

**PIONEER MEMORIAL
CHURCH**



**IT CAME UPON
THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR**

DECEMBER 22, 2012

11:45 AM // PAGE 8

WELCOME!

A warm Noel welcome to all the families who are together, and all the friends who have come to share this festive morning at Pioneer. Whether you come alone or in the company of loved ones, may your heart experience in our midst the quiet embrace of Christ's friendship. And may you find in the Jesus we worship this morning the hope and peace and faith that are yours in Him.

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THE FOURTH WATCH

WWW.PMCHURCH.TV

GOOD NEWS: THE WORLD DIDN'T END YESTERDAY

On this day after December 21, 2012, the good news is we're still here! Bands of New Agers, in particular, have been holding their collective breath as our civilization approached the fateful date: 4 *Ahaw*, 3 *K'ank'in*. That's the date, the ancient long count Mayan calendars predicted, on which the sun would rise for the first time in 26,000 years at precisely the juncture of earth's orbit with the giant inky rift in the Milky Way the Mayans called "*Xibalba Be*." And at that moment of intersection (the winter solstice, 2012), the pent-up energy of the universe—having accumulated over a period of 13 *baktuns* (144,000-day cycles)—will discharge, these ancients calculated, and earth will face . . . And frankly here the prophetic picture becomes murky with some Mayan

Continued on 7

REVIVAL & REFORMATION

GOD APPEALS TO AHAB

BY DENNIS HOLLINGSEAD

In 1st Kings chapter 20 is a story about how the Lord was working with Ahab, giving him encouragement, victories and even battle plans. And this was after the fire came down from heaven, which must have influenced him greatly for a time, even with the strong woman Jezebel in the palace! Ahab had been “shooting off his mouth” and gotten himself into a confrontation with Ben-Hadad the Syrian. Out of nowhere, a prophet appeared and told Ahab that God would deliver the Syrians “into your hand today.” So Ahab knew that the God who brought fire down from heaven wanted him to succeed against his enemies, was aware of the situation, looking out for and reaching out to him. It’s as if God was calling Ahab back to repentance and to have a relationship with Him. In fact, verse 13 says, “and you shall know that I am the Lord.” The Lord helped Ahab win two major confrontations with the Syrians, which demonstrated to Ahab God’s mercy and willingness to forgive; and this was Ahab’s opportunity to turn his life around. But instead, in the interest of monetary gain, Ahab made a treaty with Ben-Hadad the Syrian, and was then denounced by a prophet for not completely destroying the Syrians (vss. 35-43).

After Ahab murdered Naboth and took his vineyard, Elijah went to him and foretold his and Jezebel’s end (1

Kings 21:17). When Ahab heard this he tore his robes, put sackcloth on, and fasted and mourned. The Lord then spoke to Elijah that because Ahab had humbled himself, these things would only come after his death.

Apparently, after God had revealed to Ahab His many manifestations of power to control the weather, bring fire from heaven, and even help him win his battles, Ahab hardened himself against the pleadings of the Holy Spirit. Even after rejecting God, Ahab received a consideration from Him. This tells us that God was still trying to reach him and would have been accepted if he had only come back. Doesn’t this show us to what extent our heavenly Father will go to redeem us? Imagine what Ahab could have achieved had he turned his life around—even at the very end! At the least, he could have been saved like Manasseh (Chronicles 33)!

Please pray for:

- The evangelistic outreach by the Central Ghana Conference in Ghana, Africa.
- For thousands of young people at GYC 2012; December 28, 2012—January 1, 2013, in Seattle, WA.
- Inner City outreach in Indianapolis and elsewhere.
- PMC—that we become known as *the friendly church*.

OPERATING FUND

SOCIAL COMMITTEE / SENIORS ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS

Thank you to the PMC Social Committee for Special Events for the delightful Christmas Banquet for Retirees that was held this month. Every other year, this group led by Gerre and Glenn St. Clair and Arlene and Ron Graham takes care of planning for the gathering. "Last year the Village SDA Church planned it, so this year we were responsible," explained Gerre. It was held at the Village Church and was open to seniors from SDA churches throughout Michiana.

One of the favorite parts of this get-together was mingling with friends. "It was good to see so many people that I haven't talked to in awhile," said Bob Butts. Another highlight was listening to beautiful music. A Christmas carol singalong was enthusiastically led by Christina Rorabeck. Performances by the Suncoast Singers, Hector Flores on the accordion, and a string group made up of players from AA and RMES were a treat. "And Sarai St. Clair provided us with beautiful dinner music on the piano," added Madeline Johnston. The delicious holiday

dinner, catered by Avani's Restaurant, was served by the committee and PMC pastors.

The Christmas Banquet for Retirees is just one of the activities throughout the year that is coordinated by the Social Committee for Special Events. In the summer the group serves lemonade after church so people can mingle awhile and get to know one another. Today's annual Christmas Breakfast is another time when they provide a relaxed atmosphere for fellowship. Funds for these activities come from our Church Operating monies, Line 2 on your tithe and offering envelope.



PRAY

For strong Christian fellowship
in our church

MORE INFO

Gerre & Glenn St. Clair
473.6649

OPERATING FUND

GIVE TO LINE 2

Goal to-date	\$586,550
Received to-date	\$530,546
<i>(Received to-date 2011)</i>	\$541,201

As of December 15, 2012

MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

PMCHURCH.TV / REACHING THE WORLD



As we wrap up 2012 and prepare for 2013, the media department would like to share some numbers from our website with you.

1) In the last 12 months we have welcomed 104,000 unique visitors to our website.

2) We have potentially provided nearly 180,000 sermons for download.*

3) Each week we have 500 people joining us live via our web stream.

4) 14,420 Study Guides have been downloaded.

5) Visitors to our website come from almost every country in the world.

Web is probably the largest global mission a local church can have and God has blessed us with the opportunity to serve in this mission. Thank you for supporting our web ministry and all of the Pioneer media ministries through your faithful prayers and donations to MPE and to TV ministry. Thank you.

*Adding podcast and direct downloads together.

PRAY

For those whom we reach through our website

MORE INFO

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MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

GIVE TO LINE 5

Goal to-date	\$128,850
Received to-date	\$104,883
<i>(Received to-date 2011)</i>	\$120,255

As of December 15, 2012

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

RMES / WE LOVE OUR SCHOOL

We are proud to be students of Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, mainly for two things (there are many other things). First, the teachers teach us about God and the Bible. Not only do they teach us about what God wants us to do, but they live out what they tell us. Also, the teachers here don't work only for the money. They want to teach us how to be the best we can be and they pray with us. They could work at another school where they might receive a higher salary, but they make that sacrifice so that we can know God.

Secondly, we like to attend RMES because we have friends here. In fact, for you students who are thinking about joining RMES, they say that you make friends in the very first days you go to this school. The students at our

school are so friendly and nice! They give a positive influence and help us out when we need it. Bullying is never common in RMES.

Concluding, our teachers have the privilege and ability to give us knowledge. Not only do we get a good education but we always get to participate in a class with a friendly atmosphere. Education with God's unbiased help is what we need in our lives. How about you?

– *Written by Andrew Ferreira and Jeong Woo Park, 8th-graders at RMES*



PRAY

For God's Spirit to continue
to guide us

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION GIVE TO LINE 3

Goal to-date	\$225,300
Received to-date	\$191,072
(Received to-date 2011)	\$201,242

As of December 15, 2012

authorities suggesting the predicted event to be an ushering into an age of glorious transformation, while others conclude the Mayans predicted a cataclysmic ending to this civilization.

But irrespective of the various hypotheses, the reality is that you and I are still here on this joyful Sabbath before Christmas. Which is no reason to belittle the ancient Mayans. According to a piece by Ed Dickerson in *Signs of the Times* magazine (December 2012), “the sophistication and complexity of the Mayan mathematics make their predictions difficult to ignore. Their mastery of mathematics—they were among the earliest to use the concept of zero—and their careful observation of celestial objects enabled them to construct calendars (17 in all) based on the movements of the sun, moon, several planets, and even ‘precession,’ the slight wobble in earth’s rotation that takes 25,800 years to complete!” (pg. 33)

Two thousand years ago a band of Oriental sages—*magi* or wise men, as we remember them—engaged in their own celestial calculations. Pouring over the ancient script of the fourth book of Moses, they attempted to correlate the sudden appearance of a distant nighttime celestial body in their heavens with the prophecy of an early member of the *magi* named Balaam: “A Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Numbers 24:17). Believing the night phenomenon they were witnessing to be linked to

this mysterious prophecy, these *magi* set out to follow that star in search of the promised King, with perhaps less mathematical calculus or precision than the even more ancient Mayans.



The Mayans and the *magi*—ancient precursors to bands of men and women today who still search the night heavens and wonder what the dark future will bring. The dark night rises, but so does the Morning Star.

“I wonder as I wander out under the sky,” the Appalachian carol sings, “why Jesus the Savior did come for to die.” (Haven’t we wondered the same?) “. . . for poor, ornery creatures like you and like I.” (The carol knows us too well.) “. . . I wonder as I wander out under the sky.”

No wonder we have nothing to fear for the future, except that we forget how God has come to us in the past. As you light a candle this Christmas Eve and ponder the mystery of this God-coming, may the flickering promise that He shall come again, this Christ Child King, invade your heart and your calendar with the very best gift of all: hope.

CHRISTMAS @ PIONEER

11:45 AM

Pioneer Family Life Esther R. Knott

Opening Voluntary *Noëls / Marcel Rouher*

Introit *Gloria! in Excelsis! Deo! / Kenneth Logan*

Christmas Call

Pastor: *On this Day in which we celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus,
may you be welcomed and blessed.*

People: *And may you be blessed.*

Pastor: *Why have you come on this glorious Sabbath?*

People: *We have come, like the shepherds and the wise men,
to worship the Christ Child.*

Pastor: *But He is not here—He is risen, ascended and soon to return.*

People: *But we come to celebrate that the Infant of Bethlehem was
and is our God, our Savior and our Lord.*

Pastor: *Then like sages with gifts and shepherds with wonder,
let us come and adore Him.*

People: *We have come to worship Him.*

Pastor: *Then may He be glorified and may all be blessed this Christmas Eve.*

Invocation Dwight K. Nelson

Carols of the Season *Good Christians, Now Rejoice / st. 1 & 2 of 136*
Now Is Born the Divine Christ Child / 133
O Little Town of Bethlehem / st. 1 & 3 of 135
Angels We Have Heard on High / st. 1-3 of 142

Family Prayer Erhard, Irmgard, Christiane & Dorthea Gallos

Christmas Music *What Child Is This? / Traditional English / Kenneth Logan*

Offering Michigan Advance Partners

Children's Story *Away in a Manager / 124*

PRESIDING PASTOR: Esther R. Knott; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
CHRISTMAS MUSIC: Debra Rosengren, flute; INTROIT: Eric Lofgren, trumpet
CAROL OF PREPARATION: Jaeho Lee, baritone
APPEAL: Karen Nelson, soprano; Lisa Jardine, piano

Christmas Scripture

Luke 2:1-14 NKJV / Duane & Lauri Covrig

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

"Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Carol of Preparation*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* / 130**Christmas Homily**

Dwight K. Nelson

*"The Morning Star Rises: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear"***Appeal***Breath of Heaven (Mary's Song)* / Chris Easton / Amy Grant**Benediction****Closing Voluntary***Gloria in Excelsis Deo* / Allan Greenway

PIONEER PEOPLE

SUNSET TODAY: 5:19

SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY: 5:23

To submit a request to have an announcement printed in Pioneer Family Life, please email bulletin@pmchurch.tv. Requests must be received Monday by 5 PM for consideration.

PIONEER FAMILY LIFE

PMC OFFICE CLOSED

The PMC Office will be closed Monday, December 24, through Wednesday, December 26, for the Christmas holiday. We will be open at 8 AM on Thursday, December 27, to serve you. Merry Christmas from the PMC Office Team.

PMC FAMILY VESPERS

Dean Boward will present a special Christmas music program this evening. Come to the Youth Chapel at 5:30 and receive a special blessing.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

A memorial service for John Lello will be held at Morgan Hall on the Adventist Frontier Missions (AFM) campus, Sabbath, December 29, from 3-5 PM. The AFM Center is located at 10652 Range Line Rd., Berrien Springs, MI. AFM missionary John Lello died while felling trees near his project site in Papua, New Guinea, on November 26.

PIONEER YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Applications are ready for youth who are interested in being on the Mission Trip to Nicaragua this summer—July 17 to August 5. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Micheal (471.6176) or Genaida (471.6565). Application deadline is January 14.

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

December 29 will be the last Sabbath to return your tithe and offerings for 2012. If you plan to bring in a donation, our office is closed December 24 through 26, and 31 so your donation would need to be in no later than 12 PM on Friday, December 28. If you will not be at PMC, please make sure your check is postmarked no later than December 31 for it to be included in your 2012 tax-deductible receipt. You can also make your contribution through Adventist Giving. Go to www.pmchurch.org and click the Adventist Giving tab. Contributions made until 11:59 PM on December 31 will be included in your 2012 tax-deductible receipt.

RUNNING & WALKING CLUB EXERCISE CLASS

These groups will not meet while the University is on holiday break. Running and Walking Club will resume on Sunday, January 6. Exercise class will meet on Monday, January 7.

CHRISTMAS EVE PROGRAM

Celebrate the birth of the Christ child at a Christmas Eve service on Monday, December 24, at 7 PM in the PMC Sanctuary. Bring your whole family to this special service.

Song Service	Vladimir Slavujevic
Opening Hymn	<i>O Come, O Come, Immanuel</i> / 115
Welcome	Judy Wright
Special Feature	Christmas Story / Judy Wright
Offertory	<i>Joy to the World</i> / Handel
Bible Study	“Last Things: Jesus and the Saved” / Classes
Theme Song	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>

Make me a blessing; make me a blessing.

Out of my life may Jesus shine.

Make me a blessing; O Savior, I pray.

Make me a blessing; to someone today.

“Make Me a Blessing,” Ira Bishop Wilson

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Benediction	Vladimir Slavujevic
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: Joshua Goines, organ

[see page 12/13 for Sabbath School directory & map]

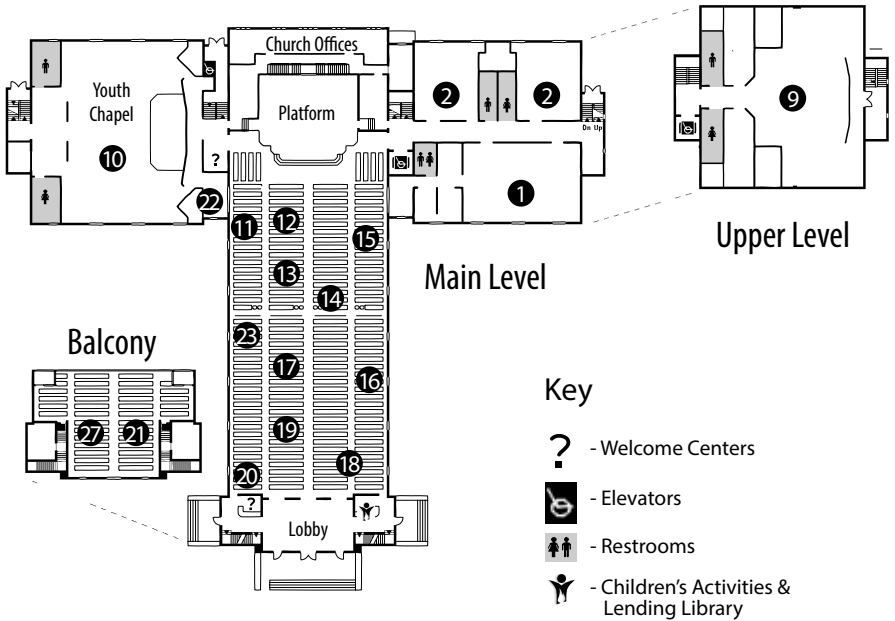
MUSIC ALIVE

“GLORIA! IN EXCELSIS! DEO!”

Three exclamation marks in a title of four words for today’s introit—a new composition created especially for this worship service—What is this exclaiming about? The title, a traditional Latin rendering that closely parallels the English “Glory to God in the Highest,” has several wonderful words’ worth emphasizing individually, although they far exceed anyone’s ability to capture them musically. “Gloria” is a word rendered marvelously

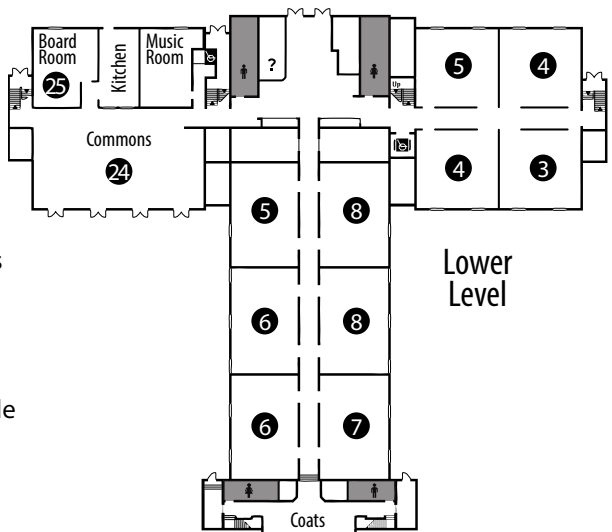
for voices, by many composers, although inevitably falling short of its fervor and light. But we also have the reference to “highest” or “in the height,” rather lyrically and airily treated in the midsection of today’s introit. Finally, any description of God in human language, musical or otherwise, must fall far short, yet this word receives some resplendent emphasis in the introit’s final section.

SABBATH SCHOOL DIRECTORY



[children]

- ① Birth - 18 months
- ② 18-36 months
- ③ 3 yr olds
- ④ 4 - 5 yr olds
- ⑤ 6 yr old - 1st grade
- ⑥ 2nd/3rd grade
- ⑦ 4th grade
- ⑧ 5th/6th grade
- ⑨ Earliteen: 7th/8th grade
- ⑩ Youth: 9th-12th grade



PIONEER CLASSES

[adult sanctuary]

- 11 Group 1
- 12 Group 2 (Portuguese/Brazilian)
- 13 Group 3
- 14 Group 4 (Yugoslavian)
- 15 Group 5
- 16 Group 6
- 17 Group 7
- 18 Group 8
- 19 Group 9 (Spanish)
- 20 Group 10
- 21 Group 11 (Balcony)
- 22 Conference Room
- 23 Indonesian Class

[miscellaneous adult]

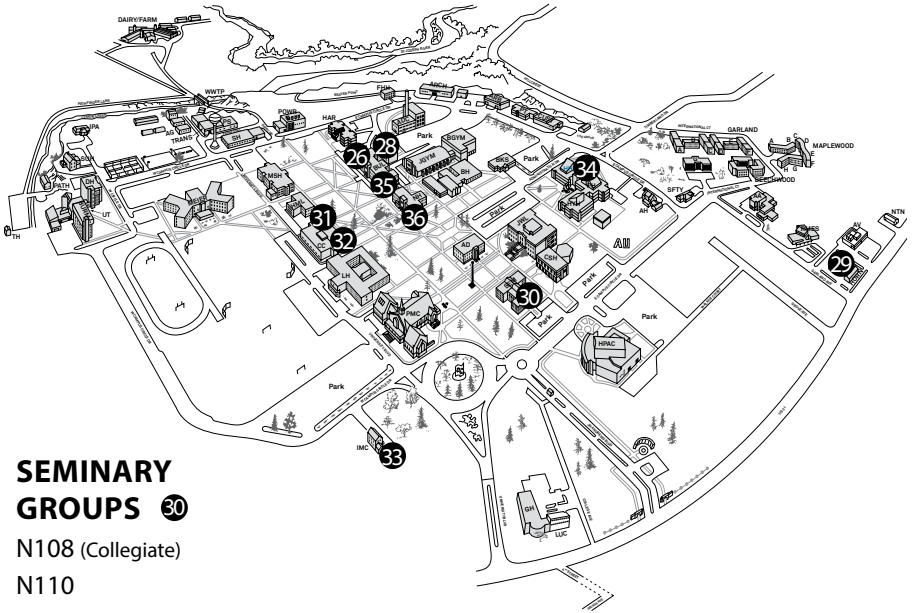
- 24 Something In Common
- 25 Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs

COLLEGIATE

- 26 H&M (Hispanic - Religion Amphitheater)
- 27 People on the Move (PMC)
- 28 The Well (Buller—238)

YOUNG ADULT

- 29 HAM Horn Museum (downstairs)



SEMINARY GROUPS 30

- N108 (Collegiate)
- N110
- N120 (New Life Church Choir)
- N150
- N211 (Small group)
- N235
- N310 (Russian)
- N335 (Spanish)
- S215 (French)
- S340 (Upper Room)

ADULT @ AU

- 31 Main Lounge
- 32 Faculty Lounge
- 33 Back to Basics
- 34 Living Word Fellowship
- 35 Current Events (Buller—135)
- 36 Journey Through the New Testament (Nethery—143)

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PMCHURCH MEDIA

TELEVISION

WHME TV 46
Sunday noon & midnight

SAFE TV, HOPE CHANNEL & 3ABN
See websites for local listings
www.safetv.org
www.hopetv.org
www.3abntv.org

LIVE VIDEO STREAMING

11:45 AM — www.pmchurch.tv

ONLINE

www.pmchurch.org
www.pmchurch.tv

RADIO

WAUS - 90.7 FM
Sabbath 11:30 a.m.



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BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103
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UNIVERSITY VESPERS

FRIDAY @ 7:30 PM, PMC SANCTUARY

We want to invite you to be a part of this experience to rest, revive, and reconnect.

1.11.13	Karl Haffner
1.18.13	Shawn Boonstra
1.25.13	Evan Knott
2.1.13	Dan Jackson
2.8.13	Carlton Byrd
2.15.13	Danny Hernandez
2.22.13	Justin Kim

COMING SOON

12/29 Sharon Terrell
"Consider Jesus: Watch the Lamb"

1/05 Dwight K. Nelson

