

# “The of the Matter”

## A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

### Dearest Mother

by David Anderson

Many years have passed;  
The days go by so fast.  
But memory lingers long,  
Of all the things you've done  
To make my life more strong.

The first thing I remember  
Of the days in mid September  
When we lived upon the farm,  
And how my daddy let me milk  
The gentlest cow without alarm.

So many good times we've had;  
It's hard to remember when we were bad.  
But your loving, patient ways  
Made it so we would want  
To follow Jesus through all our days.

In our trip across the sea  
On the “Steel Artisan”, the world to see  
And all the places along the route  
Were always more interesting  
When you, Mother, showed us all about.

Our best teacher in Myaungmya  
Helped us through our grades somehow,  
Despite the goats, and the fire  
And playing soccer in the rain  
With all the boys in wet attire.

And when we moved to the hills  
called Chin,  
It was fun to carry the rabbits in  
A basket on the plane,  
And in the jeep over all the  
Rugged and steep terrain.

The angels kept us guard,  
Even when the trailer came down hard.  
And when the bullets whizzed past  
And the well caved in  
And made us work so fast.

It was fun to have a horse,  
Even when he ran away, of course.  
It was hard to study our lessons  
When Ning Go Ching was crying  
Or when God showed so many blessings.

Going off to Vincent Hill was hard,  
But that was part of the work of God.  
The river trip to Paan  
And searching shells on Andherst beaches  
Made us know your love was strong.

The years at Vincent Hill were good  
And by then, we knew just where  
we stood.

But it was always great  
When the homeward train and plane  
Came to stop in front of the gate.

Mother, your love and courage  
Has helped to stem the flurries  
Of Satan and his attacks  
When things seem going wrong;  
Yet, still your love wasn't slack.

Thank you, Mother, for your love.  
It shows the love of God above.  
And I want you to know  
That I'm glad you are my mother  
And that I love you so!

written after graduating from  
Vincent Hill School, June 1960

**“Who can find a virtuous woman?  
For her worth is far above rubies,  
The heart of her husband safely trusts her;  
So he will have no lack of gain.  
She opens her mouth with wisdom,  
And on her tongue is the law of kindness.  
She watches over the ways of her  
household,  
And does not eat the bread of idleness.  
Her children rise up and call her blessed;  
Her husband also, and he praises her.”**

Proverbs 31:10, 11, 26-28

## Church News

## All About Jesus Seminar

The first nine days of April, our church experienced tremendous blessings of encouragement and direction on how to deepen our friendship with Jesus from Pastor Lee and Marji Venden. They have a team ministry that captivates all ages: Marji with her stories and experiments for the children and Pastor Lee with his testimonies and illustrations presented in his unique, animated style kept every listener in awe of Jesus' love for us. They brought to us just the message we need to embrace as the world is coming to a close.

Some of the comments that were shared during the presentations were:

"The Vendens shared "Gold" with us!"

*"I want the 'click' in my friendship with Jesus!"*

*"The three-legged stool illustration helped us to visualize our daily walk with Him: Bible study for the purpose of getting to know Jesus, talk to God as to a friend, and then share what He means to you."*

"Pastor Lee made himself vulnerable which made his listeners able to identify with his struggles."

"The stories that were shared clearly revealed the life-transforming power of Jesus."

"We caught a vision of how exciting it is to have a daily friendship with Jesus."

"The seminar helped us to understand that having a forever friendship with Jesus is what we really want."

*"We learned how powerful intercessory prayer is."*

*"When we have Jesus, we have everything!"*

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Filled With The Holy Spirit,  
Discipling,  
Baptizing,  
Teaching, With Love,  
Preparing All For Jesus' Return

### OUR VISION STATEMENT

To Know Jesus  
To Share Jesus  
To Follow Jesus  
Changing Lives Today  
And For Eternity



The Heart of the Matter is edited and produced by David and Donna Faye Anderson. You may contact them at 707-234-9234 or online [davendonaa@icloud.com](mailto:davendonaa@icloud.com).

Mountain Quail  
Photograph by David Anderson



## **Church News, Cont.**

### **Youth Vespers:**

Pastor K. is planning for two youth vespers dates for May: the 13th and the 27th, from 6:30-8:00pm., at his address, 278 Garrett Drive, unless otherwise advertised.

### **Upcoming Special Sabbaths:**

May 7: Mothers will be honored.  
 May 14: Education Sabbath—UJA will provide the service.  
 May 21: Outdoor Church at Mill Creek Park—  
 (The Social Committee will be providing drinks and desserts. Otherwise, it will be a potluck, so please bring food to share.)  
 May 28: Memorial Day - Members who have served in the military will be honored.

### **Pacific Press Needs You!**

Pacific Press Publishing Association (PPPA) is the official publishing and printing ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. PPPA is based in beautiful Nampa, Idaho, in the Boise metro area, which is home to Gem State Adventist Academy, three Adventist elementary schools, and nearly a dozen churches. We have a wide variety of jobs available for mission- minded church members. Come build your career in the publishing industry while sharing the good news of Jesus!  
 Learn more at [PacificPress.com/jobs/](https://PacificPress.com/jobs/) or email the Director of Human Resources,  
 Kirsten Berger, at  
[kirsten.berger@pacificpress.com](mailto:kirsten.berger@pacificpress.com).

### **Church Roof Repair**

We have good news to report regarding the repairing of all the leaks that are in our church roof. We received a bid from Mendocino Gutters for \$231,000.00 which we accepted for the re-roofing project. This means that with what we already have on hand, we need another \$2,250.00. The contractors have received their first payment, so the work has begun. It is with thankful hearts that we share how God is blessing this project, which should be completed this summer.

Below left Anna's Hummingbird, right Wild Iris.  
 Both taken at Dave Anderson's house.





## Pathfinders

Director Luis Pastor reports that the Bike-a-thon was a huge success and provided lots of fun and sunshine for the six riders who participated. Logan Kurtz rode 80 miles. Nathan Kuntz and Caleb Williams each rode 70 miles. Samuel Kuntz, Jordan Pastor, and Rachel Williams each rode 50 miles. This was Nathan, Samuel, and Rachel's first Bike-a-thon and they did very well.

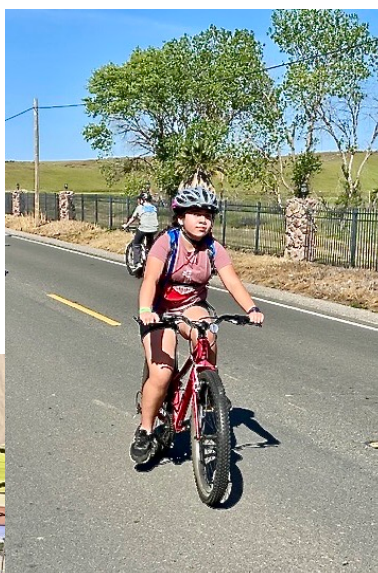
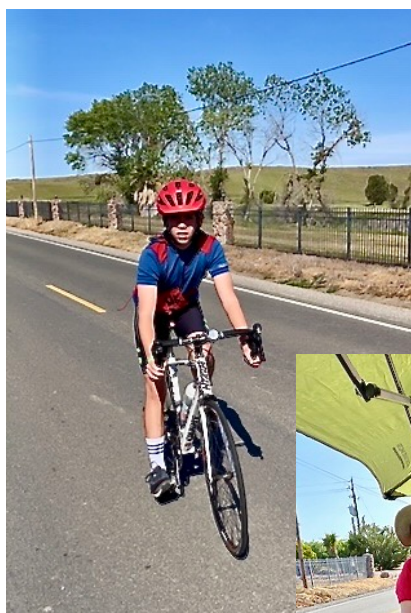
On their club meeting nights, they are building model rockets. When they are completed, there will be a launch event!

Up-coming dates include:

April 28: Preparation for the Pathfinder Fair—this is the first fair since 2019.

May 1: Pathfinder Fair at the Napa Christian Campus of Education. There will be competitions, marching, drills, and boat races using boats made from 2-liter plastic bottles.  
May 6-8: Pathfinder/Adventurer Retreat at Albion. If you would like to join this group, please contact Kellie Corbett or Patty Pastor.  
May 15: Pathfinder fundraiser dinner of Thai and Filipino cuisine at UJA. More details to come.

At the church talent show in March, the Pathfinders sold corn dogs, nachos, and root beer floats, bringing in close to \$500.00 towards expenses for the international Pathfinder Camporee in 2024. Way to go, Pathfinders! We're proud of all of you!



Participants in Bike-a-thon: Clockwise from Top Left: Caleb Williams, Rachel Williams, Logan Kurtz. Dan Kuntz, guarding the food table. Caleb Williams, Nathan Kuntz, Logan Kurtz, and Jordan Pastor. Beth Garibaldi and Diana Kurtz making sure every body has munchies and water. Photographer Luis Pastor





## Family News

### We said our good-byes to the Barraza family

by Kellie Corbett

April 16 was a bittersweet day for the church. While many mourn the weekend for the tax implications, the church was sad to be saying goodbye to the Barraza family. A loss we will feel more keenly than some of those tax dollars.



Several weeks ago, Gabriel lost his job as director of Redwood Cove when it was bought by a new company that also brought in their own management. Through much prayer and searching, he found a new job as director of Park Manor, in Bee Cave, Texas. While it is a larger facility and the family has felt God's leading, we in Ukiah, can't help but feel sad to see them go.

The Barraza family has been active in their support of the church since moving to Ukiah in September of 2012. They were influential in the establishment of the Spanish church, which recently became an independent company. The children attended Sabbath school classes at the Ukiah church, and they helped serve as a link between the two churches.

We celebrated our friendship with the family by having a potluck combined with the Spanish church. It was well attended, and many people shared by cards, or personal testimony how the Barraza family has impacted their lives.

The Barraza family. Photographer unknown.

They drove out of town on Sunday, April 17, and will be living in the Austin, Texas area. Though we are sad to see them go, we know they will be a blessing to their new church and community. We look forward a little more eagerly to Jesus' soon return when there will be no goodbyes.

Gabriel, Sonia, Gabriel, Eva, and Sophia would love to hear from us. Please keep in touch at their new address: 13207 Easley Drive, Manchaca, TX 78652. Keep them in your prayers during their move and settling in to their new surroundings.

Who was the farthest from home during Spring Break?

### Eric and Beth Kablanow

"Hi, here is a photo from our trip we are on, in Iceland visiting friends. This is at Öxarárfoss waterfall which falls into a crack between the Eurasian and North American Tectonic Plates."

Photographer unknown.



Family News, cont.Mother's Day Tributes, continued from page 1**Mother's Day**

by Becky Kuntz

This is the time of the year when we all honor our mothers. I am blessed to live close to my own mother, Vicky Lauritzen, after nearly 20 years of living across the country from each other. My mom has always been one of the kindest people I know. I remember as a kid, my mom was always there to offer a hug or word of encouragement. My mom also instilled in me the importance of prayer as her answer to just about everything was "let's pray about that".

After I had my own kids, I realized just how hard it is being a mother. We hurt when our kids are hurting, we laugh when they laugh, we get mad when they are angry, and we smile when they give us a hug. My kids have certainly kept me on my toes. Once, one of them colored his face like a tiger, right before family pictures and we furiously had to scrub the (thankfully washable) marker off his face. Another time, one of my kids wanted to see what would happen when he put peas up his nose. Again, thankfully it was easily remedied and no harm was done. We had phases where all their toys ended up in the trash, where holes in the pants meant the pants had to be thrown away, and when the slightest little cut required a band-aid. And of course, we certainly have had our share of fights and arguments.

Now, as my kids approach the teenage years, we have new challenges: homework, friends, girls, and puberty, to name a few. However, despite the challenges, watching my kids grow into happy young men who love God is the greatest reward. We have so many examples in the Bible of godly mothers. I think of those who longed to be mothers, like Hannah, Samuel's mother, who pleaded with God for a child. God heard and answered her pleas. Sarah, Abraham's wife thought she was too old to be a mother, but God made her the mother of a great nation. Ruth was devoted to her mother-in-law and became an ancestor of David. Even as he was dying on the cross, Jesus made sure his own mother was cared for.

This Mother's Day, as we celebrate our mothers, let's also pray for all the mothers, that they will have love and wisdom as they raise their children. Let's remember those among us who long to be mothers and are not; let's surround them with love and prayers. Let's be sensitive to those who may have lost their own mother or child; let's pray for peace and comfort for them. And finally, give your own mother a hug, and some flowers! She is your biggest cheerleader.



Photos Clockwise start right above. Left to right: Rebecca Kuntz and her mother, Vicky Lauritzen; Nathan and Samuel Kuntz; Nathan, Samuel, Rebecca, and Daniel Kuntz; Samuel, Rebecca, and Nathan Kuntz.

Photographs taken by either Daniel or Rebecca Kuntz



**Mother's Day Tributes, cont****What is it like to be a Mother?****By Claudia Sevilla****Borrowed Treasure**

Our Yazmin has been so precious to us. I have to constantly remind myself she is a borrowed treasure from God, and I am the coworker of God to raise this beautiful child in His way.

This past year being a Mom has made one thing clear to me. Children can have the greatest impact in our character building. Had it not been for this wonderful opportunity of raising a child, my character would not have been so



dramatically affected. It may have taken much longer for my character to develop, or I may have never been able to reach the potential that God planned for in my life. I am just scratching the surface of character building, but I am eternally grateful to God for this life-changing experience.

Another aspect of growth in my life as a result of being a mother, is the experience of forgiveness of past hardships in my childhood, and the increase of love I have towards my parents. I am truly thankful to God for these experiences.

Motherhood can be hard work and challenging, but it is also a priceless, rewarding gift. I always keep in mind that Yazmin is my borrowed treasure to cherish.

Photo above Yazmin Sevilla with her Mother, Claudia.  
Photographer Shamir Sevilla, Dad.

## UJA News

### Teacher Appreciation Week!!!

May 2-6, 2022

Happy Teacher Appreciation Week to my teacher family!

The amazing job that you guys do at UJA is a testament of your love and support of the school and its students.

We literally could not ask for a better group of teachers who introduce the kids to a loving God, while also teaching them about the world they live in.

I truly hope you feel appreciated and understand how much you all are loved by everyone during this teacher appreciation week.

It is an absolute blast to work with each and every one of you guys!

Let's do this again next year.

Your office coworker,  
Allison Kurtz



Top right, clockwise:  
Kindergarten  
Teacher: Wendi Olivera with friend;  
Grades 1/2  
Teacher Aide: Diana Kurtz, left;  
Teacher: Debbie Nelson; Gr 1/2 Debbie Nelson, Diana Kurtz, Allison Kurtz, Office;  
Grade 3 Teacher Benji Oliver, right, with friend.





# UJA News, cont.



Above right clockwise. Left to right in each photograph; Gr 3 Teacher: Benji Oliver, Allison Kurtz, Office; Gr 4 Teacher: Beth Kablanow; Grade 5/6 Teacher: Peter Garcilazo, Allison, Office; Back row: Benji Oliver, David Anderson, Business Manager, Beth Kablanow, Front row: Rick Nelson, Beth Garibaldi, Allison Kurtz, Wendi Olivera, and Debbie Nelson. Music: Margie Rice with a class in music; Top: Peter Garcilazo, Benji Oliver, Allison Kurtz, Debbie Nelson, Rick Nelson, Principal and Grade 7 home room Teacher; Wendi Olivera, Beth Kablanow, and Beth Garibaldi, Teacher Science & Math 5-10, as well as numerous other jobs. Photographer all pictures pages 8 & 9 Allison Kurtz, except lower right, photographer Aimee Rogers and upper left unknown. Photos below by David Anderson





**UJA News, Cont.****What is WASC and why were they at UJA?** By Rick Nelson, Principal UJA

During the first week of this April, UJA was visited by a group from WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) for 4 days, April 3-6. The purpose of the visit was the last step to gaining WASC Accreditation for UJA for the first time.

Accreditation through WASC is important because for a number of reasons. High school credit from WASC accredited schools is accepted without question throughout the country. Also, the WASC accreditation process is very thorough and helped us define who we are and how we can grow and improve as a school.

The visiting team consisted of a conference education associate superintendent, a retired SDA principal, a retired public school superintendent and a non-parochial school administrator. The team was impressed with the positive climate of UJA, as well as the quality of the teaching staff.

UJA spent the previous three months working through the self-study process and put together a school improvement plan that the WASC visiting team looked over and offered suggestions to improve. It was through this self-study process that UJA determined that a primary area of growth needed at UJA was in the area of academic instruction to improve student learning, specifically in the area of Mathematics.

The school improvement plan is a multi-year process that focuses on a specific area each year with the overall goal of improving student learning in all areas:

2021-2022 - Creating a safe, supportive and collaborative culture

2022-2023 - Promoting effective teaching in every classroom

2023-2024 - Ensuring a guaranteed and viable curriculum

2024-2025 - Developing standards-referenced reporting

2025-2026 - Striving for competency-based education

UJA is committed to introducing students and their families to Jesus while equipping them for this world and preparing them for the world to come. Please continue to pray for UJA and its ministry.

**Veggie Food Store**

School will be out soon and your kids will be home for the summer, probably making their own lunches.

Cheryl Witzel reports that a new shipment of corn dogs has come in—also deli slices, and other items, such as Grillers and Chik Patties. Chef Bonneau gravy mixes are back.

The store will be open all summer at its usual hours: Thursday, from 2:30-4:30pm. If you can't come on Thursday afternoons, but need something, just give me a call, 707-972-4927, and I could meet you on another day. I am happy to deliver to shut-ins in Ukiah.

FYI: All proceeds go to the school.