

PIONEER CONNECT

DECEMBER 12, 2015



WELCOME, ALL HYPOCRITES

I've heard this phrase and I'm sure you have too—usually with an air of disdain: "I'd come to church, but it's full of hypocrites." If we're honest with ourselves, we'll realize that the second part is absolutely true. It is full of hypocrites. But I'd like to suggest that we are to praise God for that. After all, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick" (Luke 5:31). So if we're doing our job right, the church will always be full of them. Hallelujah!

That's where they need to be. And can we expand that circle a little more? The church is where all sinners must be. I fail. I falter. I fall. You do, too. We all need to be there. Just look at us then. This bruised group of rag-tag misfits. Punks. Rebels. Sinners we are, joined together by that One hope called Jesus, who came to redeem and heal all of us sick people. So don't you dare move. Have a seat. All sinners and hypocrites are welcome here. —Rodlie Ortiz

DOG THERAPY

*Students enjoyed playing with and petting dogs of all shapes and sizes during the Dog Therapy event hosted at PMC.
(Photo credit: Jonathan LaPointe)*



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**SABBATH SCHOOL
DIRECTORY**

WHY I HAVEN'T LEFT THE CHURCH

BY RICHARD PARKE

I hear a lot of people saying these days, "Why are our young people leaving the church?" We form committees to discuss the *why* for days, weeks and sometimes longer. At the conclusion, we often end up with some kind of "revival" event targeted at retaining the youth in our congregations, but I don't see a lot of results.

What we fail to realize is something noted by John R.W. Stott in his book, *Basic Christianity*. John says young people have "rejected the contemporary church, not Jesus Christ himself." John's belief is that young people "see a contradiction between the founder of Christianity and the current state of the church he founded."

We're specifically talking about those who may have grown up in the church, or at least believe the teachings of Christ, but are rejecting the church as an organization for one reason or another. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 12 that the church represents the "body of Christ," so we can't really have one without the other. If we believe we are members of that body and Christ is love, then shouldn't Christ be our primary focus and love be the rule? It is Christ's love that constrains us and His

kindness that leads us to repentance.

If young people are attracted by the love of Christ but don't see it represented in our churches, it's no wonder we question the relevance of the church. I hear time and time again of people who don't go to church anymore not because of the style of worship service or the songs sung, but because of some situation they experienced that left a bad taste in their mouth.

So, why haven't I left the church yet? Yes, I, too, have been through situations

that others may have considered reason enough to completely reject the church. I realize though, the church is made up of sinners just like me but created in the image of our Father, which gives me hope. Though we make mistakes as the body of Christ, I know there's no

place better than where I am now and I am actively engaged in the church's mission.

I am suggesting, however, that we take another look at the guidance of Galatians 6:1-10 where we are encouraged to bear one another's burdens in an atmosphere of transparency and accountability with a passion for doing good—to encourage one another. Remember, we are all fighting a common enemy here, and the enemy is not flesh and blood. I think some-

I HEAR A LOT OF PEOPLE SAYING THESE DAYS, "WHY ARE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING THE CHURCH?"



times we forget we win this war when we love—myself included.

So may I suggest that the question should not be, "Why are our young people leaving the church?" but rather, "How can I better show the love of Jesus Christ in my daily life to those I meet?" (1 John 3:11-24; 4:7-21 is a good place to start; it has helped me.)

So let our "revivals" be daily, personal

revivals as we strive to show those around us, young or old, the love of Jesus Christ! They will know we are Christians by our love! ■

Richard Parke is the incoming media director here at PMC.



A GIFT THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME

BY ROBERT OVERSTREET

It was November 1, 1980, the day I chose to get baptized. I have vivid memories of my teacher, Mrs. McDonald, reading the Story Hour book of Jesus' baptism, and I wanted to be baptized just like Him. I had just completed my Bible study guide and lessons. I was determined to be baptized in the river, regardless of how cold it was, so that I could be baptized just like Jesus. I had so much admiration for Mrs. McDonald, my SDA church school teacher and her husband Pastor McDonald. I saw them as godly people who had a tremendous influence in my early years, one that would lay the foundation for my later years of service to God.

Throughout my adolescence, I was enrolled in both SDA and public schools. Much of where I attended school had to do with whether the local church could help my family's financial need for my brothers and myself to enroll in the local SDA school. Needless to say, I spent many years of my young life in public school, and the influence of these schools wasn't always positive. By the time I reached high school, I had been exposed to both alcohol and drugs and had witnessed many instances of violence. I quickly learned to distrust anyone with authority and walked around with a chip on my shoulder to shield and to protect my inner self. By my early teenage years, I felt as if my life was heading in a downward spiral of gloom. Through what I view as a miracle, at the beginning of my 9th-grade year, I found myself unpacking my boxes as a student

at Georgia Cumberland Academy. It was there that my life was changed. It was at GCA that I interacted with teachers such as Leclare Litchfield and Wally Fox who loved me in spite of my anger, disrespect, and my cold heart. It was there where I saw people like Barbara Livesay take my brother under her wings and serve as a mentor to him, demonstrating God's love in action. I was also privileged to see many other students' lives changed while attending our SDA school because our school was filled with godly teachers, each striving to demonstrate God's love and kindness on a daily basis.

It goes without saying that I am where I am today because of the difference Adventist Education played in my life. I strongly believe in Adventist Education being a tool in raising our young people up as righteous men and women. I am reminded of what Mrs. White declares: "Children are to be trained to become workers for God. Both parents and teachers, by precept and example, are so to instill the principles of truth and honesty into the minds and hearts of the young, that they will become men and women who are as true as steel to God and His cause" (*Child Guidance*, pg. 314). ■

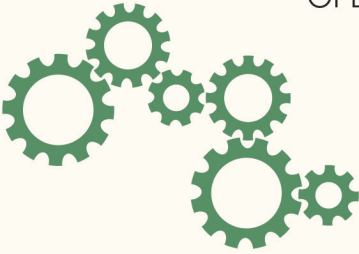
Robert Overstreet teaches at a Community College in Dalton, Georgia.

pioneer memorial church
FAMILY FINANCES

As of November 30, 2015

Includes November online giving

OPERATING FUND



LINE 2 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

GOAL TO-DATE	563,088
RECEIVED TO-DATE	515,956
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2014	505,374

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LINE 3 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

GOAL TO-DATE	195,408
RECEIVED TO-DATE	178,305
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2014	169,657



MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM



LINE 5 IN YOUR TITHE ENVELOPE

GOAL TO-DATE	129,024
RECEIVED TO-DATE	87,663
RECEIVED TO-DATE 2014	95,742

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service	Vladimir Slavujevic
Opening Hymn	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> • 142
Welcome & Prayer	Philip Giddings III
Scripture	Psalm 29:1, 2 NKJV • Einra Baker
Special Feature	Great Is Our God! • A Special Report
Offertory	
Bible Study	“The Covenant” • 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
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction	Vladimir Slavujevic
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ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

See page 18/19 for Sabbath School directory & map

WE WORSHIP

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Opening Voluntary *Ring in the Joy • James Swearingen*

Introit *Angels We Have Heard on High • James Curnow*

Call to Worship *Helping Hand Class*

Welcome *Kemmoree & Maya Duncombe*

Carols of the Season *O Come, All Ye Faithful • 132*
Silent Night • 143
Away in a Manger • 124
Go, Tell It on the Mountain • 121
Joy to the World • 125

Family Prayer **The Maldonado Family; **The Peters Family*
Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne • st. 1 of 140

Responsive Reading *Builders Class*

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:

**To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
who is the Messiah, the Lord.**

This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands
of cloth and lying in a manger."

Call for Gifts, Tithes & Offerings *Adventist Community Services*
Rodlie & Jonathan Ortiz

Offertory *Away in a Manger • Ruth Elaine Schram*

Children's Story **Slavujevic Family (Helping Hands);*
***Orellona Family (Busy Bee)*

****Baptism** *Loan Hong Dinh with Rodlie Ortiz*

Worship in Music *The Three O's of Christmas • Elena Roussanova Lucas*

Skit "In As Much" • (Scene 1) Vladimir, Branka, Marina, and Ana Slavujevic
(Scene 2) Kerantha & Nathan Grant

Sermon "Manger? #youcallthisabirthplan" • Ben Martin

Carol of Commitment *O Little Town Of Bethlehem* • 135

Benediction

Closing Voluntary *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* • Gordon Young

PRESIDING PASTOR: Rodlie Ortiz; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: RMES Band; Byron Graves, director
Ruth Murdoch Elementary School Strings; Héctor Flores, director

MUSIC ALIVE

"O LITTLE TOWN"

The author of the words of "O Little Town of Bethlehem," Phillips Brooks, wrote in 1865, ". . . we took our horses and rode [about two hours] to Bethlehem[,] . . . situated on an eastern ridge of a range of hills, surrounded by its terraced gardens. It is a good-looking town. . . . Before dark, we rode out of town to the field where they say the shepherds saw the star." This experience

backgrounded his writing. The melody's composer, Lewis Redner, wrote, "The simple music was written in great haste and under great pressure. . . . I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it. . ." ■

SUBMIT announcements by emailing bulletin@pmchurch.org or by going to www.pmchurch.org/announcements/submit. Requests must be received **Monday by 5:00 PM** for consideration.

NEXT WEEK'S OFFERING
Michigan Advance Partners

SUNSET TODAY • 5:14
SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY • 5:15

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 19 |

JOSÉ BOURGET

"Living Large: A 'One Size Fits All' Prosperity Gospel"
Annual Christmas Celebration/
Breakfast in Church

| 12 • 26 |

BEN MARTIN

FINANCIAL FEATURE

ADVENTIST COMMUNITY SERVICES

It is said that when Jesus returns there will be two classes of people before Him, and their eternal destiny will be determined by what they have done, or neglected to do for Him, in the person of the poor and the suffering. Today's offering for Adventist Community Services provides you with opportunities to serve communities in Christ's name. Volunteers provide support and assistance in disaster relief ministries, elder care, crisis care, urban ministries, tutoring, and mentoring. Your financial gifts allow you to follow Christ's example of ministering to the poor and the suffering.

Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM
PMC YOUTH CHAPEL

This evening we will watch and discuss "Unlocking the Mystery of Life, Evidence of Our Creator's Power."

Register Your GROW Group for Spring 2016

It's time to sign up your 8-, 10-, and 12-week GROW Group at www.pmchurch.org/grow. Have an idea for a GROW Group you'd like to lead between February 1 and April 24, 2016? It's not too early to begin inviting and praying for people who will want to join you. Let's GROW together.

Christmas Pops Concert

TODAY • 7:00 PM
HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Join us as we bring in the holidays with a variety of well-known Christmas songs and holiday favorites performed by the Andrews Academy band, handbell ensemble, strings, and choirs.

Scrapbooking Together

TOMORROW • 1:00 TO 5:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

Finish your Christmas cards or projects. Bring your favorite snack and we will provide the chocolate and prizes.

Handel's Messiah Sing Along

TOMORROW • 4:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

Pioneer Memorial Church and WAUS are jointly hosting a glorious celebration with a Sing-along performance of Handel's Messiah. This event will be an exciting time to invite your family and friends, dust off your singing skills, or simply enjoy listening.

- Area choirs invited.
- Anchored by PMC Sanctuary Choir.
- Renowned soloists: Charles Reid, Julie Karpenko Reid, Stephen Zork, Carrie VanDenburgh.
- Kenneth Logan, organ.
- Jeannie Pedersen-Smith, conductor.

RMES Christmas Cantata

DECEMBER 14 • 7:00 PM

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Come hear the Ruth Murdoch choirs perform music of the season! Students in grades K-5 will present John Purifoy's Christmas musical *Around the World It's Christmas*, as well as other holiday selections by the Ruth Murdoch 6th-grade singers.

PMC Exercise Class

We are taking a break for the AU Christmas break. Please join us when we resume on Tuesday, January 5, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the Commons.

Christmas Eve at PMC

DECEMBER 24 • 6:30 TO 8:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

We invite you to attend a special Christmas program honoring Christ's first advent here at PMC.

RMES Instrumental Concert

DECEMBER 15 • 7:00 PM

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Join us as the RMES Beginning Band, Concert Band, Chimes Choir, Bell Choir, and String Orchestra present their annual Christmas concert!

Breakfast in Church

DECEMBER 19 • 9:00 AM
PMC COMMONS

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. If you would like to help serve, please call 269.471.3134.

Year-end Contributions

December 26 is the last Sabbath to return your tithe and offerings for 2015. If you plan to bring in a donation, our office is closed December 30 and 31. Your donation needs to be postmarked no later than December 31 to be included in your 2015 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 2015 tax-deductible receipt.

Health & Wellness Transformation Scholarship

An AU Health & Wellness Transformation Scholarship is available for one student for Spring 2016. For details see: www.andrews.edu/wellness/wellness-transformation-scholarship.html. Applications are due to wellness@andrews.edu by December 25.

Adopt A Family for Christmas

It's that time again when you have the opportunity to help families who need help with meeting the needs (and some pleasures) of their children at Christmas time. To get involved please call Katherine Smith at 269.471.1502.

Church Christmas Dinner

If you would like to bring a dish to share and eat Christmas dinner with church family members rather than eat alone, please email dudley@andrews.edu or call 269.471.4308 by December 21.

10 Days of Prayer

JANUARY 1-10 • 6:45 PM
4731 GREENFIELD DRIVE

Please join us at John and Millie Youngberg's home for 10 days of prayer beginning January 1, 2016. "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" (2 Chronicles 7:14). [Supported by the PMC Prayer Ministry]

Thank You

I would like to thank my PMC family for all the prayers offered on my behalf as I recover from a broken hip. Also a big thank-you for the beautiful plant, the cards, emails, visits, food, transportation and flowers. You are a wonderful, caring church and God is so good.
-Virginia Crouse

Thank you for the prayers for my son, James Tamrat, during his military service. Continued prayers are requested as he starts the next phase of his life. -Letty

Health & Wellness Fest

JANUARY 12 & 13

AU Health & Wellness is proud to present the first 'Health & Wellness Fest' to celebrate the power of wellness to transform, change and save lives! Join us in the many fun, engaging and educational opportunities to start the new year off well! READY. SET. GO. 2016.—LIVE WHOLLY! For a detailed schedule of all events throughout this fest or to register, check <http://bit.ly/1lsqtj>. Have questions? Email wellness@andrews.edu.

Honduras Mission Trip

The PMC Youth Missions team is currently serving in Honduras. The 45-member team is partnering with REACH Honduras to conduct a day camp for 175 children. Additionally, students and team members from the Departments of Nursing and Medical Laboratory Sciences are volunteering at the local hospital as well as providing health screening for those in need. Your prayers and support are requested. Donations can be made to "PMC Youth Missions." For more information contact Glenn Russell (glenn@andrews.edu).

We Mourn

Today we mourn with Sue Merkel on the death of her husband, Dave, on Tuesday, December 1. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, January 10, in the PMC Youth Chapel. With Sue and her family, we look forward to the soon coming of the One whose birth we celebrate. "Even so, Come Lord Jesus."

Nominating Committee

FIRST READING

Elders: Celesta Burt, Michael Wahlen



GOD'S MINISTRIES

"Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men"
(Colossians 3:23)

BY REBECCA COLEMAN

Every week in this section you read a short article about one of PMC's ministries or departments. These articles keep you up to date on the many aspects of the ministry here at PMC. Ministry leaders here at PMC are selfless individuals who feel the call of God to be used by Him in some way. From Sabbath school leaders to Traffic Ministry, individuals take time out of their busy weekly schedules to minister to members at PMC.

Not only do they actively volunteer, but they also take the time to write tasteful little articles that keep members of PMC informed. I would like to actively thank all of the ministry and department leaders who have been a part of the bulletin ministry. The church is a body and every part works together for the advancement of His work.

If you know someone who is a ministry leader here at PMC, take the time out to pray for him or her that God blesses their talents. If you happen to see them, bless them with a kind and encouraging word. Our ministries, including the bulletin, are all ways in which God is spreading His love here at PMC. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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www.pmchurch.org/getinvolved

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Vida Giddings • 473.2175
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Elders

Russell & Cynthia Burrill • 473.3738
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GROW Groups

growgroups@pmchurch.org

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Pathfinders

Matthew Johnson • 240.755.2661
evergreenpathfinders@gmail.com

Public Address

Joel Kitchen • audio@pmchurch.org

Sanctuary Choir

Jeannie Pedersen-Smith
269.277.0488
jean.pedersen.smith@gmail.com

| SABBATH SCHOOL |

Adult

Judy Aitken • 240.7997
adultss@pmchurch.org

Birth - Grade 1

Claudia Davisson • 269.208.7081
bg1@pmchurch.org

Grade 2 - Earliteen

Robert Barnhurst • 473.1613
g2teen@pmchurch.org

| OUR SCHOOLS |

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leiterma@andrews.edu

Andrews University

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enroll@andrews.edu

Ruth Murdoch / K-8

Evelyn Savory • 471.3225
esavory@andrews.edu



PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH

8655 UNIVERSITY BOULEVARD, BERRIEN SPRINGS, MI 49103

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Thursday (8 to 5) • Friday (8 to 12)

PHONE – 269.471.3133

FAX – 269.471.6152

LIVE STREAMING

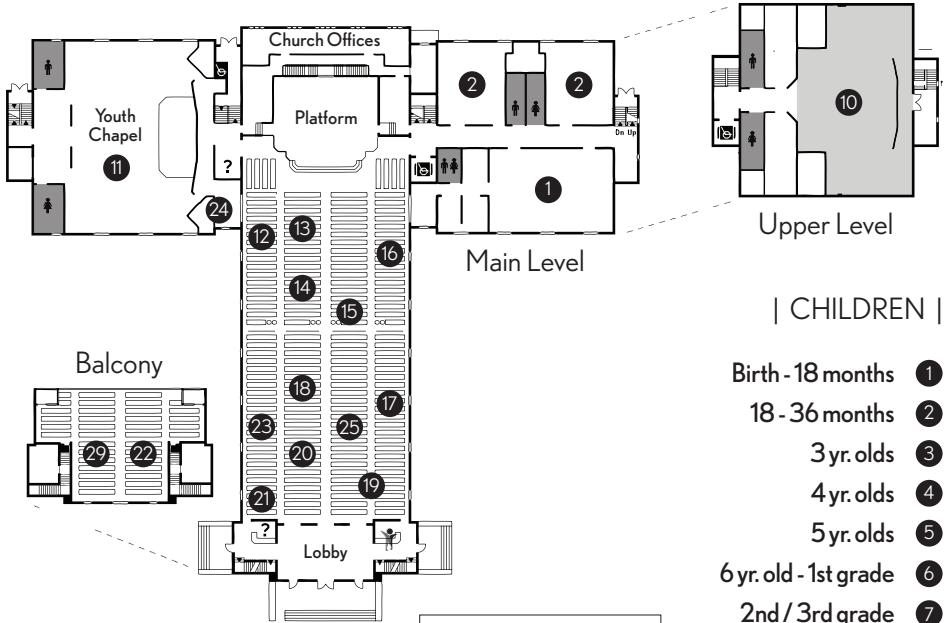
www.pmchurch.tv
Sabbath 11:45 AM

ONLINE

www.pmchurch.org
www.pmchurch.tv

RADIO

WAUS – 90.7 FM
Sabbath 11:30 AM



| CHILDREN |

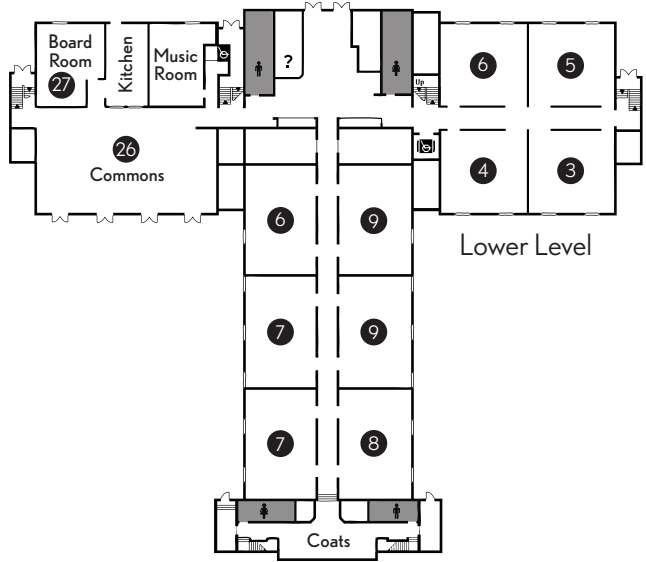
- Birth - 18 months ①
- 18 - 36 months ②
- 3 yr. olds ③
- 4 yr. olds ④
- 5 yr. olds ⑤
- 6 yr. old - 1st grade ⑥
- 2nd / 3rd grade ⑦
- 4th grade ⑧
- 5th / 6th grade ⑨
- Earliteen ⑩
- Youth ⑪

| ADULT |

- ⑫ Group 1
- ⑬ Group 2 (Portuguese/Brazilian)
- ⑭ Group 3
- ⑮ Group 4 (Yugoslavian)
- ⑯ Group 5
- ⑰ Group 6
- ⑱ Group 7
- ⑲ Group 8
- ⑳ Group 9 (Spanish)
- ㉑ Group 10
- ㉒ Group 11 (Balcony)
- ㉓ Group 12 (French)
- ㉔ Conference Room
- ㉕ Indonesian Class
- ㉖ Something In Common
- ㉗ SDA Beliefs

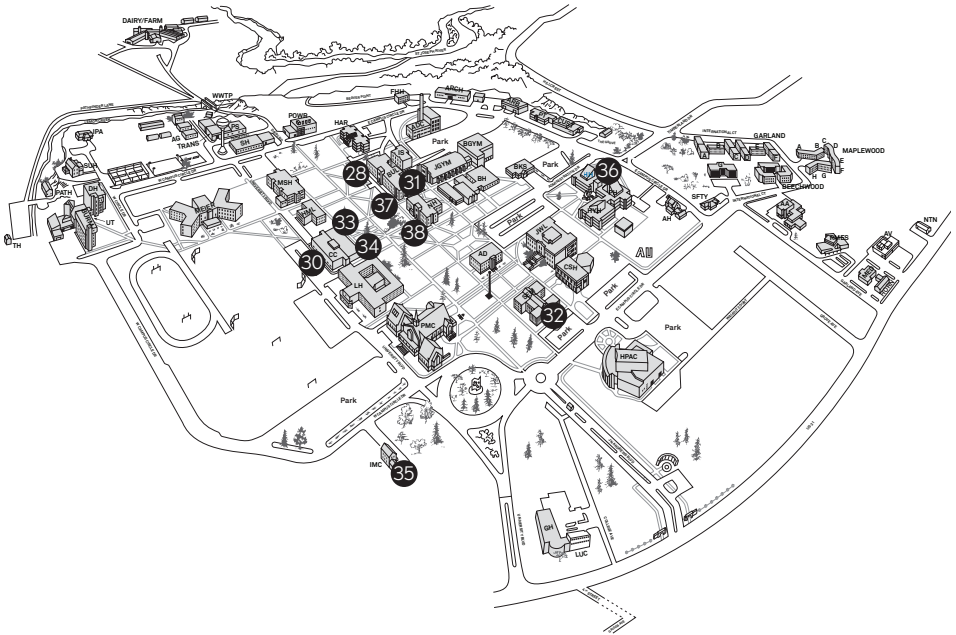
| KEY |

- ? Welcome Centers
- ⬇ Elevators
- ♿ Restrooms
- 👤 Children's Activities & Lending Library



Lower Level

Andrews University Campus Map



| COLLEGIATE |

- 28 H&M (Hispanic - Religion Amphitheater)
- 29 People on the Move (PMC)
- 30 University Sabbath School (Dining Services)
- 31 Compass Sabbath School (Buller - Religion Dept.)

| SEMINARY |

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

| ADULT @ AU |

- 33 Main Lounge
- 34 Faculty Lounge
- 35 Back to Basics
- 36 Living Word Fellowship
- 37 Current Events (Buller - 135)
- 38 Bible Journey (Nethery - 143)

Christmas Breakfast

IN CHURCH



DECEMBER 19 • 9:00 TO 10:00 AM • PMC COMMONS

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.



If you want to help serve, please call 471.3134