



## The Joy of Praying for Others

*Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored, just as it was with you. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.*

(2 Thessalonians 3:1; James 5:16, NIV)

By the time this reaches you, we will have completed more than one week of our six-week 24-hours-a-day vigil of loving prayer. During these first 10 days, we have prayed together for more than 250 hours, with almost 850 yet to go. During these hours of prayer, we have sensed God speaking to us about unconfessed sin, about steps we need to take in order to begin healing broken relationships, about discernment for the future, about waiting and trusting for answers to our prayers that we have not yet received, about patience, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, involvement, love and action. Because of our prayers, we have been led to receive God’s forgiveness, to be set free from the chains of our habits, to be cleansed of our sin, to understand that we are accepted by God as His loved children. The week of praying for ourselves and loving ourselves as Christ loves us has chipped away at our issues of self-esteem, self-centeredness, self-loathing, and self-aggrandizement. It has been a growing week in the presence of Christ. Now, it’s time to turn our attention to others.

When we pray for others, we enter a dimension of spiritual activity that moves us beyond what we typically see or understand. Praying for others is a responsibility and a privilege that is rivaled by little else. When Paul asks the Thessalonians to pray for him, he is asking them to enter into his ministry. Their prayers are a means of joining in his life and work and relationships. He wants these Christians to know how grateful he is that they have prayed for him.

In the same way, James tells us that praying for each other is a means through which God heals us. There are some struggles of life that are simply too big for us alone; in response, God has designed intercessory prayer as a means of supporting each other, caring for each other, loving each other, standing in the gap for each other. As a congregation, this is our responsibility and our privilege—our joy.

Over the next 5 weeks, we have the joy of praying for our family, our church, our neighbor, the global church, and the world in need. As we pray, we are going to have the privilege of taking on some of the burdens that others face and though it puts more on us, it relieves them, which is what the body of Christ is supposed to be and do. This is loving prayer—that we take burdens on ourselves so that others don’t have to. No wonder our prayers lead us to expressions our love for those for whom we pray.

Believing that God is going “to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20), I commend to you these weeks of loving prayer for others. Let’s embrace this gift from our Father in heaven.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Wes*

### Church Services on the Internet

You may access our worship services on the church website ([www.hwchurch.org](http://www.hwchurch.org)) or on iTunes ([www.itunes.com](http://www.itunes.com)). Most weeks the services are available on iTunes by late Sunday afternoon and on our website by late Monday morning.

### Church Services on the Radio

You can access all of our Sunday morning services in the Houghton area at **89.9 FM**.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME



begins Sunday, March 14. Please turn your clocks ahead one hour.

# From the Assistant Pastor

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## Premarital Seminar

*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh”* (Genesis 2:24).

Every year in the spring, Houghton Wesleyan Church offers the Pre-Marital Seminar for those at Houghton College, in our local community, and in the broader area of western New York who are engaged or seriously contemplating marriage. It’s a wonderful opportunity for dating couples to receive pre-marital counseling and advice in a group setting alongside other couples. The Pre-Marital Seminar is intended and designed to supplement, not replace, pre-marital counseling with a pastor or trained marriage counselor.

**This year, the Pre-Marital Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 – 4:30, in the Community Room** of the Houghton Wesleyan Church. The cost is \$30.00 per couple and includes a continental breakfast and a catered lunch. We have a great line-up of seminars: the topics include effective communication, extended family relationships, sexual intimacy, finances, and the couple’s relationship with Christ. We’ll end the day with a panel discussion involving four married couples, all at various stages of married life.

If you are engaged or seriously dating and are interested in attending, we would love to have you participate in this event. If you know of other couples that could benefit from this event, do them a favor and pass this information on to them. To sign up or for more information, call the church office (567-2264) or e-mail me at [tleach@hwchurch.org](mailto:tleach@hwchurch.org).

Please remember the presenters and the couples attending this event in your prayers. I believe God is pleased when marriages are built on strong foundations, and the Pre-Marital Seminar is a good starting point toward achieving that goal.

Grace and Peace in Christ,

*Todd*

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## Electronic Highlights

We are grateful for your support of the Houghton Wesleyan Church, particularly in these difficult economic times. In order to take seriously the mandate to be responsible stewards of God’s resources, we continue to look for ways to eliminate costs and reduce waste. We are, therefore, once again asking for your help.

Many of you already receive the Highlights electronically. If you do not and you have email access, would you be willing to give it a try? We are happy to send the electronic version of the Highlights to as many email addresses as you desire. For example, if each member of your family has a separate email address, we can send the Highlights to each address so that no one misses it.

Distributing the Highlights electronically has the potential to save thousands of dollars in paper, printing, and mailing costs, and because we use less paper, it helps lessen our energy footprint. In addition, because of the new postal regulations that mandate all local mail to be routed through Buffalo, you will receive the Highlights much more quickly than regular mail. If you desire to print the electronic edition, it is designed for standard 8½ x 11 paper.

If you are not currently receiving the Highlights electronically and would like to give it a try, please contact Patty Stalker ([pstalker@hwchurch.org](mailto:pstalker@hwchurch.org)). Thank you for your help.

*Pastor Wes*

# From the Youth Pastor



## YOUTH GROUP

**MSM -Wed. - 6:30 - 8:00 PM** A Focus on Prayer

- March 3 - The Heart—What is Love Anyway?
- 10 - Prayer I
- 17 - Prayer II
- 24 - Prayer III

**HSM Youth Group Sunday Evenings at 6:00 PM.** March will be at Allyson Murphy's house.

Senior High March- The Screwtape Letter continues:

- March 7 - Screwtape
- 14 - Screwtape
- 21 - Screwtape
- 28 - Screwtape

**Prayer Breakfast:** Tues. Mornings: March. 2, 9, 16, and 23, 7:00 AM in the community room.

## SPRING FLING March 26 (all night long!)



Cost - \$35

Inflatables (Airbots, Obstacle course, Bungee Run), Volleyball and bball tournaments, Karaoke and more!

Illusionist **Jared Hall** and musical guests **Station 2**.

This time tested all night event includes a pizza party in the evening and all-you-can-eat breakfast before you stagger home at 6:30am!

Permission slip required: [www.hwchurch.org/YouthNews.htm](http://www.hwchurch.org/YouthNews.htm)



**Forty Days of Loving Prayer  
The HWC Lenten Prayer Vigil**

**Sign up for an hour in the prayer room today!**

<http://www.hwchurch.org/PrayerCalendar.htm>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ct73ui8HJfQ>

**Youth Haiti Relief Fundraiser** Thank you for your generous support of the youth fundraiser during the Feb 7th missions Sunday. With your help **we raised \$716.42** (way more than we dreamed was possible!) which will be donated to World Hope International. It was a wonderful experience. Thank you for helping us to make a difference.

~Katherine Stevick

## Membership Class:

Pastor Wes will be offering a membership class on Tuesday, March 2, 6:30 – 9:00pm. If you are interested in joining the Houghton Wesleyan Church or in knowing more about the church, you are urged to attend this class. The class will meet on one night for about 3 hours and will cover the history of our church, what we believe, the core elements of our mission and vision, and how you can help make this church what God intends for us to be. If you are already a member and would like the opportunity to think through some of these things again, you also are invited to attend. Please let the church office or Pastor Wes if you intend to attend or if you have questions about the class or membership.

### *Pray. Love. Act.*

## **40 Days of Loving Prayer**

The prayer vigil is in full swing, but there is plenty of time for you to get involved. You may reserve an hour on Sunday mornings in the lower sanctuary foyer or the Christian Education building foyer, go online anytime ([www.hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com](http://www.hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com)) or by contacting the church office (567-2264). It takes less than 60 seconds to reserve your time in the prayer room.

You may also follow Pastor Wes on Twitter ([www.twitter.com/pastorwesoden](http://www.twitter.com/pastorwesoden)), respond to his weekly blogs and leave prayer concerns and praises on the prayer website ([www.hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com](http://www.hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com)).

We have prepared a daily devotional, *40 Days of Loving Prayer* based on Thomas Carruth's *40 Days of Love*. You may pick up a copy in the sanctuary foyer today. The devotional is also available on the prayer website ([hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com](http://hwcprayerroom.wordpress.com)).

## Sunday Morning Prayer Ministry:

We are organizing a team of people who will give up one worship service a month to pray for our worship and the needs of our congregation. This ministry of intercession is an opportunity for you to serve others in the church through your loving prayers. We will initiate this ministry in conjunction with our prayer vigil. If you would like to be part of the Sunday Morning Prayer team, please contact Doug or Judi Mayhle (567-8241 or [dmayhle@hotmail.com](mailto:dmayhle@hotmail.com)) or contact the church office.

## HAITI RELIEF:

If you are interested in assisting the rescue and relief work in Haiti, we are encouraging gifts to be given to either Global Partners ([www.wesleyan.org/gp](http://www.wesleyan.org/gp)) or World Hope ([www.worldhope.org](http://www.worldhope.org)). In addition, World Hope is organizing relief teams. If you are interested in applying to be part of a team or if you would like more information about the teams, go to:

[www.whirecoveryupport.org](http://www.whirecoveryupport.org). Thank you to all who last week gave so generously to the work of Global Partners and World Hope in Haiti. We received

Offering	\$4,664.20
Youth Fundraiser	\$ 716.42
TOTAL	\$5,380.62

## Nursery Ministry Happenings!

The church nursery is a busy place filled with many little ones. We have the privilege of being their very first introduction to church and the Body of Christ. Many, many volunteers come faithfully to love and enjoy the babies and help them to love coming to church. We also have many behind the scenes volunteers who help with cleaning and repairing nursery equipment. Parents are blessed as they are able to worship, learn, be encouraged and refreshed, and serve in other areas while their babies are well cared for. Thanks to everyone who helps make our nursery run smoothly.

## Nursery Ministry Opportunities!

The Nursery is in need of a scheduler. This involves taking all the volunteer sign-up sheets twice a year (April and September) and putting them into a schedule. If you like puzzles, you would enjoy this job! If you are interested in doing the scheduling, please contact Jan Schilke at 567-4889.

If you are interested in helping out in the Nursery, look for Nursery Volunteer Sign-ups in the bulletin in early April. Because the college students are away during the summer months, this is our time of greatest need. Even one or two times during the summer helps cover the scheduling needs. Thank you!

Jan Schilke, Nursery Coordinator

**We offer our condolences** to the family of **Richard (Dick) Beach** who died January 26, 2010, at the age of 85 and to the family of **Kelli Schwert** who died January 26, 2010 at the age of 39. Please keep these families in prayer.

## **Free to be Me** District Women's Event Saturday, April 24, from 9:30 AM--3:00 PM

at the Levant Wesleyan Church in Falconer, New York

Guest Speaker: **Kathy Coleman**

A silent auction is planned to help benefit Hope Refugee Services. Cost: \$25.00 Lunch Option: \$6.00

Registration forms are available in the church and Christian Education foyers.



### **THE FLOWER COMMITTEE WELCOMES EASTER PLANTS**

to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. If you would like to honor a loved one, please give the information to Patty Stalker in the church office by Monday, **March 28**, and please leave your plant at the church office by Good Friday, **April 2**. The flower committee will be purchasing a number of Easter plants and individuals may reserve one of those for \$10.00.

### **Short Term Mission Applications for Financial Assistance**

are available in the folder outside the church office. Please return before Monday, **March 29**. Acrobat or Rich Text Formatted applications can also be downloaded from the mission website at [www.HWCmissions.org](http://www.HWCmissions.org).



### **DESSERT PROGRAM EVENT Tuesday March 16 at 7:00 PM**

**ONE MISSION SOCIETY** is coming to Houghton to share what God is doing around the world.

Formerly OMS International, **ONE MISSION SOCIETY** invites you for dessert and fellowship hosted by Houghton Wesleyan Church, featuring:

- David Long, President
- Randy Spacht, Executive Director of International Ministries
- John and Tricia Fraser, Missionaries to Hungary

Location: Fellowship Room, Houghton Wesleyan Church, 9712 Route 19, Houghton, NY

**Please RSVP by Thursday March 11, 2010**, to Patty Stalker at 567.2264 ([pstalker@hwchurch.org](mailto:pstalker@hwchurch.org)) or Bruce Hess at 567.8382 ([brucedonnaoms@frontiernet.net](mailto:brucedonnaoms@frontiernet.net)).

By God's grace, One Mission Society unites and equips Christians to make Disciples of Jesus Christ, multiplying dynamic communities of believers around the world. Mark 16:15

### **Volunteer Appreciation 2010 ~ April 12 - April 25**

Volunteers - "the debt we owe them is as great as the sum of the ages."

They touch our lives and the lives of our children and youth. They work for love: the love of sharing God's Word and love with others. We want them to know how much we appreciate them and all that they do for God and His kingdom. We invite you to creatively express your appreciation to our volunteers during these weeks. Expressing appreciation can take many forms, such as a note to a volunteer, a word of appreciation, a flower or plant, a plate of cookies or muffins, or any number of other ways. Thank you for your involvement in this appreciation week and for your prayers for our volunteers. "Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." 1 Thessalonians 5:11

### ***We'd like to say "Thank you"***

#### ***to everyone who volunteered their time to the church directory this fall.***

We appreciate those of you who sat at tables, or computers, and patiently took down information to make this project. It also could not have been done without the willingness of all who had their photos taken or submitted. We're grateful for everyone who helped make the directory represent our church so well. We'd especially like to thank Patty Stalker, Marilyn Kerr, Shelley Noyes, Pam Pelletier, Kirsten Jeffers, Margaret Wynn, Betty Lou Pollock, Julie Haingray, Tracy Paige, Gerry Alderman, Roselyn Danner, Bruce Brenneman, Ruth Boon, Emily Hoffman, and Sandy Roederer.



### **Palm Sunday**

On Palm Sunday, March 28th, children are invited to be a part of a processional into the sanctuary at the beginning of each service. Each child will carry a palm branch and will lay it on the altar at the front of the church. In the coming weeks, notes will be sent home with the children from Sunday School giving more details about this.

## Library Corner

During Lent we try to offer suggestions for books that may be helpful in making your Lenten journey one of deepening your walk with the Lord. In that vein we would mention the following books:

*The Glorious Impossible* by Madeline L'Engle with reproductions of frescos by Giotto from the 1300's. L'Engle writes, "possible things are easy to believe. The glorious impossible are those things that bring joy to our hearts, hope to our lives and songs to our lips." Enjoy the life of Christ presented in prose and art so beautifully by L'Engle and Giotto.

*Beyond the Quiet Time* by Alistser McGrath "encourages harried believers to move beyond their hurried quiet times to a place where they can be spiritually renewed".

*Experiencing the Depth of Jesus Christ* by Jeanne Guyon "has one of the most incredible histories of any book ever written. Although it was publicly burned in the 1600's, the Quakers used it, Zinzendorf and his Moravian followers enjoyed it and John Wesley was profoundly moved by it."

Usually we try to include books or DVDs children might enjoy. Some DVDs called *Brain Candy* include 5 discs: *See My World, Hear My World, Taste My World, Touch My World and Smell My World*. Unfortunately, the librarians were not able to review them because someone had taken them from the library without signing his name on the cards on the back of the DVDs. Our library is open whenever the church is open, but unless everyone who uses it follows the simple rule of signing his name on the card provided, the honor system we work with is of no avail. We need everyone's cooperation to make the honor system work.

Your family may enjoy checking out the Lenten Tree in the library. It offers suggested scripture to accompany the symbols for each Sunday during Lent.

## W.K.F.M. Corner

Boys and girls in grades 1-5, circle March 21 at 9:40 a.m. for our next Wesleyan Kids For Missions Club.

We will be hearing about Haiti from the Emmetts who have just returned from there in January.

Thank you for your wonderful offerings. Last quarter we sent in \$66.50—so keep tithing your allowance.

In March our offering goes toward helping to roof ten locally-built churches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## Houghton College Presents Neil Simon's *Jake's Women*

In Neil Simon's clever comedy, *Jake's Women*, a successful novelist struggles with his tragic past and tumultuous present. The distractions of his writing career coupled with his tendency to veer off in imaginary conversations with the women in his life threatens to unravel his flawed marriage. When Jake's current wife, Maggie, finally walks out on him he turns to the imaginary visions of his deceased first wife, daughter, therapist and kid sister to help put the pieces back together and win her back. He soon discovers that reorganizing his priorities and letting go of the past are easier said than done. With the clock ticking, can he get it together and reunite with Maggie before it's too late? Is that even what he still wants?

Find out **Thursday, Friday or Saturday March 4-6 at 7:00 pm (with a 2:00pm matinee on Saturday)** in the Tysinger Auditorium, Houghton Academy. Directed by Nic Gunning

## Wesleyan Medical Fellowship..... April 17, 7:00 PM

You are invited to Dr. Dan Kauffman's Power Point Presentation ,  
"First Impressions of a Houghton Medical-Dental Team Member in Haiti"  
Light refreshments will be served. We hope you will be able to attend.  
Storer Emmett, M.D. Contact: (585) 567-4574

## Stearns Take-Out Chicken Dinner

sponsored by Houghton Academy Seniors

Date: Friday, March 19 Cost: \$7

Pick-up: Academy Dining Hall from 3:30-5:30pm

Includes ½ barbecued chicken, baked potato, vegetable, roll, brownie

Order from a senior or call the Academy Office: 567-8115

# Houghton Area Senior Citizens March 11

12:15 PM Monthly Luncheon Meeting at the church Community Room

Program: "Letchworth State Park, a Place of Beauty and Wonder" presented by the director of the Letchworth State Park Historical Department

Please bring your table service and the dish designated by the initial of your last name:

A-F, Dessert.....G-O, Casserole.....P-Z, Salad

## Free Tax Preparation sponsored by Houghton College

- Available every **Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.** (except 2/24) Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Room 303 and **Saturday, March 6**, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Make an appointment by emailing Erica Bush at [Erica.Bush10@houghton.edu](mailto:Erica.Bush10@houghton.edu) or calling the Houghton College Public Events Office at (585) 567-9210 on Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Census Work:** The US government is taking a nation-wide census in 2010. The census bureau is looking to hire workers. If you are interested, please contact call 866/861-2010 or check online [www.2010censusjobs.gov](http://www.2010censusjobs.gov).

## SUNDAYS IN MARCH

**March 7** (8:20 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Rejecting an iPod Faith* (1 John 3:11-24)

p.m. Small Groups

**March 14** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* (Luke 10)

p.m. Small Groups

**March 21:** (8:20 am / 9:40 am / 11:00 am)

a.m. *We Need the Global Church* (Ephesians 1:15-18)

p.m. Small Groups

**March 28** (8:20 am / 9:40 / 11:00 am)

a.m. *There Are a Lot of Needy People Out There* (Matthew 9:35-38)

p.m. Small Groups



## SCHEDULE

- 7:45 Resurrection Service (Church)
- 8:45 Catered Easter Fellowship Breakfast (Campus Dining Hall)
- 10:00 Easter Worship Service (Church)

## CHURCH STAFF

Wes Oden, *Senior Pastor*, 567-2024 [woden@hwchurch.org](mailto:woden@hwchurch.org)

Todd Leach, *Assistant Pastor*, 567-8288 [tleach@hwchurch.org](mailto:tleach@hwchurch.org)

Jon Cole, *Youth Pastor*, 307-9950 [jcole@hwchurch.org](mailto:jcole@hwchurch.org)

Cindy Oden, *Discipleship Pastor*, 567-2024 [coden@hwchurch.org](mailto:coden@hwchurch.org)

Amanda Cox, *Worship Director*, 567-4870 [acox@hwchurch.org](mailto:acox@hwchurch.org)

Laurie Smalley, *Volunteer Pastor for Outreach*, 567-8302 [lsmalley@hwchurch.org](mailto:lsmalley@hwchurch.org)

Church Office, M-F, 8 AM-Noon & 1-5 PM, 567-2264 [info@hwchurch.org](mailto:info@hwchurch.org)

**Apartment for Rent:** 2 Bedrooms; 1 Bathroom; Washer/Dryer; 800Square foot; Private Deck; Quiet Country Setting; Less then 2 miles from Campus; \$550.00 + Utilities: Available as early as June 1, 2010  
Our contact information is (585) 567-4744 or (585) 732-8172; email: [Jeremy@TempletonsOnline.com](mailto:Jeremy@TempletonsOnline.com)  
The address is 9457 Molyneaux Road, Houghton NY 14744.

**House for Rent:** Greek Revival style, 2 story home on ¾ of an acre, fenced-in backyard in Belfast. Walking distance of School, Post Office, Library and Ace's Restaurant. 3 or 4 bedrooms. Large living room and dining room; with glass French doors between. Two full baths. Eat-in kitchen with pantry. Office/small bedroom/playroom off kitchen. Hard wood floors in living room, one bathroom and kitchen. Attached garden shed, with an additional separate lawnmower shed. Culligan water filter and softener system in cellar. Hot water baseboard heat. Stove, water heater, furnace and dryer all run on gas. Major appliances included. Rent: \$650.00 per month (does not include utilities)  
Contact Sharon Mulligan 585-808-0653 or email: [sharon.mulligan@houghton.edu](mailto:sharon.mulligan@houghton.edu)  
**Recently Married!** Jim Mulligan and Sharon Hibbard on November 28, 2009. The Mulligans reside in Belmont.

## Fillmore Little League

Tryouts for new players will be held on **Saturday, March 6 at 9:00 am** at the **Fillmore Central School gym**. Boys and girls ages 9-12 are eligible. Returning players need not try out again. Bring sneakers, glove and copy of player's birth certificate. Softball report to the small gym; baseball to the big gym.

The **Fillmore Little League kick-off meeting** will be on **Saturday, March 13 11:00 am** at the **Fillmore Fire Hall**. The annual fundraiser will be reviewed than. This is also **when new tee ball players** who have not yet signed up may do so. Bring copy of player birth certificate. **All players should attend.**

Houghton Academy Presents

## Arsenic and Old Lace

The Houghton Academy Drama Group will present Arsenic and Old Lace, the perennial favorite by Joseph Kesselring, on **March 18, 19, and 20 at 7:00 pm**. The play tells the story of one loony family in Brooklyn during WWII. The two elderly aunts poison male boarders and bury them in their basement; the crazy nephew, who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt, charges around the house blowing his bugle; his long lost (and murderous) brother returns with another dead body; it has all the elements of a fantastic stage play.

The male lead, Mortimer Brewster, is played by Wynn Horton. His aunts, the elderly poisoners, are played by Rachel Pullen and Mary Speta. Rounding out the cast are academy students from around the world, several from Korea and one from China. Jonathan Brewster, the murderer who has had his "face changed," is played by Jae Seok Lee, a senior from Korea. Tickets are \$6 for adults and \$3 for students and can be purchased at the door. Children 5 and under are free.



All-you-can-eat

## HVFD SPAGHETTI DINNER

Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 5-7 PM

Houghton Wesleyan Church Community Room

\$6.00 per adult, or \$25 for a family of five or more

Come and enjoy spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, delicious desserts and beverages!

## DESSERT REQUEST !!!

We are preparing to feed approximately 300 and would very much appreciate your contribution of a dessert (or two). We encourage chocolate as well as non-chocolate desserts. Please bring these items to the church kitchen / community room in time for them to be displayed on the serving tables. (Make sure to indicate your name on the underside of the platters) Please notify me, Katie McLendon ([Kathryn.McLendon12@houghton.edu](mailto:Kathryn.McLendon12@houghton.edu)), if you can help out with a dessert. On behalf of your firemen and the entire Houghton community, thank you so much. We look forward to seeing you there!