

Pulse of the Congregation



Newsletter of the Restored Church of Christ, Salem Branch



February, 2008

Important Dates:

- February 16-18: Regional Youth Retreat
- February 17: lunch at Jade Garden after church
- February 23: Youth Activity: Evergreen Aviation Museum
- March 14-16: Men's retreat
- April 4-6: Women's retreat
- Every Sunday Evening: Church History Class
- Every other Wednesday evening: Prayer & Testimony service

A Tradition of Service

I would like to recognize our youth group again for their ongoing commitment to serving the Saints and their community. Recently, they have cleaned parks, served at a women's & children's homeless shelter, and delivered food to those Saints unable to travel to church. Our families and congregation are blessed in their efforts to serve God.



Let's Go Camping Saints! You're Invited!

Dear Saints,

We have enjoyed a growing sense of fellowship in our branch as we continue to cultivate old friendships and develop new ones in the Lord. There are many activities planned this year that will bring us together, both in fellowship and worship, and I encourage each of you to make these church-related activities a priority in your lives.

One of these activities is a church camping trip which is scheduled for June 27-29 at Devil's Lake State park in Lincoln City. (I know, I know...the lake has an unfortunate name to host a church activity). I have reserved both "full hook-up" and tent sites, and they will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. The "full hook-up" sites will cost \$23 per night, and the tent sites will cost \$17 per night. All are welcome.

It may seem very early in the year to be planning for the summer, but the state

campgrounds fill up very quickly (up to 9 months in advance), so I moved accordingly. I was able to reserve a number of sites next to each other, but as of the date of this printing, the campground is now nearly full.

Brother Ron Trammell will be mooring his boat at the campground and will provide for fishing, skiing, and tubing. This weekend will be fun and informal, and simply be an opportunity for the Saints to be together outside of church. Each family should come ready to prepare their own meals, or plan to share with other families ahead of time. Remember swimming suits, warm clothes, coats, sleeping bags, bug spray, etc.

If you are interested in reserving a spot, please contact me as soon as you are ready to commit, as the spots will be handed out on a first-come, first-serve basis. I hope to see you all there, and don't forget to bring your flashlight and stuff for s'mores!

Get to Know the Saints

This interview is with Brother Gary Livingston.

- 1) What is your full name?** Gary Robert Livingston
- 2) Where were you born?** Portland, Oregon
- 3) Favorite hobbies:** Playing guitar, recording music, and computers
- 4) Favorite color:** It's a toss-up between fluorescent lime green and blue.
- 5) Least favorite food:** Black Olives (by themselves)
- 6) In your opinion, at what age does a person become old?**

My "opinion" changes on a daily basis depending on how I'm feeling at the time!

7) One thing that many people don't know about you:

In high school and college I played tournament chess. I had a "B Class" national rating.

8) The Lord permitting, what is one of your plans for the future?

Retirement has been on my mind quite a bit lately. There will be so much freedom in not having to work to make ends meet and I want to be open to what the Lord would have me do.

9) If you had to pick 5 items (not people) from your home and surrender everything else, what would you keep?

Assuming that "surrender" means never being able to get it back, I would ...continued on page 2



Brother Gary Livingston

Get to Know the Saints (continued from page 1)

...choose my Three-In-One (that's one item), my collection of family videos dating back to 1983, my acoustic guitar, and for the sake of everybody else, a pair of pants and a shirt.

10) List all of the former jobs you have had?

I've picked berries, worked in a cabinet shop, been a dock worker at Tektronix, and an elementary school teacher. During the summer months of teaching elementary school, I have worked construction, made wooden gift items, sold World Book Encyclopedias door-to-door, worked as a bank card representative and as a bank teller.

11) If you could meet any of the deceased, who would it be? King Benjamin.

12) What is your favorite scripture? I honestly can't narrow it down.

13) When you think of Zion, what first comes to mind? God's Kingdom here on earth.

14) What person(s) has been most influential in your life? My parents.

15) Who would you like to be interviewed next? Dianna Clark.

Israel

Please remember to pray for those Saints who have a desire to travel to Israel on the upcoming trip.

Ministry of Music

If you have an idea pertaining to the ministry of music, or would like to offer such a ministry, please see me. I appreciate your counsel and willingness to serve. At this point, please look forward to special ministries of music on February 10, March 9, March 23, and April 20. - Brian

Hymns

The priesthood has selected 12 hymns that we feel the congregation would benefit by learning. During regular song services, please look forward to learning the following hymns from the 2007 (purple) edition of the hymnal, in addition to singing old favorites: #1, #6, #26, #41, #55, #139, #195, #312, #417, #418, #437, #474

The Fundamentals Series: Sunday Morning Adult Classes for 2008

In an effort to fortify our understanding of the fundamental tenets of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and expand upon our knowledge of several basic principles revealed in the restoration, the following classes will be taught consecutively in the adult class. The classes will begin at the conclusion of our present study. Each teacher will be provided as many Sunday class periods as it takes in order to satisfy the Holy Spirit directing his instruction. Please plan to attend each Sunday. The sequence of the classes may change. These classes are intended to be basic, and I expect our collective spiritual growth as a result:

Class:

- 1) The Restoration Story
- 2) Unique Tenets of the Restoration
- 3) Baptism & Confirmation
- 4) the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
- 5) The Book of Mormon
- 6) Priesthood
- 7) Duty of the Saints /
Responsibility of the Members
- 8) The Word of Wisdom
- 9) Zion
- 10) Resurrection & Eternal Life
- 11) Prayer
- 12) Study
- 13) Fasting
- 14) The Financial Law
- 15) Laying on of Hands for
Administration
- 16) Signs of the Times

Teacher:

- Elder Gene Luffman
High Priest John Henderson
High Priest Bill Curtis
Elder Gene Luffman
Elder Gary Livingston
Elder Brian Herren

Priest Jim Clark
Elder Gene Luffman
High Priest Bill Curtis
TBA
Elder Gary Livingston
High Priest Bill Curtis
Elder Brian Herren
Priest Jim Clark

High Priest John Henderson
High Priest Bill Curtis

A Special Thanks

Thank you to all those who made our Congregational Christmas Giving possible this year. Because of your generosity and the Lord's blessing, we were able to provide heat for children who have little, and food for families who are truly struggling. I trust that our Lord is well-pleased in our humble offering.



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provide
a family
toys for
who
little,

Welcome, Baby Eleanor

Eleanor Kurowski was born to Brian & Katie on 12/19/07 at 6 lbs. & 13.75 oz. Thank you for your prayers.



Note:

Please remember that volunteer opportunities are available at Simonka Place (ask Brian for details). Also, remember the ongoing food drive.