

PIONEER CONNECT

DECEMBER 3, 2016



[#RxF4Now](#)

JOLLY OLD ST NICHOLAS
GOES TO BETHLEHEM

WELCOME

to Pioneers

We welcome you to the first of many celebrations during this season of the first advent of Immanuel. From Christmas lights to warm treats, we are immersed by the wonder and majesty that this time brings. Our calendars spring alive with family gatherings, Christmas concerts, and winter retreats. This is a time to cherish those you love, remember the many blessings of the year, and look forward to adventures yet to unfold.

We are glad you found yourself here as we share aloud even with trumpet sounds. Indeed, Christ was born. But His story does not end there. This baby born in a manger will soon return seated on a throne. He will come again!

—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

LIVE STREAMING

www.newperceptions.tv
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 view the most recent Nominating Committee Report.



FIND A SABBATH SCHOOL

FIND IT HERE

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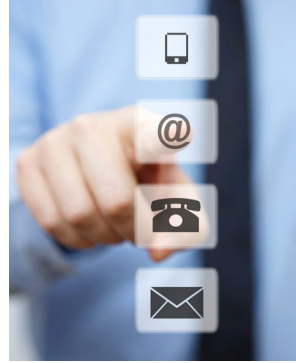
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**THE FOURTH
WATCH BLOG**
Cleopatra's Nose



8

WE WORSHIP
9:00 AM Service



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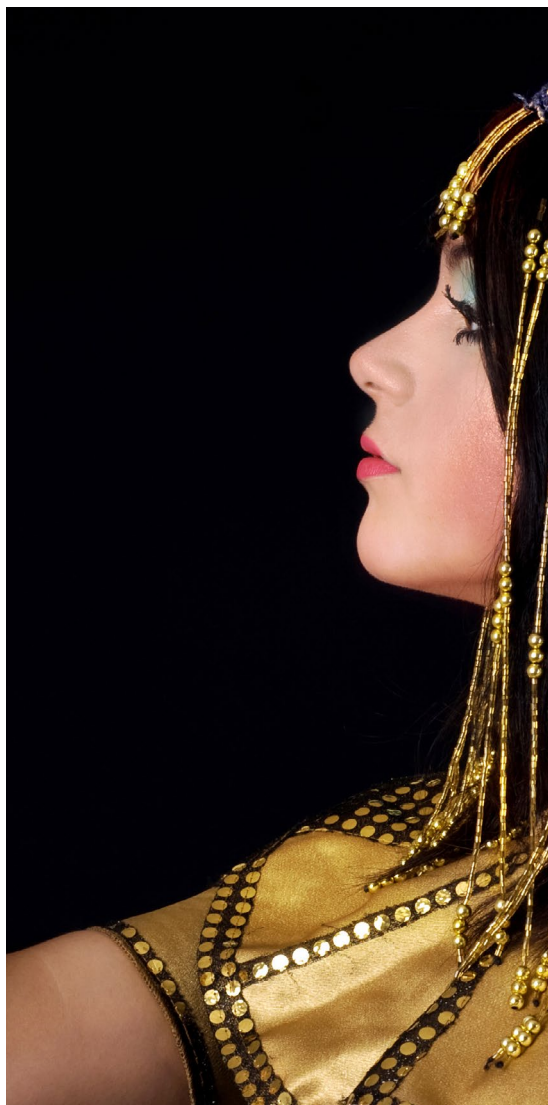
WE WORSHIP 2
11:45 AM Service

CLEOPATRA'S NOSE

BY DWIGHT K. NELSON

In his *Pensees* Blaise Pascal, the French mathematician and Christian philosopher, once wrote of her nose: "Cleopatra's nose: if it had been shorter the whole face of the earth would have been different" (no. 413). His point? Had not Mark Anthony, the Roman general, been smitten by the Egyptian monarch's beauty, he would never have fought a war for her, would never have upset the Roman Empire, would never have changed subsequent history, including the very history we live today. All because of Cleopatra's nose, as Pascal put it: "This indefinable something, so trifling that we cannot recognize it, upsets the whole earth, princes, armies, the entire world."

The philosopher Peter Kreeft reflects on how, in fact, we all experience the "Cleopatra's nose principle": "If one of a million sperm cells had not successfully hailed the taxi of your mother's ovum but another had gotten in instead, you would be a totally different person. If your grandfather hadn't gotten a crick in his neck and turned his head the wrong way one day and noticed your grandmother walking down the street with a pleasing girlish gait, he would never have met her and married her, and you would never have been born." Kreeft's point about Pascal's *pensee*: "enormous things constantly depend on tiny things" (*Christianity for Modern Pagans: Pascal's Pensees Edited, Outlined and Explained* 83).



"Enormous things" really do depend on "tiny things," don't they? Benjamin Franklin wrote:

For the want of a nail the shoe was lost,
For the want of a shoe the horse was lost,
For the want of a horse the rider was lost,
For the want of a rider the battle was lost,
For the want of a battle the kingdom was lost,
And all for the want of a horseshoe-nail.
(www.goodreads.com/quotes/626466-for-the-want-of-a-nail-the-shoe-was-lost)



“Enormous things constantly depend on tiny things.”

Could that be true for the realm of the Spirit as well? Can a single prayer, prayed by a simple heart, move the Hand that moves the world?

I’m always intrigued by the number of times (in the upper room on the night before His execution) Jesus urges His followers to ask Him for anything: #1—“I will do whatever you ask in My name” (John 14:13); #2—“You may ask Me for anything

in My name, and I will do it” (14:14); #3—“Ask whatever you wish and it will be done for you” (15:7); #4—“Whatever you ask in My name the Father will give you” (15:16); #5—“My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name” (16:23); #6—“Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete” (16:24); and #7—“In that day you will ask in My name” (16:26).

Seven times in a single evening, the Savior of the world urges us to ask Him in prayer for what it is our hearts need most. It must be true—a single prayer, prayed by a simple heart, can indeed move the Hand that moves the world. One prayer. “Enormous things constantly depend on tiny things.”

Then why are we so hesitant, so reticent to pray that prayer, to ask as a child asks her daddy? Of all seasons of the year, Christmas is when the hearts of children joyfully, confidently ask for their heart’s desire. “If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13) After all, “With the reception of this gift, *all other gifts would be ours*; for we are to have this gift [of the Holy Spirit] according to the plentitude of the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive” (*Ye Shall Receive Power* 221 emphasis supplied). A single prayer from a simple heart—and the Gift that brings “all other gifts” would be ours. This Christmas. This New Year. In fact, right now.

Then—given the times in which we struggle to live—shall we not ask as never before? Forget Cleopatra’s nose—it is the Father’s heart that compels us. ■

You can follow Pastor Dwight’s blog at www.pmchurch.tv/blog.



THE IMPORTANCE OF TELEVISION MINISTRY

BY RICHARD PARKE

Here at Pioneer, Television Ministry is one of our long-standing evangelistic outreach initiatives. Ten years ago 115 TV Pioneers—members like you and I—committed to giving \$10 per week until Jesus comes, to share New Perceptions, the worship service of Pioneer, with the Michiana area. Their contributions multiplied by God's grace have funded airtime on WHME, TV-46 here in South Bend, Indiana. Every Sunday at noon and again at midnight we share our worship services and the inspired messages of Pastor Dwight with our community.

In order to provide this ministry it takes more than just money. A team of 50+ volunteers—students and community members—dedicated to using technology to spread the Gospel. You'll often see them scurrying about in the early Sabbath morning hours taking care of last-minute items (be sure to share your appreciation as you pass by). Without these committed individuals, this ministry would cease to exist.

In 2016 we added closed captioning to our broadcast, extending our reach even further. Larry, a viewer from Plymouth, Indiana, says, "I just finished watching your program with my wife this Sunday. My wife is now able to understand the message because of your new captions available."

Today, we continue to extend our message of hope throughout the Mi-

chiana area, and we invite you to join us in this mission. Entering into this mission-place is not without cost. In the business sector there is a saying: "You have to spend money in order to make money." Apply that to Pioneer's business of evangelism and perhaps you'd have a similar statement: "You have to invest in ministry to share the Good News with our friends and neighbors." Whether you join our volunteer team, or financially commit to become a TV Pioneer, here at Pioneer we have seen the results over and over—and the investment worth it! Both in time and dollars, I'd invite you to do the same.

If you would like to become a Television Pioneer, mark your tithe envelope "TV Pioneer" with your \$10/week donation and support our local and global outreach. You may also make a one-time donation, just mark your title envelope "TV Ministry." ■

Richard Parke is the director of Media Ministries here at PMC.

SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY

Please indicate
"TV Ministry"
on your tithe envelope.

WE WORSHIP

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Opening Voluntary

On This Day Earth Shall Sing • Gustav Holst / Smith

Introit

O Come, O Come, Immanuel • French Processional

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.**

For God, our God, has come among us, bringing hope.

Let us celebrate and worship “the King.”

Doxology

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow • 2

Invocation

Dwight K. Nelson

Hymn of Praise

Carols of the Season

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing • st. 1 & 3 of 122

O Come, All Ye Faithful • st. 1 & 2 of 132

Silent Night • st. 1 & 4 of 143

Joy to the World • all st. of 125

Congregational Prayer

José Bourget

O Come, All Ye Faithful • st. 1 of 132

Worship in Music

What Child Is This? • Alfred Reed

"Go!"

Rodlie Ortiz

Tithes & Offerings

PMC Operating Expense

Joy to the World • Daniel Kallman

Children's Story

Michael Bryson

Scripture

2 Corinthians 1:18-20 *NIV* • Bordes & Lucette Henry-Saturne

But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.”

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.

And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Hymn of Preparation

The Advent of Our God • 117

Sermon

#RxF4Now: “Jolly Old St Nicholas Goes to Bethlehem”
Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card

Hymn of Commitment

What Child Is This? • 141

Benediction

Closing Voluntary

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing • Gordon Young

PRESIDING PASTOR: José Bourget; ORGANIST: Kenneth Logan

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Wind Symphony; Alan Mitchell, director

OFFERTORY: Andrews University Chamber Ensemble

MUSIC ALIVE

“O COME”

Action permeates much poetry of the Advent and Christmas seasons. “O come” is the ringing message of two hymn texts today. The first, “O Come, O Come, Immanuel” (9:00 service), has a most interesting background among Advent hymns. In the ninth century or earlier, Christian worshippers sang, from December 17 to 23 in anticipation of Christmas, seven pieces of music (one daily) at vespers. Each

song contained a long drawn-out “O,” indicating earnest longing for the coming of the Savior, followed by one of seven names for the Lord such as Wisdom, Day-spring, and Root of Jesse. The second, “O Come, All Ye Faithful,” traces to the mid-1700s. Its melody is among the most familiar Christmas melodies and bears the Latin name ADESTE FIDELES (English: “Come, Faithful Ones”). ■

WE STUDY

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

Song Service Rachel Sauer

Opening Hymn *Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!* • 462

Prayer Andrew Tompkins

Welcome Melchizedek Ponniah

Special Feature "Adventists: Your Friends in the Community"
Melchizedek Ponniah, Andrew Tompkins, Lucy Randall

Offering Melchizedek Ponniah
Hodie Christus Natus Est • Giovanni Gabrieli

Bible Study "The Wrath of Elihu" • Classes

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: Emily McAndrew, Jessica Link, Megan Mocca, Katy Nikolaus,
David Ortiz, Jay Oetman, Chris Wilson, Joshua Goines

WE WORSHIP 2

CONNECT • GROW • SERVE • GO

As We Begin

On This Day Earth Shall Sing • Gustav Holst / Smith

Praise

Carols of the Season (see page 8)
I Will Exalt You

Prayer

José Bourget

"Go!"

Rodlie Ortiz

Tithes & Offerings

Joy to the World • Daniel Kallman

Children's Story

Michael Bryson

Bible Reading

2 Corinthians 1:18-20 NIV

Worship in Music

What Child Is This? • Alfred Reed

Sermon

#Rx4Now: "Jolly Old St Nicholas Goes to Bethlehem" • Dwight K. Nelson

Connect Card

What Child Is This? • 141

As We Depart

Symphonic Prelude on Adeste Fideles • Claude Smith

WORSHIP COORDINATOR: José Bourget; ORGAN: Kenneth Logan

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Joshua Goines

WORSHIP IN MUSIC: Andrews University Wind Symphony; Alan Mitchell, director

OFFERTORY: Andrews University Chamber Ensemble

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
PMC Operating Expense

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

PIONEER PULPIT

| 12 • 10 |

BEN MARTIN

Children's Celebration of Christmas

| 12 • 17 |

DWIGHT K. NELSON

#Rx4Now: "Jolly Old St Nicholas Bows before the Manger"

FINANCIAL FEATURE

PMC OPERATING BUDGET

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10). How pleasant it is to serve those who are closest to you right here and right now! The local combined budget for PMC does just that. From the youngster right now picking up the children's education offering to the retiree's beautiful voice in the choir, each one receives God's grace through your gifts to the combined budget. The local budget—serving those who you know best.

Visitors' Dinner

Join us today after second service in the PMC Commons (downstairs) for a home-cooked vegetarian meal.

Adventist Forum Meeting

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

Dr. Ann Gibson, professor emerita of the AU School of Business, will be discussing "Where do my donations go? A conversation on SDA church financial structure." All are welcomed!

Family Vespers

TODAY • 5:00 PM
YOUTH CHAPEL

Come and receive a blessing as we praise God with a Hymnfest.

GROW More Hope in 2017

Lead a GROW Group between February 20 and April 30, 2017. It's as simple as 1, 2, 3. (1) Think of a subject or activity that you are passionate about. (2) Invite at least 2 others to join you. (3) Sign up at www.pmchurch.org/grow so that more can join. Help us grow more hope, community and friends for Christ in 2017! For questions or ideas, contact Pastor Sabine at growgroups@pmchurch.org or 269.471.6153.

Soup for Students

On December 6 let's give some bowls of love to students during finals week. We need commitments for at least 25 pots of soup. We also need volunteers to help clean up after the event. **Let us know by noon on December 5** if you can help by calling Lailane Legoh at 269.471.3543.

Refugee Foster Care Orientation

DECEMBER 8 • 5:30-7:30 PM

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(9123 GEORGE AVE, BERRIEN SPRINGS)

Join Bethany Christian Services at their upcoming Refugee Foster Parent Orientation to learn more about becoming a foster parent to unaccompanied refugee minors resettled in our community. For more information, or to RSVP, please send an email to aegonzalez@bethany.org or call 269.567.0065.

Adopt a Family for Christmas

Experience the joy of bringing smiles and deep appreciation to families who may be struggling during the holiday season. In addition to helping some international student families on campus, we would like to include a few non-Adventist families in Berrien Springs, and also assist Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor as they reach out to their immediate neighbors. We are looking for people to adopt a family, give a donation (money, gift cards, food, toys, etc.), or help in other ways. Donations can be made through PMC—note "Adopt a Family for Christmas Program." To choose a family, or for more information, call Katherine Smith 269.471.1502 or Deby Andvik 269.471.6648.

H2O Fit Class Holiday Break

The H2O Fit class will be taking a break from December 8 through January 9. Join us when we resume on January 10.

ToBoFit Class Holiday Break

ToBoFit class will be taking a break from December 9 through January 8. Join us again when we resume on January 9.

PMC Youth Mission Honduras

On December 9, our youth mission team will fly to Honduras to volunteer at the Hogar de Ninos children's home operated by REACH International. We will be serving the children at the home as well as conducting a Friendship Camp for about 150 children. This is the 17th team going to Honduras and it is such a joy to renew the friendships year after year as the children grow. Some will be graduating from college this year! Your prayers and support are making a difference. For more information contact Glenn Russell (glenn@andrews.edu).

Feast of Lights

DECEMBER 9 • 7:00 PM

PMC SANCTUARY

All are invited to attend the 44th annual Feast of Lights program presented by the Andrews Academy department of music. This spectacular night will be filled with music, Scripture and drama honoring the King of Kings. Enjoy lights, bells, instruments, choral and congregational singing, a Nativity scene, and the retelling of a glorious Christmas story. Portions of Handel's Messiah, including the Hallelujah chorus, will be performed. All are invited to attend this free program.

Christmas Pops Concert

DECEMBER 10 • 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's musical groups.

Adventist Retirees of Michiana Christmas Banquet

DECEMBER 11 • 1:00 PM

VILLAGE SDA FAMILY CENTER

Join us for our annual Christmas Banquet and an excellent program as we enjoy the spirit of Christmas! Please **RSVP by December 5** to the PMC church office 269.471.3133.

Scrapbooking Together

DECEMBER 11 • 1:00 – 6:00 PM

PMC COMMONS

Get those last-minute Christmas presents finished at our last get-together of 2016. Bring your favorite snack and we will provide chocolate and prizes. Questions, email sherrie.davis@lakeunion.org.

We Mourn

Today we mourn with Candice Hollingsead on the death of her mother, Mary Evangeline Wold Haas, on Monday, November 21. We also mourn with Rita Wright on the death of her brother, Gary McKenzie Sr., on Tuesday, November 27. With both of these families we look forward to the resurrection morning. "Even so, come Lord Jesus."

More Announcements

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

Nominating Committee

FIRST READING

Photographer:

Shiekainah Decano

Adult SS Superintendent:

Qaisar Ayaz

RMES Christmas Concerts

DECEMBER 12 & 13 • 7:00 PM

HOWARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

Celebrate the Christmas season with RMES! The Christmas Vocal Concert (December 12) will feature Vivaldi's *Gloria* performed by the K-5 Singers and *Silent Night, The Birth of a Carol* by the RMES Singers. The following evening (December 13) is the RMES Christmas Instrumental Concert featuring band, bells, and strings.

Church Business Meeting

DECEMBER 13 • 7:00 PM

PMC COMMONS

You're invited to attend our year-end business meeting. It will be a joint meeting with the church board and the board of elders.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along

DECEMBER 18 • 4:00 PM

PMC SANCTUARY

PMC and WAUS are hosting a sing-along performance of Handel's Messiah. Invite your friends and join us for marvelous music and a reception to follow. If you have experience singing Handel's Messiah, please join with the Sanctuary Choir for this festive community experience. There are two Wednesday rehearsals (December 7 & 14 at 7 PM). For info, contact director, Jeannie Pedersen-Smith (jean.pedersen.smith@gmail.com) or 269.277.0488, voice or text).

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CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

NEXT SABBATH, DECEMBER 10

We join with our community in collecting toys
for families that need some extra kindness during
this holiday season.

**BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY TO CHURCH
FOR A CHILD AGE 1-16**

Come and invite your friends!

