

Mid Week Letter 1-3-24

Happy New Year, friends! Here's how the new year is shaping up at church.

THIS SABBATH:

There will be **NO BREAKFAST WITH THE FAMILY** this week due to the need to set up the Fellowship Hall for **COMMUNION**. Apologies to those of you who really look forward to our monthly breakfast.

Pastor Kevin will be bringing us the Message of Hope, "White As Snow" as we begin the new year with the reminder that Jesus restores all things through his sacrifice of love.

The offering emphasis is for Local Church Budget.

HOLIDAY CALENDAR CHANGES:

Just a reminder that:

- WEDNESDAY IN THE WORD study resumes January 10 at 10am
- MID WEEK ZOOM BIBLE STUDY resumes January 10 at 7:15
- MENS MEETING resumes January 11 at 7:30.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY:

Our next Women's Event is scheduled for Sabbath, February 3rd at 3:30. All you moms who have kids in Adventurers are invited to come upstairs and rest assured that the dads/pastors will fill in for you so you can have a chance to connect with your church sisters.



And speaking of sisters...Auri Powell will be officially introducing **SECRET SISTERS** on the same day!

Secret Sisters is a ministry between you and another Sister in our church family. You become her silent prayer partner and her secret encourager. She doesn't know who you are, but she will know you are there, and praying for her and her needs.

Secret Sisters is about encouraging, supporting, and edifying one another in prayer as well as with personal notes, cards, and small gifts. It is our hope that during these months your prayer life will bring you into a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ as you lift up your sister and her needs.

This year's program will begin in February 2024 and run through May 2024 for all women (college age and above) of Burleson Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Each participant can register by filling out a Personal Profile Sheet at the Women's Event. If you can't make it to that event, just contact Auri Powell at auri1517@gmail.com and she'll get a profile sheet to you. The deadline to sign up is Feb 10.



IN OTHER NEWS:

Texas Health Huguley Hospital asked me to share the following announcement with you: Texas Health Huguley Hospital has a New Critical Care Tower! The Grand Opening will be on January 14, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. We can't wait to share this momentous occasion with you as we continue growing for future generations!

That does it for this week. I pray that as we stand at the threshold of a new year, we will take a moment to reflect on the past. How has God been faithful to us? I'm sure in more ways than we can count! And how have we been faithful to Him? Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness and grace! Grant us the strength now to leave behind what needs to be released, and the courage to embrace what lies ahead.

Blessings

~ Liz ~



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or done by others.



GraceNotes

Each year, as New Year's Day arrives, believers wrestle quietly with one of the Apostle Paul's most puzzling assertions: "One thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal" (Phil 3:13-14).

How—exactly—is it possible to "forget what lies behind"?

The year just lived was full of slights and insults: they fester unforgettably each time that face or name appears.

The year just past brought wounds—both planned and unintentional. Can willing it remove the evidence of scars?

The year gone by saw failures—ours and others—whose effects cannot be trimmed by noting January 1. Will the famed power of positive thinking erase the pain of choices we or others made?

We only can forget what we've forgiven—done by us, or done by others. And we only can forgive when we're forgiven—by a power outside ourselves who cannot lie. God "never changes or casts a shifting shadow" (James 1:17).

"God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them" (2 Cor 5:19).

What God forgets, we safely can forget. When God forgives, we find His grace to add our own, releasing others and ourselves from all of last year's failures.

Grace doesn't simply turn the page. It sees, acknowledges, forgives—and gradually forgets. The year ahead will help us practice our forgetting.

So stay in grace.

—Bill Knott

FUNNIES:

- Why is dark spelled with a K? Because you can't C in the dark.
- I just received a photo in the mail from a speeding camera. I sent it right back though. Way too expensive and really bad quality.
- There's a new game called "Silent Tennis." It's like regular Tennis but without the racquet.
- An adjective for metal is metallic. But not so for iron – which is ironic...
- I recently took a pole. And found that 100% of the people in the tent were angry when it collapsed.