

# News Notes

January 2021



## January Calendar



- 1 | New Year's Day
- 2 | Worship Speaker: Steve Hamilton
- 5 | PAE Board Meeting
- 7 | PAA Board Meeting
- 9 | Communion Worship Service
- 9 | Worship Speaker: Steve Hamilton
- 10 | PAA Constituency Meeting
- 11-12 | NCC Pastors' Retreat
- 16 | Worship Speaker: Tim Williams
- 18 | Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | Office Closed
- 19 | Finance Committee Meeting
- 21 | Church Board Meeting
- 23 | Worship Speaker: Steve Hamilton
- 24 | Church Business Meeting (Tentative)
- 30 | Worship Speaker: Dan Martella

## God Cares



On December 15, 2018 I discovered that my silverware was completely ruined in the campfire. This was the silverware we had had since our wedding day 42 years ago. Since then, we've been searching for new silverware that we would enjoy, but we could not find any we liked.

A month ago we decided that we really wanted to have the same silverware we had before the fire. I started to search online for the pistol handled butter knives and I found some on Etsy for \$18 a knife. Well, that was rather pricey. I couldn't find any of the three prong forks, so I was pretty discouraged.

I had to go to the Oroville post office the next day, and then to Tractor Supply. I noticed that the Goodwill was right beside Tractor Supply, and I had some books to donate. I couldn't find where their donation drop off spot was, so I went inside to ask.

When I got inside, I thought I should see if they had any silverware that I would want. There were three shelves crammed full of silverware and kitchen gadgets. What a shock when I looked at the third row down, and there were my pistol handled butter knives! I was so excited.

As I dug a little deeper, I found the three prong forks and matching teaspoons!!! I was so happy that God impressed me to look in a secondhand store for my silverware. I hadn't even prayed about this, but God knew I wanted to get my silverware. For a mere \$5.00 I now have my favorite silverware. --Karen Vixie



## PAA Constituency Meeting



The Paradise Adventist Academy Constituency Meeting will be held on January 10, 2021. Time and place for the meeting is yet to be determined.

The primary purpose of the meeting will be to make decisions regarding the following recommendation from the PAA Board:

*The Board recommends that we begin operating Paradise Adventist Academy on the Paradise campus beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, and that the Board be authorized to spend up to \$15,000 to employ "neutral" and "objective" consultants to conduct a study to determine the primary factors (including location) that will promote growth and sustainability for Paradise Adventist Academy.*

The PAA Board is also bringing some recommended updates to the Constitution and Bylaws.

Thank you for keeping our academy and this important meeting in your prayers.

## New Shop Program



Fire funds are being used to buy new shop tools so that the shop in the basement of the PAA Gym can once again hum with youth and adult mentors learning the practical traits of auto mechanics.

Pastor Steve tells us that "Our new shop program will provide our kids some hands-on skills in automobile care, *and more importantly*, build important relationships for life and eternity."

## Paradise Adventist Elementary



At PAE we are teaching our students, in their classes, within our current pandemic context. That means classrooms operate within themselves. Whole school activities are on hold. | Our K-2 students have recently made two well-received presentations in the PAC worship services. | A new gazebo for outdoor lunch and learning opportunities is under construction.

## Putting Jesus First

The day after Christmas, the pastor of a church prepared to put the church yard nativity scene away, when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from the set. Just as he turned to call the police, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the infant, Jesus. So the Pastor kindly said to Harry, "Hello there. Where did you get the baby?" And Harry answered honestly, "I took him from the church." "And why did you take him?" the pastor wanted to know. With a sheepish grin, Harry said, "Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed, and I told Jesus that if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give Him the first ride."

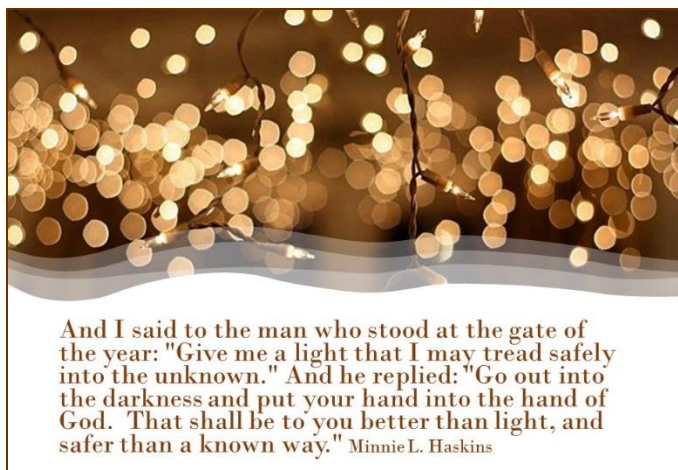


In this season we are blessed with so many wonderful gifts, and our first response is to give grateful recognition to God with our gifts to Him. Our tithes and offerings are an important part of that response. Our offerings for the PAC Ministries Fund (Church Budget) provide essential resources for our Adventist mission here on the Ridge.

There are four ways to give: Through the little red school house in the back of our worship services, the church website, the Adventist Giving App, and mailing or dropping off your offering to the church office.

Again, thank you for putting Jesus first in the ride!





## Northern California Conference News

On Wednesday, December 2, the Conference Executive Committee (CEC) held its quarterly meeting via Zoom. Sacramento Capitol City Church Senior Pastor Damian Chandler presented the devotional, followed by a time of prayer. Below are some highlights of the meeting.



**Evangelism Report:** The Pacific Union Conference has designated 2021 as a Year of Evangelism. The union has set aside more than \$600,000 for its seven conferences to host 250 meetings between March and June. The

meetings will include public evangelism and bridging events, such as health seminars. So far, the NCC evangelism committee has approved funds requested by 37 churches for evangelistic efforts in our territory.

**President's Report:** President Marc Woodson emphasized that our churches and schools are not closed during the pandemic, even when people can't meet together. God's work is going forward!



The NCC endeavors to support its pastors and teachers on the front lines of ministry. During the third quarter, the conference hosted training events for pastors and teachers to help them learn effective methods of self-care. The conference has provided additional funding for self-care options.

The NCC COVID-19 Task Force, led by Assistant to the President Ed Fergusson, continues to make recommendations to NCC administrators. The NCC has established a Disaster Relief Fund to help meet the basic human needs of church members within 14 days of a disaster, and the Disaster Response Team, which will address the immediate needs of members after a disaster.

"We Still Believe," a series of four online prayer and praise meetings, took the place of the usual NCC Midterm Constituency Session in early November. You can still view the speakers, music, testimonies, and the Midterm Report video on the [NCC YouTube channel](#).



**Membership Report:** Executive Secretary Jose Marin reported that 314 people joined NCC churches through baptism and profession of faith during the first three quarters of 2020. The current NCC membership stands at 40,843 with 164 churches and companies.

## Disaster Recovery & Development



On November 30 we were able to give away 24 pallets of food boxes, each pallet containing 48-50 boxes of fresh produce, protein, and dairy products – all to be distributed within Butte County. From our church campus we gave out 450 boxes, with the remainder of boxes shared with other organizations and food distribution centers.

Shed deliveries continue. We are no longer accepting applications and anticipate having all the sheds delivered within the next two months. A huge thanks goes to Chuck Neal, Ron Evans, Joe Gorbea, Dennis Yoder, Loren Sutherland, Mark Lockwood, Mark Balen, Tom Taylor, and Christian Wilson for their ceaseless efforts on this project!

One of our shed recipients recently shared with me how grateful she is to receive a shed, because it enables her to take the next step forward in her recovery process. She also shared how grateful she is that the shed was given purely as a free gift, with no strings attached. She has worked in many refugee camps and seen how numerous religious organizations will only offer help and services if the person will attend their services and convert. She is grateful for our pure gift of love! --Joelle Chinnock

During the third quarter (July, August, September), 50 people joined NCC churches through baptism, and 18 joined through profession of faith. These include: Tracy Church - 8 baptisms; Fortuna Church - 5 baptisms and 2 professions of faith; SDA Abundant Life Church of Petaluma - 4 baptisms and 1 profession of faith; Georgetown Church (22 total members) - 1 baptism.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer John Rasmussen and Associate Treasurer Sonnett Peterson presented information about tithe, investments, and various funds. At the end of October, the total amount of tithe given by NCC church members was more than \$230,000 ahead of last year at the same time.



**Education Report:** Superintendent of Schools Albert Miller reported that school enrollment throughout the conference has dropped during the pandemic, but not as much as originally expected.

All schools, except for Rio Lindo Adventist Academy, have been approved for face-to-face learning, with the latest, Redwood Adventist Academy, planning to open in the near future. Some schools have had to close temporarily. A variety of education methods are going on in NCC schools: face-to-face only, online only, online with cohorts (tutoring groups), and a hybrid program with some students attending in person and some online.

Due to the fire that destroyed the main building on campus, Foothills Adventist Elementary School students are meeting in classrooms at PUC Elementary School and PUC Preparatory School.

**Engage Initiatives Report:** Jose Marin gave a report on one of the initiatives of the NCC strategic plan: "Engage your church in planting." The NCC's goal is to plant 12 multiplying missional groups by 2022. Two current groups are the Novato Spanish group and the Southern Marin group. The Life Adventist Church of Berkeley is also planning to begin a group, and other churches are in the early stages of planning.

## Other Matters

The committee voted to organize the Sacramento Fijian company as a full-fledged church.

The committee approved Napa Community church member Ruthe Ashley and Jose Marin to serve as members of the Pacific Union Bylaws Committee.

## Adventist Health: Carestar Foundation Announces Leighton Memorial Grant Award Recipient



***Feather River Health Foundation / Adventist Health  
Feather River recognized with a \$100,000 donation for its  
heroic efforts during the 2018 Camp Fire***

**BERKELEY, California – November 16, 2020** – The CARESTAR Foundation today announced the Feather River Health Foundation / Adventist Health: Feather River as the 2020 recipient of the Leighton Memorial Grant.

Established in 2018, this award seeks to further the legacy of Jeff Leighton, a key advisor to the CARESTAR Foundation during its launch. The Leighton Memorial Grant supports one organization annually, specifically recognizing exemplary emergency response or trauma care provided to low-income, underserved, immigrant, or communities of color, particularly in a rural setting in California.

An expert in the areas of non-profit foundation development, operations, finance, and investment management, Leighton was instrumental in helping CARESTAR incorporate as an organization in 2017. His illness and subsequent death during this process led the Board of Directors to establish the Leighton Memorial Grant Award to recognize Leighton's outstanding contributions to the CARESTAR Foundation, and to support regions that often find themselves without critical medical care for local residents, something Leighton and his family experienced during his own health struggles.

This year's grantee, the Feather River Health Foundation / Adventist Health: Feather River, was selected for its deep commitment to the health and safety of the town of Paradise and surrounding communities during the 2018 Camp Fire, and for its resilience and creativity in ongoing efforts to rebuild and ensure access to emergency, urgent care, and mental health services to area residents.

"We are proud to honor the Feather River Health Foundation / Adventist Health Feather River for the incredible work they have done, and continue to do, for Butte County residents following the devastating Camp Fire," said Tanir Ami, chief executive officer of the CARESTAR Foundation. "This grant award was created to recognize exemplary emergency response or trauma care specifically in rural areas, in connection with a crisis or challenging circumstance. After all they have been through, we cannot imagine a more deserving organization than Feather River. And to support their rebuilding efforts, as they work to address the health disparities and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it feels even more appropriate."

When the Camp Fire started on November 8, 2018, it spread through the Feather River Canyon and into the town of Paradise, devastating the community. Over the course of 17 days, the Camp Fire killed 85 people, burned more than 150,000 acres, and leveled more than 18,000 buildings. Amidst the chaos and danger of the wildfire, Adventist Health Feather River successfully evacuated all patients out of the hospital safely, many in the personal vehicles of associates who drove through the fire at their own risk. Critical parts of the hospital burned and became non-operational, including the emergency department, and more than 600 staff members lost their homes, cars, and possessions.

By November 2019, Adventist Health Feather River and the Feather River Health Foundation, in partnership with Butte County EMS, were able to re-establish an EMS base station in Paradise and began 24/7 operations. With 63 patient transports per month since opening, this local base has decreased emergency response times by nearly 20%.

"The Camp Fire forever changed our community," said Joleen Levey, Philanthropy Director for Feather River Health Foundation. "While the landmarks and landscapes have changed, our mission remains the same. Today, we stand together to rebuild and care for the health of our patients, friends, and neighbors. With this grant, we will invest in new and continuing services that are vital to our community, such as the Paradise EMS base station operations and mental health services, to support the future health and wellbeing of our community and ensure access to emergency care and transport for residents who have remained and for those who are returning here."

"I was so impressed to learn about the unwavering dedication and perseverance of the Feather River Health Foundation and its staff, to provide medical services and restore emergency care in the face of so much trauma," said Tamera Leighton, wife of the late Jeff Leighton. "Without a doubt, Paradise will be on a journey of rebuilding for years to come. I'm grateful to know that this grant will contribute to the community's healing and play a small part in helping them feel whole again."

#### **About the CARESTAR Foundation**

The CARESTAR Foundation was founded in 2017 as a result of the sale of CALSTAR (California Shock Trauma Air Rescue), an air ambulance company, and honors CALSTAR'S legacy and lifesaving work in the field of emergency and trauma transport and care. CARESTAR's mission is to improve health outcomes for all Californians, by applying a racial equity lens to fund and advocate for improvements to our emergency response system.

[www.carestarfoundation.org](http://www.carestarfoundation.org)



# Food Give-Away Day

Photos Courtesy of Joelle Chinnock





# Paradise Parade of Lights

Photos Courtesy of Chris Baumbach









# PAC Snow Wheeling Day

Photos Courtesy of Bryan Mallory





