

THE LAST Letter



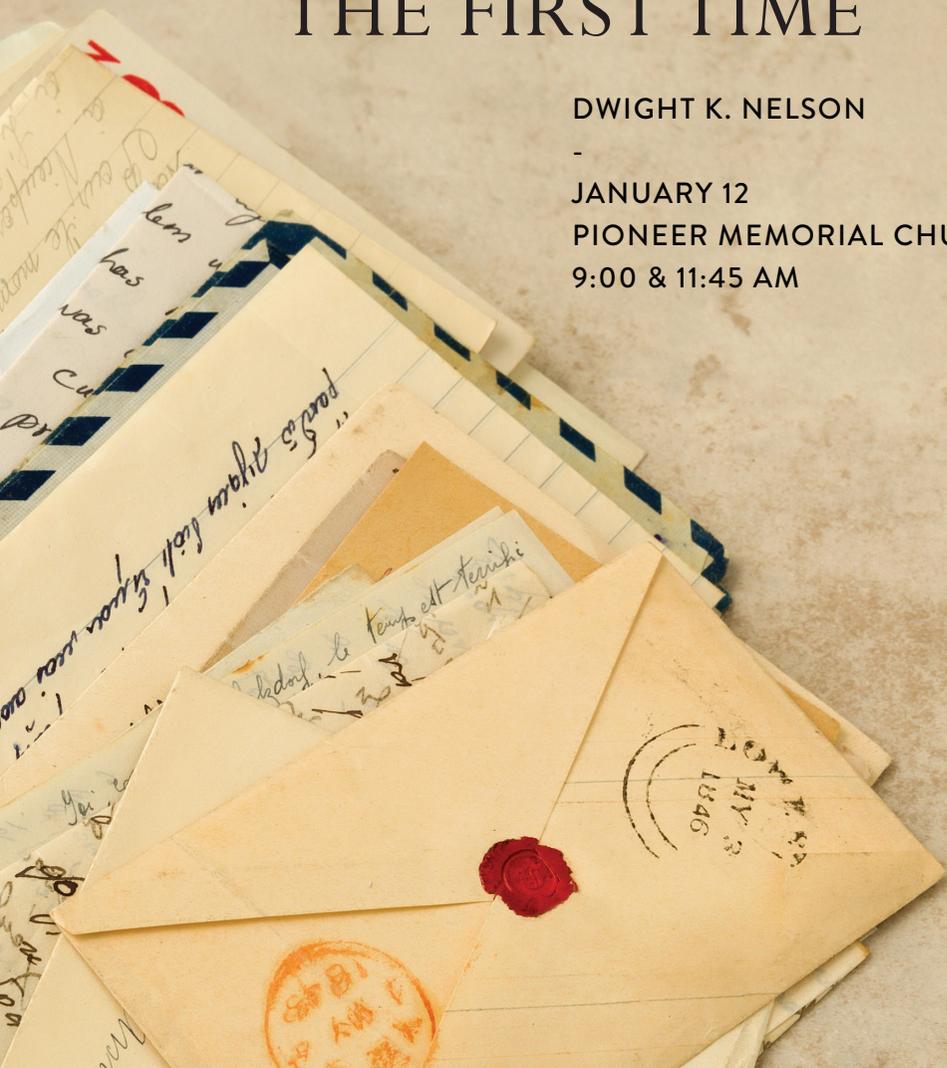
READ IT AGAIN FOR
THE FIRST TIME

DWIGHT K. NELSON

JANUARY 12

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

9:00 & 11:45 AM



WELCOME

to Pioneer

Just imagine the scene. You're in a hospital emergency room waiting to be seen by a doctor. All of a sudden, a seven-foot-tall and twelve-hundred-pound animal casually walks in. That's right! This recently happened in an ER in Anchorage, Alaska, when a moose walked into an ER. Stephanie Hupton captured it all on her cell phone camera. Thankfully, the intentions of the moose were fairly innocent—he just wanted to nibble on some of the nice-looking plants by the entrance. And, after satisfying his curiosity, he made his way back outside. No animals or humans were harmed!

A moose in an ER? Not welcome.

You, on the other hand? You're not just welcome, but we've been expecting you. In particular, we want to welcome all our students who have returned from break. We pray that through today's worship experience and fellowship, you will receive the warmth and blessing of God. Welcome.

-Rodlie Ortiz

 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

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO



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**THE FOURTH
WATCH BLOG**
"Beyond the Birth"

10

WE STUDY
"Among the Lampstands"

12

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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WE WORSHIP
9:00 AM Service

11

WE WORSHIP 2
11:45 AM Service

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UNDER THE ROOF
"Andrews Academy SOW
Safari—An Adventure
with God"

Beyond the Birth

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

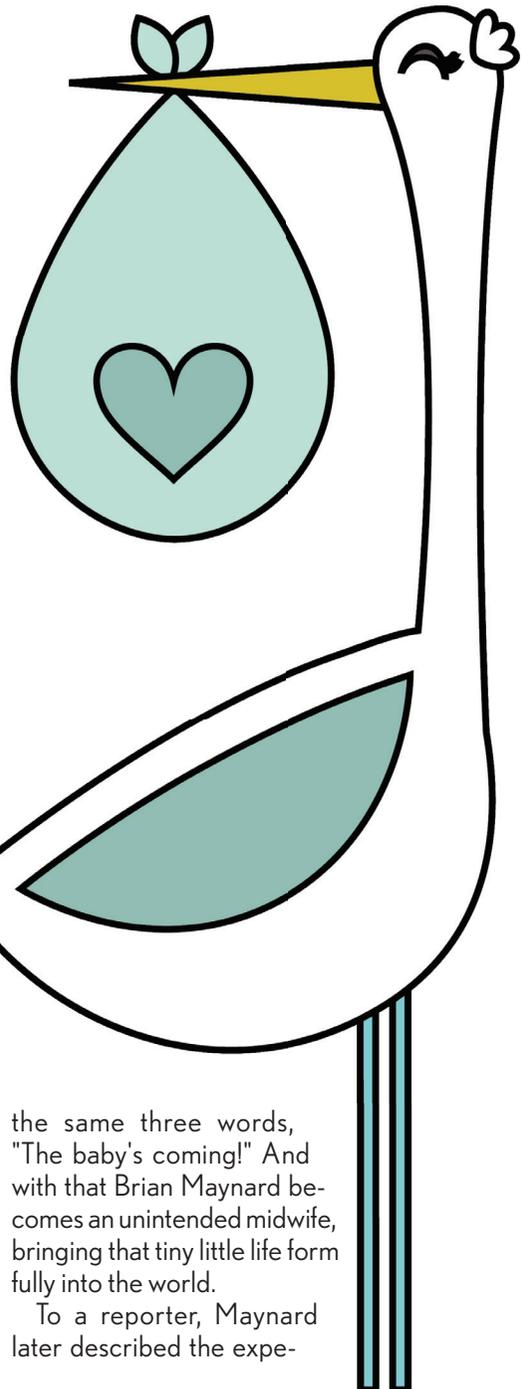
"The baby's coming!" Since time immemorial those three words have sounded a universal red alert for families.

Take Jimmy and Laura Baker in Raleigh, North Carolina. Laura was great with child, but she's been that way it seems for weeks. Until late Saturday afternoon when Laura groans, "The baby's coming." Red alert! Bundling her into his arms and the family van, husband Jimmy floorboards the engine, screeching out the driveway toward the hospital.

That's when, according to WRAL-TV, State Highway Patrol Sgt. Brian Maynard happened to clock the speeding van on his radar—85 mph. Maynard goes on red alert, his blue lights blazing.

But in the van nobody is looking for blue lights, because while the young mother is gasping the baby arrives. Well not quite—there are a few centimeters left to go. Husband Jimmy stomps on the accelerator. That's when he sees the blue lights of the state trooper. Panicky but obedient, he pulls the van with mother and almost-here baby to the side of the road.

Trooper Maynard walks cautiously up to the car. The young husband yells out



the same three words, "The baby's coming!" And with that Brian Maynard becomes an unintended midwife, bringing that tiny little life form fully into the world.

To a reporter, Maynard later described the expe-

rience as both "scary" and "rewarding." Last reports indicate mother Laura and newborn Halyn are both doing well (www.apnews.com/4cdadaa2cb2f4d-5cb222ee8e6007f022).

When a birthing takes place, life heretofore may have perambulated along—but no more! Priorities radically change, values dramatically realign.

Last Sabbath we were blessed to have our guest preacher Pavel Goia (editor, *Ministry* magazine) cast a new vision for collective prayer. And at the end of his fourth presentation (to a nearly full house at Pioneer in the afternoon), we knew something had been birthed in our midst. And I realized, as did the rest of us, that we must respond. You can't just listen to those stirring appeals, those dramatic stories and do nothing! (All three Pioneer presentations are at www.pmchurch.org/prayerconference.)

Pavel's powerfully reiterated point—persistent, prevailing prayer ("don't quit praying so soon!") is the path not only to a deepening relationship with God but a door as well to His supernatural interventions in response to such praying. If you do nothing else, listen to the stories Pavel tells in all three online presentations (we have yet to upload his 10:30 AM sermon at the Spanish church). Whatever you do, don't miss the story he told in his first service sermon about Cuba and a team of American doctors who went there to conduct evangelistic series. That one story makes Pavel's reiterated point powerfully.

But we in this campus parish need to respond further. And so, as announced Sabbath afternoon, Pioneer members are invited to join the Village Church in their 10 Days of Prayer that begins 6:30 this

evening (January 9)—the first 30 minutes will be for prayer and Bible reading, the last 30 minutes will be a health presentation. But the Pioneer pastors believe there is a further response to this new birthing that we at Pioneer need. And so beginning today (January 9) at our House of Prayer (7AM/7PM) services, we are organizing our "prayer force" into prayer units that will band together for specific deep needs we have. (HOP will begin at 7:10 PM today and next week to accommodate being at the Village for their 30 minute prayer time.)

Gary Burns once shared with me this acrostic—D-U-E—the 3 keys to transformational revival: D-esperation; U-rgency; E-xpectancy. Every story Pavel told modeled these three realities—the people were desperate for God to intervene, their need was urgent, and they fully expected that God could do whatever He wanted. (Don't miss that Cuba story in Pavel's first service sermon!)

What are you desperate for God to do in your life this New Year? What are we desperate for God to do in our lives, in our congregation, in our nation, in our world? Are we desperate enough to prevail in prayer, to persist in praying until God does respond? Are we urgent enough? Do we really believe and expect God to act?

Join us at our winter House of Prayer (every Wednesday at 7:00 AM/PM) here at Pioneer. God has birthed a new vision of persistent, prevailing prayer for us. Now that the baby has arrived, see how quickly and radically this Family acts to accommodate God's vital life changes! ■



THE FOURTH WATCH BLOGS ARE FOUND ONLINE
AT WWW.PMCHURCH.ORG/BLOG

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing • Gilbert Martin*

Introit *Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus • Helen Lemmel*

Call to Worship Rodlie Ortiz

Arise, shine, for your light has come;

And the glory of the Lord has risen upon us.

I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.

Whoever follows Jesus will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

Let us praise the name of the Lord.

Doxology *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2*

Invocation Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise *O Thou in Whose Presence My Soul Takes Delight • 36*

Congregational Prayer Rodlie Ortiz
Spirit of the Living God • 672

Worship in Music *Be Thou My Vision • Traditional Irish / Lorian Guillaume*

GROW Groups

Children's Story *Moderato / Softly and Tenderly
Christian Finck / William Thompson*

Scripture Revelation 1:1-3, 3:14 NIV • Heidi Davis and Justin Lee

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place.

He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

"To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation."

Hymn of Preparation

Wonderful Words of Life • 286

Sermon

"The Last Letter: Read It Again for the First Time"
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

Michigan Advance Partners

Hymn of Commitment

Draw Me Nearer • 306

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High • David Johnson

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Linda Sánchez, mezzo-soprano

MUSIC ALIVE

"HOW DEEP, BROAD, HIGH"

"Elegant" doesn't fully describe this musical score: The musical staves are written in red with elaborated initial letters of various texts in red and blue! And the score is made of thin leather in a roll six feet eight inches long and seven inches wide! Yes, this is a manuscript source for the melody sometimes sung today to the words "O Love, How Deep, How Broad,

How High." Several stanzas of the latter text are found in *SDA Hymnal* No. 148. However, another melody, *AGINCOURT HYMN*, not found in the hymnal, is the one scored so elegantly and dating from the first quarter of the fifteenth century. American David Johnson has majestically arranged this ancient melody, as heard in today's Closing Voluntary. ■

*Andrews Academy
SOW Safari—An
Adventure with God*

RENOVATE
heart & house

BY STEVEN ATKINS

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

While most families in Berrien County woke up early Christmas morning to open gifts and celebrate, sixty-three Andrews Academy students and sponsors woke up very early to begin an "Adventure with God." After gathering in the Academy for a departing prayer, they traveled to Chicago O'Hare airport to embark on what would be the trip of a lifetime. Andrews Academy's SOW Safari group was taking its mission trip to Cuba. Some of the young people going on the trip had never been out of the country, and for some, it was the first time to even be on an airplane. But with bags packed, hugs from parents, and lots of prayers, these high-school students embarked on their adventure with God. After traveling most of Christmas Day, they arrived at Havana airport to be greeted by Cuban church members who had a meal prepared for them outside the airport.

SOW Safari, Andrews Academy's biennial two-week mission trip, has been an important part of Andrews Academy's mission since 1986. The name, SOW Safari, speaks to the reason for these trips: **S**ervice through the construction of a church or school building, **O**utreach through Vacation Bible School, and **W**itness through evangelistic efforts. To date, several hundred people have been baptized through the evangelistic component of these trips, including some of the students themselves!

What an amazing opportunity these participants had in Cuba. If you reflect back a few decades, who would have thought that a church school group of students from the USA would be participating in a mission trip to Cuba! God has opened many doors. The SOW Safari group was working at three different sites. One site was at the conference office in the city center where they were building a kitchen and cafeteria facility. Another group was helping construct some buildings at Cuba's first SDA youth camp where land was recently acquired. The third group was building a home church building at one of the church member's home. Church members have been meeting in someone's home, and the church had outgrown the home. They cannot build a church on property owned by the church, however, they are able to build a building in the backyard of the privately owned land. Andrews Academy students helped build the two-story structure which will be a place of worship for this growing congregation.

Students have been working incredibly hard, and SOW sponsors are so proud of them because they did it with a smile on their face and a hungry spirit to serve. They had discovered so much already! Within two days of working at the conference office site, they dug the ground, prepared the rebar reinforcements, and poured the concrete for the footings. Students were encouraged to place their



names in the setting concrete.

These young people put on both an evangelistic series for the adults and conducted VBS for the children. As some students summoned up the courage to tell Bible stories for the first time for groups of children, others preached their first-ever sermon. Vacation Bible School programs include singing, Bible stories, crafts and playing games with the children. The supplies for the VBS program were created by the students this past semester and were left with the children there so that they can continue to participate in the VBS experience.

The people there are incredibly warm and hospitable, and the SOW participants

had an amazing experience there. God blessed during this trip. Thank Him for the life-changing experiences of this trip not only on the children in Cuba but also in the changed lives of those who served.

Pioneer has defined the discipleship journey with 4 words; Connect, Grow, Serve, and Go. Here, Andrews Academy took students who have grown up under our roof and stepped into the next phase of discipleship. These students have a clear picture of what it means to GO! So as we think through all of the elements of discipleship that happen under the roof, let us not forget that we are working toward a goal, GO!

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service

Vladimir Slavujevic

Welcome & Scripture

Qaisar Ayaz

Scripture

Revelation 1:12-13, 17-18 • Zoey Caballero

Mission Spotlight

"Sharing Faith in Taiwan" • Wol Bol Wol

Offering

Lesson Study

"Among the Lampstands"

Theme Song

Make Me a Blessing

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

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

WE WORSHIP 2

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation."
—Revelation 1:1-3, 3:14 NIV

We Begin

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
Gilbert Martin

Praises

You're Worthy of My Praise
Jesus Loves Me
Blessed Assurance
He Will Carry You

Prayer

Rodlie Ortiz

GROW Groups

Children's Story

Moderato / Softly and Tenderly
Christian Finck / William Thompson

Worship in Music

Be Thou My Vision
Traditional Irish / Lorian Guillaume

Sermon

"The Last Letter: Read It Again for the First Time"
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

Draw Me Nearer
306

As We Depart

O Love, How Deep, How Broad,
How High
David Johnson

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan
PRAISE LEADER: Rob Folkenberg; CAJON: Marielle Kahler; PIANO: Joshua Goines
VOCALS: Randy Folkenberg, Chad Angasan, Seth Bussey
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Linda Sánchez, mezzo-soprano

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 • 5:35
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:43

PIONEER PULPIT

| 01 • 19 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"The Last Letter: Vomit (Last Letter for Adventists)"

| 01 • 26 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"The Last Letter: Wretched (Last Letter for America)"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

MICHIGAN ADVANCE PARTNERS

Today our offering goes to support MAP, Michigan Advance Partners. It's Pioneer Memorial's opportunity to look beyond itself and help the greater church family here in the State of Michigan. By working together, supporting Christian education, evangelistic initiatives and youth outreach at Camp Au Sable, we are able to share the good news in our local state communities. Why not make a decision today to become a Michigan Advance Partner by committing to systematic support of this important offering?

PMC Family Vespers

5:00 PM

PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

Vespers this evening will be a program of testimonies and prayer.

We Mourn

- On Tuesday evening, January 8, Charles (Knobby) Mauro passed into the sleep of death. He was a long-time and much-loved member of this community and Pioneer. There will be a Memorial Service, Sabbath afternoon, February 2. With his wife, Pat, and children Steve (Mary) Mauro and Nancy (Greg) Gerard and their children we pray for the Lord's comfort to surround this family with His love.

- Robert Butts, a long-time member at Pioneer and of this community, died this past Monday, January 7. He was 87. There will be a Memorial Service on Thursday, January 17, at 4:00 PM in the Youth Chapel. With his many friends we long for Jesus' triumphant return.

- We grieve today with Beverly Matiko on the death of her father, Kenneth Matiko. He died on December 30, 2018. The service took place on January 4, 2019 in St. Catharines, Ontario. With Beverly and her family we pray, "Come soon, Lord Jesus."

- Ruth Merkel died on Tuesday, January 8, in Ooltewah, TN. She was the efficient and much-appreciated secretary of four Andrews University presidents. Family members including her husband, L. Eu-

gene (Gene) Merkel, and two daughters, Elaine Hotelling and Marcia Irwin, survive her. A funeral service will be on Friday, January 11, at the Chattanooga Funeral Home, Valley View Chapel in Chattanooga, TN, at 12:30 pm. You may share your thoughts and memories online at www.ChattanoogaValleyViewChapel.com. With the entire Merkel, Castelbuono, Hotelling and Vitrano families we long for Jesus' triumphant return. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

2018 Contribution Statements

In just a few weeks the 2018 Contribution Statements will be printed and mailed out to you. Please make sure Pioneer has your current address; for the contribution statements and also for any future mailings from Pioneer!

Resolve to Be Healthier This New Year!

PMC Health Ministries offers free co-ed exercise classes for anyone 18+ years old:

ToBoFit (Total Body Fitness)

Tuesday & Thursday • 5:00-5:50 PM

Lamson Hall Health Club Aerobics Room
H2OFit

Monday & Wednesday • 7:30-8:15 AM

AU Beauty Pool (free admission to class members)

Tai Chi

Wednesday • 4:30-5:00 PM

James White Library (begins mid-Jan.)

Check www.healthTent.org for updates.

Adventist Forum Meeting

JANUARY 12 • 3:00 PM

CHAN SHUN HALL

Dr. Brian Strayer, A.U. Professor of History Emeritus, will present "Seeing Themselves as Others Saw Them: Battle Creek Adventists in the Public Eye, 1855-1890." All are invited to join us and learn more about this interesting church history.

Media Team Volunteers

The Pioneer Media Team is looking for new audio and video technicians for its local media ministry. If you want to use your talents to have a positive impact on the world through digital evangelism and learn new things while sharpening your technical skills, email mediateam@pm-church.org. Volunteer teams rotate every 3rd Sabbath and are asked to volunteer for both services on their scheduled Sabbath.

Dorothy Candy Bradford

Dorothy Candy Bradford, a member of this community for over 50 years, is gravely ill and in Hospice care. After a visit in North Carolina from her daughter Sharon Candy Aka, she and Bill went to Arkansas for Christmas with his daughter, Janelle Bradford Smiley, where a fall exacerbated and precipitated several health issues. Her oldest son, and husband Bill, and Janelle are all with her. Contact information: Circle of Life Hospice, 901 Jones Road, Springdale, Arkansas, 72762; phone 479.750.6632.

Jesus and Politics

JANUARY 12 • 4:00 PM

Join us for "Jesus and Politics: Civic Lessons from the Sermons on the Mount" at the Newbold Auditorium in Buller Hall. Our guests include main speaker, Dr. Timothy Golden, Philosophy professor and director of legal studies at Walla Walla University, as well as panelists including Seminary professor and author Nicholas Miller, the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty directors from the MI Conf. (Laura Im) and the Lake Region Conf. (Edward Woods III), the founder of SW MI Human Trafficking Task force (Cathy Knauft), the director of Community Engagement Integration & Service for Andrews University (Carlisle Sutton), and a representative from Bethany House.

Finding True North: The Cartography of Faith

JANUARY 12 • 7:30-9:30 PM

WHIRLPOOL ROOM

An Interactive Symposium Adventure: Moving forward without knowing where you're going! Food, fun, fresh ideas! \$10 donation. Dress: smart casual, black and gold. Please RSVP to TimEtta Wilson at 601.937.3866.

RMES Multicultural Food Fair

JANUARY 13 • 12:00-3:00 PM

RMES GYM

Authentic food and performances from all over the world! Come join us for delicious and low cost food!

Swim N Gym

JANUARY 19 • 7:00-9:00 PM

Come and join your church family for some fun playing games in Johnson Gym and swimming in the Beatty Pool. Children under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

Ways to Help Children and Youth in Benton Harbor

Pray for the children, youth, their parents, teachers, and the leaders in the Sabbath School classes.

2) Order Rada Cutlery and Gifts—Affordable and durable. Proceeds go directly to Harbor of Hope. www.radafundraising.com/?rfsn=1862551.e0e1d5

3) Order Citrus Fruit for yourself and/or a food pantry like Harbor of Hope, Neighbor to Neighbor, or God's Abundant Pantry. Just make a note of where you want it to go on your check memo line. Order it by mid-January--Proceeds also go to Harbor of Hope.

4) To help and support children and youth of Harbor of Hope contact: Terry Trecar-

tin at fundraising4hoh@gmail.com or 423.645.5684, 2601 Pixley Ave., Saint Joseph, MI 49085.

Backpacks for Berrien Collection

Each month one of the various denominational churches in Berrien Springs collects food to be distributed on Fridays by Backpacks for Berrien to Berrien Springs public school students who otherwise may not have much to eat over the weekend. January is PMC's month. The food must be packaged in individual serving sizes. No cans or bottles. By the types of food we select to donate, we can even make a health statement. Here are the healthful items on the Backpacks' food list: fruit cups, pasta, rice, beans, nuts, protein bars. Food can be brought to the church and placed in the collection box in the lobby.

Grief Share Support Group

Grief Share, a support group for those who are hurting or suffering the loss of a loved one, is available in January. The group meets at the Village Church on Sundays from 4:00-6:00 PM. Contact Shirley Gammon at 989.427.5669 for more information or to register for the first session.

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THE LAST
Letter



WINTER 2019 WORSHIP CALENDAR

01/05

PAVEL GOIA
PRAYING THROUGH
THE FINAL CONFLICT

01/12

"THE LAST LETTER:
READ IT AGAIN FOR
THE FIRST TIME" *

01/19

"THE LAST LETTER:
VOMIT (LAST LETTER
FOR ADVENTISTS)" *

01/26

"THE LAST LETTER:
WRETCHED
(LAST LETTER
FOR AMERICA)" *

02/02

GINA CORDER
AUSA

02/09

"THE LAST LETTER:
READING BETWEEN
THE LINES" *

02/16

"THE LAST LETTER:
'HAPPY BIRTHDAY,
PIONEER--DID YOU
GET MY LETTER?'" *

02/23

PATHFINDER SABBATH

03/02

"THE LAST LETTER:
HOME ALONE 19" *

03/09

TY GIBSON
RISE UP

03/16

"THE LAST LETTER:
CAN YOU HEAR ME
NOW?" *

03/23

"THE LAST LETTER:
GAME OF THRONES/
CROWN OF THORNS" *