

Feb 2015

Teddy Stoddard (author unknown)

There is a story many years ago of an elementary teacher. Her name was Mrs. Thompson. And as she stood in front of her 5th grade class on her very first day of school, she told the children a lie. Like most teachers, she looked at her students and said that she loved them all the same. But that was impossible, because there in the front row, slumped in his seat, was a little boy named Teddy Stoddard.

Mrs. Thompson had watched Teddy the year before and noticed that he didn't play well with the other children, that his clothes were messy and that he constantly needed a bath. And Teddy could be unpleasant. It got to the point where Mrs. Thompson would actually take delight in marking his papers with a broad red pen, making bold X's and then putting a big "F" at the top of his papers.

At the school where Mrs. Thompson taught, she was required to review each child's past records and she put Teddy's off until last. However, when she reviewed his file, she was in for a surprise. Teddy's first grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is a bright child with a ready laugh. He does his work neatly and has good manners... he is a joy to be around." His second grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is an excellent student, well liked by his classmates, but he is troubled because his mother has a terminal illness and life at home must be a struggle." His third grade teacher wrote, "His mother's death has been hard on him. He tries to do his best but his father doesn't show much interest and his home life will soon affect him if some steps aren't taken." Teddy's fourth grade teacher wrote, "Teddy is withdrawn and doesn't show much interest in school. He doesn't have many friends and sometimes sleeps in class."

By now, Mrs. Thompson realized the problem and she was ashamed of herself. She felt even worse when her students brought her Christmas presents, wrapped in beautiful ribbons and bright paper, except for Teddy's. His present which was clumsily wrapped in the heavy, brown paper that he got from a grocery bag. Mrs. Thompson took pains to open it in the middle of the other presents. Some of the children started to laugh when she found a rhinestone bracelet with some of the stones missing, and a bottle that was one quarter full of perfume. But she stifled the children's laughter when she exclaimed how pretty the bracelet was, putting it on, and dabbing some of the perfume on her wrist. Teddy Stoddard stayed after school that day just long enough to say, Mrs. Thompson, today you smelled just like my Mom used to." After the children left she cried for at least an hour.

On that very day, she quit teaching reading, and writing, and arithmetic. Instead, she began to teach children. Mrs. Thompson paid particular attention to Teddy. As she worked with him, his mind seemed to come alive. The more she encouraged him, the faster he responded. By the

end of the year, Teddy had become one of the smartest children in the class and, despite her lie that she would love all the children the same, Teddy became one her "teacher's pets."

A year later, she found a note under her door, from Teddy, telling her that she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Six years went by before she got another note from Teddy. He then wrote that he had finished high school, third in his class, and she was still the best teacher he ever had in his whole life. Four years after that, she got another letter, saying that while things had been tough at times, he'd stayed in school, had stuck with it, and would soon graduate from college with the highest of honors. He assured Mrs. Thompson that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had in his whole life. Then four more years passed and yet another letter came. This time he explained that after he got his bachelor's degree, he decided to go a little further. The letter explained that she was still the best and favorite teacher he ever had. But now his name was a little longer-the letter was signed, Theodore F. Stoddard, M.D.

The story doesn't end there. You see, there was yet another letter that spring. Teddy said he'd met this girl and was going to be married. He explained that his father had died a couple of years ago and he was wondering if Mrs. Thompson might agree to sit in the place at the wedding that was usually reserved for the mother of the groom. Of course, Mrs. Thompson did. And guess what? She wore that bracelet, the one with several rhinestones missing. And she made sure she was wearing the perfume that Teddy remembered his mother wearing on their last Christmas together. They hugged each other, and Dr. Stoddard whispered in Mrs. Thompson's ear, "Thank you Mrs. Thompson for believing in me. Thank you so much for making me feel important and showing me that I could make a difference." Mrs. Thompson, with tears in her eyes, whispered back. She said, "Teddy, you have it all wrong. You were the one who taught me that I could make a difference. I didn't know how to teach until I met you."

For those of you that were blessed to be at the Clanton SDA Church on Sabbath, January 24, you will have already heard this story. For those that didn't make it to church you missed a blessing by hearing the heart wrenching, wonderful story of Becky Owens life - titled "The Color of the Cross". Larry Owens her husband had the afternoon presentation on the Vision through the Sanctuary for the last days. They pastor the Panama City church but were our invited guests for the day. Everyone that left there Sabbath had a refreshing blessing from being with our maker Jesus and these wonderful new friends, part of our family of God now. Tony Plier taped the morning and afternoon sessions and they should be on the website referred to on the Reminiscing/Information page.

Happy Valentine's Day— Remember when we were in grade school and we used to take paper doilies and construction paper and make valentines for all the kids and a special one for the teacher. I know Valentine's Day is intended for lovers but it can be a day for everyone to tell someone that they are special. I am sending this to you because **You are special.**

When you're in need of love, reach out. There are people who love you. When somebody loves you, just accept and be glad. Love is not an obligation. You don't have to do anything in return.

My Grateful Heart Is Filled with Love

My grateful heart is filled with love,
For I am blessed by God above.
My needs are met before I ask,
And I find strength for every task.
I've know sorrows, and some pain,
But all of these I count as gain.
For God is good, and God is fair,
And through it all I know He's there.
I've made my heart His dwelling place,
And He forgives me by His grace.
By faith I walk within His light,
And never fear the coming night.
My grateful heart is filled with love,
For I am blessed by God above! Clay Harrison



Torch of Love

Love begins within you. A tiny spark will do. Gently, gently, blow and blow with bits of peace and true. And fan it with your patience, and shield it from the night. And tender it with gentleness, and very soon, your light.... Will be a raging fire. The spark will be a flame. And you'll become a torch of love. You'll never be the same. Dolores Dahl

Love

Love has many powers, it can bring you to your knees,
Can rip your heart like paper, then mend it back with ease,
Can draw out tears of sadness, and also tears of joy,
Can make us smile at someone whose trying to annoy.
Love is all around us, no matter where we turn;
Love can be so simple, yet hard for us to learn.
Love's a soothing feeling, that helps us sleep at night!
Love makes us grab a loved one, and hug them oh so tight.
Love has many powers, as I have said above;
The most import things of all, is remember "God is love." George A. Hellard, Jr.

Hope you all have a wonderful February and
will catch you next month.

God is Love.....

And he wants us to be

Happy Christians.

Look for the Rainbow

Look for the rainbow when things go awry, And remember the beauty you've seen in the sky...
Reflect on its promise and think, as you do, Of the joy and the hope that are waiting for you...
For rainbows are simply reminders we see of God's endless love for you and for me. Emily Matthews

GOD'S Rosebud

A new minister was walking with an older, more seasoned minister in the garden one day. Feeling a bit insecure about what God had for him to do, he was asking the older preacher for some advice. The older preacher walked up to a rosebush and handed the young preacher a rosebud and told him to open it without tearing off any petals. The young preacher looked in disbelief at the older preacher and was trying to figure out what a rosebud could possibly have to do with his wanting to know the will of God for his life and ministry. But because of his great respect for the older preacher, he proceeded to try to unfold the rose, while keeping every petal intact. It wasn't long before he realized how impossible this was to do. Noticing the younger preacher's inability to unfold the rosebud without tearing it, the older preacher began to recite the following poem...

"It is only a tiny rosebud,
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine."

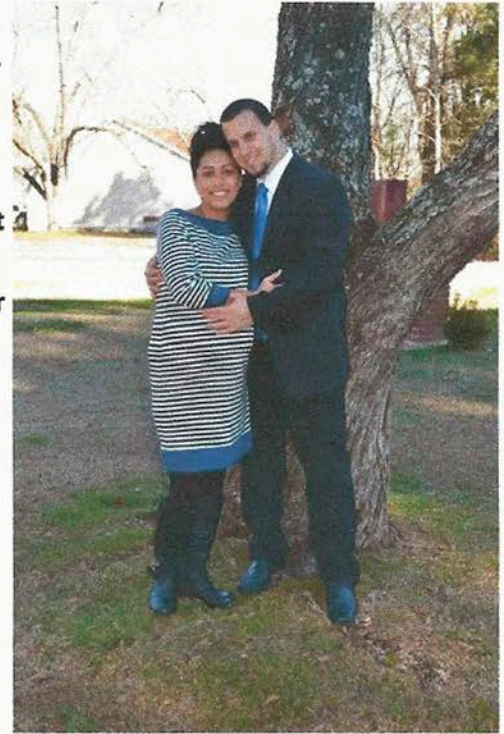


"The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I.
GOD opens this flower so easily,
But in my hands they die."

"If I cannot unfold a rosebud,
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I have the wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?"

"So I'll trust in God for leading
Each moment of my day.
I will look to God for guidance
In each step of the way."

"The path that lies before me,
Only my Lord knows.
I'll trust God to unfold the moments,
Just as He unfolds the rose."



Shower for Pastor & Elizabeth

Sunday, January the Women's Ministries had a "Surprise Baby Shower" for the Pastor's wife. Elizabeth was really surprised and she said that doesn't happen very often, but the Pastor pulled it off by letting her think they were going to Selma for something. Her mother and sisters knew and attended also. There were about 30 church members including 7 men that had fun eating the snacks prepared by the women and playing the shower games (of course the men wouldn't admit it, LOL). Then we all had cake and then the Pastor and Elizabeth opened up wonderful presents one after the other. They were laughingly dividing up the pampers as to who was going to use them. There were beautiful clothes, a handmade blanket made by one of the members, a stroller given by several members going in together. All in all a wonderful time was had by all that attended. I was hoping to get a picture to put in here of the beautifully done decorations. Everything was in lilac including balloons and the walls and windows were decorated. I know everyone worked really hard to help Kay Cheser by having this really nice party for them. Hope you got to attend and wish their baby girl Emma a welcome about the first of March.

Pastor Michel Rodriguez & wife Elizabeth—Phone: 817-219-7347

530 Old Farm Ln. S. Apt. P Prattville, AL 36066 email: wintermich@icloud.com

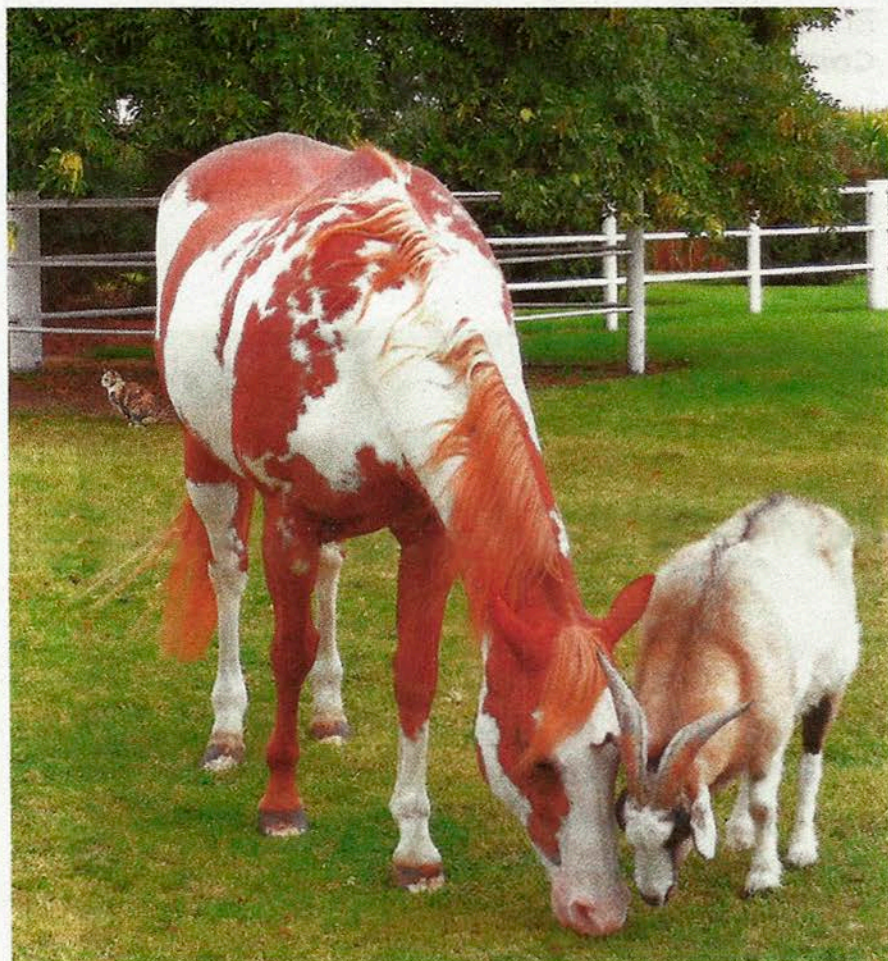
Head Elder, Robert (Bob) Ernest— 205-280-1297 Email: RobertE699@aol.com

Assistant Head Elder —Ralph Sheperd— 334-201-9118 Email: sheperd747@gmail.com

Clanton Seventh-day Adventist Church
401 North 18th Street
Clanton, AL 35045
205-755-2270

Presented for our enjoyment by:

Donna Ernest. Thanks for sharing.



Dolly, Blaze the goat and April Cat (by the fence behind Dolly) set an example we could all learn from. .

The Calico Trio

This colorful group of farm animals has forged a lasting friendship.

Story by **Kris Klingaman**, Fairbank, Iowa

People need friends in this world to confide in and listen to. Do animals need friends? I believe so. For more than 15 years, I've witnessed a loving relationship shared by a horse, a goat and a cat.

The friendship began in 1999, when I bought a colorful paint mare for showing. Her name was Dainty Affects, but we all called her Dolly. An older, well-broke horse, she seemed lonely, even depressed, soon after we got her. Horses do much better

in a herd or small group than they do alone, and Dolly needed a friend.

My son wanted an animal for a 4-H project, so we soon added Blaze, a multicolored fainting goat, to the barn stock. Not long after that, I was looking for a kitten at the local animal shelter, when an old gray calico caught my eye. Many people had seen her, but because of her age, she was repeatedly left behind. After a sleepless night, I made a return trip to adopt April Cat.

The unique friendship began as

April quickly located her favorite place to sleep—in the stall with Blaze. As days went by, I noticed that when the horse and goat were turned out in the pasture during the day, the cat would join them. When the barn door slid open for afternoon chores, Dolly would walk to her stall, with Blaze and April trailing closely behind and going into the stall across from her.

Giving Blaze a bath one day, my son and I saw something remarkable. When the goat let out a loud “Baa!” of alarm at the water and suds, April Cat ran over to stand by her friend. Dolly, in her stall, reacted to the noise like a mare separated from her colt, whinnying and pacing nervously.

It was fascinating to watch this bond grow deeper with time. During Dolly's showing years, I would saddle her in the barn and lead her to the outdoor arena to begin practice, with April and Blaze following behind.

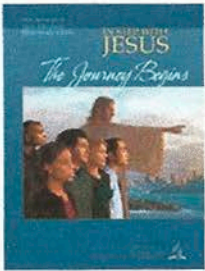
The most unusual gesture of friendship I witnessed was on a cold, rainy day. April Cat ran for the comfort of the barn, leaving Dolly and Blaze to withstand the elements. Blaze amazed me as I watched him carefully back underneath Dolly as she held absolutely—and uncharacteristically—still. Blaze held his long horns very close to her side without touching her. Dolly trusted that her friend would not hurt her, and Blaze trusted his friend to protect him.

The calico trio is a joy and blessing to me as I watch them from my farmhouse window. Despite their obvious differences, they care about each other and enjoy one another's company. Shouldn't we all strive to live this way? 🌻

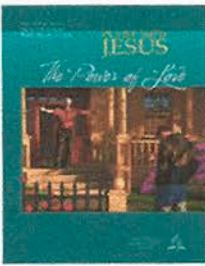
At the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, He challenged a select group to become "fishers of men." This simply meant He expected them to bring others to the beautiful truth of a relationship with Him.

Near the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, He refined His challenge to His followers. In a sense, He was saying, "Once you've been fishing, what do you do with your catch?" And His answer came in three variations: " 'Feed My lambs' " (John 21:15); " 'Tend My sheep' " (verse 16); and " 'Feed My sheep' " (verse 17). The disciples may well have expressed confusion over this last command. Jesus had originally called them to fish for men. Now He was talking about them as shepherds. Was Jesus mixing metaphors? Absolutely not. Fishing and shepherding are two phases of the same effort: bringing others to Jesus.

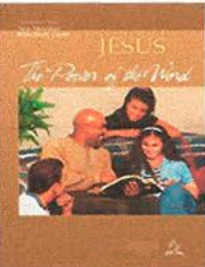
The *New Members' Bible Study Guide*, entitled *In Step With Jesus*, has been prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Department to assist in the task of making disciples. The theology that undergirds the content is based on the gospel commission (Matt. 28:19, 20), and on three characteristics that Jesus gave for identifying His disciples: Disciples love God completely and others as themselves (John 13:35); Disciples understand and obey the Word of God (8:31); Disciples bear fruit (15:8). It is comprised of four Bible study guides, designed similarly to the *Adult Bible Study Guide*.



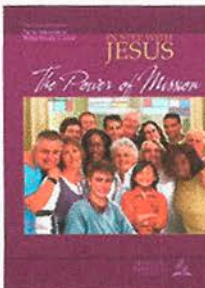
The Journey Begins, represents Jesus, standing in loving support of a group of new disciples and pointing the way into a glowing future—a radiant eternity. This image proclaims a rich hope in the world to come, but it also promises Jesus' closest care for His disciples as they grow daily ever closer to Him. All of which suggests this question: Now that we have accepted Jesus as a Master, Teacher, Friend, and Brother, what does this mean in our everyday lives. And this is where the studies of this quarter begin. The weekly lesson studies: *Answering the Call of Jesus; The Journey Begins; Who Is Jesus?; His Own Testimony; My Upside-Down World; God's Priorities – and Mine; Life as a New Disciple; Jesus' Patience with His Disciples; The Bible as a Guide for Life; Authority of the Bible; How to Study the Bible (Part 1); How to Study the Bible (Part 2); Making Time for God.*



The Power of Love : A young man slouches, dejected, before the home of his childhood and youth. He has returned from a life of recklessness and rebellion, hoping that in some way his father will accept him back. Based upon a well-known parable of Jesus, the cover illustration for the second quarter's series of studies illustrates in a moving modern setting the father's gracious response. And the study of this quarter addresses the issues that bring about this sense of need to return home to our heavenly Father—and the Father's loving reaction to our return. Weekly lesson studies: *The Life You Were Meant to Live; The Source of Life and Love; Loving God; Rival Kingdoms; Who Defines You?; Growing Through Self-Understanding; Growing in Context of Love and Grace; Growing in the Church; Growing in Jesus Way; The Extent of Christian Love; Loving the Person Next to You; Loving and Disciplining Children; Loving Neighbors and Strangers.*



The Power of the Word: Whether we are reading the Bible in quiet, personal study, or we are exploring it carefully with friends or loved ones, it is God's Word revealed to us. It provides a comprehensive overview of His involvement in the history of humanity and an authoritative guide for our individual lives. And it offers a singular opportunity for us to develop our relationship with Him more deeply as each day goes by. Weekly lesson studies: *Following an Invisible Leader; Experiencing the Power of the Word: Living in Christ; Bearing the Hostility of the World; Understanding the Sabbath; Observing the Sabbath; Responding with Gratitude; Living Healthfully; Honoring God with My Sexuality; Finding Healing; Experiencing Forgiveness; Facing Death with Hope; Facing the Future*



The Power of Mission: Mission is a powerful force. It gives people energy, purpose, and meaning to their lives. Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave His disciples a world-encompassing mission, and then provided them with the authority and power to fulfill it. Earlier, He had also given them a two-part command to love God with all their heart, mind, and soul and to love others as He loved them. As today's disciples of Jesus consider how to build their lives around His Commission and Commandment, we are blessed to have examples of how those first disciples, in the power of the Holy Spirit, carried out the instructions of Jesus. This is the topic for this concluding quarter's lessons: *Bringing the Kingdom of God; Jesus' Mission; Mission of Jesus' Disciples; The Mission of the Seventh Day Adventist Church; Guidance for Mission; Gifts for Your Mission; Equipping for Mission; Telling the World; Life in the Church; Ministering to Sick; Caring for the Poor; Confronting evil; Lifting Up Jesus.*

The Sabbath School Counsel and Church Board have voted to have an additional Sabbath School class meant to reach our new members, new interests, visitors, and those who wish to renew their understanding of our doctrines, as well as re-ignite their love and commitment to Jesus. Jesus is coming soon! As we renew our own commitment to Jesus Christ and make kingdom friends, we will have an established class to welcome all whose desire is to have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and follow Him.

How to Create Spiritual Balance in Your Life

Women's Ministry— submitted by Kay Cheser

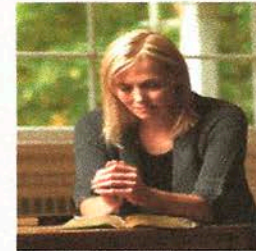
Experience God in His Word daily

- Read the Bible through in one year
- Speed read a book of the Bible
- Write scripture . . . and interact with God on the paper
- Repeat read a portion of scripture, every day for a week, slowly, thoughtfully
- Read a chapter expressively, i.e., Isaiah 53
- Memorize meaningful chapters
- Sing scripture songs
- Carry with you Bible promise cards on a ring, read while waiting
- Search the scriptures for the top 10 values by which to live
- Search Jesus' life to learn how to minister to others



Pray daily

- At home, alone . . . and with your family
- Pray at work . . . in the halls, in the offices
- Find a prayer partner, pray often together
- Feel free to ask a co-worker for prayer
- When someone asks for prayer, pray right then
- Pray over your To Do List, for God's priorities
- Pray over your project of the moment
- Pray scriptures
- Invite the Holy Spirit to dwell in your heart and to pray FOR you



Share a testimony daily



When you spend time in God's Word and in prayer, you WILL have a testimony. It just happens.

- What God gave you in His Word today — How God is changing you through His Word and His Spirit
- How God answered your prayer — A need for which you would like prayer support, expressing trust and thanksgiving for God's answer that *will* come
- Share with your family/kids, work associates, neighbors, seatmate on the airplane, anyone you spend time with
- Organize sharing partnerships, triads, small groups that meet during lunch to share your testimonies



So . . . if like Jonah you find yourself running away from God or you are simply drifting away or sinking in a sea of busy-ness, call out to God. Ask Him to bring you back to Him . . . back to where you will find true balance for your life!

Marti Schneider, March 2007, Women's Awareness Week worship at the General Conference

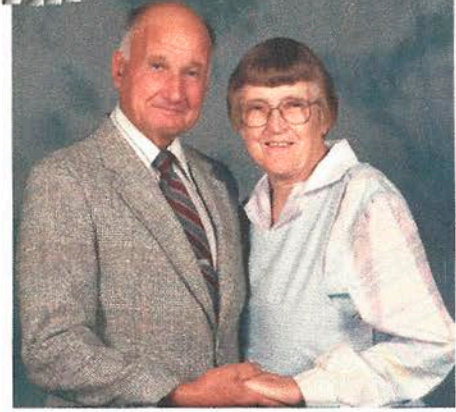
February Birthdays

- 1- Anne Chandler & Holly Boggus
- 5 - Terry Cheser
- 7 - Kelaiah Radford
- 10 - Tony Plier
- 25 - Cameron Higgins
- 26 - Jim Higgins

Anniversary

- 9 - Todd & Melissa Abbott
- 15 - Donald & Holly Boggus

Reminiscing Corner



Last months picture: I know several of you were here when Chad Andrews left to go to Ridgetop Tennessee, where he married a school teacher. OK, no one gave me a picture so I went back a few years and I am sure you will all know who this couple is, they have aged a bit and both are in the Warren Manor Nursing Home in Selma, Al. I am sure they would love a visit from their friends. If you want to keep remembering, someone, that is You need to give me a picture. Until next month, Brenda

Websites that Bill Weise has set up for everyone & would like special prayer about the responses from these sites.

www.steppingupward.org
www.eqwhiteclassicquotes.org <http://www.grandmastidbits.org>

The Church board on January 20, 2015 **voted** to move the personal ministries 10 minute presentation to the end of Sabbath School at 10:45 and to approve the order of service that Pastor Rodriguez has proposed with the Prayer of Invocation usually by the speaker to start with. **The Order of Service will be:**

Musical Prelude
Service participants enter
Doxology
Invocation—Prayer asking the presence of the Holy Spirit, rather than praying for the petition list
Hymn of praise.
Prayer - this could be the prayer for the different petitions and for the preacher
Offering
Children Story
Special music
Scripture Reading
Sermon
Hymn
Benediction.

This would mean that the Sabbath School classes end at the scheduled time and that all have finished up their classes and are in the sanctuary ready for this part of the service. Remember Sabbath School does start at 9:15 each Sabbath morning with the song service in the sanctuary and any of the classes are welcome to join those in the sanctuary before separating for the lesson study.

A Church Business meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, February 15 @ 10:30 AM for all the church members to come. Reports from the Treasurer, Sabbath School, and all the departments need to be presented to the church members. Our Mission, plans for evangelism and etc need to be discussed. Please mark your schedule to come for this important meeting. Board members please note: School board meeting at 8:30 and Church board meeting at 9:00 AM that morning.



Kay 3's Vegan Recipes

"Chicken" Salad:

- 2/3 cup Veganaise
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp poultry seasoning
- 1/4 tsp onion powder
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 Tbl lemon juice
- 3 cups diced vegan chicken'
- 1/2 cup celery, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup green onions, finely sliced
- 1 1/2 cups grapes halved.
- 1/4 to 1/2 cup roasted pecan or walnut, diced

We have a website!! <http://clantonsda.org/>, Tony Plier has posted sermons, music & a lot of info, look under Newsletter to find this publication on line.

One family has let me know they will go online, another says they like to read it in print. Just let me know your choice. Thanks for communicating and sharing what you want to put in the Newsletter each month.

In a medium bowl, whisk together the Veganaise, salt, poultry seasoning, onion and garlic powders, and lemon juice. In large bowl, toss together "chicken", grapes, celery, and green onions. Add Veganaise mixture to "chicken" mixture and stir to coat. Better if refrigerated overnight. An option is to add an 8 ounce can of chopped water chestnuts to the bowl with the "chicken" mixture before the dressing is added, or you could also add diced vegan cheese. If you are cooking for a smaller group, simply half each ingredient and you will have less. This is good as a main course or as sandwich filling. Kay #3

Comments was from Kay #3 that "I have made Donna' Ernest's "Hot Buns", and Florine's Tofu Sandwich Spread, and both are excellent". I guess my comment is, did we give those individuals credit for contributing to the Recipes? Brenda

Please NOTE, as of LAST month, we now have the Church Newsletter on the Clanton Church website. If you find it there and want to stop getting yours via US Mail, just let me know via email so I can take you off the mailing list. We hope this will help you be able to share the Newsletter with friends and will save on ink and postage in the long run. Until next month. Brenda Davis

Return Address:

**Brenda K Davis
187 County Rd 313
Stanton, AL 36790**



To: «AddressBlock»