

PIONEER CONNECT

DECEMBER 9, 2017

In the Presence of a

KING,

Don't Ask for Small Gifts



WE WORSHIP • PAGE 8 | WE WORSHIP 2 • PAGE 11

WELCOME

to Pioneers

Welcome! As I've been contemplating what I value most in light of the consumer bend during this Advent season, this riddle came to mind from J.R.R. Tolkien's classic *The Hobbit*.

*This thing all things devours;
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;
Gnaws iron, bites steel;
Grinds hard stones to meal;
Slays king, ruins town,
And beats mountain down.*

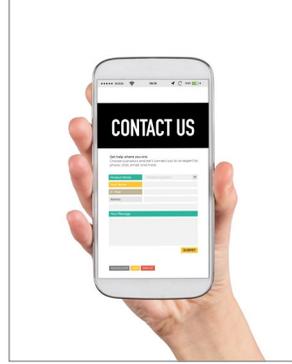
Did you figure it out? Take a minute or two. Yep. The answer is "Time." There are a number of ways to quantify the value of your time. As God looks through eternity, He values time with us so much that He gave us what this season is really about, the gift of Jesus. Through Jesus, He invites us into a timeless relationship with Him; Merry Christmas!

–José Bourget

 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
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 CONNECT CARD Scan this code to receive this week's Connect Card.		 FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL

FIND IT HERE

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO



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WATCH BLOG**

Merry Christmas from
Dollar General

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Making a Difference
Through Soup
for Students

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WE WORSHIP
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SABBATH SCHOOL
Children of the Promise

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WE WORSHIP 2
11:45 AM Service

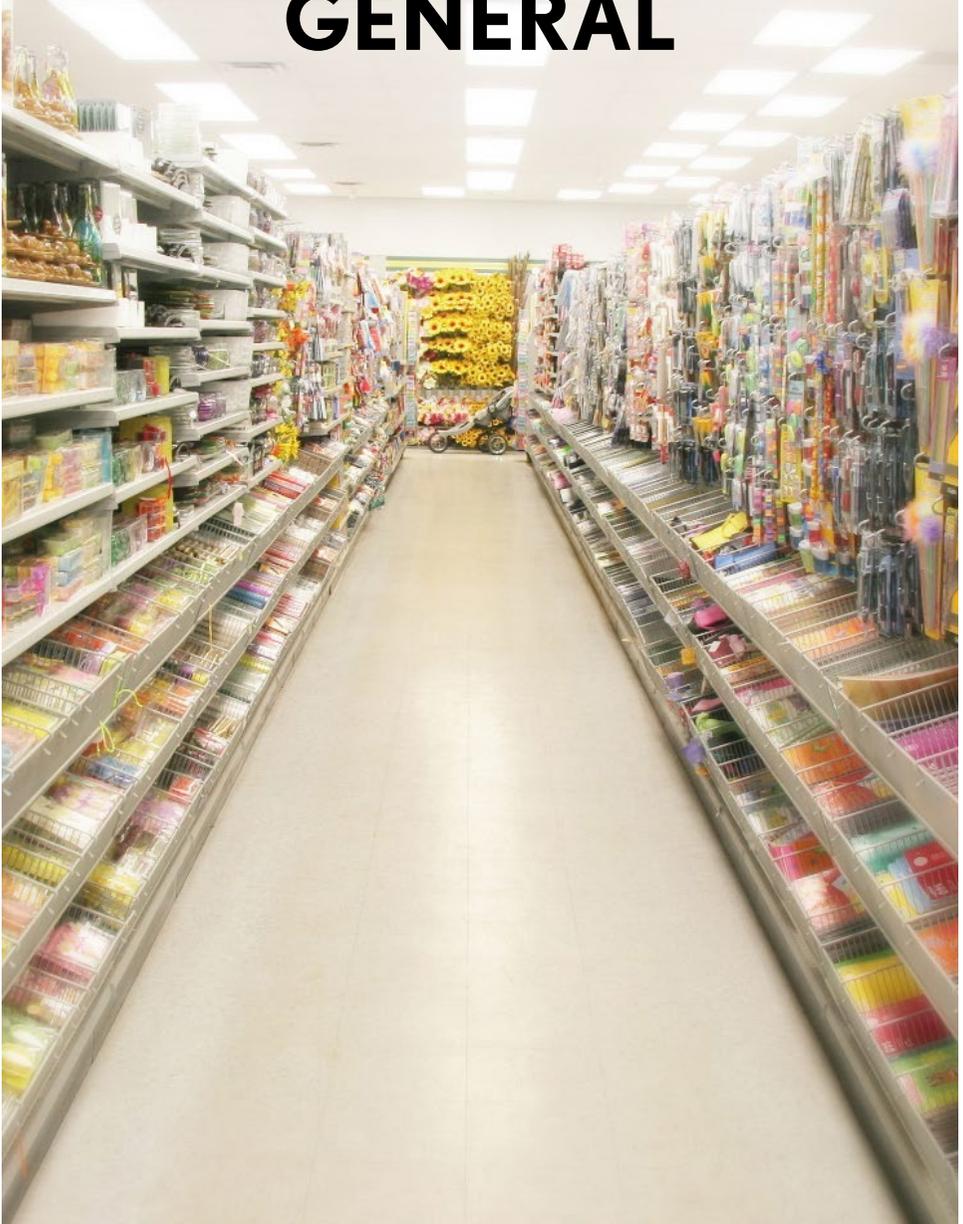
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MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM DOLLAR GENERAL



BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

Just in time for the holidays comes an interview with Todd Vasos, CEO of Dollar General. Everybody knows Dollar General—we even have one here in our village of Berrien Springs. With many if not most of the items priced in the familiar range of a dollar plus a few more (depending on the product), it turns out Dollar General is a booming business enterprise with around 14,000 stores in this country, boasting a market value of \$22 billion. Not bad for a dollar here and a dollar there!

What caught my eye, however, was what Vasos stated in his interview with the *Wall Street Journal* (reported in vox.com): "The economy is continuing to create more of our core customer," Vasos said. This is how he described the typical Dollar General customer: 'Doesn't look at her pantry or her refrigerator and say, "You know, I'm going to be out of ketchup in the next few days. I'm going to order a few bottles.["] The core customer uses the last bit of ketchup at the table the night prior, and either on her way to work or on her way home picks up one bottle'" (www.vox.com/politics-and-politics/2017/12/4/16735340/dollar-general-ceo-economy).

Picks up just one bottle? Apparently that's how she shops, or that's the only way she can afford to shop.

"God rest ye merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay."

"While many large retailers are closing locations, Dollar General executives said they planned to build thousands more stores, most in small communities that have otherwise shown few signs of the U.S. economic recovery" (*Wall Street Journal* *ibid.*).

"Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day."

"The more the rural U.S. struggles, company officials said, the more places Dollar General [which "targets customers making \$40,000 a year or less"] has found to prosper. 'The economy is continuing to create more of our core customer,' Chief Executive Todd Vasos said in an interview at the company's Goodlettsville, Tenn., headquarters" (*ibid.*).

"To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray."

"And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger [crude box for cow feed], because there was no guest room available for them" (Luke 2:7).

"Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy."

"Please pass the ketchup."

"Oh tidings of comfort and joy."

Amen. ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight's blog at www.pmchurch.org/blog.



Making a Difference Through **SOUP FOR STUDENTS**

BY RODLIE ORTIZ

Have you ever stayed in a Double Tree hotel? If you have, you know that a great treat is waiting for you when you check in. You see, whenever you arrive you are greeted and given a warm, baked-fresh daily, good-sized chocolate chip cookie. Don't let out their secret, but if you are nice and ask, they'll give you a second one as well.

And all God's people said? Amen!
Now just think about this: what do you think that highly positive association does in the mind of a guest? It makes people look forward to staying there, doesn't it?

Let's think it through on a deeper level.
It begins with the smell. Your nose catches the aroma of delicious food in the air. In the blink of an eye, the brain registers that food

is coming, and instructs the salivary gland underneath your tongue to produce saliva. It's that good 'ol Pavlovian effect in action. But that's just the beginning.

The moment you take your first bite, a complex mix of hormones begins rushing your system: endorphins, serotonin, and dopamine. Then there's oxytocin. That's the "bonding" hormone. It helps a mother bond to her baby after birth. It's also released when certain foods are eaten. Can you see where I'm headed here? The person enjoys the cookie and associates those positive emotions with DoubleTree hotels.

Genius.

So what does this have to do with you?

At Pioneer, we are unapologetically the University church. We have people from many backgrounds who attend, but we must never forget those who live on this campus, the students. That's why every semester we hold a special event called Soup for Students during finals week. They're tired by this point in the year. Some of them have run out of money on their cafeteria cards. So we feed them. With soup. Our prayer, of course, is that by enjoying the warm food we give, they will feel and know that this church family loves them.

OK, here's where you come in. We want to give you an opportunity to make a difference in the life of one of our students. You can do so in two different ways:

1 YOU CAN BRING FOOD

At every Soup for Students event, we feature over 25 different pots of soup. Also, pizza, salad, cookies—the works. If you have brought soup before in the past, we need you to bring some again this year. If you have never brought some, consider this your chance to bless students in this way for the first time. Every pot of soup makes a difference.

2 YOU CAN VOLUNTEER

We need a total of eleven volunteers for this event. Four will be part of the "pre" team to help bake cookies, prepare the pizza, and begin receiving the soups as people drop them off. Four are needed for the actual event to swap out the soups when they are empty, wash pots in the back, and to continue baking cookies. The final three volunteers are for the "post" team. They help with final cleanup and by putting the tables and chairs away.

OUR PRAYER, OF COURSE, IS THAT BY ENJOYING THE WARM FOOD WE GIVE, THEY WILL FEEL AND KNOW THAT THIS CHURCH FAMILY LOVES THEM.

To be a part of this great experience, contact Lailane Legoh at 269.471.3543 or lailane.legoh@pmchurch.org. Soup for Students takes place on December 12, at 6:00 PM in the PMC Commons. ■

Rodlie Ortiz is the pastor for "This Generation Evangelism" here at PMC.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please indicate
"Master Plan-Evangelism"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* • Gordon Young

Introit *Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus* • Kenneth Logan

Call to Worship José Bourget

Let us come before the child who is born for us.

This is our "wonderful counselor" and "mighty God."

This is our "everlasting Father" and "Prince of Peace."

This child, so small and new, satisfies every great and ancient hope. Let us seek him.

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

Invocation Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise *What Child Is This?* • 141

Congregational Prayer Brandon Von Dorpowski
Lord, Speak to Me • st. 1 of 541
He Heard My Prayer • Marguerite Samuel

Prayer Response

Worship in Music *I Hear the Prophet Callin'* • Pepper Choplin

Children's Story *What Child Is This?* • Raymond Haan

Scripture Galatians 4:4-7 NRSV • Larry & Janet Adams

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.

And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Hymn of Preparation *Of the Father's Love Begotten* • 116

Sermon "In the Presence of a King, Don't Ask for Small Gifts" • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

World Budget

Hymn of Commitment

There's a Song in the Air • 120

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

O Come, O Come, Immanuel • French Melody

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Marguerite Samuel, director; James North, Jr., piano

MUSIC ALIVE

COME

Today's opening choral music uses as its text a modernization and alteration of the first stanza and refrain of hymn 140. Poetic asking Christ to come has been in many eloquent forms through centuries. Emily Elliott, author of this hymn, wrote a kind of short sermon in verse, relating her words closely to the text "There was no room for them in

the inn" (see Luke 2:7). She was no older than 28 years when she wrote the text. It appeared in print in 1864 for choir and children of a particular parish school, Brighton, England. Today's choral music uses a melody composed for it that is quite different in comparison with the hymnal's melody, adopting a serenely-meditative interpretation of this moment of prayer. ■

WE STUDY

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Song Service

Rachel Sauer

Prayer

John Kent

Scripture

Melody Chadwick

Special Feature

God is at Work at Andrews Academy
Melody Chadwick
Gabi Francisco
Nate Greenhaw
Logan Harrison
John Kent
Nathan Mangena

Offertory

Gesu Bambino • Pietro Yon

Bible Study

Classes • "Children of the Promise"

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
©1924, Renewed 1952 Word Music, LLC; Used by Permission. CCLI License #392652

Benediction

Rachel Sauer

ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan
OFFERTORY: James-Andrew Hearn, tenor

WE WORSHIP 2

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

As We Begin

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing • Gordon Young
Come to My Heart, Lord Jesus • Kenneth Logan

Praise

The First Noel • *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* • *Joy to the World/Our God Saves*

Prayer

Brandon Von Dorpowski
Prayer Response—*He Heard My Prayer* • Marguerite Samuel

Baptism

Andrea Lauren Saunders with Nathaniel Gibbs

Children's Story

What Child Is This? • Raymond Haan

Worship in Music

I Hear the Prophet Callin' • Pepper Choplin

Sermon

"In the Presence of a King, Don't Ask for Small Gifts" • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card, Tithes & Offerings

There's a Song in the Air • 120

As We Depart

O Come, O Come, Immanuel • French Melody

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan
ACOUSTIC GUITAR: Alden Valenzuela, Michael Gibson; BASS GUITAR: Chris Wilson
CAJON: Smerdis Fuentes; PIANO: Grant Steinweg
VOCALS: Alex Wilson, Jewel Howard, Sinégugu Katenga
WORSHIP IN MUSIC: PMC Sanctuary Choir; Marguerite Samuel, director; James North, Jr., piano

SUBMIT bulletin announcements by visiting our form online at www.pchurch.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 • 16 |

BEN MARTIN

*Children's Celebration
of Christmas*

| 12 • 23 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

"Who Makes the Wind His Messengers:
The Christmas Compact"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

WORLD BUDGET

Froher Sabbat ~ Sabbat Heureux ~ Masaya Sabbath ~ Feliz Sabado ~ Gelukkige Sabbat ~ Sretna Subota ~ Sabato Yenyé Furaha ~ Feliz Sabbath ~ Boldog Szombat. There are many ways to say Happy Sabbath! We are blessed to be a part of a World Church that not only recognizes a special day of worship but more importantly, our Savior, who created this wonderful day of rest. Today's offering for World Budget reminds us that we have brothers and sisters worshipping with us all around the world.

**David H. Bauer
Memorial Service**

TODAY • 3:00 PM
PMC SANCTUARY

A memorial service celebrating the life of David Bauer will be held this afternoon, followed by a reception in the PMC Commons. Condolences may be sent to Marilyn J. Bauer, 73 Fuchsia Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28792.

Adventist Forum Today

TODAY • 3:30 PM
CHAN SHUN HALL
(GARBER AUDITORIUM)

Carmelo Mercado, Lake Union Multicultural Ministries Coordinator, will present "There Goes the Neighborhood: Embracing Diversity in a Multicultural World."

Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

Join the Girls of Mercy for a special evening of music, skits, and Scripture!

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.

Adventist Retirees of Michiana Christmas Banquet

DECEMBER 10 • 1:00 PM
VILLAGE SDA CHURCH

Join us for our annual Christmas Banquet!

Soup for Students

DECEMBER 12 • 6:00 PM
PMC COMMONS

Let's give some bowls of love to students during finals week. We need commitments for 25 pots of soup and some cookies or bread. We also need volunteers to help clean up after the event. Let us know by calling Lailane Legoh at 269.471.3543.

Knitting Hearts Together

DECEMBER 12 • 7:00 PM
MACCARTY HOME

This ministry comforts the bereaved and seriously ill among us. Please consider experiencing the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we create and deliver items. Contact Alice Williams (alicew@andrews.edu or 461.6815) or Lyn MacCarty (471.9060 or 208.3377) for more information.

Foster Care and Adoption Support Group

DECEMBER 14 • 5:30 PM
PMC COMMONS

God's Hands 4 Kids hosts a support group at PMC on the second Thursday of each month for foster and adoptive families of Berrien County. Those who are interested in learning more on the subject are also welcome! There is a family supper and conversation before the kids leave for their own activities. We would also like to invite you to donate soup or holiday cookies. For more info email godshands4kids@gmail.com.

Youth Mission Team Honduras Trip

On Thursday, December 14, the PMC Youth Mission team leaves for Honduras. Each year the team conducts a day camp for about 150 local children as well as serving at the Hogar de Ninos children's home. Your donations to PMC Youth Missions Honduras make it possible for the team to also provide Christmas food baskets to many needy families. Contact Glenn Russell (glenn@andrews.edu) for more information.

Memorial Service

DECEMBER 16 • 3:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

A memorial service celebrating the life of Betty Garber will be held on Sabbath, December 16. Family and friends are welcome to gather in the PMC Commons following the service.

A Foster Care Christmas

Share some joy with a foster kid this Christmas! Donate items for mini stockings (a small toy, chocolates, or small candy canes), buy a gift, or sponsor a wish list. There are collection bins in the PMC lower lobby and the receptionist area, Berrien Springs Ameriprise, and South Shore Women's Health Care in St. Joe. For more information go to gh4k.org.

We Mourn

Today we mourn with Barbara Ray on the death of her brother, Arthur Koski. Arthur died on Tuesday, November 28. A funeral was held in Pullman, Michigan, on Thursday, November 30. With Barbara and her family we look forward to the resurrection morning. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Experience the joy of bringing smiles to families struggling to provide basic needs as well as gifts to their children during the holiday season. We are looking for people to adopt a family, give a donation (money, gift cards, food, toys, etc.), or help in other ways. We hope you choose to get involved by bringing cheer and gladness to many families this Christmas. To choose a family, or for more information, call Deby Andvik (269.471.6648) or Carmelita Arthur (269.471.6651). Donations can also be made through PMC's online giving (Local Church/More Offering Categories) or write "Adopt a Family for Christmas Program" on the tithe envelope.

Grow Groups!

Thinking about leading a GROW Group between February 18 to April 29? Here are just a few ideas for activities or themes to hopefully inspire new ideas: hammocking, paying your student debt, single dads, speaking other languages, learning ASL, random acts of kindness, cooking on a budget, buying your first home, engaged—now what? And many more. To be included in the Spring 2017 semester catalog, sign up your group at www.pmchurch.org/grow and help others GROW new friendships with God and each other. Questions? Contact Pastor Sabine or Gracie Gaytan via growgroups@pmchurch.org.

Get Our E-Letter!

Receive PMC's e-Letter, Pioneer Midweek, for weekly updates about church life, events, and more! Subscribe today at www.pmchurch.org/newsletter.

"Adopt" an Andrews Student in 2018!

Are you a Pioneer member, family, or GROW Group with a burden to help transform this generation and make disciples? Are you willing to offer spiritual support, encouragement, occasional care packages, and the feeling of home to a University student starting next semester? An instructional packet on your "adoptee" will be made available on Sabbath January 13, 2018. For more information, contact Pastor Sabine (vatel@pmchurch.org or 269.471.6153).

Volunteers Needed for Winter Camp for the Blind

FEBRUARY 4-9, 2018
CAMP AU SABLE

Volunteers are needed for the Michigan Winter Camp for the Blind. If you are able to help, please contact Larry Hubbell at 248.459.3165 or 248.634.4379. If you are unable to volunteer but would still like to help—you can make a donation. Make your check payable to Michigan Conference and put "Blind Camp" on the memo line. Send to MI Conference Blind Camp, 812 Academy Rd., Holly, MI 48442.

More Announcements

For more PMC and community announcements, please visit our website at www.pmchurch.org/announcements.

| PASTORS |

Chaplain / Pioneer

José Bourget • 471.6254
bourget@pmchurch.org

Discipleship / GROW Groups

Sabine Vatel • 471.6153
vatel@pmchurch.org

Harbor of Hope

Taurus Montgomery • 269.210.6155
montgomery@pmchurch.org

Lead Chaplain

June Price • 471.6282
juneprice@andrews.edu

Lead Pastor

Dwight K. Nelson • 471.3134
nelson@pmchurch.org

Pastoral Care

Don Dronen • 471.3133
dronen@pmchurch.org

Stewardship

Sharon Terrell • 471.6151
terrell@pmchurch.org

This Generation Evangelism

Rodlie Ortiz • 471.6154
ortiz@pmchurch.org

Youth Ministries

Ben Martin • 471.6176
martin@pmchurch.org

Media Ministries

Richard Parke • 471.3246
parke@pmchurch.org

Music

Kenneth Logan • 471.3231
logan@pmchurch.org

| STAFF |

Admin. Assistant

Lailane Legoh • 471.3543
legoh@pmchurch.org

Admin. Assistant

Gracie Gaytan • 471.3133
gaytan@pmchurch.org

Clerk

Jackie Bikichky • 471.3133
clerk@pmchurch.org

Assistant Media Director

Gaddiel Zelaya Martínez • 471.3678
zelaya@pmchurch.org

Assistant Treasurer

JoAnn Siagian • 471.7656
siagian@pmchurch.org

Bible Work Coordinator

Tabitha Umali • 471.3550
umali@pmchurch.org

Executive Assistant

Claudia Sowler • 471.3134
sowler@pmchurch.org

Graphic Designer

Rachelle Offenback • 471.3647
bulletin@pmchurch.org

Maintenance

Larry White • 471.3649
white@pmchurch.org

Christmas Breakfast

IN CHURCH



DECEMBER 23 • 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 471.3150