

Lamp Letter



Vol. 16 No. 4
November 2014

From the Word

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16



Days of Fasting and Prayer



Yin Schaff, center front row in the red and black sweater, meeting with her Bible study friends from work. Yin, member of the Superior church, is a cardiology nurse practitioner in the St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, MN.

I am part of a ladies Bible-study group with some friends at work. Last year we discussed the idea of spending a time of fasting and prayer in January. I am aware our Adventist Church has a Ten Days of Prayer session each January, but was surprised when these ladies, all from different denominations, proposed we fast and pray for 21 days. The first thought that came to my mind was, “I don't think I can fast for 21 days...I love to eat...what about the hunger pains...”

I wrestled with God as to whether this was His call to me. I pray every day, but 21 days is a long time to fast. Then I read in chapter 17 of the book, *A Call to Stand Apart*, by Ellen White, “We need to humble ourselves before the Lord, with fasting and prayer, and to meditate much upon His Word, especially upon the scenes of the judgment. We should now seek a deep and living experience in the things of God. We have not a moment to lose. Events of vital importance are taking place around us; we are on Satan's enchanted ground. Sleep not, sentinels of God; the foe is lurking near, ready at any moment, should you become lax and drowsy, to spring upon you and make you his prey.”

With each passing day, His call grew stronger and more clear. Finally, I was convinced. God was calling me to fast. He would not make such a call without a specific reason. With this conviction, I entered my fast with excitement and expectancy in my heart.

I did a partial fast, drinking hot tea in the morning, and eating a simple lunch at noon with no dessert. I spent more time in prayer and Bible study, concentrating on the Lord's Prayer, the suggested focus of 2014's Ten Days of Prayer. My ladies group met each Friday night to share, pray, and sing praises.

The longer I fasted, the more I sensed the presence of the Lord. The Holy Spirit refreshed my soul and spirit. I experienced the joy of the Lord as seldom before. Biblical truths leaped out at me from the pages of God's Word. My faith soared as I humbled myself and cried out to God, and I rejoiced in His presence.

The Lord impressed upon my heart the need to accelerate the spread of His Word in this generation and hasten His second coming. I urge each of us to prayerfully consider joining the Adventist family around the world January 7-17 for the upcoming Ten Days of Prayer.

As told to Juanita Edge by Yin Schaff, member of the Superior Church

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President's Perspective



Mike's Sabbath Schedule

November

- 1 NAD Year End Meetings
- 8 Elder's Retreat
- 15 Executive Committee Orientation
- 22 SEEDS Conference

December

- 6 Hudson
- 13 Waukesha
- 20 Ashland
- 27 Vacation

January

- 3 Delavan Spanish
- 10 LUC President's Retreat
- 17 Fond du Lac
- 24 Milwaukee Convocation
- 31 Tomahawk

February

- 7 Conference Office Retreat
- 14 Shawano
- 21 Woodland
- 28 AHS

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Shine

“This little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine. Reminds you of childhood doesn't it? In that simple song is a profound challenge. Yes, Jesus has asked us to let our lights shine. We won't let Satan blow it out, we may not hide it under a bushel, but will we let it shine all around our neighborhood, and until Jesus comes?”

What we do inside the church building prepares us for what we do outside of the building. The church building is a place for worship, for fellowship, and for training. But that must not be the extent of our “shining.” We must walk out of the building and shine in the world.

Listed below are the mission, values and goals of the Wisconsin Conference for the next four years, as voted by the delegates to the recent constituency session. As you look at these ask God to show you how you can be a part of letting your light shine for Him.

The disciples spent 10 days in the upper room praying, waiting, seeking to know what God wished for them to do. I would invite you to join Adventists from around the world January 7-17, 2015, for a 10 day prayer focus. (www.tendaysofprayer.org)

During this time I would ask you to pray that God will reveal to you what He wants you to do during 2015. What does he want you to claim as your mission field? What ministry of your church does He want you to start, or be involved in?

Listen to these words by Ellen White:

“There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.” CS 254

“Christians are set as light bearers on the way to heaven. They are to reflect to the world the light shining upon them from Christ. Their life and character should be such that through them others will get a right conception of Christ and of His service.” SC 115

May we let our lights shine in the darkness so that people will be drawn to Jesus.

Michael H Edge

Wisconsin Conference President

Conference Mission, Vision, Core Values & Goals

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Wisconsin Conference is to grow passionate disciples of Jesus prepared for Christ's soon coming.

VISION

Our vision is to faithfully serve the members and the people of Wisconsin by:

- Lifting up and experiencing Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life
- Sharing Christ through selfless acts of compassion
- Connecting with people through fellowship, love and support
- Sharing God's love and last-day message to communities throughout Wisconsin
- Training people for a life of service

CORE VALUES

(Expanded version at wi.adventist.org)

- Christ-centered Bible Study
- Dynamic Worship
- Selfless Service
- Caring Nurture
- Education Excellence
- Effective Outreach
- Leadership Development
- Youth Discipleship

GOALS FOR 2014-2018

- 1,200 Baptisms
- 8,000 Membership
- 20% Attendance Growth
- 100 Student Increase
- 4 New K-10 Schools
- 8 New Church Plants

Wisconsin Conference Thirty-Sixth Constituency Session Report

The 36th Constituency Session of the Wisconsin Conference of Seventh-day Adventists convened at 10:00 a.m. on October 5, 2014, at Wisconsin Academy Church in Columbus, Wisconsin.

The six current administrative officers and department directors re-elected to serve for another four-year term are: Mike Edge, president; Brian Stephan, executive secretary/treasurer; Juanita Edge; communication director; Greg Taylor, youth director; James Fox, ministerial director; and Linda Rosen, education superintendent.

Mike Edge, president of the Wisconsin Conference, shared in the morning devotional that of the 5.7 million people living in Wisconsin, 7,531 are Seventh-day Adventists. That means there is one Adventist for every 763 people in Wisconsin. "We live in a mission field," said Edge, "and we are called to shine for Christ in this dark world."

Brian Stephan, executive secretary/treasurer of the Wisconsin Conference shared a financial report emphasizing although we are on a tight budget, members have been extremely faithful and generous with the Wisconsin Budget and World Mission offerings. Also, over the past four years we have been blessed with 940 baptisms. Conference membership has grown from 7,322 members on January 1, 2010, to 7,531 members as of December 31, 2013.



The current Wisconsin Conference office administrators, department directors, and support staff are as follows. Back Row: Bert Wredberg, Kim Taylor, Greg Taylor, Sandy Berg, John Ramsey, Linda Rosen, Bob Hillebert, James Fox. Front Row: Juanita Edge, Mike Edge, Brian Stephan, Cindy Stephan, and Jean Schwark. Not pictured, Scott and Tammi Baker

Roger Dunder, Wisconsin Academy principal spoke to the many changes at the school including faculty, enrollment, finances and academics. While finances continue to be a challenge, major steps are being taken to place the school on solid ground. There are currently 88 students at the academy. "God has blessed us, and I've seen many miracles happen here recently," said Principal Dunder.

Jerry and Michelle Martin, shared the mission, needs and progress of the Wisconsin Academy farm, and Lighthouse Thrift Store. The store sales continue to increase. The store needs include walls to close in the store portion of the warehouse before winter, repairs to the roof, and more donated items to sell in the store. The farm is in need of a

larger tractor and another high-tunnel in which to plant raspberries.

Floyd Brock and Brian Stephan gave an update on the need for a new septic system at Wisconsin Academy. The current system was built in 1947, and is the only system of its kind still in existence in Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources is requiring we have the system replaced within five years. Several options are currently being looked at including building our own system onsite, or hook up to the city of Columbus utilities. When sufficient information comes in, and if a loan of over 7% of the current net tithe is needed, another constituency session will be called to make a decision.

Ziebert: Top Mile Walk for Life Coordinator Shares How It Works in Waukesha



Richard Ziebert rode his bicycle 18 miles up Hurricane Ridge in the Olympic Mountains in Washington state last summer.

Richard Ziebert encouraged his Waukesha church family to be involved in Walk for Life in 2014, and they walked 10,665.5 miles! In this program Wisconsin Conference members corporately walk around the world in the first six-months of the year. We walk, record our miles, and turn them in to the local church, or on the conference Walk for Life web page. Join the 2015 Walk for Life program beginning January 1. Learn more on the Walk for Life web page at wi.adventist.org, or call Juanita Edge at 920-484-6555.

WFL: What did you do as a church Walk for Life coordinator that helped motivate people?

Richard Ziebert: One of the biggest factors was adding a weekly Health Highlight before church service. I could keep exercise tips and positive stories in front of them. That helps put exercise on their to-do lists. The equivalency mile chart is a great tool also. It converts their other activities into miles for them.

WFL: How do members accumulate miles?

Richard Ziebert: Walk, run, lift weights, shovel snow, rake leaves, canoe, garden, join a YMCA . . . any activity counts for miles.

WFL: How do you collect their miles?

Richard Ziebert: I put a big vinyl chart in the church hall with name and date columns. Each Sabbath members can post their miles. Simple addition and I have the totals. I remind

them to record their miles each week during the Health Highlight time.

WFL: How did you become a WFL leader?

Richard Ziebert: Someone told me at a CHIP meeting that I had inspired them to walk more. Wow, I sensed the LORD speaking. When Walk for Life came along I knew who was placing it in front of me, and volunteered.

WFL: Why is the Walk for Life program worth spending your time promoting?

Richard Ziebert: Taking care of ourselves is one of the cornerstones of our Adventist beliefs, and it's something we can all do. The body the Lord provided us is a miracle, but it doesn't take care of itself.

To read testimonies of how exercise has benefited Walk for Life participants, go to the conference website Walk for Life page at wi.adventist.org.

Heisig Invested as Master Guide After 40 Years



Anita Heisig, Pathfinder leader at Madison East, decided in the early 1970's she wanted to be invested as a Pathfinder Master Guide. On August 16, 2014, Anita got her wish. She was invested in front of 50,000 Pathfinders at the Forever Faithful International Camporee in Oshkosh.

Her Master Guide journey began many years ago, but life got busy and she had to put it on the back burner. When she became the deputy director of the Madison Mustangs, she knew it was time to move ahead with it.

The Master Guide Program, offered by the General Conference Youth Ministries Department, is the highest level of youth leadership in the Pathfinder program. It focuses on leadership skills, but more importantly, the leaders spiritual growth.

Anita completed all the requirements, which included a paper on the 28 fundamental beliefs. "I feel good that I finally finished," said Anita. "I learned skills, how to work with kids, and personal discipline. It also forced me to sit down and review the fundamental beliefs. It confirmed I do believe them and they are Bible based. It has made me a stronger person."

Teresa Harrison
Madison East Communication Secretary

Leopoldino New Bible Worker in Beloit



Acidiel Leopoldino, also known as Cid, was born in Parana, South of Brazil. He recently came to America to work as a Bible worker in the Beloit district. He and his wife, Nechi Bruno, have lived in Spain for the past eight years giving Bible studies to deaf young people. Cid graduated with a theology degree from an Adventist college in Sagunto, Spain, in June, 2014. His wife has a degree in Spanish sign language. "We are glad to be working here," said Cid. "The people are hungry for the Word of God." In his free time, Cid enjoys sports, especially soccer. He also loves walking and fishing.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director

Clear Lake Concert Raises \$600 for Food Pantry



Clear Lake Church held a benefit concert September 13, 2014, at the Clear Lake Area Community Center featuring Nancy Morauske, singer & songwriter from Fall River, Wisconsin. Nancy was accompanied at intervals by daughter Amanda Garrett and granddaughter Lacy. In addition to the food items donated, over \$600 was raised for Lifeline Food Pantry in Clear Lake.

Georgia Rosen
Member of the Clear Lake Church

FINANCIAL UPDATE

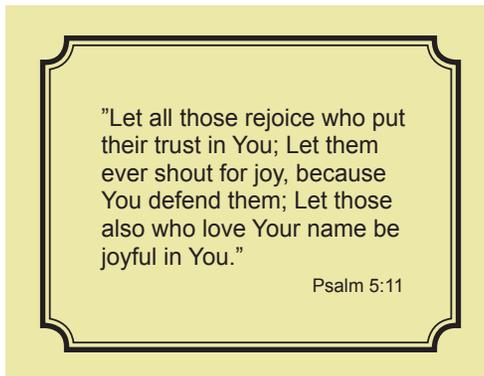
God has blessed our conference with a tithe increase of 1.56% through September of this year. We also are thankful for an increase in Wisconsin Budget of 8.16%.

Thank you for your faithfulness in the giving of your tithes and offerings. If these increases hold through the end of the year we may (along with the reductions in staff at WA and the conference office) be able to have a break-even year financially.

A major financial challenge we are facing is the replacement of the wastewater treatment plant at WA. We have been given one final five-year permit to operate the current plant, and must have a new system in place by 2019. We are looking at several options and hope to make a final decision by next year. It is to our advantage to replace the current plant as soon as possible, as the cost of operating it is becoming more expensive as time goes by.

Please take time to reflect on how God has blessed you. I pray that God will find each of us faithful stewards in the giving of our talents, tithes and offerings.

Brian Stephan
Executive Secretary/Treasurer



Psalm 5:11

| FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| | 2014 (39 Weeks) | 2013 (39 Weeks) | % Change |
| September Tithe Income: | \$511,172.15 | \$525,934.28 | -2.81% |
| YTD Tithe Income: | \$4,657,331.67 | \$4,585,961.80 | 1.56% |
| September Wisconsin Budget: | \$25,131.35 | \$22,054.98 | 13.95% |
| YTD Wisconsin Budget: | \$210,484.52 | \$194,603.78 | 8.16% |

Tonya Bishop Finds Joy in Learning Bible Truth



“What’s wrong with me?” Tonya asked herself, after visiting another church. “Why am I not getting the Holy Ghost?” Tonya had spent many years visiting different churches, but felt something was lacking. She felt confused, and didn’t know what to believe. Discouraged, she finally, quit attending any church, feeling empty and lost.

One day a friend of Tonya’s boyfriend, Charles, told her Saturday was the Bible Sabbath, rather than Sunday. “I had never heard that in my life,” said Tonya. She immediately went on-line and searched for more information. Upon reading that the Catholics had changed the Sabbath from Sabbath to Sunday, she started searching for a church again; one that kept Saturday for the Sabbath.

Tonya’s on-line search led her to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “I read all I could about what the Adventists believed, and wow! It just hit me in the heart as truth!” When she found the Milwaukee Northwest Adventist church phone number, she called it. “What kind of church are you,” Tonya asked? “How will I feel when I come to your church?”

Tonya was at church the next Sabbath. The lady sitting in front of Tonya turned around and asked her, “Are you the lady that called here this week?” “Yes,” replied Tonya!

On July 27, 2014, Tonya and Charles were married. Then, on August 9, 2014, Tonya and Charles were baptized by Pastor Steve Aust.

“I feel like I’m finally learning Bible truth.” said Tonya. “I long to follow God’s Word and obey his laws. I love to study and love all I’m learning. Some things I’m learning I don’t see people in the church doing, but I don’t let that discourage me. We are each responsible for our own choices. I just keep studying and following Christ the best I can.”

As told to Juanita Edge by Tonya Bishop
Member of the Milwaukee Northwest Church

God is Working Miracles in Bob’s Life



On March 25, 2013, I went to check on Bob (pictured above) and found him lying on the floor. He was not breathing well, so I immediately called 911. He was rushed to the hospital. The doctor said it would be a miracle if Bob lived, and if I had found Bob 30 minutes later it would have been too late for him. He had been laying on the floor for about 36 hours by himself.

I went to see him in ICU the next day. He was unconscious, but I took his hand and said, “Bob, I am going to be praying that if God still has something for you, He will save your life.”

The medical staff said if Bob survived, he would need a lot of care for the rest of his life. His kidneys and liver had shut down, his heart was arrhythmic and his blood was septic.

“Lord,” I prayed, “you know this guy. I’ve been talking to him about Jesus, but he hasn’t given his life to the Lord yet!”

God worked a miracle, and on November 17, 2013, Bob moved home. I told him, “I prayed that God would save your life. I prayed that someday you would give your life to Him.” I went through the plan of salvation with him. Then I said, “Would you consider giving your life to the Lord, Bob?” He was quiet a long time before saying, “Yes, but I don’t know how.”

I was thrilled! I walked him through accepting Jesus and said, “Bob, I want you to do something for me. Every morning, you need to spend time with the Lord. This is so important.” I gave him a Bible and the Desire of Ages. I called him the next day and asked, “Did you read today?” “Yes,” he said, “I read three chapters!”

Today Bob feels great and can enjoy fishing trips. He is also taking Bible studies. I keep praying for him, telling him I want to see him in the kingdom someday.

As told to Juanita Edge by Judy Dant
Member of the Fox Valley Church

Deidra Roat New Part-Time Office Secretary

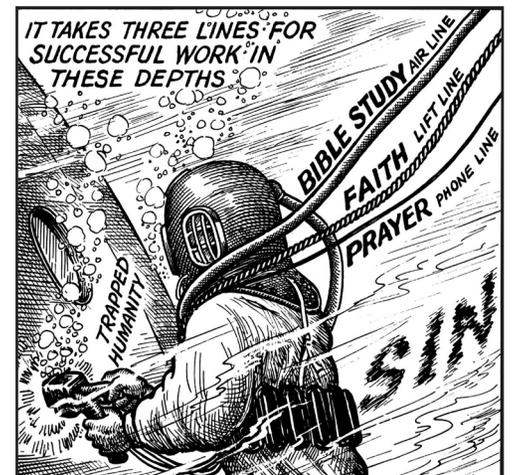


Deidra Roat has agreed to work part time as a secretary for the Wisconsin Conference office. Her main responsibilities will be working in the communication department.

Deidra holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree and a minor in Photography from Andrews University. She operates Clay Heart, a handcrafted pottery shop in Rio, Wisconsin. Deidra has worked at Wisconsin Academy as assistant girls dean and has taught art classes there whenever needed. “I’m excited about this opportunity to work for the conference,” said Deidra. “It will be fun.”

Besides making pottery, Deidra also enjoys learning more about God and spending time with family and friends. She is married to Todd Roat and they have one son, Sean, who is a senior at Wisconsin Academy.

Juanita Edge
Communication Director



“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8,9

Wisconsin Academy Update



WISCONSIN ACADEMY

From the WA Principal



Change is inevitable, yet the amount of change this year at Wisconsin Academy is unprecedented. For returning students, it seems like a different school. We have nine new staff members, including five new teachers. We have small group lesson studies during Sabbath School, a renewed Hallowed Moments, a remodeled science classroom, carpeting and tables for the social studies classroom, a special study hall for struggling students, a much stricter evening study hall in the dorms, a dual enrollment course with Andrews University, a spring history tour, changes in financial policies and practice, and changes to the dress code. While not every change has been popular, many are. A number of students have commented about the excellent teachers and how they are enjoying this school year.

When businesses experience challenging times, they set out to reinvent themselves, assessing all aspects of their operations to determine which have carried them away from their core business. Their mission is carefully evaluated and deviations identified. Wisconsin Academy is doing the same. We are scrutinizing our activities through the lens of our mission and core values: Why do we exist? What should be the identifying characteristics of our graduates? What are our areas of strength and weakness? Who should we aim to serve? What changes can we implement to create the value we seek?

As we aim to establish faith, build commitment, and train for service, please join us in praying for Wisconsin Academy. Pray that we will be successful in our mission: "Developing leaders today who will walk with Jesus into eternity."

Roger Dunder
Wisconsin Academy Principal



For the latest academy news & Updated daily. Search for *wisacad*.



Wisconsin Academy

October 21

Sophomores Keep Road Clean (9 photos)

This afternoon, history teacher Tyler Cantrell took the sophomores up and down DuBorg Road and all the way to the conference office picking up trash. They were split into several teams, each team trying to collect the most items. The shoulders of the road are very clean now.



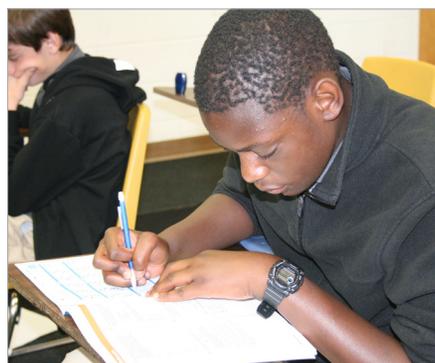
Like • Comment • Share



Wisconsin Academy

September 8

Shhhh! Testing in Progress



Like • Comment • Share



Wisconsin Academy

October 11

Senior Recognition Sabbath (35 photos)

If you missed Senior Recognition this weekend, you missed something special.

The seniors organized and led a beautiful Sabbath School and church service. Sabbath School included testimonies from seniors and their parents. Pastor Titus Naftanaila, parent of one of the seniors, spoke for church. He told about coming to the United States from Romania and the two passports he carries. He exhorted the seniors to never be ashamed of their citizenship in the kingdom of God, but to actively learn the culture of heaven.

This evening, students thanked their parents through a video and Pastor Naftanaila spoke again. After sundown, we enjoyed a fundraiser meal in the gym, complete with live entertainment, a photo booth, and a silent auction. Funds raised support the seniors' Pine Ridge Mission Project this spring in South Dakota.

We thank those of you who came for your support in making this weekend so special for the seniors.



Like • Comment • Share

events check us out on Facebook



Wisconsin Academy

October 1

Practicing with the Choralaires



Like • Comment • Share



Wisconsin Academy

September 27

Week of Spiritual Emphasis
(6 photos)

Pastor Jeff Akenberger completed our week of spiritual emphasis today with a sermon for church and an extended Hallowed Moments meeting this evening. His final message centered on Matthew 7:32-35 – Jesus healing the man who was both deaf and dumb

“God’s message to you tonight is ‘Be opened!’” said Akenberger. “If you are open to what Jesus can do in your life, it will be as if you were deaf and then you could hear. It will be as if you were blind and then you could see. It will be as if you were dumb and then you could speak.

“Don’t settle for status quo or the expectations that others place on you. Rise to the standard of Christ and the expectations of the magnitude of what can be done if you partner with Him and with one another.

“How is it with you? Are you willing to be open if it means a transition from the ordinary into the extraordinary? Are you willing to be open to Jesus?”



Like • Comment • Share



Wisconsin Academy

September 28

Chicago Museum Field Trip
(11 photos)

WA visited the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago today, including the WWII U-505 German submarine exhibit.



Like • Comment • Share



Wisconsin Academy

August 30

WA Sabbath School
(12 photos)

It’s been a wonderful first Sabbath. After song service, we watched a short mission video and had a short quiz on Mark 1:1-20. We then divided into small groups to study the passage more deeply. Student leaders helped each group discover how the gospel applied to life.



Like • Comment • Share



Wisconsin Academy

December 12-13

Journey To Bethlehem

Join us for a dramatic retelling of the birth of Jesus on the campus of Wisconsin Academy the evenings of Dec. 12 and 13 from 5:30-8:00. The Jerusalem marketplace will be indoors this year, but dress warmly as part of your journey will be outdoors. Invite your friends.



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Wisconsin Conference Calendar of Events

November

- 31- 2 JAHWI Retreat
- 31-4 NAD Year End Meetings
- 7-9 Elder's Retreat - Wakonda
- 14-16 Executive Committee Retreat - Wakonda
- 16-19 LUC Departmental Meetings
- 21-23 WI SEEDS Conference - Waukesha
- 25-30 WA Thanksgiving Break
- 27 Thanksgiving

December

- 2 Board of Education
- 3 Executive Committee
- 6 JAHWI Rally - Madison Spanish Church
- 12-13 Journey To Bethlehem - WA
- 20 WA Christmas Concert
- 21-1/5 WA Christmas Break
- 22-26 Conference Office Closed
- 25 Christmas
- 31-1/1 Conference Office Closed

January

- 4-6 Pastor/Teacher Meetings
- 9-11 Youth Winter Retreat - Wakonda
- 16-18 JAHWI Leaders Retreat - Wakonda
- 19 Conference Office Closed
- 19 M.L.K. Jr. Day
- 22-25 WA Home Leave
- 23-24 Milwaukee Convocation - Milwaukee Central Spanish
- 23-25 Men's Conference - Wakonda

- 27 Board of Education
- 28 Executive Committee
- 30-2/1 Lay Pastor Weekend
- 31 PBE - Area Level

February

- 11-15 WA Home Leave
- 13-15 Pathfinder Winter Retreat/PBE
- 20-21 Hispanic Women's Certification - Milwaukee SDA School

Fox Valley Church Aids Aviation Missionaries



Fox Valley Church helps MASA each year to provide breakfast and worship every morning for mission pilots and their families attending the EAA Air Venture in Oshkosh, WI each summer. MASA, Mission Aviation Support Association, is a multi-church effort to provide transportation, housing, and food in support of aviation missionaries attending the EAA event. Fox Valley has been working with this program for the past three years. Carol Buchholz, Adventist Church coordinator for this program said, "It's a privilege to serve these dedicated missionaries."

Information submitted by Carol Buchholz
 Fox Valley Church

Alumni Weekend at WA April 24 and 25, 2015



Come celebrate alumni weekend at Wisconsin Academy April 24 and 25, 2015. The classes to be honored this year are: 2005, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1975, 1965, 1955, and 1945.

Neil Mishleau, alumni president, needs class leaders from each of the above classes to contact him. Please email him at nmishleau@yahoo.com, or call the WA office at 920-623-3300. See you soon!



Chuck and Charlotte Kohley, pastor/teacher team in the Rhinelander District, accepted a call to serve in the Kentucky/Tennessee Conference. They have served in the Wisconsin Conference for 14 years.

Charlyn Marsh, certified teacher and member of the Wausau Church, has agreed to serve as teacher/principal of the Rhinelander Elementary School for the remainder of this school year.