

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

For The Glory of God

“May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.” Hebrews 13:20, 21 NIV

The concluding verses of Hebrews are a benediction—an invocation of blessing. The author appeals to God to bless the readers of this book. One of the most powerful tools we use as we live to see His Kingdom come and His will be done on earth is in blessing one another. This is a powerful thing, though only the eyes of faith can discern it. **1 John 4:12-15.**

We believe that our Father God sent us His Only Begotten Son to redeem us. His resurrection sealed that eternal covenant of love. We believe that His goodness is constant and never changing. He delights to bless His people when they come into His presence.

There are three parts to this prayer in Hebrews that I’d like to look at with you:

1. The What: God’s Will

What blessing is the author of Hebrews invoking? He wants God to equip His people for good works through Christ. **Ephesians 2:10.** Because He has ransomed us by the blood of Christ, nailed our record of debts to the cross, totally forgiven our sins, and longs to have us in Heaven with Jesus, our lives here on planet Earth are not meaningless. **Romans 8:31, 32.** Our omnipotent, sovereign God has plans for us, yes— insignificant, sinful, weak us—to advance His glorious Kingdom.

The second part of the benediction tells us **Who** is being called on to do this in you.

2. The Who: God Himself

The power the author appeals to in order to bring us to fruitful obedience to God is none other than the power of God himself and through Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd who laid His life down for His flock. **John 10:14-17.** Any act that we do that is pleasing to God is a result of His power in our life. He is the one who chose you because He loves you, gave you a new heart, gave you His Spirit, and guides you to walk in His steps. This is the New Covenant promise written about in **Jeremiah 31** and **Ezekiel 36.**

What we need is nothing less than to have our hearts of stone replaced with new hearts of righteous desires. What we need is nothing less than the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. God doesn’t merely forgive our sins. He doesn’t merely remove the penalty of our sins. He aims to completely reconstitute a new spirit within us through an unbreakable union with Jesus Christ. No other power can suffice. **Acts 4:12.**

The third part of the benediction blessing is the **why** God equips you for good works.

3. The Why: God’s Glory

The great **why** behind all of this blessing—indeed behind all of God’s actions—is glory. Everything God does is purposed to magnify His glory, including His work in your life to transform you in the image of the God-Man, Jesus Christ. **John 1:14.** This verse teaches us that Jesus himself is the visible incarnation of God’s glory—meaning that when you look at Jesus, you are looking at the very glory of God. His glory is power, brightness and holiness. May we fix our hearts on the **Glory of God.**

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

SABBATH MORNING PRAYER TIME
 The Elders invite the church family to join them at 9:00 a.m. every Sabbath morning. Meet in the Chapel, prior to the Adult Sabbath School, to pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

“It is as true now as in apostolic days, that without the illumination of the divine Spirit, humanity cannot discern the glory of Christ.” DA 508

The Resurrection Celebration service will be on Sabbath, April 8, at 11:00 a.m. Participating will be the sanctuary choir and orchestra, Ukiah Junior Academy Advanced Strings and other musical groups.

Please invite your friends to this inspiring worship service as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Pathfinder Sabbath
 On **Sabbath, April 22**, the Pathfinders are going to present the entire worship service. Come and let our illustrious youth speak to your heart through their ministry.

Fellowship Potluck Luncheon Schedule

April 1 - Elders with Mike Wilson
 April 8 - Deacons with Marshall Merklin
 April 15 - Finance Committee with Brynn Stirling
 April 22 - Deaconesses with Kellie Corbett
 April 29 - OUTDOOR CHURCH at Mill Creek Park

Church members and their families and friends are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please bring large serving portions of food to share. Visitors are always welcome.



Tulip Magnolia Tree in Ukiah
 Photo by David Anderson

ALBION WEEKEND RETREAT
 Reserve your space for the annual church retreat at Albion, **May 19-21**. The Pathfinders are planning to be there also, which made it possible to reserve the whole facility.

Cabins, RV and tent sites are available. Please contact Kellie Corbett, 509-438-2837, kelcor1@yahoo.com to let her know what type of reservation you would like.

You are also welcome to join the retreat only on Sabbath. There is no charge to come for the day, but please let Kellie know so adequate food will be available. You may be asked to bring some food.

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE COMING.

Church News, Cont.

CHARCOAL REMEDIES SEMINAR

John and Kimberly Dinsley from Charcoal House LLC begin their weekend seminar to share simple, practical and inexpensive activated-charcoal home remedies.

Friday Vespers, March 31, 7:00 p.m.

“You are the Gatekeeper of your Health”

Sabbath, April 1,

10:30 a.m. - “Eden to Eden”

11:00 a.m. - “Ordained to Heal”

2:00 p.m. - “Medicinal Charcoal and other Safe Home Remedies”

Sunday, April 2,

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Hands-On Home Remedy Demonstrations Including poultices and bandages; Hot foot bath for Migraines; Heating compress for a sore throat, and more. . .

Come, bring a friend, and learn about some amazing super-natural home remedies.

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

TALENT SHOW UPDATE

On Safari was the theme for this year’s talent show. Heidi DeGuzman painted a beautiful elephant banner that decorated the stage and Lili Rice provided slides of African animals in their natural setting.

The Masters of Ceremonies, Geoff Rice and Brian Hanson, humored the audience between performances with live demonstrations of how wild animals eat, like the buffalo, crocodile, hippopotamus and several others.

The audience enjoyed the opening numbers from the singing Gore family—Eden was the show stealer— each playing a stringed instrument.

Some of the other wonders were learning how to navigate Victor Borge’s “Inflational Language” with Lori Schafer and enjoying Kate Corbett play a piano duet with her instructor, Elizabeth McDougall.

Everyone marveled at the gymnastic performances by Keilani Tremper, first with her two little girls, and then later in the program, her solo act—a beautiful aerial ballet. It was breathtaking!

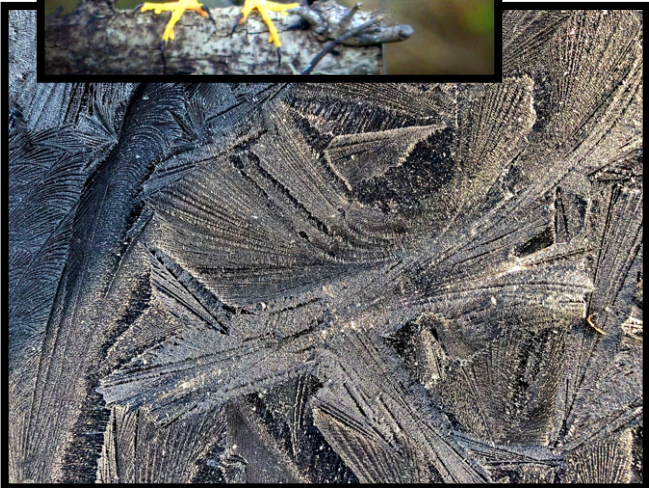
There were too many wonderful participants to mention them all, but each one made the evening memorable.

During intermission, the Pathfinders sold yummy refreshments—corn dogs and root-beer floats—fundraising for their trip to the International Pathfinder Camporee in 2024. For the second year in a row, the Merritts won the auction to take home the few left-over corn dogs.

Our church has boundless talents, so who are we going to see on the stage next year?



The Sharp-shinned Hawk in our yard asks “Why is it so cold out here?” as it looks at the ice design on the car window. Photos by David Anderson



Church News, Cont.

Christmas Change Jars collected \$307.21 for **ADRA** to feed the hungry children. I have been waiting for matching funds, but I have not received information about matching funds available. So I am sending this in with a prayer that God will use it as He sees the need and will match it where He sees fit. Thank you all who saved your coins for **ADRA**. David Anderson, Treasurer



From The Treasurer's Corner:
Some people are asking about the ways to give their offerings.

- 1. At Church.** Use a tithe envelope filled out with your name and address. Please fill out the categories where you want your money to go and put it in the offering plate.
- 2. COME during the week.** Bring your offering to the church during the week and give it to the church secretary. The church office hours are Monday-Thursday 8:00am to 1:00pm. If the doors are locked, there is a doorbell on the back door on the north side of the church. Or drop your envelope in the locked mailbox out by the curb.
- 3. USPS.** You can mail your tithes and offerings to the church.
- 4. ONLINE.** Go to website ukiahsda.com. Scroll down to online giving, and fill in the blanks. If you don't find the offering choice that you are desiring, you will notice that under each category there is a choice for "More Offering Categories." Click on that and it will give you more choices. ONLINE GIVING is a safe way to give and every \$\$ that you give to the church or project is transferred to the church. The totals are transferred to our local bank account twice a month.

Our church budget is \$474,787.00 for this year. That breaks down to \$39,565.59 per month.

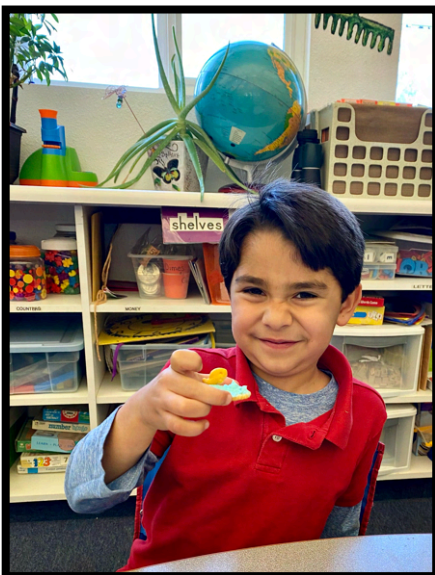
May God bless each of you as you give your tithes and offerings. It is a pleasure to participate together in the finances of the church.

David Anderson, Treasurer 707-234-9233

The flower photos show a tiny part of the extraordinary variety that God has created. Photos by David Anderson

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.

UJA News



Children at Kindergarten Jamboree! Photos by Wendi Olivera

Kindergarten Jamboree

On March 15, we had our first Kindergarten Jamboree since Covid interrupted it in 2020. We were so blessed to have families come with their little preschool children and visit our class for a couple of hours. Our weather was absolutely gorgeous and we thank God for that perfect day of sunshine for our guests.

As children arrived, they were each given a personalized goodie bag complete with snacks, crafts, and fun! We read a sweet story about how sharing can actually make us happy, played together, and the kids got a feel for what kindergarten at UJA is like! Mrs. Rice led our children's choir, kindergarten through sixth grade, in a sweet performance for our special guests. The students did a great job representing our school in such a welcoming manner.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by our wonderful Home and School leader, Jeni Bushby and her helpers. The event was a lovely time full of fun and smiles!

If you know of any prospective kindergarten students for next year, please invite them to make an appointment to check us out! I look forward to another fun and fabulous school year come August!

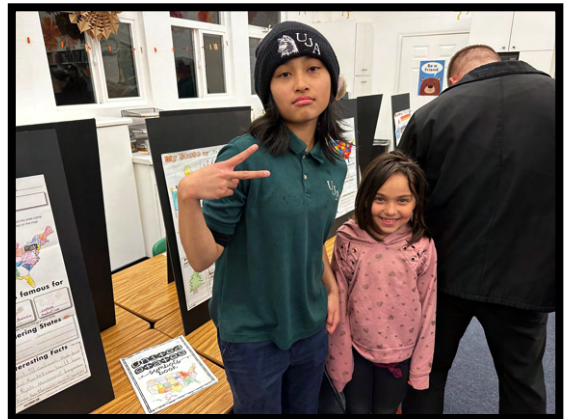
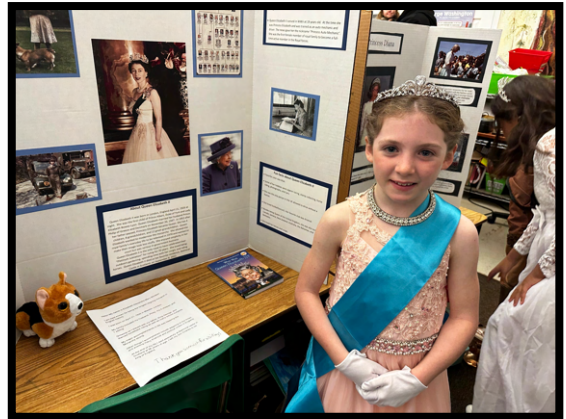
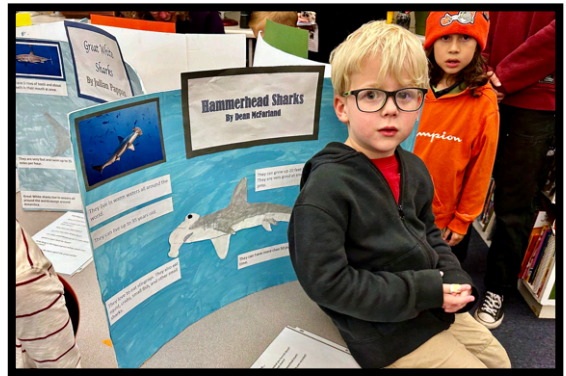


UJA News, Cont.

Learning Fair

On Thursday, March 9, we were finally able to have our Learning Fair! It was originally set for Feb 23, but it was too stormy.

This year's Learning Fair was another success! Kindergarteners presented their research on each of their favorite sea creatures. First grade showed off what they had learned about each of their chosen State. Second and third grade were very entertaining as a part of the "Living Wax Museum" where they dressed like the historical person they selected and told us all about them. Fourth grade showed us all the awesome research and designs they did on the human body. Fifth and sixth grade demonstrated their awesome Rube Goldberg machines. And Seventh through ninth had their research papers out for display to read in their classroom. We had a lot of fun presenting and seeing all that UJA kids had to offer!



Photos starting top right, clockwise: 1. Dean McFarland with his Hammerhead Shark board. 2. Hadlee Atherton as Queen Elizabeth II. 3. Maddie Borton with her state Oregon, and her friend Sami Casuga. 4. Fernanda Trejo and Destiny Wells demonstrating Rube Goldberg machines. 5. Seth Boyl, Caleb Thompson, Kyler King, Ethan Harper, Bryan Corona, and Ollie Harper with their research papers. Photos by Allison Kurtz



Family News

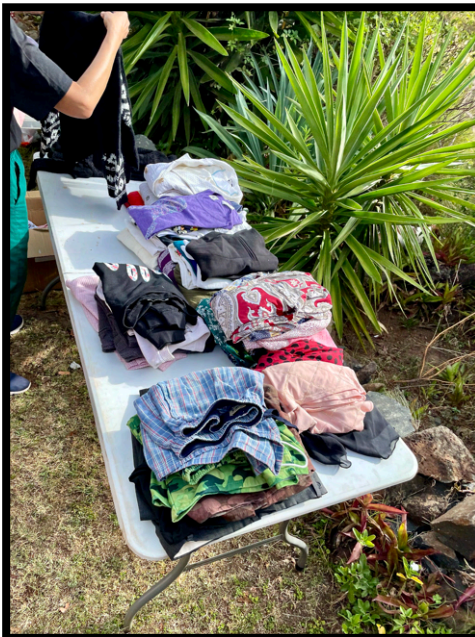
Mission Trip to Kenya, Part 2

By Jeni Bushby

We went to the Kensington Girls School. A boarding school where girls can come to receive their high school education & where they can be kept safe. It was special to hear all about their hopes & dreams. Some wanting to be doctors, lawyers, engineers & other types of professionals.



One of the best days of our trip was spent going into the villages & handing out clothes, shoes, soccer balls, frisbees & other toys to the Maasai people. They were so grateful & happy.



Family News, Cont.

What Does Fifty Years of Marriage Look Like?

Growing old together, but more deeply in love.

Fifty years of marriage—how can it be? We can remember, as though it was yesterday, the way we “clicked” when we first met and then on our wedding day when we vowed our love to each other for a lifetime. We also committed that God would always be the Center of our home. During our wedding service, we sang J. W. Peterson’s song, Each for the Other and Both for the Lord.

We praise God for bringing us together and that He has been faithfully by our sides all these years. We praise Him for all the service opportunities He has led us to, for all the places we have lived and traveled, for the wonderful gifts of a daughter and two grandchildren, for the countless friends who have brought inspiration to us along our journey, for the marvelous creations He has made, some of which we have enjoyed raising—ostriches being the most unusual.

He has given us joy and peace that far outshines the perplexing situations that have come, because, as we all know, the enemy “throws many curveballs.” Through every trial, we have learned to grasp tighter the hands of each other and of God, and to fill our hearts with His unfailing promises. Here’s a couple of our favorites: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.” Proverbs 3:5, 6 NIV “I took you from the ends of the earth, from its farthest corners I called you. I said, You are my servant; I have chosen you and have not rejected you. So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Isaiah 41:9,10 NIV

We are eagerly watching for the glorious soon coming of Jesus. We want to look in His eyes and thank Him for being our Redeemer and best Friend! We want to be where He is forever! We want to worship our Savior with the angel choir!

If we can leave you with one thought, it would be this. With awe and wonder, cherish each day you get to spend with your beloved! Amen!



Friends celebrating together!
 From left to right:
 Virginia Siemens, Larry Siemens, Donna Faye Anderson, David Anderson.
 Larry and Virginia celebrated their 51st anniversary on March 19. Donna Faye and David celebrated their 50th on March 18.
 Photographer— a kind lady who was walking by as we were trying to take a selfie.

Blue Zones Project

By Ryan Veness



It has been an honor connecting with one of our key community grocery stores, Harvest Market. It all began in 1985 with owner Tom Honer's mission, to serve his community by providing products that keep their community excited about their health and living life to the fullest. Tom's daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Tom Bosma, have been able to carry that vision forward to what it is today. They strive to not only stock the shelves with a wide variety of healthy products, but they also create and incentivize a place where their staff are excited to come to work every day.

As we strive to make the healthy choice the easy choice for our community members, grocery stores are some of the most influential businesses within our community. A few of our grocery-store best practices that we want to see implemented include, but are not limited to:

- A produce section that is close to the front and helps draw people to purchase a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- Checkout-lanes that help support the purchase of healthy options: ie water in the coolers, nuts, fruit, healthy snacks, or personal care products.
- Encourage people to try healthy recipes by placing a variety of recipes within the store.
- Have healthy options to choose from in the Deli section. If soda is served, do not offer free refills.
- Remove advertising for alcohol and tobacco from the front doors.

When cruising through the store with Jennifer, I was so excited to see that Harvest Market has done an incredible job creating a positive, appealing and healthy shopping experience. We are actively going through the Grocery Store Pledge to help them become an Approved Blue Zones Project Grocery Store. Jennifer also recognizes the need to support their employees' health and well-being. We are excited to find creative solutions together that will help optimize their worksite environment with the goal of helping everyone live longer, better. Keep an eye out for when we have our approval celebration and ribbon cutting because Harvest Market is almost there as both an approved grocery store and worksite. I also want to do a quick shout out to their vision of supporting the local Fort Bragg Food Bank to ensure that community members have access to quality, nutritious food. Harvest Market knows what it means to be a community leader.



A Lesson from Nature, God's Second Book

By Beth Garibaldi

We were on safari in the Maasai Mara, Kenya, Africa! We rode in Land Rovers with roofs that lifted up enough to stand when there was something exciting to take pictures of. We had already seen hippos, cheetahs, ostriches, zebras, giraffes, several kinds of antelopes, and buffalo when we drove up beside a pride of lions. Two lionesses lounged in the shade while several youngsters sat about ten yards away.

We took our pictures and oohed and awed. Then a mother warthog and her four piglets walked up the hill on the other side of our vehicles. Our guide suddenly sat up and said, "Watch this! The lions are going to try to catch a warthog."

One of the lionesses got up and disappeared down the hill. Then the other one got up and leisurely circled uphill in full view of the warthogs. When she was directly above the warthog family, the other lioness suddenly bounded up the hill from the ravine. They had the warthog family trapped between them.

But the mother warthog lifted her head and scented the danger. She let out a grunt and directed the young ones at right angles to the lionesses. They raced out of sight, and the lionesses slowed back to a walk. Evidently it would have required too much energy, or maybe they weren't very hungry. Either way, the lions quickly gave up and went back to lie down in the shade.



I was struck by two things. One was how the lions worked together to catch their food. The teamwork was

incredible. The other was the vigilance and care the mother warthog gave her babies. Our God has certainly created some amazing animals!

