

PIONEER MEMORIAL CHURCH



APRIL 9, 2011

8:15 AM // PAGE 10 & 11:20 AM // PAGE 13

WELCOME!

Spring? It may be a wet and cold spring, but our church family is warm and inviting. We have the promise of summer weather just around the corner, so with glad hearts let us come into our Creator's presence with singing. No matter the headlines, public or private, no matter the weather, God reigns, and the last word will be His. Come, let us worship Him! Visitors' are invited to enjoy a home-cooked vegetarian meal in the Commons following second service.

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PASTOR'S BLOG

WWW.PMCHURCH.TV

RELIGION MAY BECOME "EXTINCT?"

On March 22, bbc.com released a story that has set the blogosphere abuzz. The headline reads: "Religion may become extinct in nine nations, study says" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-12811197>). Before examining that list of nine countries, here's the logic behind that conclusion.

The American Physical Society (APS), meeting in Dallas recently, released research based on non-linear dynamics, a mathematical model used to analyze data. Examining religious affiliation census data extending back a century for numerous countries, and then correlating that data with known social motives behind being religious or not, the APS concluded that for these nine nations the trends indicate that eventually social motivation for

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REVIVAL & REFORMATION



UNITED PRAYER

Monday to Thursday

12:30-1:00 PM // PMC Sanctuary

WANTED IMMEDIATELY: A BRIDE

I've often marveled at the way God answered Eliezer's prayer when he was seeking a bride for Isaac. Two things are worth noting about God's response: (1) the specific nature and (2) the immediacy of the answer. While Eliezer was STILL praying God IMMEDIATELY brought Rebekah, who would prove to be the perfect bride for Isaac—that was a fast specific answer to prayer. I am grateful God is both willing and able to answer our prayers.

Do you wish God answered your prayers as specifically and quickly? I think He wants to! But I don't think most of us are prepared to receive specific quick answers, at least for such an important area of life. To receive such specific quick answers require a profound confidence in God. Most people would consider making such an im-

portant decision so quickly an act of unparalleled stupidity.

Recall that Eliezer was seeking a wife for Isaac. He went with specific instructions as to where she was to be found, and how she was to respond. Failure in either case would free him from his quest. He went committed to find the perfect person, asked God to answer His prayer, was fully prepared to accept God's choice, and as a result obtained an immediate answer.

Are you serious about revival? Are you prepared to immediately obey God's instructions in pursuing revival? God is also seeking a bride. His instructions are clear. He is anxiously waiting to answer. Are you prepared to receive His specific, quick, perhaps life-changing, answer in your life, in answer to prayer.

"Now let it be that the young woman to whom I say, 'Please let down your pitcher that I may drink,' and she says, 'Drink, and I will also give your camels a drink'—let her be the one You have appointed for Your servant Isaac...." Gen. 24:14

MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

MOMMY AND ME \ MAKING JESUS SMILE

We think that Jesus is smiling on Tuesday mornings when the parade of moms and tots file into our PMC nursery for the “Mommy and Me” program. At the beginning of this program, moms and their little ones learn to exercise together as they follow along in a “Fit Kids” routine. After this, it’s time for the telling of Bible stories and then the joyful singing of songs to Jesus! Next, it’s crafts – with paper, crayons, stickers, and lots of happy interaction between moms and children. Once a month we prepare a free vegetarian lunch, and fathers and other family members are invited to join.

This learning experience is not just for the children. Some moms who attend say they have discovered a new way to minister in the community at “Mommy and Me”. They want to create a similar program in their home churches after their husbands graduate from Andrews University. Here is a letter from one mom: “Dear Mommy



and Me leaders, I want to thank you and affirm you for starting the “Mommy and Me” ministry at Pioneer Memorial Church. It has been a great blessing to me and my daughter. We look forward to it every week. We’ve been able to meet new friends that we now see at Sabbath school and other times during the week. We didn’t know anyone else at our stage of life until “Mommy and Me.” Thank you so much, and keep it up! Thank-you!”

All mothers with young children are invited to this program, so feel free to invite friends from the community. Join us soon!

PRAY

That “Mommy and Me” will be a blessing in our community

MORE INFO

Christine Wallace \ 313.2550
health@pmchurch.org

MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

GIVE TO LINE 5

Annual Budget	\$ 131,000
Goal to-date	\$ 35,266
Received to-date	\$ 26,620
(Received to-date 2010)	\$ 25,267

As of April 4, 2011

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

RMES \ MINI-COURSE IN GARDENING

Spring has sprung! Though it may not feel like it when we walk outside, it is officially time to start gardening. At Ruth Murdoch Elementary School, that means it's time for a new mini-course.

Gardening is one of our new Jr. High mini-courses offered this spring. Students will learn why it's important to grow plants from the soil, how gardening benefits the students, how it benefits others, and the marvels of one of God's most amazing gifts – the seed.

"No one can succeed in agriculture or gardening without attention to the laws involved...The attention required in transplanting ... the pruning and watering ... keeping out weeds, disease and insect pests ... not only teach important lessons concerning the development of character, but the work itself is a means of development." (Ellen White, *Adventist Home* Chapter 21)

God created plants to sustain us and for beauty, to teach us lessons in



patience and obedience. What a wonderful gift, and what a fun way to teach young students about our Savior.

PRAY

That the word of God will be planted
in the soil of our children's hearts

MORE INFO

David Waller \ 471.3225
waller@andrews.edu

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

GIVE TO LINE 3

Annual Budget	\$220,921
Goal to-date	\$ 59,472
Received to-date	\$ 42,826
(Received to-date 2010)	\$ 44,347

As of April 4, 2011

MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

GLOBAL MEDIA \ VIEWER REPORT

What do 805 people from Australia, 733 people from the United Kingdom, 221 people from Brazil, 234 people from the Philippines, 535 people from South Africa and 1,180 people from Canada have in common? They are all part of the 25,906 visits www.pmchurch.tv received in the last month.

What does this really mean? It means you are helping a girl from China study God's word: "Hi! As you know, there is no SDA Theological Seminary in mainland China. I'm trying my best to learn something from your ministry. And I'm very blessed by Pioneer Memorial Church."

You are also helping someone in Zambia: "I watched your lessons on the subject above and have benefited a lot. May the Lord richly bless you, your family and the entire church and university." from central Zambia

When you support global video evangelism and the web ministry through MPE you are helping to make a personal impact globally—touch-

ing lives, being a resource for people who need to grow in their own spiritual walk with Christ.

There are several ways you can support the media ministries – through your prayers, your financial support or by becoming a media



ministry volunteer. Currently we are looking for volunteers who are willing to help during the summer. Experience is always a plus, but a passion for excellence in service is required. If you are interested, please e-mail Nick Wolfer at wolfer@pmchurch.org.

PRAY

That the message of God's love will be spread through this ministry

MORE INFO

Nick Wolfer \ 471.3246
wolfer@pmchurch.org

MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM

GIVE TO LINE 5

Annual Budget	\$ 131,000
Goal to-date	\$ 35,266
Received to-date	\$ 26,620
(Received to-date 2010)	\$ 25,267

As of April 4, 2011

joining a religion will diminish until (mathematically speaking) no one in the country will be religious.

"The idea is pretty simple," said Richard Wiener of the Research Corporation for Science Advancement, and the University of Arizona. "It posits that social groups that have more members are going to be more attractive to join . . . For example in languages, there can be greater utility or status in speaking Spanish instead of [the dying language] Quechuan in Peru, and similarly there's some kind of status or utility in being a member of a religion or not." The reality that more and more people in these particular nations "are identifying themselves as non-affiliated with religion," Wiener pointed out, led to this study's conclusion.

In what nine countries is religion predicted to become extinct? Australia, Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, and Switzerland. In the Netherlands 40% of those surveyed declare themselves non-affiliated with religion—in the Czech Republic that figure climbs to 60%. And what about the United States? Commenting on the BBC report, theblaze.com indicates that nationwide 15% of Americans now claim no religion, making them the only religious group "growing in all 50 states."

Obviously, no mathematical formula or theory exists that can accu-

rately predict the spiritual realities of the collective human heart. And yet two millennia ago Jesus himself wondered about the spiritual state of humanity just before he returned to earth: **"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8).** Will he?

Though Dylan Thomas was not decrying the loss of faith on the earth, his fiery admonition might serve the friends of Christ well, we who must yet move into the gathering darkness to share the promise of light: Do not go gentle into that good night. Rage, rage against the dying of the light.

"Rage" is hardly an irenic term—but it can depict the fiery passion of the Spirit against the gathering nightfall of faith, can't it? Yes, the numbers of the non-affiliated are on the rise in nations once considered Christian. But No, the friends of the Son of Man need not "go gentle" into the approaching night. Rather, let the Radicals, this new generation of missionaries, rise up with the fervor of Christ himself and move into these nine nations (and many more) with the faith of the Savior bright in our own hearts and fresh on our own lips.

Rather than simply raging "against the dying of the light," is it not better to light a candle in the dark instead? After all the night belongs to Christ. And it may yet be that with our candles high the Son of Man will find faith on the earth when he comes.



MEMBERSHIP TRANSFERS

1ST READING

TRANSFERS IN

AUSTIN, Bradley
DIAZ, Keila

HAGERMAN, Zerita
HERNANDEZ, Abner F.

KINSMAN, Jacqueline
MUNOZ, Paulina
SCHMELING, Joshua
ZVANDASARA, Vimbo

TRANSFERS OUT

BREJA, Cornelia
EWEN, Mark W.
MOULEMA, Jacqueline (Disso)
MOULEMA, Paul-Marie

PROFESSION OF FAITH

GONZALEZ, Daniel M. 3/1/11

FROM

Green Bay, WI
Delegacion Occidental Adventista
del 7mo/ Ciudad Habana, CP
All Nations/Berrien Springs, MI
Delegacion Occidental Adventista
del 7mo/Ciudad Habana, CP
All Nations/Berrien Springs, MI
White House, TN
Glenwood/Dowagiac, MI
Berean/Atlanta, GA

TO

N Stamford/Stamford, CT
Malton/Etobicoke, ON
Reisterstown, MD
Reisterstown, MD

Arne Swanson

EASTER PASSION PLAY

ADOPT-A-SCENE

The Easter Passion Play team would like to challenge your church ministry and family to adopt-a-scene and be in charge of organizing a crew to take it down and pack it up. We REALLY need your help with this, as the students on campus will be busily studying for final exams that start the next day.

We are asking our community to please step in and help us make this event a success.



If you know of anyone willing to participate, please let us know.

VOLUNTEER AT:
www.passionplay.andrews.edu

MAIL OUR TEAM AT:
passionplay@andrews.edu



PIONEER @ WORSHIP

8:15 AM

Pioneer Family Life

Arne Swanson

Voluntary

If Thou Be Near / Johann Sebastian Bach/Alfred Reed

Introit

What Wondrous Love Is This? / Traditional American Melody

Call to Worship

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow / 695

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling / 191

Congregational Prayer

Arne Swanson

Call to Prayer

Make Me A Blessing

Response

Worship in Music

Jericho / William Himes

Offering

Christian Record Services

Dedication Prayer

John Youngberg

Offertory

Majestica / Gary Gazlay

Children's Story

The Word

Ephesians 3:14-19 NIV / Millie Youngberg

Hymn of Preparation

The Wonder of It All / 75

Sermon

"EARTHQUAKE: God's Seismic Love for Our Broken Planet"—Part 2

Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Commitment

My Song Is Love Unknown / words of 188

melody of 377

Benediction

Postlude

My Song Is Love Unknown / Ralph Vaughan Williams

PRESIDING PASTOR: Arnold Swanson; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews Academy Concert Band, H. Dean Boward, director

CALL TO WORSHIP

People ask, "Who is this one you worship?"

He is the Christ, the one whose word calls creation into being.

People ask, "Who is this one you worship?"

He is the Messiah, the one who is before all things and in whom all things hold together

Come, then, let us worship him who made heaven and earth.

THE WORD

EPHESIANS 3:14-19 NIV

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—

That you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

MUSIC ALIVE

LOVE IN WORDS

God's love for humankind is a theme appearing frequently in hymns by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), perhaps nowhere more powerfully than in "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling." The imagery of this vivid hymn seems transcendent, yet somehow personal. It is a poetic celebration of God's seeking in love the redemption of fallen humanity. One commentary states that "Wesley had a gift for writing poetry; he

wrote verse continually, his letters often being in rhyme. . . ." He was a most prolific hymn writer, credited with more than 6,500 hymns. Wesley approached hymn subjects from a standpoint that transcended objectivity to embrace personal feeling. His hymns "appealed to the spiritually starved people who, under the preaching of the Wesley brothers [John and Charles], found renewed life, hope, and faith in the Scriptures."

SABBATH STUDY

SANCTUARY 10:00 AM

Song Service	Vladimir Slavujevic
Opening Hymn	<i>Seeking the Lost / 373</i>
Scripture	Matthew 28:19,20
Prayer	Winston Craig
Welcome	Jeanie Craig
Special Feature	"Preach, Teach and Heal" / Sam Ngala
Offering	<i>Softly and Tenderly / RosAnne Tetz</i>
Bible Study	"From Exalted to Cast Down" / Classes
Theme Song	<i>Make Me a Blessing</i>
Benediction	Vladimir Slavujevic

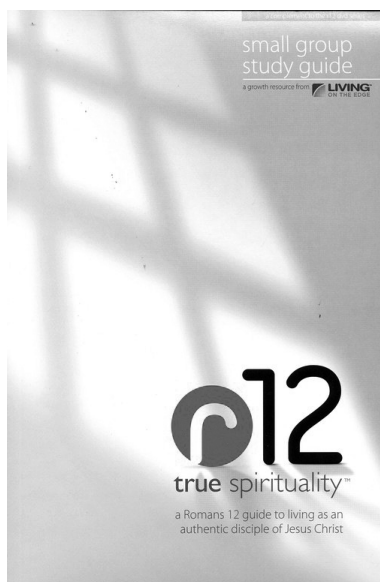
ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

OFFERTORY: Catherine Tetz, clarinet; Kylynda Bauer, piano

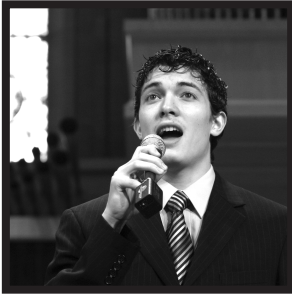
SABBATH SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

EXPERIENCING GRACE

Something in Common Sabbath School presents "r12 true spirituality" DVD series with Chip Ingram. Being a genuine disciple of Christ flows out of a relationship with Him. It's about experiencing God's grace, not earning His love through performance. Romans 12 provides a relational profile of an authentic disciple. Christians who live out this kind of lifestyle are what we call r12 Christians. God is willing to go deeper and grow you into a real disciple...are you ready?



[see page 20/21 for Sabbath School directory & map]



Voluntary

If Thou Be Near

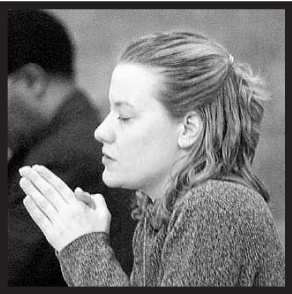
Introit

What Wondrous Love Is This?

Songs of Praise

Prayer

Michael Paradise



Baptism

Yuk Mui Ku with Artem Dmytriiev

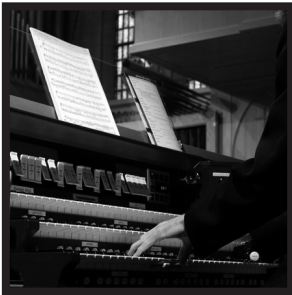
Corey Lambertson with
Micheal Goetz

Invitation to Give

Jericho

Worship in Music

Majestica



Sermon

"EARTHQUAKE: *God's Seismic Love
for Our Broken Planet*"—Part 2
Dwight K. Nelson

Commitment

My Song Is Love Unknown,
words 188, melody 377

Postlude

WORSHIP DIRECTOR: Michael Paradise; MUSIC DIRECTOR: Joshua Goines
PLATFORM MANAGER: Richard Parke; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
VOCALS: Justin McAuliffe, Johanna Estrada, Elynn Rodriguez, Angelica Miller
ACOUSTIC GUITAR: Kasper Haughton; DEJEMBE: Matthew Master; BASS: Brenston King
VIOLINS: Jonathan Thompson, Miesoo Choi, Glori Soyeun, Natanael Tejada;
CELLO: Steven Debulgado
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews Academy Concert Band, H. Dean Boward, director

PIONEER PEOPLE

SUNSET TODAY: 8:19

SUNSET NEXT FRIDAY: 8:26

For more announcements or to submit a request for a new announcement, please visit our website: www.pmchurch.org.

PIONEER FAMILY LIFE

YOUTH CHURCH

"Distracted" - is TODAY, April 9. PMC Youth Chapel at 11:30 AM.

INFANT DEDICATION

Friends and family are invited to the dedication of Lilianora Rose Bailey today at 4:15 in the sanctuary.

—*Karl and Rosemary Bailey.*

MOMMY AND ME

Mothers and/or female guardians with young children are invited to join us every Tuesday morning from 10:15 to 11:30 AM in the PMC Nursery. Our program consists of "Fit Kids" which is 10 minutes of continuous activity for children, then songs, stories, and crafts. All programs are based on Bible themes. For more information, contact health@pmchurch.org. This program is free. You are welcome to invite friends from our community to this program.

WEST MICHIGAN YOUTH RALLY

"iPray" is a youth rally in Grand Rapids - all day on Sabbath, April 23. We will be taking a bus from PMC for that day. Lunch is provided along with a free t-shirt. There will be a \$5 cost for transportation. Contact Pastor Micheal at goetz@andrews.edu. And visit www.westmichiganyouthrally.com

CHAPLAIN KEREN'S FAREWELL

June 4 wedding bells are ringing for Keren Toms, Chaplain for Outreach and PMC Associate Pastor, as she leaves our campus to begin a new life and adventure in ministry with Casey Graves, an Andrews grad medical student in Ann Arbor. Our campus and congregation have been blessed as Keren has used her pastoral gifts to mentor young adults in the mission of the Adventist Church. To thank Keren for her ministry over the last three years, you are invited to participate in a card shower/money tree which will be presented to her at a light reception in the Youth Chapel after second service, next Sabbath, April 16. Cards may also be dropped off at the church office during the week. We encourage your generosity as we shower Keren (and Casey) with our love and gratitude.

THANK YOU

Spring and a touch of God's creation came to our home a few days ago in the form of a gorgeous tulip plant from our PMC family. Thank you so much for your love and prayers.

—*Jim Curry*

PIONEER FAMILY LIFE [CONT]

CONGRATULATIONS

Evergreen Pathfinders Bible Achievement team for their first place finish. They will compete in the Division Level which is April 16 in the Sanctuary.

ADVENTIST RETIREES

Did you know that over 50% of the world now lives in cities? Benton Harbor is the world in microcosm and HARBOR OF HOPE is the recipient of the 2010-2011 Mission Project of the Adventist Retirees of Michiana. Come learn more about HARBOR OF HOPE from Walter Rogers, the project pastor and director. Don't leave your friends out of the excitement. Bring at least two other people with you to the potluck meal, Sunday, April 10, at 1:00 PM at the Village SDA Church. Please bring enough food to feed yourself and your guests.

THANK YOU

On behalf of the Nixon & Lalasingh Families, We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation to the PMC & University Families for their many cards, flowers, visits and prayers during our recent loss. We what to especially thank those who sent food and hosted the repast after the funeral services. Your kind support and service gave us great comfort and encouragement. We look forward to the coming of Christ when God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes and continue to solicit your prayers for our family. Again, thanks.

—Sincerely, Pastor Timothy & Dr. Sandra Nixon and Family

BOOK DRIVE

The library book drive for Emmanuel Mission School in Lesotho has been extended for the month of April. Books for children grades one through twelve may be dropped off books at the Agriculture Department, Smith Hall, room 109 or call us for pick up at 269 471-6006.

SMALL GROUP HUDDLE

Monday, April 11, 6 to 8 PM. PMC Commons. A light supper will be served. Please RSVP to Jackie Bikichky at 471-3972 or bikichkj@andrews.edu.

WE MOURN

Today we mourn with Esther Yeboah on the death of her father in Africa. We also reach out in sympathy to Dan Drazen on the death of his wife, Nancy. Funeral arrangements for Nancy are pending at this time. With both of these families we are eagerly awaiting the return of the One who gives life. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

THANK YOU

Daniel and Carol Lewis, along with Lucy, Katie and Chloe, want to let you know how much they appreciate the blessings you showered on their mother, Fonda Chaffee, in the form of cards, emails and FB messages. It was heartwarming to watch her response to the memories and love that you shared with her as treasured friends, colleagues and former workers and students. We pray for the day when we will not be limited by miles in our ability to enjoy precious friendships. Thank you all!

PIONEER FAMILY LIFE [CONT]

EARLY MORNING DEACONS NEEDED

Are you an early riser? Do you enjoy serving behind the scenes? The PMC deacons are needing another 3-4 people to help set up the church before everyone else arrives. You would be part of a team that arrives at 7 AM to open up the church and set up for about an hour. The rotation is one month on and three months off so that each team serves three months out of the year. We can be somewhat flexible on scheduling based on your availability. Please contact Scott Schalk

at 208-1933 if you are interested.

FREE PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANCE

Andrews University Physical Therapy Department will be offering free physical therapy for individuals with balance problems. To be included in this 8-week research project, you must have experienced a stroke (cardiovascular accident) at least 1 year ago. Therapy will be conducted by doctoral students supervised by research supervisors Drs. Lee Olson & Dave Village. Please call (815) 210-3108 for more information.

HEALTH & WELLNESS ANNOUNCEMENTS

For the following announcements, please visit www.pmchurch.org/health, e-mail health@pmchurch.org or call (269) 313-2550.

HEALTH MINISTRY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

for the 2011/2012 school year. If you would like to be a part of our growing team, please contact us. We are creating new and exciting programs, so don't miss out on this great opportunity to serve. Note to YOUNG PEOPLE - if you've never served in the church before, we have easy, fun ways for you to be involved!

CREATION HEALTH

Thursday, April 21. Join us for a seminar on nutrition, presented by Evelyn Kissinger, RD. This presentation includes a delicious and nutritious meal provided by PMC's health team. For cost information, contact us.

RUNNING CLUB

Canceled on Sunday, April 10. We will be running in Notre Dame's half-marathon at 10 AM. Running club will resume on Sunday April 17. NEW TIME: 10:00 AM.

EXERCISE CLASSES

Join Christine Wallace and Jessica Snyder on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 6:05-6:50 PM in the PMC Nursery for a workout.

WOMEN'S WALKING CLUB

Join walking leader, Valerie Morse, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 PM for a brisk walk around the Andrews University campus.

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Carla Trynchuk's Studio Recital

April 10, 2011, 11:00 AM
String Studio Recital

Second Sunday Concert

April 10, 2011, 4:00 PM

Kristina Stojanovic Senior Recital

April 10, 2011, 7:30 PM
Senior Violin Recital

Middle School Band Festival

April 11, 2011, 7:00 PM
Band Festival Concert by bands from Cedar Lake Elementary, Village Elementary, Battle Creek, and Ruth Murdoch.

Trina Thompson Piano Studio Recital

April 13, 2011, 6:00 PM

Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert

April 16, 2011, 8:45 PM
Rachmaninoff and Dvorak

Wind Symphony Spring Concert

April 17, 2011, 4:00 PM
Wind Symphony's final performance of 10-11 season

Chi Yong Yun Piano Studio Recital

April 18, 2011, 6:30 PM

Christina Gibson Flute Studio Recital

April 19, 2011, 6:30 PM

Chamber Music Recital

April 20, 2011, 8:00 PM

Aaron Sinnett's Cello Studio Recital

April 21, 2011, 4:30 PM

KNITTING HEARTS TOGETHER

Knitting Hearts Together is a subgroup of WINGS, PMC's Women's Ministries. Through knitting, crocheting, and sometimes quilting, we provide prayer shawls and lap blankets for women and men in the church and the community who have recently undergone loss, severe illness, or other difficult experiences. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings, to knit and crochet together in fellowship, to share names of those we might give a product to, and to pray over each of the completed shawls and lap blankets. Usually one or two of our group will deliver the gift in person. We have experienced many

heartwarming visits and prayers with these brothers and sisters. We would be happy to have more people of all ages join our group. If you do not have these skills, members will teach you happily. One of our group leaders knew nothing of crocheting when we began, but now has produced several beautiful shawls. We also accept donations of yarn. If you would like to join us on April 12, please contact Alice Williams, 461.6815 (home), (work) 471.3373, or alicew@andrews.edu. You may contact Lyn MacCarty by e-mail maccarty@sbcglobal.net or phone (cell) 208.3377 or (work) 473.2778 ext. 222.

SPIRITUAL PARENTING

THE “SMALL VOICE”

Recently I've been asked two questions that relate to Easter. One was by a parent with young children who is wondering about the best ways to recognize and celebrate Easter, and the other was by a fifteen year-old who was wondering about the Easter bunny.

QUESTION ONE: Easter wasn't really celebrated in our church when I was growing up, but I don't think we can totally ignore all the holiday decorations and festivities around us. What do Adventists really believe about celebrating Easter?



Here are some things to consider:

- Easter is defined as a festival commemorating Christ's resurrection.
- Easter is one of the most important religious holidays for most Christians.
- Easter is steeped in tradition and rituals developed over centuries.
- Easter also has its secular side with Easter bonnets, bunnies, chocolate eggs, and Easter Baskets.
- Ellen White does not make mention of the word Easter in her writings, but she certainly has much to say about the significance of Christ's death and resurrection.

Easter is a time for remembering. We remember Christ's acts of love for

us, His suffering, and most of all His triumph over death, which gives us hope for the future and the promise of eternal life. We remember the power of restoration and renewal.

Easter can also be a time to focus

on impossible things done by God, either directly or through those men and women who listened to Him and acted in simple faith. Christ's birth seemed impossible, His life on earth seemed impossible, His crucifixion seemed impossible, and certainly His resurrection seemed

impossible. This is a time we can help our children contemplate the impossible things God continues to do in our lives.

When we moved to Andrews University and began attending PMC, there was little mention of Easter. But now we celebrate with the Passion Play on campus and our own Easter Sabbath tradition of taking flowers to the cross in remembrance of loved ones. This beautiful tradition is now part of the fabric of our church. It gives us an excellent opportunity to share stories with our families about the people who are honored, to talk about the resurrection promise and how much it means to us. It gives us an opportunity to talk about death and grief in age-appropriate ways with our children. If you haven't specifically talked about why people

take flowers to the cross, I invite you to take this opportunity this year.

QUESTION TWO: What does the chocolate Easter bunny have to do with Easter anyway?

There is no story in the Bible about a long-eared, cotton-tailed Easter Bunny. And real rabbits don't lay eggs either. So why are these traditions so much a part of Easter Sunday? What do they have to do with the resurrection of Jesus? Well, nothing! They were incorporated into the celebration of Easter separately from the Christian tradition of honoring the day Jesus Christ rose from the dead.

The Easter bunny can be traced back to pre-Christian Germany. Spring symbolized new life and rebirth, and eggs were an ancient symbol of fertility. These already practiced pagan traditions and the celebration of Christ's resurrection merged when Roman Catholicism

became the dominant religion in Germany. The first story about a rabbit laying eggs and hiding them in a garden was published in 1680. In the 1700s German immigrants who settled in Pennsylvania brought the tradition of the bunny rabbit and the eggs to North America. Nests for the rabbit to lay its eggs in soon followed. As time went on nests became decorated baskets and colorful eggs were swapped for candy, treats and other small gifts.

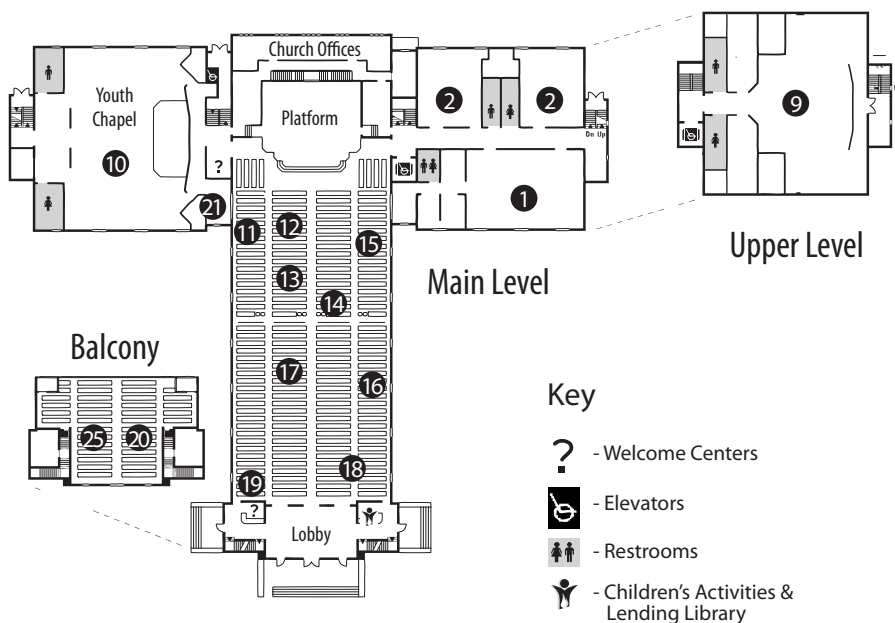
In closing, I invite you to consider your own Easter traditions and why you celebrate in the way you do. If you don't participate in activities that others around you enjoy, explain to your children the reasons for your beliefs and practices. As Christians we can all bask in the promises of spring and the lasting power of the resurrection.

Susan E. Murray, CFLE, LMFT
Professor Emerita, Behavioral Sciences



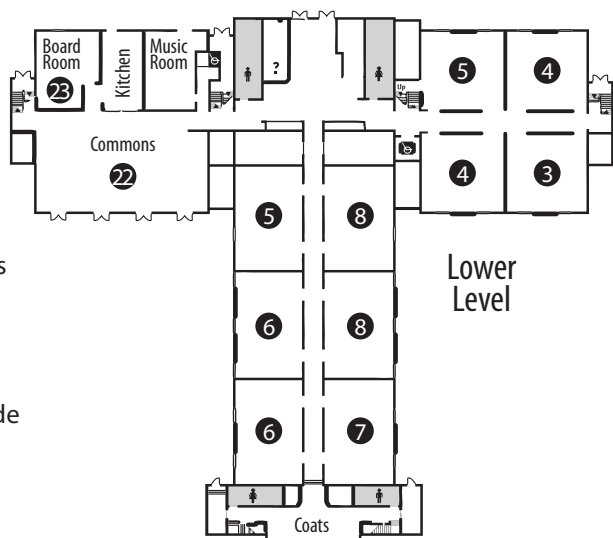
Provided by the
Children's Ministry Resource Center

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]

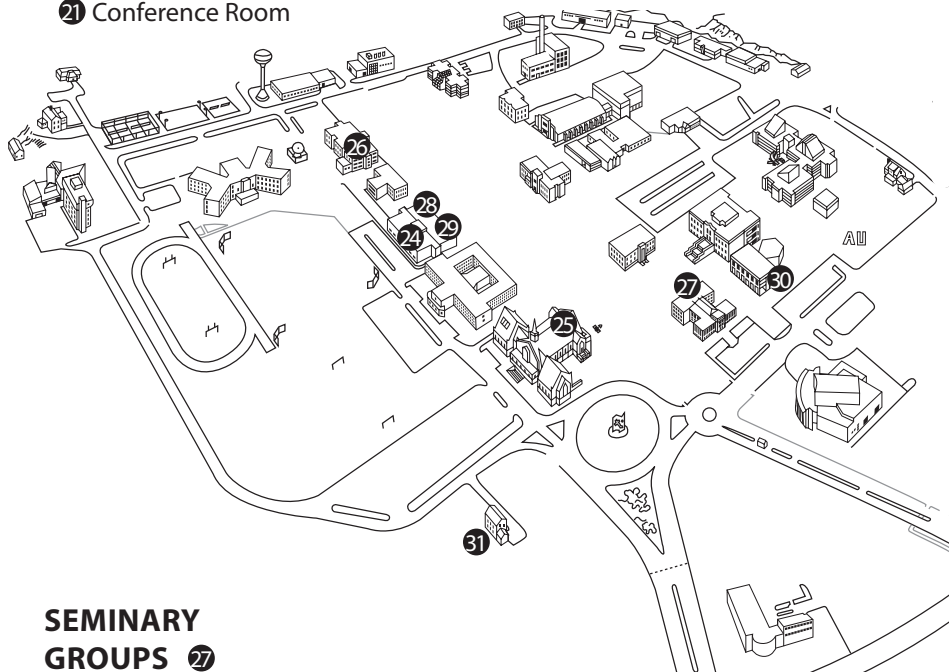
- 11 Group 1
- 12 Group 2 (Portuguese/Brazilian)
- 13 Group 3
- 14 Group 4 (Yugoslavian)
- 15 Group 5
- 16 Group 6
- 17 Group 7
- 18 Group 8
- 19 Group 9
- 20 Group 10 (Balcony)
- 21 Conference Room

[miscellaneous adult]

- 22 Something In Common
- 23 Seventh-day Adventist Beliefs

COLLEGIATE

- 24 Encounter (Campus Ministries Office)
Refresh (Upstairs / Cafeteria)
H&M (Hispanic - Religion Amphitheater)
- 25 People on the Move (PMC)
- 26 Elements (Marsh Hall)



SEMINARY GROUPS 27

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| N108 (Collegiate) | N235 |
| N110 | N310 (Russian) |
| N120 (New Life Church Choir) | N335 (Spanish) |
| N135 (Living Word Fellowship) | S215 (French) |
| N150 | S340 (Upper Room) |
| N211 (Small group) | |

ADULT @ AU

- 28 Main Lounge
- 29 Faculty Lounge
- 30 Perspectives
- 31 Back to Basics

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PMCHURCH MEDIA

ONLINE

www.pmchurch.org
www.pmchurch.tv

RADIO

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

CMRadio

www.andrews.edu/cm/cmradio
Live Stream - 11:30 a.m. service

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

11:30 AM — www.pmchurch.tv



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HOUSE OF PRAYER

WEDNESDAY @ 7 PM, SANCTUARY

Join us as we continue the new in-depth series based on *True Revival: The Church's Greatest Need*. You may receive a free copy of this book when you attend House of Prayer this Wednesday evening. (One per family, please.) Join us as together we explore what it means to see the Seventh-day Adventist Church truly revived! Wednesday at 7 PM in the Pioneer sanctuary. Co-curricular credit for university students.

COMING SOON

**4.16 ** Dwight K. Nelson
"EARTHQUAKE: God's Seismic Love for Our Broken Planet"—Part 3

**4.23 ** Dwight K. Nelson
"EARTHQUAKE: God's Seismic Love for Our Broken Planet"—Part 4

