

SOF in Touch

NOVEMBER 2023

EXCITING NEWS FROM SHIELD OF FAITH MINISTRIES



AT A GLANCE

- 11/4: *KERYX Prison Service*
- 11/11: *Ladies' Luncheon, 1-3 p.m.*
- 11/23: *Thanksgiving Meal, 1 p.m.*
- 11/26: *Communion led by Jackie Gilles*

Member Spotlight: Adam Gilles

We were called to SOF a little over 5 years ago by the Holy Spirit's response to our prayers. I love SOF because it's not fake or show—it's God's love flowing with power.

My beautiful wife, Jackie, works at Merrill Tool as a contracting specialist. We have three beautiful children. Aubrey is our 22-year-old college graduate who is working as a wedding planner and coordinator at Creative Grace Co. Isabel is our 14-year-old varsity cheerleader and is involved in student council and is the freshman class officer. Lexi is our little 7-year-

old full of surprises with her passion for dance and worship and loves to pray for others. We have 2 dogs: Roxy, our black lab/border collie mix who is a great watch dog—not even a mouse can cross our driveway without her letting us know; and Mia, our mini dapple Dachs-hund who is spoiled, loves to be cuddled, and always has to be under a blanket on your lap. I currently work as a machinist at Michigan Machine making medical surgery tools.

In my free time, I enjoy spending

time with my family, hunting, and taking walks with my wife in our backyard on our trails in our woods. I also enjoy watching my children do the things they love.

If I could do anything, I would be the founder and CEO of a retreat called Full Quiver Revival Center where anyone—kids, adults, disabled—would learn about God's creation through hunting, fishing, & learning survival skills. They would have the opportunity for salvation, baptism, & growing closer to God through experiencing the outdoors.

A Word from Pastor Weldon

Attention! Attention, Church Families! Did you know that all of us at SOF have been strongly influenced, good or bad, in how we were raised, in how we act? As a pastor all these years, I can tell you very few Christians were raised by a mighty man (father) of God and a mighty woman (mother) of God. That would have been God's best plan. What are we to do about this?

1) Be careful not criticize our brothers and sisters because they are only a product of their environment.

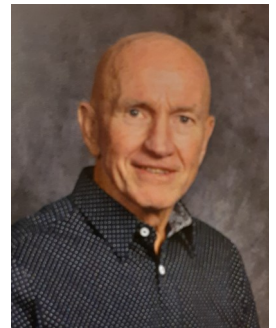
2) Take a good look at ourselves, who we can change, and ask the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name to show us the areas of our lives that need improvement.

With prayer and the Word of

God, begin to let the Spirit of God change us. Romans 12 tells us to present our lives to Him as a living sacrifice and then get our thinking changed or renewed by not conforming to the world but becoming more like Jesus.

It's a process; it takes time; and sometimes, it's not comfortable; but if we grow not weary, we will enjoy the fruit. Change is hard at times but very rewarding.

Arise, oh Might Woman and Mighty Man of God and take your family, church, and nation back! I believe in you! We



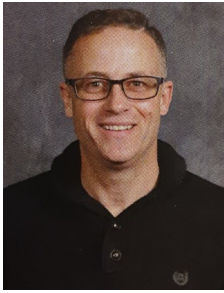
can do it together in Jesus' Name.

You are loved,
Pastor Weldon



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A Message from Pastor Mike

Hello, Shield of Faith Saints. I pray in the Name of Jesus that this message finds you all well. I find myself meditating on how blessed I am as an individual to have such an amazing family of God. I want you all to know that your prayers for me and for my family do not go unnoticed, and I'm excited for the day when they all come to fruition. How blessed are we to know that we have such an amazing Heavenly Father!?

God is so much greater than anything that we can go through, but being able to go through these things with a family of God and not alone is an incredible gift. I love you all, and I am so thankful for being a part of something so much bigger than myself.

I pray that our Father bless you all richly and keep you safe and free from all harm in Jesus' Name.



*“Adults Discovering Ultimate Truth”
A group for ages 18-25ish who want to grow together in faith and fun*

ADUT Scuttlebutt

By Jenny Deweese

“Ahhwww,” he yawned, “Dad, I’m cold. Why did we have to get up so early? It’s not even light, yet.”

“Shhh, you have to whisper SUPER quietly. We had to get here first, so the deer won’t know we...LOOK!”

In the first light of dawn, the biggest buck they’ve ever seen silently and slowly edges into the clearing. Dad looks down his rifle waiting for the perfect moment, doing his best to stay relaxed. Just a few more steps, and he’ll have a shot he can’t miss...

“Nnshsh, my nose is runny,” and in an explosion of rustling autumn leaves, the clearing is empty.

We have a very real enemy. Scripture tells us he “prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8). He’s a hunter taking aim and sizing up his prey, and the youngest hearts at SOF would be easy targets.

Except...

We stand in the gap with Jesus as our Protector. We resist the enemy, and he must flee from us (James 4:7). Those in our family learn that

God is real and that He loves them—that they don’t have to fear the hunter of this world.

ADUTs, your faithfulness is a part of that defense! You help us set the example of staying connected to protect our youngest hearts from the snares of this world. With your continued dedication, we can keep the enemy at bay—we can be the “sniffle” that reveals his plots and foils his schemes.

If you’ve ever wondered how you fit here at SOF, this is the answer—and it’s VITAL to our body!

REVOLUTION STUDENT MINISTRIES

Junior and Senior High kids learning to navigate this crazy world together in a way that challenges the “norm” through Jesus’ mighty power

Youth Truth

We have been at shield for faith since Jan. of 2012—11 years!

Fun fact: Pastor Randy was part of the youth group back in his teenage days, so he was familiar with Shield of Faith. We felt God’s leading us to do more ministry opportunities that were not available at our previous church, so we came to SOF and started doing young adult ministry. Now we do youth ministry!

We love the freedom here at SOF and the family atmosphere!

Pastor Randy is an elder and we both are youth pastors!

We have 4 children: Isabella (21), Joshua (17), David (8), and Conor (6)! We often call ourselves the Larson Circus! We have a dog named Gracie Bacon.

Pastor Randy works as a welder by day at a local manufacturing company, and Pastor Lisa works by night as a nurse in the neonatal unit at Covenant Healthcare.

Pastor Randy enjoys taking pictures, and Pastor Lisa enjoys reading! We both love to travel and explore the beauty of Michigan!

Our dream job would be to be lighthouse keepers in the upper peninsula.

We meet Saturday nights from 6:30-8:00 All youth (6th-12th grade) all are encouraged to come hang out with us on a Saturday night! We have games, snacks, worship and a message! It’s a great time to make connections and build your personal faith in God!

Any questions—please reach out! P. Lisa (989-598-4126)

We are here to help support you and your youth-age children!

Kids' Corner

By Jackie Gilles

We started attending SOF the first Sunday in January 2018, 5 years 11 months ago. I believe God brought us here. We had been praying and seeking the Lord about changing churches. When we felt the release to leave our last church, we weren't sure where we were going to end up. SOF was the first church we visited after we left. That first visit turned into to our staying. 😊 I love so much that I don't think I could possibly list it all! The love that this church body gives is indescribable. I love the authentic connections and the feeling of everyone being family. There is always something to do within our church from

Bible studies to community events to luncheons—the list goes on.

I am married to my amazing husband, Adam. We have been married for 16 years. God has blessed us with three beautiful daughters: Aubrey age 22, Isabel age 14 and Lexi age 7. Aubrey recently graduated with a bachelor degree from Bowling Green State University; Isabel is a freshman at Birch Run High School; and Lexi is in 2nd grade at Birch Run Elementary.

We have two dogs, Roxy and Mia. Roxy is a black lab mixed with boarder collie and is 7 years old. Mia is a miniature dapple Dachshund and is 3 years old.

I work for Merrill Technologies Group as a contracts administrator. Merrill is a highly innovative business

located in Saginaw, Merrill and Alma delivering contract manufacturing services to the defense, aerospace, heavy equipment, automation, energy, and transportation markets.

In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family. I love reading, spending time outdoors, camping, and hunting.

With no restraints I would travel all over the world. I would experience different cultures and explore new territories. I would try to go places that most people have never been to. I would enjoy God's creation while taking God's Word and love everywhere I went. I would have my family by my side so we could experience it all together.



Kids in grades 1-5 growing with Jesus

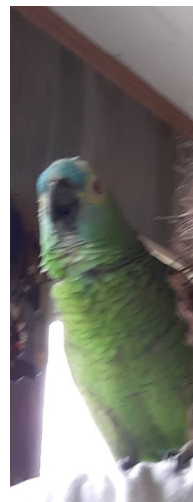
Nursery News

By Judy Barnes

We have been at SOF about 6 years. God led us here. Our daughter, Lisa, and Randy are youth leaders.

SOF has such a love for God and for people. My husband, Mike, and I are retired and enjoy walking. We have 4 grown children and 10 grand-

kids who we watch often. We have 1 dog, 1 cat, and a 39-year-old parrot named Jessica who sings, talks, and squawks. She could live to be 80. I love a variety of crafts. Mike loves to garden and chops wood for our wood burner. If we had a lot of money, we would love to travel, and I would love to buy old homes, fix them up, and help people who need help.



*“Let the little ones come to Me...”
Infants through kindergarteners’ starting life in Jesus’ love*

Ladies' Life

By Lynn Ahrens

Dear SOF Ladies of Faith,

The retreat at Bush Center in Bannister, MI, on the last weekend in September was a delightful success, in that we were blessed with inspiring messages, great food, great rest, and fantastic worship and then a Saturday afternoon Prayer Walk Time. It is our goal to do this annually. All nineteen ladies experienced God's Divinity throughout the weekend.

The SOF Ladies of Faith also sponsored a baby shower to benefit

LifeClinic on October 21st. Sixteen ladies enjoyed a baby shower game, snacks, scripture about the sanctity of life and written testimonies from women who praised LifeClinic Community Resources. We then proceeded to take all of our gifts/donations over to the Clinic at 4364 State Street where we were met by Donya Dunlap, Operations Director, who gave us an excellent tour! We learned about all the services offered and the many ways God's Word is woven into their program. It is a loving and peace-filled environment and very well run. Many nice gifts were donated

(some by women who could not attend) including many hand-made gifts from our ladies as well! THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED; MAY YOU BE BLESSED! From Lynn Ahrens and Sherri Sutton



SHIELD OF FAITH
MINISTRIES

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Member Spotlight: Pastor Kathy

Pastor Weldon and I, by the prompting of the Holy Ghost, birthed Shield of Faith on May 6, 1990. Like Pastor recently said, I thought we might be called to Traverse City, or for sure someplace in Maui, but the location was to be Saginaw. Amazingly that was 33 years ago! Much of our planning began in restaurants over coffee. We wrote many of our ideas on the table napkins. I think we still have some of those napkins. The name Shield of Faith was given to us in the then Big Boy on Gratiot in Shields.

I love the people that God has assembled as our family. Why? Tammy Scott said it best at the women's retreat, "We are genuine." Our immediate family is Pastor & I and Kit, an 11-year-old German Shepherd, and Gabby, a 5-year-old German Shepherd. I can't tell you how much I love the two of them (actually, the THREE of them 😊). My mom is a spunky 92, and I am the oldest of 6 kids: 4 girls and 2 boys.

Once the church was birthed in 1990, I gave myself full-time to its establishment and also took on the role of our new school's principal. I have been worship pastor since 1990. Around 2007 I felt I needed to chase a dream that I had had for a long time. Pastor Weldon was now full-time at the church, and I began to pursue a degree in interior design and began Kathleen Townsend Interior Design in 2011. It has been a blessed, fulfilling and a very busy journey. In my free time, though that is hard to come by, I love to walk in my woods with my dogs and pay attention to God in His creation. I would love to garden, read a good book, and design interiors, without time pressures, in my computer program.

If I could do anything without any constraints, I would develop an institute for the worship of God TO BE SHOWN in all of the arts—a school where all arts, music, dance, artists, singers, designers, drama (Pastor Jenny), broadcasting, etc. learn to SHOW God to the world. Acts 15:16 mentions that at a certain time in history the tabernacle of David...will be restored and rebuilt and will be set up so that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord. The mission of the Levites would return, and that mission would be to worship our Triune God for 24/7. I believe the institute would be a sort of end time school of the Levitical + worship. I would love to have David Crowder be my worship leader in heaven.



POINTING THE WAY TO
JESUS!



Men's Moment

By Richard Morrissey

Greetings from the Men's Ministry!

In October the Men's Ministry Fellowship met for breakfast at Cam's Brick Oven in St. Charles. We had a good time enjoying each other's company along with a nice meal.

Adult Sunday School began in October, and we are teaching how to rightly divide the Word of God. If you are able, please

join us from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

The Men's Ministry will be cooking and distributing over 400 hot dogs at this year's Trunk or Treat, and we are praying for a great turnout.

The Men's Ministry will be participating in this year's Thanksgiving Day meal. For those with no particular place to go on Thanksgiving Day, come out and join your church

family in giving thanks.

Be abundantly blessed.

