

THE CONCORD CONNECTION



photo: Rebecca Sbacchi

Community Outreach with Youth Ministries

BY REBECCA SBACCHI

Youth ministry and community service came together this holiday season to prepare some Christmas food boxes for those in need and blessing bags for the homeless. Several of the blessing bags were distributed to the Salvation McKenna House in Concord while others were given to the homeless we encountered on the streets. It was as much of a blessing to us in seeing the smiles of appreciation and happiness as it was to those we blessed. God was faithful in His generosity and caring throughout this project for God loves a cheerful giver.

*Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done.”
Proverbs 19:17*



photo: Rebecca Sbacchi

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 1st - Church Business Meeting; 5pm

January 8th - Living an Evangelistic Life seminar; right after the church service

January 24 - Church Board Meeting

Church Improvements

BY JIM HUNOLD

With great intensions we made a plan to fix the heating system and replace the ceiling tiles while we needed to access the area where the ceiling tiles were.

Unfortunately, when we removed the ceiling tiles and called the heating repair man (John Ryder), he was able to come for 2 days and we made a plan to make the heating repairs, before leaving on a 2-week vacation and then when he returned, he had an obligation to another Church and that delayed us another week and a half. When John was finally able to come, we were able to fix several issues where there has never been any heat. There were some special valves put in to control how much water goes to certain areas and this causes the excess water to go where it was not able to get to before allowing heat to go where it had not been able to go before.

We removed over 60 feet of un-needed pipes out of the Church. This causes the water to heat faster and more efficiently.

Once the pipes were fixed, we were then able to start the ceiling tile replacement.

We have replaced most of the tiles now and have several boxes left over.

We plan to use these tiles in a classroom that can be completely finished by the left over tiles.

The tents that we used to protect the children while they ate were a big hit among the kids, staff, and visitors.

Though they became an eye sore to many of us as it seemed they were going to be there forever, they did what they were supposed to do in keeping our children safe.

There were some lessons learned with this project that will be used for future projects. These lessons will help us in making sure projects are done more efficiently, and in a much timelier fashion.

We thank the members and especially Bill Snow and Hillary Sumner for their patience and understanding during this process.

Praises

~For a wonderful Christmas program. We are grateful for all the people who were involved in putting the program together and for those who attended

~Lynn & John's baptism

~Our prison ministry continues to be active with some prisoners asking for prayer requests

~Youth/Community Service Ministry outreach programs and activities

~Pleasant View Retirement Home music program had 25 residents in attendance and beautiful music from our talented musicians

Personal Ministries

BY KAREN PURBA

Personal Ministries has been hosting a six part series titled "How to Live an Evangelistic Life." These sessions are designed to help train us how we can better witnesses for Christ. Last month's topic was visitation. We learned the different kinds of visits we can make and helpful tips when visiting with a wide range of people.

Our next session is scheduled for January 8th right after church. Bring a bag lunch for a socially distant lunch before the meeting begins. Our topic this month will be "How to Give a Bible Study". We will learn important principles to consider when studying with new seekers.

ISAIAH 25:1

O Lord, I will honor and praise your name, for you are my God. You do such wonderful things! You planned them long ago, and now you have accomplished them.

Personal Ministries

BY ALIAN PURBA

Encore Presentation

On the second Sabbath of this month, December 11th to be exact, a few of us were at the Pleasant View Retirement Home on 239 Pleasant Street to witness a must-see Christmas music program presented by the Perry family +. You missed an outstanding and Christmas-spirit-filled music if you were not there - I recommend you join us next time they present another encore presentation there.

The program started with Sissel Perry welcoming the residents of the Retirement Home followed by the musicians' introductions – Ani (violin), Kaija (violin and vocal), plus Esteban (piano).

In her closing narratives, Sissel was unapologetic in describing why the Christmas spirit is central to our faith and beliefs.

So much so that June, the outgoing Vice President of Residents Association of the Retirement Home said this, “Thank you for keeping Christ in Christmas”.

It was obvious that June was touched by Sissel's closing remarks and the music program.

Impressed by the excellence of the program, another resident was heard chiming, “Are these people the Mormons?”, implying the excellence of the music presentation was akin to one done by musicians from the Mormon Church (the resident might have underestimated our church's caliber).

Eugene LeBrun, our church member who is also a resident at the Retirement Home said to me, “Today, I am so proud to be a Seventh-Day Adventist and a member of Concord Church”. One would surmise why Eugene uttered such a poignant statement upon hearing him expressed how much he has been trying to witness to the residents there.



Prayer Requests

~Suzanne and her health and treatment

~Dirk and Lynn's mother

~Christine Rowe and her health needs

~Tara's job situation

~ Tara's step father's health and their family

~Raquel's step mother, Leda and her health concerns

~Protection from the COVID

~Business Meeting

~Potential Concord women's prison ministry

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.