

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

No Room in the Inn

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

What an astounding situation—when the time came for Jesus to be born, Joseph and Mary couldn’t find one room available in all of Bethlehem. Was this a divine oversight? Can you just imagine Joseph feeling, “Enough is enough!”

It all began when Mary, his wife-to-be became pregnant and the whole town looked on them with scandalous suspicion. Then Caesar Augustus decided to take a census. At the worst possible time, when Mary was heavy with child, they had to travel 70 miles with Joseph leading a donkey carrying Mary on its back. And when they finally arrived, there were no vacant rooms. For Joseph and Mary, this was hardly “the most wonderful time of the year.”

God had placed a special, brilliant star in the sky to herald the arrival of Jesus and to direct the shepherds to the stable where they found Him lying in a manger. With that same star, He guided wise men from afar to visit the newborn Christ child; so why didn’t He provide a vacant room?

Are there lessons meant for us surrounding these details of Jesus’ birth?

I believe there are.

1.) When Jesus became one of us, He expected none of the world’s comforts or protections. Jesus can completely identify with the underprivileged, oppressed and poor. He knows what each one of His human family experiences. 2 Corinthians 8:9 says, “Though He was very rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that by His poverty, He could make you rich.”

2.) We need to be reminded that when we choose to follow Jesus, it does not mean that we are taking on a comfortable or easy life. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus said to His disciples, “Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me.”

3.) The fact that there was no room in the inn was the beginning of the fulfillment of the prophecy foretold in Isaiah 53, which says that the Messiah would be “despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering.”

The words “no room for you” followed Him throughout His life. It is the same in our lives today. He continues to experience rejection. He still gets crowded out. He is often an afterthought, instead of holding a place of honor. How full is your inn? Have you filled all your rooms with things that can break, tarnish or decay? So frequently, we do not recognize the blessings that come wrapped in simple cloths.

The most amazing and beautiful thing for us is that this same Child came to provide room for us. Even though through the centuries, humanity has made it clear to the Son of God, “We simply have no room for You,” Jesus consistently replies, “I have more than enough room for you.”

He loves you with an everlasting love. There is a special place reserved in his heart only for you. He will never be content until you are with Him throughout eternity. One day very soon, He will return for you. With a warm embrace, He will smile at you and say, “Come my beloved—come home with me.”

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

Thanksgiving Baskets

By Heidi Veness

Thank you to all who helped support the Thanksgiving Baskets!

The Food Bank made over 400 baskets this year to support the community. Our church family, along with other community volunteers, helped to deliver 190 baskets in record time. Thank you for the financial support, food donations, and all the people that came out Sabbath morning to help deliver the baskets! We would also like to say thank you to the UJA students who volunteered their time to help pack the baskets.

I am proud of our church to partner with the Ukiah Food Bank to help share a little bit of holiday cheer and more importantly share God’s love to our community!

www.fordstreet.org/donations - please continue to support!



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

Church News, Cont.**Pathfinder Caving Trip**

By Samantha Ahumada

On November 10th, a small group from our Pathfinder Club went to Lava Beds National Monument in Tulelake, CA for the Pathfinder teen caving trip. Those of us who went were Pastor K and Mrs. K, Logan and his mom Mrs. Kurtz, Caleb Williams, Seth Boyl, and me. We headed to the Lava Beds from UJA Thursday afternoon. Our ride was around six hours long including a few pit stops.

I don't remember who, but someone asked Pastor K if he thought there'd be any snow, and he said "not that much, probably around one or two inches." One of our stops was in a town near Mount Shasta. There was only a bit of snow there, so once we were on the road again and noticed there was no snow, I assumed that there wouldn't be much at the monument.

Although we still had a few more miles to go before we reached our campground, we were so excited that we had arrived at the monument and that our long trip was almost over. Once at our campsite we were surprised at how much snow there was. We then saw Mrs. G who later joined us on our exploration of our first two caves.

When we arrived we weren't wearing anything warm enough to survive out there in the cold. So once we got out of the car we wasted no time and quickly put on a bunch of layers of clothing. I remember Mrs. G telling me how much warmer the bathrooms were than outside. Well, she was right. She was also right about what she had told me regarding the bathrooms' conditions. Believe me, you wouldn't want to be there longer than necessary-- the smell was horrible.

My tent went up quickly, but it was taking quite a while to put the boys' tent up. Unfortunately, the right poles weren't packed for their tent. So the adults decided to just have them sleep in the hang-out tent, but the right poles for that weren't packed either, so we just stuck with the regular camping tent and somehow made it work. Someone with the Redding Pathfinder club whom we remember as the "Redding bro" came and brought us some firewood to warm up. Later on, his friend let us borrow a canopy. It was said that the first night was the coldest; but it wasn't too bad, although I did sleep with five layers of clothes and inside of three sleeping bags.

The next morning we had oatmeal for breakfast. After breakfast we went up to the visitors center with Mrs. G to get our caving permits and got a mini-lecture from a park ranger telling us about the white-nose syndrome that can wipe out thousands of bats. We had to be geared up with a helmet, flashlight/headlamp, knee and elbow pads for every cave except Mushpot. From there we went to our first cave, Mushpot Cave, which was a very simple walk-in cave. After Mushpot we got in the car and drove to what they said was the hardest cave there, Catacombs Cave.

In the Catacombs we had a few other pathfinders join us. This was a very long cave. We were in that cave for about two and a half hours. It had many tight spaces where you had to go on your belly. The hardest part of this cave was the crossover which had the tightest and lowest spots.

On Sabbath morning we all headed to a cave for church. The service included songs, getting to know other pathfinders, Bible games, and stories from Pastor Eddie. After that, we went back to camp for lunch and then made a huge snowman with our neighboring pathfinders and played in the snow for a while until late afternoon.

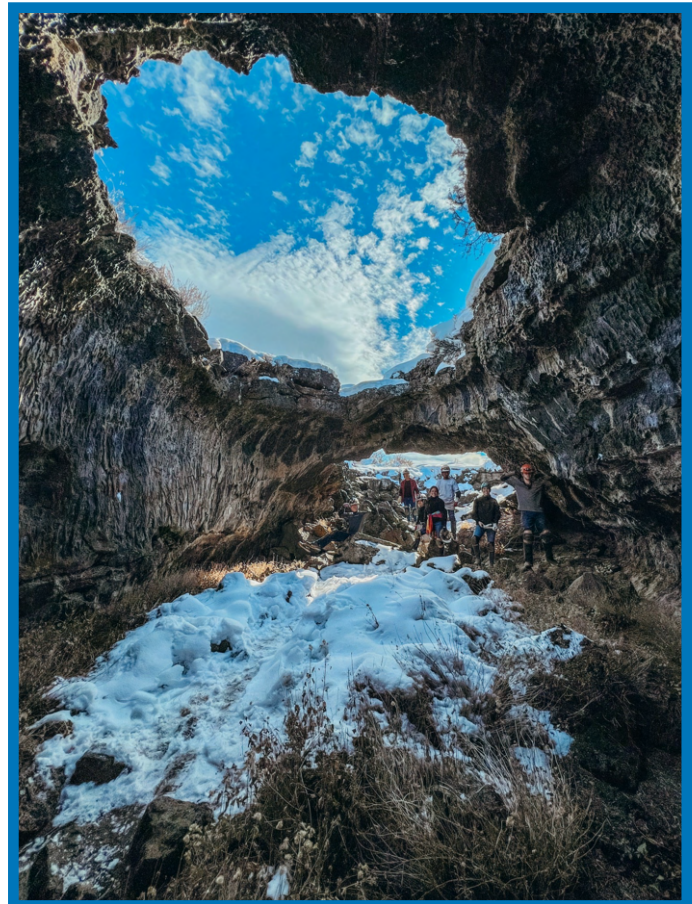
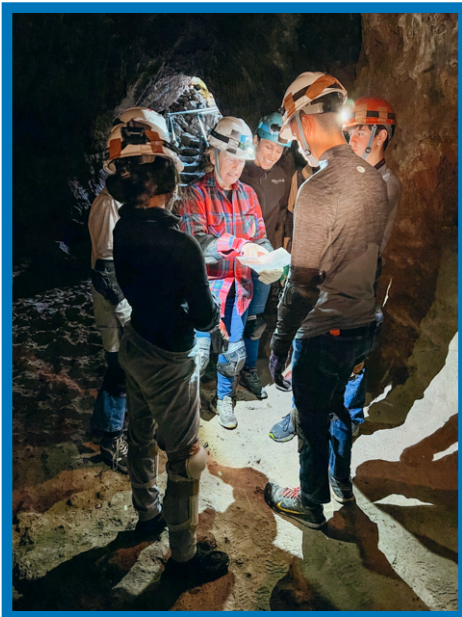
Pathfinder Caving Cont.

The first cave of the day that we actually got to explore was Skull Cave. It had a huge mouth, and a little path that led to steep stairs down to the bottom. There, were the remains of a goat which were protected with a glass covering. We went all the way back up the stairs to head out of the cave. I will admit I ran out of breath.

One of the last caves that we explored wasn't that bad if you stayed on the main path. It's called Hopkins Chocolate Cave. We decided to explore a dark hole with a very low ceiling that we found and it was very fun considering that a few of us thought we were super claustrophobic. I think this cave was the most difficult just because there was hardly any room for us to crawl like a baby. Most of the time we had to army crawl and keep low or else we would bump our helmet or back against sharp rocks.

By bed time I think we were all super tired, but I couldn't sleep because of how cold it was. Even under three sleeping bags and six layers of clothes I was still freezing and looking forward to the nice, warm car ride home. Sunday morning we had an interesting but yummy breakfast, packed up, and left.

Thanks to all the adults that made this trip possible. I think it's safe to say we all had fun and enjoyed caving and being outdoors even though it was so cold.



Photographer Pastor Eric Kablanow

Church News, cont,

December Change Jars for ADRA

Since 1956, The Adventist Development and Relief Agency has been the international humanitarian arm of the Seventh-day Adventist church serving in 118 countries. Its work empowers communities and changes lives around the globe by providing sustainable community development and disaster relief. ADRA's purpose is: to serve humanity so all may live as God intended.

CHANGE JARS WILL BE COLLECTED THE LAST TWO SABBATHS IN DECEMBER.

Your donation will help ADRA respond immediately to urgent needs and be flexible as those needs change. Your "Love Gift" may provide shelter to a family in a disaster, access essential medical care, food for those in a hunger crisis, or any other urgent need that may arise.

Intentionally ask God to direct your decision about your participation in this very worthwhile effort.

*"...whatever you do,
do all to the glory of
God."* 1 Corinthians 10:31.



Financial report

By December 31, 2022, we need to give to Church Budget **\$164,054.49** in order to meet our budget. Your envelope needs to be postmarked or date stamped in the church office before or on December 31, 2022. There are several ways that you can give your tithes and offerings.

1. **Online.** Go to the church website ukiahsda.com. Click in the online giving, and go from there. There are no fees charged for using this site. Your whole gift is deposited into our church bank account.

2. **Mail** your check to the church. If you have a tithe envelope, put your check into it and be sure to fill out the front. If you don't have a tithe envelope, write your information on a piece of paper and mail it with your check to the church. If you need some tithe envelopes, let me know and I will see that you get some.

3. **Bring** your check to the church. Someone is in the church office from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm Monday through Thursday.

Thank you to each of you for your faithfulness in returning your tithe, and supporting the church budget. May God bless each of you for the rest of this year and beyond as we wait for His blessed return. David Anderson, Treasurer



UJA News

Spirit Week and Thanksgiving Celebrations at UJA — — — ————— Script and photos by Allison Kurtz

We had our school Spirit Week from Nov 14-17, where we dressed up for different themes. Monday was pretty nice, we got to wear our pajamas! It was great being in pajamas all day, I was sad when I changed back in to regular pants to go to board meeting, only to realize that Rick had decided he would stay in his pajamas for board meeting 😊 I would have, too, had I known my boss would be! I thought it was funny.

Sports Day; The kids had fun dressing up for their favorite sports.

Monday- Pajama Day
Tuesday- Sports Team Day
Wednesday- Western Day
Thursday- Class Color Day
Friday- Thanksgiving celebrations

Pajama Day in the Kindergarten and 4th grade classrooms.



Then we had **Western Day** on Wednesday. It was great seeing everyone's costumes and interesting takes. We had Benji as an "urban cowboy" and Zednic as a trapper! There were even a few stick horses seen on campus.



UJA News, cont.



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 davendonnaa@icloud.com.

Then we had **Class Color Day**. Almost everyone on campus participated on this day dressing in their class's designated color. Kindergarten: orange; 1st: red; 2nd-3rd: grey; 4th: blue; 5th-6th: black; 7th-9th: pink! It made it easy for me when trying to find particular students on the playground, just look for the class color, and spot the child!



Then Thursday we had the **Thanksgiving Celebrations**. Each class had their own Thanksgiving party with plenty of tasty food that they shared with me.



Overall, it was a fantastic week that everyone enjoyed participating in. And it was a great way to kick off our thanksgiving vacation! We will all enjoy our time off and the fun memories we made before heading back to school on the 28th!



Veggie Food Store

Store manager, Cheryl Witzel, posts an exciting December announcement: “We have a new supply of Dinner Roasts for your holiday meals—also turkey and smoked turkey rolls.

“Here’s a reminder that Bill’s Best Beef- and Chick-Nish flavorings are discontinued. The store still has some left, mostly Beef.

“There is a December special of \$2.00 a can on the Companion Mung Chai Ya (imitation duck). If you haven’t tried it, this may be a great time to do so.

“Make sure you have corn dogs, deli slices and jerky on hand for when the kids are out of school for Christmas break.”

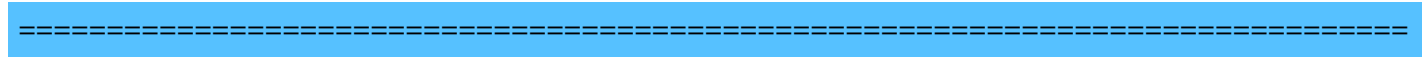


Family News

As you can see in the sign posted, the Track and Field has been dedicated to Sharon Roscoe and Harry Witzel in the years noted in the photo. Thank you to both of these individuals for their dedication and work for the benefit of the students at UJA.

Also, a big thank you goes to Dale Morrison and Phill Tamanaha for many hours in restoring the field and track.

Tribute to Sharon Roscoe, So ten years ago, they dedicated the track to Sharon Roscoe, but unfortunately, there was no field to post their placard for. So they were waiting until the field was redone to place the placard. And since we were having the field dedicated to Harry, we decided that it would be best to have a sign that had both Harry and Sharon’s dedication on it. The reason for dedicating the track to Sharon was because as long as I can remember....probably as long as she had been a teacher here, she had her students run the track. We had a goal, and that goal was to run the amount of miles it would take to get to Great America, and Sharon would run right along with us. If we reached that goal, she would take those kids to Great America for the day! It was the best, and something that we looked forward to as we reached 5th & 6th grade. So it made absolute sense that the track would be dedicated to Sharon Roscoe, and I love that others recognized that as well 😊 By Allison Kurtz



A Christmas Story that warms the heart!

The Gold and Ivory Tablecloth

By Howard C. Schade

This story first appeared in the Reader’s Digest, December 1954

At Christmastime men and women everywhere gather in their churches to wonder anew at the greatest miracle the world has ever known. But the story I like best to recall was not a miracle—not exactly.

It happened to a pastor who was very young. His church was very old. Once it had flourished. Famous men had preached from its pulpit, prayed before its altar. Rich and poor alike had worshipped there and it was beautiful. Now the good days had passed from the section of town where it stood. But the pastor and his wife believed in their run-down church. With paint, hammer and faith they could get it restored. Together they went to work.

But in December a severe storm whipped through the river valley, and the worst blow fell on the little church—a huge chunk of rain-soaked plaster fell out of the inside wall just behind the altar. Sorrowfully the pastor and his wife swept away the mess, but they couldn’t hide the ragged hole.

The Gold and Ivory Tablecloth, cont.

The pastor looked at it and had to remind himself quickly, “Thy will be done!” But his wife wept, “Christmas is only two days away!”

That afternoon the dispirited couple attended the auction held for the benefit of a youth group. The auctioneer opened a box and shook out of its folds a handsome gold and ivory lace tablecloth. It was a magnificent item, nearly 15 feet long. But it too, dated from a long vanquished era. Who, today, had any use for such a thing? There were a few half-hearted bids. Then the pastor was seized with what he thought was a great idea. He bid it in for \$6.50.

He carried the cloth back to the church and tacked it up on the wall behind the altar. It completely hid the hole! And the extraordinary beauty of its shimmering handwork cast a fine, holiday glow over the chancel. It was a great triumph. Happily he went back to preparing his Christmas sermon.

Just before noon on the day of Christmas Eve, as the pastor was opening the church, he noticed a woman standing in the cold at the bus stop.

“The bus won’t be here for 40 minutes!” he called, and invited her into the church to get warm.

She told him that she had come from the city that morning to be interviewed for a job as governess for the children of one of the wealthy families in town but she had been turned down. A war refugee, her English was imperfect.

The woman sat down in a pew and rubbed her hands and rested. After a while she bowed her head and prayed. She looked up as the pastor began to adjust the great lace cloth across the hole. She rose suddenly and walked up the steps of the chancel. She looked at the tablecloth. The pastor smiled and started to tell her about the storm damage, but she didn’t seem to listen. She took up a fold of the cloth and rubbed it between her fingers.

“It is mine!” she said. She lifted up a corner and showed the surprised pastor that there were initials monogrammed on it. “My husband had the cloth made especially for me in Brussels! There could not be another like it.”

For the next few minutes the woman and the pastor talked excitedly together. She explained that she was Viennese; that she and her husband had opposed the Nazis and decided to leave the country. They were advised to go separately. Her husband put her on a train for Switzerland. They planned that he would join her as soon as he could arrange to ship their household goods across the border.

She never saw him again. Later she heard that he had died in a concentration camp.

“I have always felt that it was my fault—to leave without him,” she said. “Perhaps these years of wandering have been my punishment!”

The pastor tried to comfort her. He urged her to take the cloth with her. She refused. Then she went away.

As the church began to fill on Christmas Eve, it was clear that the cloth was going to be a great success. It looked its best by candlelight.

After the service, the pastor stood at the doorway; many people told him that the church looked beautiful. One gentle-faced, middle-aged man—he was the local clock-and-watch repairman—looked rather puzzled.

“It is strange,” he said in his soft accent. “Many years ago my wife and I owned such a cloth. In our home in Vienna, my wife put it on the table”—and here he smiled—“only on special occasions!”

The pastor suddenly became very excited. He told the jeweler about the woman who had been in church earlier in the day.

The startled jeweler clutched the pastor’s arm. “Can it be? Does she live?”

Together the two men got in touch with the family who had interviewed her. Then, in the pastor’s car, they started for the city. And as Christmas Day was born, this man and his wife—who had been separated through so many saddened Yuletides—were reunited.

To all who heard this story, the joyful purpose of the storm that had knocked a hole in the wall of the church was now quite clear. Of course, people said it was a miracle, but I think you will agree it was the season for it!

The Heart of the Matter

The Christmas Cantata

The 31st anniversary Cantata, The Glory of Christmas-Sing Gloria! will be presented on Sunday, December 11, at 3:00 and 6:00 pm.

You may get tickets from the church office, Rod's Shoes and Mendocino Book Company. Margie Salcedo Rice, Cantata director, extends a special invitation to you!

"Come and bring your friends to this uplifting concert that tells the story of Jesus' birth from the perspective of a shepherd family in Bethlehem."

Addendum to Church News December 2022

December Schedule

Fellowship Potluck Luncheons

December 3 - Deaconesses with Kelly Corbett

December 10 - Church Board with Mike Wilson

December 17 - Community Services with Ruth DeBooy

December 24 - Christmas Breakfast with Worship Committee

December 31 - All Church with Beckie and Ryan Sitz

Church members, their families and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring large serving portions of food to share. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Sabbath

A special holiday breakfast is planned for Christmas Eve Sabbath, utilizing the Chapel and foyer, followed by a beautiful musical worship program.

You won't want to miss this sweet and meaningful Christmas fellowship! Specific information will be shared during the month.



Ladies,
You're Invited
to a Christmas Brunch!

Sunday, Dec. 4,
11:00 am
Cherry St., Community Service Center

Please join us for some **food, fellowship, and folding!**
Folding? Yes, let's explore some clever ways to fold cloth napkins! It is always fun to add a little pizzazz to our dinner table for the holidays.

We are also having a Christmas ornament/small decor item exchange. Bring your wrapped item to exchange for another (value roughly about \$10).

Please RSVP Wendi Olivera at (707) 391-8427
(if you would like to bring a dish, please let me know)

May your Christmas be Happy

May your New Year be Bright

May you be blessed by the giver of Brightness and Happiness---

Jesus