 Dionicia Cabrales
27 Will Brown
28 Celia Menes
30 Roberta Cope

If your important date is missing or if you do not want your date published, please let Jeanette Mills know by e-mailing her at millje@vparksda.com

Cypress Scholarship -- Thank you so much for the contributions that have come in for the Cypress Scholarship Fund. Thanks to your generosity we are almost there! We still need to raise \$7,400.00!!

You can give in several ways --

- a single sum
- a designated monthly amount for 10 months
- Just mark your tithe envelope Cypress Scholarship

Beginning January 2009, a Worship Team will plan and execute our weekly worship services. Members of this planning Team are: Katie Steenberg (Leader)
Linda Renfroe
Hillary Schlehuder
Roald Chetty
Richard Mills
Pastor Sam Chetty

Please see them to convey your Ideas, Suggestions, and to Volunteer

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Debt-Free living with Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University, What would your life look like if you had **NO DEBT and were really IN CONTROL of your money?** During this life-changing class you will learn how to: Get control of your money; Stop struggling to make ends meet; Change your family's future. You'll meet with your class for 13 weeks to watch DVD lessons and participate in small group discussions that will change your whole attitude about money! Come to the free **Information Class on 1/14/09 at Volunteer Park Church.** The classes will be on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm beginning January 28th.

Some partial scholarships are available so if you need assistance, please consult with Richard Mills. Anyone who would like to donate to FPU Scholarship, contact Richard at 425-483-2555 or rjmills3@comcast.net

ENCOUNTER GOD: GODencounters is a movement of young adults who are wholeheartedly seeking a 24/7 experience with God. This January 23-24, 2009, 24-Seven Ministry Center will be hosting a free two-day GODencounters lecture series at the University of Washington in Seattle (Kane Hall, room 220). Speaker: Matthew Gamble, Musicians: Soufill and Garage Voice. Questions? Contact Stephanie Campbell at stemaca@gmail.com

Today, I am writing you about a cause that's important to me and a cause that I know you will want to support. I have decided to join the movement to create a world free of multiple sclerosis (MS) by joining Walk MS. I'm asking you to join the movement too by sponsoring me.

Imagine a future in which you might not be able to walk or see, to talk or taste, never knowing what this disease will take away from you as you sleep at night. Your gift will fund many ways to cope with that uncertainty. Your gift means someone won't be evicted because she can no longer work. Your gift means someone won't have to stop the MS medication that has slowed his paralysis. Your gift creates hope. Your gift creates opportunity. Your gift gives someone her life back. That's why I registered for the 2009 Walk MS and why I am asking you to help me make a difference.

You can help me reach my fundraising goal by sponsoring me in the Walk MS. You can donate by going online or by writing a check and making it payable to the National MS Society. (Please include my full name in the memo line)

Thank you for your support.
Hillary Schlehuder

YOUTH RALLY: Live Loud at the 2009 Washington Conference Youth Rally on January 16-17, 2009 on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy. Be inspired by speaker Mike Yankowski and worship leader Kendall Payne plus hit the streets of Seattle for a hands-on service project. This event is free, but you must register in advance. Sabbath lunch and supper provided with registration. Optional Friday night housing is available for a fee. To register, call (253) 681-6008 or visit www.washingtonconference.org (click [Ministries / Youth](#)).

Social Event

Linda Renfroe

The next social event is planned for January 17 at 7:00 in the church fellowship hall. This will be a game night just to get things going. Please bring your favorite snacks or beverage to share with others. If you have some great games, bring them along too. I will look for you at our next event!

Disaster Response Leaders Monitoring Flood Situation

Adventist Community Service leaders for western Washington met 1/8 for an early morning teleconference to discuss widespread flooding from Bellingham to Chehalis. ACS-Washington is currently assessing the situation and keeping in touch with local disaster response leaders. At this time, there are no reports of church or school property damage. ACS-Washington is encouraging churches to check in with their members. "We are trying to contact the right people to gather information," says Byron Dulan, ACS-Washington executive director. "We'll know more in the coming hours about the amount of damage we're facing and how to best respond."

Churches are strongly encouraged to have disaster response leaders or representatives present at a pre-planned meeting on Sunday, January 11, at 10 a.m., at Washington Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 32229 Weyerhaeuser Way South, in Federal Way. Additional response information will be distributed to churches at this time.

2009 COMMUNITY GROUPS

Please check out the following Small Group Ministries...

Tuesday: Bible Study Group open to anyone – especially to those who are visiting or looking for God in their lives.. Leader – Pastor Sam Chetty 8pm in room 102. Contact Pastor Sam at samchetty@comcast.net with questions, or call 425-697-5616

Wednesday: Financial Peace University.

Gain control over your money and eliminate debt from your life. (see article) Introduction Class at 7pm - January 14
13 Week Series begins January 28 at 7 pm at the church. Cost is \$100 per family unit. Limited Scholarship help is available. Contact Richard Mills with any questions - 425-483-2555 or rjmills3@comcast.net

Thursday: Book and Social Club: Every first and third Thursday, at 8 pm, this group meets at Victrola Coffee and Art on 15th Avenue E. across from QFC. Watch this publication for the announcement of the next group read. If you would like email notification, contact Hillary Schlehuder at hschlehuber@gmail.com

Thursday: “Purls”... Every second and fourth Thursday at 7 pm, in room 102. Bring your knitting or crochet project or come to learn. An opportunity will be presented to make projects for outreach. Skill level is not an issue – come one and come all! Contact Jeanette Mills at rjmills3@comcast.net with any questions.

Friday: Praise and Worship Vespers program led by Katie Steenberg. 8 pm in room 102. Katie is accepting offers of help... to volunteer contact Katie at 206-387-6750 or kjsteenber@gmail.com

Sabbath: Primary/Junior Sabbath School Class for ages 7-12 begins on January 3 in room 117. It will be a fun class for our middle-aged children. If you know of children in this age-group who are not attending Sabbath School, please pass on the information! Contact Jeanette Mills rjmills3@comcast.net or Katie Steenberg kjsteenber@gmail.com

Sabbath: 8 Weeks to Wellness Class begins February 7 at 1:30. Contact Molly Chetty at mollychetty@comcast.net or call 425-697-5616

More New Groups??? Get the word out – contact Jeanette with the information and to get it onto the calendar.

JANUARY 2009 Calendar of Events

- 1/10 **Prayer Group 9:00 am**
Bible Study Groups 10:00 am
Worship Service 11:15 am
- 1/12 Church Board Meeting 6:30 pm in room 110
- 1/13 Bible Study Group 8 pm in room 102
- 1/14 Financial Peace University - Introduction Class 7 pm
- 1/15 Book and Social Club 8pm at Victrola Coffee & Art
- 1/16 Vespers at 8pm in room 102
- 1/17 **Prayer Group 9:00 am**
Bible Study Groups 10:00 am
Worship Service 11:15 am
- 1/17 Social – Board Game Night at 7pm in Fellowship Hall
- 1/19 Martin Luther King’s Birthday observed
- 1/20 Bible Study Group 8 pm in room 102
- 1/22 “Purls” Knitting and Crochet Group 7pm in room 102
- 1/23 Vespers at 8pm in room 102
- 1/24 **Prayer Group 9:00 am**
Bible Study Groups 10:00 am
Worship Service 11:15 am presented by Puget Sound Academy Impact Choir.
Potluck Lunch – 1pm in the Fellowship Hall
- 1/27 Bible Study Group 8pm in room 102
- 1/28 Financial Peace University 7pm
- 1/29 Book and Social Club 8 pm at Victrola Coffee & Art
- 1/30 Vespers at 8pm in room 102
- 1/31 **Prayer Group 9:00 am**
Bible Study Groups 10:00 am
Worship Service 11:15 am
Fellowship Lunch provided by the Ethiopian Group
Music Forum re Syncopated Music in 115

YEAR OF EVANGELISM: Beginning in 2009, the Seventh-day Adventist Church is launching a year and a half emphasis on outreach across the globe which will be called the Year of Evangelism. Everyone is invited to spend one year working toward one goal - baptizing 100,000 in the North American Division. Visit www.yearofevangelism.com to learn what you can do.