

STAFWELCOME

“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, ‘God with us.’”

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV)

WELCOME TO STAF! It’s the second Sabbath of the Christmas season, and what a privilege to celebrate the Savior. Someone has said, “If our greatest need had been information, God would have sent us an educator; If our greatest need had been technology, God would have sent us a scientist; If our greatest need had been money, God would have sent us an economist; If our greatest need had been pleasure, God would have sent us an entertainer; But our greatest need was forgiveness, so God sent us a Savior.” I’m so glad he did. Merry Christmas. —*Pastor Ben*

STAFSTUF

09 TODAY
4:18p Sabbath ends

12 TUESDAY, December 12
10a Food Store open
10a Bulletin Announcements & Information Due
10a Church Office open until 2p

13 WEDNESDAY, December 13
7p Reunite small groups

14 THURSDAY, December 14
10a Church Office open until 2p
6:30p Community Gym Night

15 FRIDAY, December 15
4:20p Sabbath begins

16 SABBATH, December 16
Men’s and Women’s Fellowship Lunches*
6p Youth Game Night

*See Announcements page for details

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Benjamin Orian, pastor 360.310.6822
Isaac Hanna, bible school coordinator 206.519.2465
Laurel Esselbach, office admin 253.537.2555

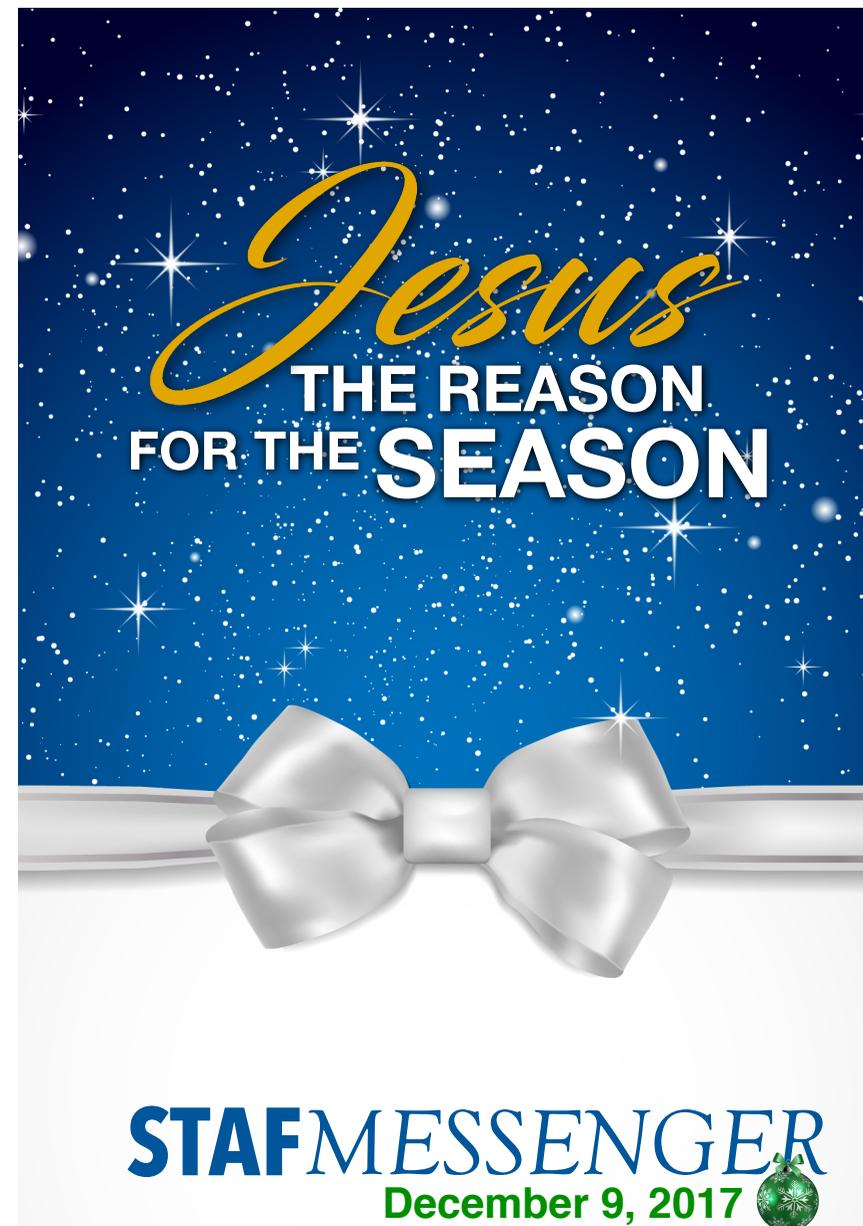
Ken Thompson, first elder 253.531.8856
Elsa Leslie, elder 253.273.7318
Silvia Orian, elder 303.506.1029
Stephanie Faletoi, elder 714.702.0771
Leon Hembry, elder 253.212.7702
Del Harrison, elder 253.278.5584
Ben Helu, first deacon 253.538.0614
Ann Graham, first deaconess 253.328.5685
Pam Woods, treasurer 253.606.8186
Marge Thompson, clerk 253.495.0660



Summary of our outreach goals for the next 5 years. Join us!

Kids	Missions	Attendance	Community
To provide outstanding children’s and youth ministries that teach, mentor, and prepare kids for Jesus’ soon return.	To sponsor 2 international mission trips to build up, edify, and expand God’s kingdom on Earth.	Grow to 500+ attending and involved in soul-winning and discipleship ministries.	To embrace diversity, reject racism, fight for the powerless, and break the cycle of poverty in our neighborhood.

230 South 94th Street | Tacoma, WA 98444
(253) 537-2555 admin@stafonline.org
Church Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 10 am - 2 pm



STAF MESSENGER
December 9, 2017

A Place of Hope, Second Chances, and New Beginnings

1

YOUTH GAME NIGHT NEXT SAT @ 6p
In the Gymnasium
 Join the fun with others your age. Open to teens and 20-somethings.

2

FREE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DINNER DEC 20
 Free dinners the 3rd Wednesday of every month. This month's hostess is Ann Graham. If you can coordinate a meal, please note this on a Connect Card or contact the office. We need more 1-time volunteers!

3

NEW YEAR'S PARTY DEC 30 @ 6p
 Bring Christmas treats, finger sandwiches, dips and snacks as well as table games for all to share. Popcorn and real spiced cider provided. Contests for prizes.

LIVING FAITH *we return our tithes & offerings*

Today's offering focus is **ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES** —supporting emergency services in N. America. ACS was active in Houston's, California's & Puerto Rico's recent disasters, for example.

Ways to give: tithe envelope in the pew
 online at www.stafonline.org

November Goal: \$9500

Received (MTD) \$2,079

Annual Goal (YTD): \$114,000

Received (YTD) \$94,747

Dec. online giving won't be reflected in STAF's tax deductible report for 2017. You may choose to give in a tithe envelope instead.



It's Okay to Share...

Connect and continue the conversation with us socially!

- SouthTacomaAdventist — check in and give us a like!
- @STAFonline — mention us with a picture post & feedback
- @stafonline — share your pics with us
- /stafonline — subscribe and share the Gospel to a growing world-wide audience

NEWS & EVENTS



Be sure to check weekly for updates, news, and changes at our website: www.stafonline.org

Isaac and Heba's Last Sabbath is Dec. 16

They have accepted a call to the Potomac Conference in Virginia. Isaac will be serving 4 congregations! STAF has been so blessed to have had them here for the past year. Please let them know how they have blessed you personally.

MEMBERSHIP TRANSFER

Second Reading—**Liselott Cairus** to STAF from the Azure Hills SDA Church in Grand Terrace, CA.



MEN'S & WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

WOMEN OF WORTH

December 16 Covered Dish/Potluck Lunches

Come for fellowship, prayer, and food. Please bring vegetarian food enough for yourself and 3-4 others. Women meet in the gym; Men in the Multipurpose room down the hall of the gym building.

ARE YOU FUNDING TERRORISM? — by Pastor Ben

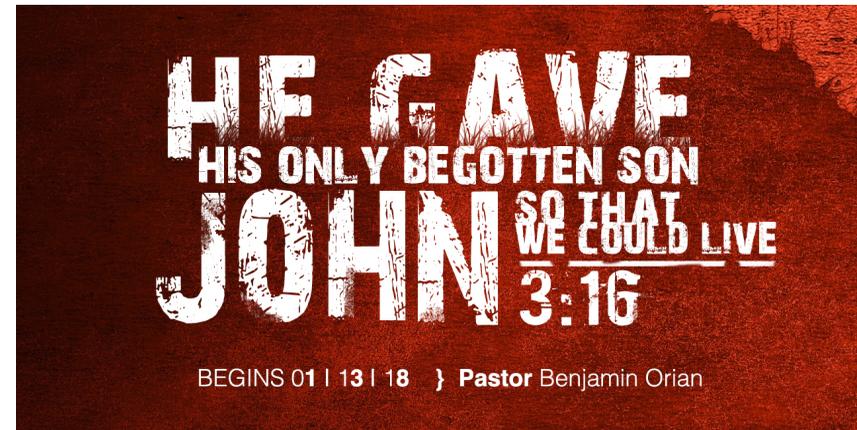
That was the headline on a church website I visited recently. As I looked more closely I realized this was an offering appeal. At first I was offended and repulsed. But I read on...

"Every year at Christmas time, we have a choice: we can spend all our money on presents, parties, and pastries, or we can reject the materialism of the world and glorify God instead."

I found myself musing over this question. If I give to the church, does that really mean a starving kid in a third-world country will get a steaming bowl of food in one hand and a new Bible in the other? Not likely. So what are they really asking?

The point this pastor was making was that some people/companies use the money they gain from our purchases to work against the Gospel being preached. And I'll admit, I hadn't actually thought about my purchases in those terms. Of course, they weren't arguing against gift giving and neither am I. The bigger issue is priorities

As you consider your Christmas gift list, I'd like to encourage you to remember STAF. Investing in the Gospel offers a freedom that can't be explained, both to the giver, and to the body of Christ. So maybe the better question should be, what is your money going to support this Christmas season?



John 3:16. Twenty-five words to create the most remarkable summary of the Gospel. This most loved verse is the church's mission, its hope, and its reason for existence. If there were one verse Satan could blot out of the Bible, you can be sure it's this one. If ever there was one verse that could show the way to heaven and God—it's this one. So let's break it down and study it, word by word.

Series Dates / Title / Topics

Jan 13	"Divinity"	<i>It all Starts with God</i>
Jan 20	"Danger"	<i>The Second Death</i>
Feb 03	"Desire"	<i>Understanding God's Love</i>
Feb 10	"Depth"	<i>The World</i>
Feb 17	"Design"	<i>The Plan of Salvation</i>
Feb 24	"Descendant"	<i>The Only Begotten</i>
Mar 03	"Duty"	<i>What It Means to Truly Believe</i>
Mar 10	"Destiny"	<i>Everlasting Life</i>

PREACHING SCHEDULE

16	Isaac Hanna	<i>Prayer Increases Faith & Gives Hope</i>
23	Pastor Orian	<i>World Peace</i>
30	David McLauchlan	
06	Pastor Orian	<i>The Year STAF Walked on Water</i>



Today's message will be made available on DVD following the worship service. Find it in the literature rack in the Foyer. If you can't be with us in person, you can always join the live stream at our website.