



"THREE GIFTS"

CHILDREN'S
CELEBRATION
OF CHRISTMAS



WELCOME

to Pioneer

Children and Christmas go together; it is nearly impossible to imagine one without the other. And as a parent it is exciting to get to see the wonder of Christmas through the eyes of a child. I am not just talking about the lights, the tree, and the gifts. To see the wonder of a baby that is the hero through the eyes of a child is a miracle of its own.

So we welcome you here to Pioneer Memorial Church to join us in this celebration as we take a look through the eyes of children at the greatest story ever to be told.

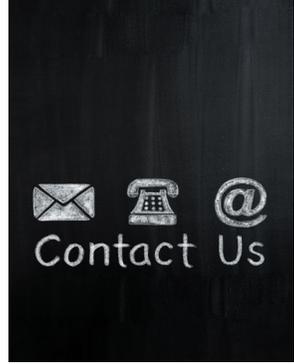
Of course it makes sense to celebrate Christmas through the eyes of a child because, after all, Christmas is about a child. So today we invite you to re-examine a story with us as we look at The Child!

-Ben Martin

 PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH 8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103		
OFFICE HOURS Monday – Thursday (9 to 5) • Friday (9 to 12)		PHONE – 269.471.3133 FAX – 269.471.6152
LIVE STREAMING www.pmchurch.org Sabbath 11:45 AM	ONLINE www.pmchurch.org www.newperceptions.tv	RADIO WAUS – 90.7 FM Sabbath 11:30 AM
 NOMINATING REPORT Scan this code to read the Nominating Committee Report.		 FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL

FIND IT HERE

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blessings OVERFLOW

BY JIM FORD



Dear PMC Family—Many of you systematically and sacrificially support students at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School and at Andrews Academy through giving to the Student Aid Fund on your tithe envelop. Giving to this fund from January through September totals \$28,296. Year-end (December) giving typically swells this amount. The average giving is around \$50,000 a year.

Therefore, this is the amount of money your Student Aid Committee allocated to fund Christian education this year. This goal was set in the summer and allocations to individual students were made in faith that you folks will come through again. Please remember that the Christian Education offering supports school operations, which are important,

but the Student Aid Fund goes directly to reduce education costs for students. For the current school year, we (you) are helping 70 students, 41 at Ruth Murdoch and 29 at Andrews Academy. We look to you, the PMC family, to donate to cover this cost through the Student Aid offering.

The local public schools provide a high-quality education, academically and physically, for the children who attend these schools. However, God is not incorporated into the public-school curriculum as it is at Ruth Murdoch and Andrews Academy. Christian education can have life-lasting positive impacts on children.

Following are several excerpts taken from thank-you letters, written by parents and students, addressed to YOU, the ones who support the Student Aid Fund.

From a parent: "With love and gratitude I express my profound appreciation on behalf of my family to the entire Pioneer Memorial Congregation for the active part they played in providing the assistance needed for my daughter to benefit from Adventist Christian Education at Ruth Murdoch Elementary School.

My daughter has longed for the opportunity to attend an Adventist school just like her siblings. She got home one day from the public school and expressed her sadness and concern for not having the opportunity to listen to the story of Jesus. She asked me, "mum, when will I start to attend the school where the stories of Jesus are told every day?" My heart bled and tears rolled down my cheek as I assured her that God will provide. I therefore summoned up the courage to take the bold step of faith which is now a reality.

My heart rejoices and I am encouraged to be a member of the Pioneer Memorial family. Thank you for this golden privilege. God's blessings."

From a parent: "We thank you for being a part of this journey. As a result of your giving, many young minds are being molded for Christ that will lead them to follow the Lord until He returns. We pray the reward of your gift follows you eternally."

From a student: "Thank you for your gifts of love. I enjoy going to RMES every day. I like my teachers. I like my friends and I love learning about Jesus."

From a student: "I want to thank the PMC members for helping me to have the opportunity to receive a Christian Education at RMES. I am happy for having the chance to learn a new language, to

get to know friends from different parts of the world, and mainly, to learn more about Jesus."

From a student: "I am eternally grateful for the scholarship that you have granted to me. I am thankful for my school and the friends that influence me in a positive way. I enjoy the worship, community and other extra-curricular activities at RMES. This school has allowed me to grow a closer relationship with my God and Savior, Jesus."

From a parent: "My belief is that God will use this blessing [Student Aid funding] to continue in places you may never imagine."

From a parent: " Just a few weeks ago I had one amazing experience with my son who is 7 years old. . . . I saw the lights were on and he was reading something. . . . He was reading his Bible, on his own. . . . When he saw me he asked me some questions about what he was reading. This really made me feel good. . . . I'm very happy as I see my son growing with love for God, and I know how important it is to have the school, the church and home together guiding him in the same direction toward heaven."

Thank you for your support of the Student Aid Fund. Look for Student Aid on your tithe and offering envelope or at AdventistGiving.org. ■



SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please write
"Student Aid"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Opening Voluntary	<i>Go Tell It on the Mountain</i> • arr. Andrew Dabczynski
Welcome	Ben Martin
Carols of Praise	<i>Angels from the Realms of Glory</i> • 119 <i>Joy to the World</i> • 125
Call to Prayer	Ben Martin
Congregational Prayer	Jasielle Otio, Micah Suarez, Ariana Helbley, Ian Kamau* Caleb Omwocha, Benjamin Bairagee, Joshua Omwocha, Joshua Aboage**
Worship in Music	<i>Christmas Quatrain</i> • arr. Elliot Del Borgo
Scripture	Luke 2:13-15 • Hanan Legoh*, Favour Adisina**
Part 1	"Three Gifts: From the Heart" • Ben Martin
Hymns	<i>What Child Is This?</i> • 141 <i>Rise Up Shepherd</i> • 138 <i>While Shepherds Watch Their Flocks</i> • 139
Scripture	Matthew 2:1,2 • Angelica Pena*, Samuel Cheimela Howell**
Part 2	"Three Gifts: The Thought That Counts" • Ben Martin
Musical Medley	Little Baby in the Manger Little Stars that Twinkle We Three Kings • 137
Baptism	Christina Lynn Penno with David Penno**
Scripture	Matthew 1:22,23 • Lauryn Mann*, Nathanael Climaco**
Part 3	"Three Gifts: Returning the Gift" • Ben Martin

Praise in Song

*In the Bleak Midwinter
A Gift for You*

Call for Gifts

Ben Martin

Tithes & Offerings

Stille, Stille, Stille • arr. James Curnow

Closing Song

Give of Your Best to the Master • 572

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Grand Fantasia on "Joy to the World"

ORGANIST: David Williams
WORSHIP COORDINATOR: Rosemary Bailey
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: RMES String Orchestra; Elsy M. Gallardo-Diaz, director
OFFERTORY: RMES Concert Band; Marcelo Martins, director
CLOSING VOLUNTARY: David Williams
PMC ADVENTURERS: Kemmoree Duncombe-Frame, director

MUSIC ALIVE

"STILL..."

It is likely that the first word of the sung text for today's music by the RMES Concert Band, "Stille", is the one most commonly associated with this carol. The first line of the carol in English would be, "Hush, hush, hush, for the little child wants to sleep!" But what about the words that begin an additional five carol stanzas, in translation? The next, "Sleep", has an obvious connection to

the first. But now, why not let your imagination roam over possibilities for where the first words of the next three stanzas connect with your experiencing of the story of Jesus' birth: "Great", "Up", and "We" – especially the last one. What associated with the "We" in this narrative? The last stanza begins with "Rest" as a thought very similar to that beginning the carol. ■



RENOVATE
heart & house

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

A People Place

BY JOSÉ BOURGET

This week I had the opportunity to sit down with Marilyn Butler. In the last couple of years, we've gotten to know each other through our GROW Group, House of Prayer (AM). Our group meets in the Youth Chapel every Wednesday at 7 AM. She's been a joy to get to know and has a really big heart. Let me introduce you to her:

J: Let's start with some really simple questions: What are a couple of your favorite songs and a favorite Bible promise?

M: "Shall We Gather at the River" was sung every Friday evening with my family. We changed it a bit to say, "gather with the family at the river." Another very meaningful song is one my husband and I sang together that seem to touch people's hearts, "Do You Know My Jesus?". My favorite Bible verse is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Just after my husband died there were times when I didn't think I could do this. The verse really gave me what I needed.

J: What is an activity that you enjoy doing?

M: I love to crochet! In fact, one of Pastor Ben's boys received a blanket I made for him. Right now, I get to make them to sell to help pay for my grandchildren's school bill.

J: How long ago did you move to Berrien Springs, and what brought you here?

M: I was born in Iowa and lived most of my life [there]. When my husband died, the plan was to move closer to our daughter and grandchildren.

J: Why did you decide to attend Pioneer Memorial Church?

M: Mostly because my grandchildren go to Ruth Murdoch Elementary School. They are involved in activities here and I want to be here to support them. The reason they come here is because Pioneer Memorial has wonderful programs in Sabbath School for children.

J: What would you say have been some of the more meaningful moments in your time here?

M: There are lots of those moments. It's hard to just pick one. God led very directly in me coming here; that was a big influence. I thoroughly enjoy Sabbaths here with sermons and the involvement with the small groups. All those things are very meaningful to me. I wanted to come here while I was still young enough to get acquainted and find new friends here, and I have done that!

J: I've gotten to know you through our group that meets on Wednesday mornings. Why did you decide to come at this early hour and what keeps you coming?



M: Well, I'm a morning person and I don't like to get out at night. So I chose the morning for that reason. A lot of the year, it is lighter in the morning—not right now—but it is a lot of the time. I just really enjoy fellowship and prayer. Prayer is an important part of my life. This morning prayer meeting is very meaningful to me.

J: What other parts of Pioneer life do you really enjoy?

M: I enjoy the Sabbath School. Our class is quite interactive, and I enjoy that. I have the opportunity to bring a lady with me that is elderly and is unable to drive on her own. It's a blessing to bring Mary Ross with me each Sabbath morning.

J: What would you say to someone thinking about coming to Pioneer?

M: Try it! I would say try it. There is more activity than you can possibly take part in. You have to pick and choose. That was new to me coming from a small church where everyone had to be involved in everything or it didn't happen. Here there are so many things to choose from. I can't do all the things I enjoy doing, so it's a blessing to have this much to pick from.

J: Marilyn, thank you for sharing with us. I'm so blessed to get to share this journey with you.

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service	Christine Carroll
Opening Hymn	Go, Tell It on the Mountain • 121
Welcome & Prayer	Philip Giddings III
Special Feature	"Go Ye Therefore" • Wesley James <i>Founder/coordinator for the Southern Asia wing of Loma Linda Broadcast</i>
Offering	<i>Christ Child Medley • Kathy Joy Parke</i>
Scripture	<i>Revelation 14:6, 7</i>
Lesson Study	"Unity in Worship"
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	Christine Carroll
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ORGANIST: John Williams
OFFERTORY: Kathy Joy Parke

SUBMIT bulletin announcements by visiting our form online at www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received Monday by 5:00 PM for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
PMC Operating Budget

SUNSET TODAY • 5:14
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:17

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 22 |

CHRISTMAS, SYNCHRONICITY AND THE GOD WHO IS ALWAYS PREPARED

Dwight K. Nelson

(9:00 AM Breakfast in Church,
11:45 AM single service)

| 12 • 29 |

COMMUNION SERVICE

John Glass

(11:45 AM single service)

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

In a couple of weeks, 2018 will be over. Have we been blessed by God with good health, prosperity, and spiritual growth? Or have times been tough for us? Regardless, God has told us to focus our hopes on the better land to come. All it takes is one trip to a disadvantaged land to put things in perspective and realize that we are truly blessed. At the end of the year, it is typical for some of us to begin thinking about how we might take stock of our overall financial picture. Let us plan then to "bring all the tithes into the storehouse" by year's end, that the Lord's house may prosper and be truly blessed.

We Mourn

- Long-time Pioneer member, Judy Aitken, died on Monday, December 10. A funeral service is being planned for Friday, December 21, at 10:30 AM in the Pioneer Memorial Church sanctuary. With Julia (AJ) O'Carey and Jolene (John) Roosenberg families we long for Jesus' triumphant return. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

- Visitation for George Daniel is at Allred Funeral Home on December 15, 5:00-7:00 PM and the funeral service is at PMC on December 16, 2018, 9:00 AM. With his wife, Vimala, brother, William Daniel, two daughters Sabeulah (Brian) Bates and Lynda Daniel-Underwood, and their families we long for Jesus' triumphant return.

- We grieve today with Pioneer members Art and Debi Robertson. Their daughter-in-law, Perla Robertson, died on November 4. She leaves behind her husband, Rick Robertson, and four young children. May the Lord comfort and surround the entire Robertson family with His love.

Thank You

Peter and Pam, parents of Lee-Anne Swanson, are very grateful for the many expressions of sympathy that they have received since the death of their daughter. The flower arrangements sent to the family from the church and the pastoral visit were especially meaningful and were greatly appreciated.

Family Vespers

4:00 PM • PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

Vespers will meet at 4:00 PM in the Youth Chapel, to go Christmas caroling for home-bound members.

District 9 Prayer Conference

On behalf of the thirteen churches in south-western Michigan, we're delighted to host Pavel Goia, editor Ministry magazine and international prayer conference speaker, on Sabbath, January 5, 2019. Pastor Goia was featured significantly in Ron Clouzet's Adventism's Greatest Need because of a resurrection he and his wife sought and received from God. A man of bold prayer and intercession, Pastor Pavel is the right preacher to lead us into an uncertain New Year globally, nationally and even locally. He will preach in both the 9:00 AM and 11:45 AM services at Pioneer, and in between will preach in the Berrien Springs Spanish Church (10:30 AM). An afternoon district-wide prayer conference will follow here at Pioneer (3:00 PM). Mark your calendar, and let us discover how to make collective prayer our high priority in 2019.

Thank You!

Dear Pioneer Family: Thank you to all who brought soup or volunteered of their time for Soup for Students. We had more soup than we've ever had before and not a drop of it went to waste. We delivered the leftover soup and cookies to the dorms and the students were all excited and grateful to receive them. It disappeared very quickly! Immediately after it was done, I received this message from a student: "Seriously, thank you SOMUCH for this! Means the world to us students in the midst of this crazy week!" So from the bottom of my heart, thank you for helping Pioneer demonstrate the love of Jesus to our students during the stress of final exams. -Pastor Rodlie

Sabbath School Lesson Quarterly

Adult Sabbath School teachers, you may pick up next quarter's Sabbath School lesson quarterly for your class at the lower level Welcome Center beginning today. If you are a member of PMC and not a member of a Sabbath School class, you may pick up no more than two quarterlies. Please complete the sign-out sheet if you are not a class member.

Christmas Angel Tree (previously known as Adopt-A-Family)

GIVE TODAY

Brighten someone's holiday and bring smiles to struggling individuals. This is a great opportunity to show someone in need that we as a church care. Please stop by the Christmas Angel Tree located at the Welcome Center. Choose an angel from the tree. You can either give a donation (money, gift card, food, toys, etc.) or buy a gift for them. Then bring the gift wrapped with the angel attached to it to PMC by December 17 (Monday). You may call Lailane Legoh at 471.3543 if you have any questions.

Paper Crafting Together

DECEMBER 16 • 11:00 AM- 5:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

Have Christmas gifts you need to finish? Cards you want to make to send out? Come to the PMC Commons and work on your projects. Bring your favorite snack. We will provide the chocolate. Questions email sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org.

PMC Christmas Eve Service

DECEMBER 24 • 5:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

Christmas Eve at PMC: The Gift. The Christmas story of God's gift to humanity, for all ages.

Andrews Academy Concerts

All are invited to attend this free program held at Pioneer Memorial Church. Andrews Academy will be presenting the 46th annual Feast of Lights program on Friday, December 14, 2018, at 7:00 PM. The community is invited to attend this spectacular night of music, Scripture and drama honoring the King of Kings. It is an evening of bells, instruments, choral singing, congregational singing, and the retelling of a glorious Christmas story. Chorale and Orchestra will end the program with four choruses from Handel's Messiah including the Hallelujah chorus at the end. The church sidewalks will be arrayed in Christmas lighting. The program will speak to your hearts of His wondrous love.

An evening of popular Christmas music will also be presented on Saturday, December 15, at 7:00 PM at the Howard Performing Arts Center. Join us as we bring in the holidays with a variety of well-known Christmas songs including a grand finale played by the combined musical groups.

Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Christmas Programs

DECEMBER 18 & 19

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Please join us at the Howard Performing Arts Center for our annual Christmas programs. The Vocal Christmas program is 7:00 PM on December 18 and the Instrumental program is at 7:00 PM on December 19.

10 Days of Prayer

Start the New Year right! Come and enjoy PMC's 10 Days of Prayer from January 1-10 in the Youngberg home, 4731 Greenfield Drive in Berrien Springs, MI. This is the 29th consecutive year. Each session begins at 6:00 PM. We will be praying for your requests and for an abundant outpouring of the Latter Rain. There will be special handouts for attendees each session. Bring your Bible. The topics are:

Jan. 1 "For Such a Time as This"

Jan. 2 "My Sheep Hear My Voice"

Jan. 3 "Faith Is the Victory"

Jan. 4 "His Name Shall Be Called WONDERFUL"

Jan. 5 "Toning Up My Flabby Spiritual Muscles"

Jan. 6 "Snacking on Spiritual Food or Enjoying a Full Course Meal?"

Jan. 7 "Exceedingly Abundantly Above All that We ASK or Think"

Jan. 8 "And the Earth Was Illuminated with His Glory"

Jan. 9 "These Follow the Lamb Wherever He Goes"

Jan. 10 "You Are My Hiding Place"

Funeral Dinner Team

The funeral dinner team needs additional helpers to bring food and/or work in the kitchen. If you would like to assist in this way, please contact Pat Erhard at 471.7366 or the church office at 471.6565.



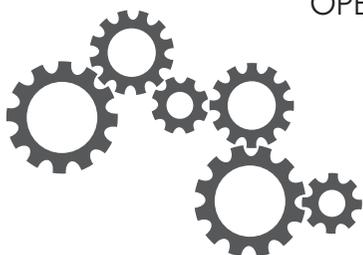
pioneer memorial church
FAMILY FINANCES

As of November 30, 2018

Includes November online giving



OPERATING FUND



LINE 2 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

GOAL TO-DATE	539,607
RECEIVED TO-DATE	477,465
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2017	495,304

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LINE 3 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

GOAL TO-DATE	183,253
RECEIVED TO-DATE	155,485
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2017	161,525



MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM



LINE 5 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

GOAL TO-DATE	95,786
RECEIVED TO-DATE	89,528
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2017	91,564

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DEC 22 | 9:00-10:00 AM
PMC COMMONS

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST IN CHURCH

Come and share our most joy-filled holiday tradition—a delectable Christmas breakfast in church!

Bring your favorite holiday sweet rolls, and we'll provide the rest.

