

“The of the Matter”

A Monthly Source of Information for the Church

He Takes to Give

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”
2 Corinthians 5:21

In order to be compatible with God, we need righteousness. But we don't have it. And furthermore, we have nothing within ourselves to produce it. All we are capable of producing is sin. Because of God's holiness, sin must be punished. As humans, we often take a lenient view of sin, but God can't do that. He has established His laws that reflect His holy character. He has revealed them to us, and when they are broken, the transgressor must be punished.

What is God's answer to this situation? His answer is Jesus Christ, the Son of God who died in our place and bore our condemnation. “By sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, God condemned sin in the flesh.” **Romans 8:3**. Whose flesh bore the condemnation? His. Whose sins were being condemned? Ours. God takes our sins—past, present and future— and lays them on Christ. Because of Christ's willingness to bear our sins on the cruel cross of death, God vindicates His righteousness and gives it to us. What an almost unbelievable exchange!

God's holy law was given to Adam, and he was told that if he disobeyed, he would die. The Bible clearly states that “the wages of sin is death.” **Romans 6:23**. That message has not changed. We may attempt to minimize or justify our sinful actions, but God regards sin as a “separation from Him” and punishable by death. **Romans 5:17-19** compares how Adam's disobedience brought condemnation to all with how the free gift of Jesus Christ brought salvation and righteousness to all. In His humanity, Jesus was born under the law, but lived a sinless life as God required in His original covenant with Adam. **Genesis 2:15-17**. As a man in human flesh, Jesus faced even fiercer temptations than Adam. Where Adam was asked to obey God in a lush garden, Jesus obeyed God in a fallen world. Where Adam was tempted in a beautiful environment, Jesus was tempted in a barren wilderness. **Luke 4:1, 2**. The way that Jesus was able to live a sinless life, even to His death on the cross, was to be in constant communion with His Father through prayer and His dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit. **Psalms 62:5-8; Isaiah 53:5, 6; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Hebrews 2:17, 18**.

The agony of God the Father in having to turn from Jesus the Son who was made sin, then turned to glorious joy as the Father raised Him from the grave and seated Him at His right hand. **Hebrews 12:2**. And the joy in heaven and on earth with His believing people continues, as the Holy Spirit gives power and strength through Jesus, the Son.

When we allow these truths to settle in our hearts, we cannot thank Him enough for His incomprehensible willingness to take our sins from us and give us His righteousness. We will want nothing else than to please God with the help of the indwelling Spirit until the day Jesus, our Savior returns to welcome us into His joy forever. **Romans 8:14-17**. Then we will each hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant...enter into the joy of your lord.” **Matthew 25:21**. We live to hear these words from our Master Jesus. We want to be faithful with the goodness and grace, talents and resources— everything that He has given to us! May this be so for each and every one of us is my prayer! Amen!

By Donna Faye Anderson

Church News

Thank You, Grandpa Witzel. The **Cradle Roll** children love to sit in the pews that Harry Witzel made for them—just their size!



Youth Corner
The biggest youth event that has happened over the last couple months was the Freshman/Sophomore Retreat at Leoni Meadows. We had six youth go— four guys and two girls. It was an amazing spiritual weekend with wonderful music, small groups, and fun activities. There was snow and it was cold, but the weekend was so much fun and all the youth were glad to have gone. This is a yearly event and we are looking forward to another great weekend next year.
In the coming months, both youth and Pathfinders will be very busy with a bunch of events and activities. Look for an update next month with more details and photos.
Eric Kablanow, Ukiah SDA Associate Pastor



Church/Pathfinder Albion Retreat

May 17-19, 2024

\$217 for one room (sleeps 4) for two nights
Camping sites and trailer hookups available

*Please contact Kellie Corbett
for more details or if you would like to attend
509-438-2837 or kelcor1@yahoo.com*



Church News, Cont.

ADRA Appreciates Our Church!

Recently the church office received a certificate of appreciation from ADRA for our support to help the starving children of the world.

On Sabbath, March 9, Steve Miller presented this certificate to Ethan Howe, who graciously received it with a smile.

Steve and his youthful partner, Ethan, are the “up front” people at church who promote interest in bringing jars filled with change for this worthy project.

Ethan and his sister, Sylvia, raise funds for ADRA by setting up a table in front of their home where they sell a variety of homemade art, cookies, lemonade, and floral bouquets.



As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for You, O God! Psalm 42:1 NIV

O, God of Possible

O, God of Possible
 For those who hunger...
 For food
 For peace
 For righteousness
 For Reconciliation
 Invite them to Your table
 Let them partake of Your mercy and grace.

O, God of Possible
 For those who are sinking in the mire
 For those facing eviction
 For those who have been shamed
 For those with uncertainty
 Take their hand and guide their footsteps.

O, God of Possible
 For those whose choices have imprisoned them
 For those held captive by addiction
 For those enslaved by indifference
 For those terrorized by persecution
 Lift and carry them until they are strong enough
 On their own.

O, God of Possible
 Where shame overwhelms
 Where doubt consumes
 Where self-worth depreciates
 Calm them, Encourage them, Embrace them.

Let me be your herald
 With tambourine and harp
 Let them see the wisdom and understanding
 Let their hope, peace, and joy
 Begin with me, but...
 End with You...
 The God of Possible.

Written by Alan Jamison
 Encouraged by the teacher of Alan's SS class, who challenged the class to write their own Psalm.

Church News, cont.

Redwood Camp Meeting Dates: July 21-27th

Notes for tourswildtrailtours.com

Scheduling:

These tours can be scheduled for any day between July 22-27th. If there is great interest in any one tour specifically, I am happy to provide multiple tours to accommodate the number of interested parties. For example, if over 12 people (my max participant amount per tour) are interested in the Avenue of the Giants, 28 mile ride, we could offer that tour on more than one of the days. We could also provide tours simultaneously (the avid biker tours during the avenue tour) since I have multiple guides that I could schedule for providing tours. The avid biker tour options could not be run simultaneously since I will be offering a "sag wagon" or shuttle service that would follow or be near the riders in case of injury, fatigue, bike issues, etc.

Confirmation/Cut-off for participation:

I will need tour enrollment confirmation two months before the tour date, so if we can close bookings on or around May 21st in order to accommodate the enrolled participants and for me to verify I have the equipment/meals/shuttle etc. planned. If we do find that more participants want to join after the May 21st deadline, that's ok but just have them (or you) contact me directly to verify that we can add them to the roster/itinerary.

Minimum Participation:

I currently have a minimum participant count of 4 people in order to provide a set cost/income for me to be able to have security in what I can profit in order to pay guides/provide sag wagons and meals/etc. But if you have other ideas, such as having it cost more if there are fewer than 4 participants, I'm happy to discuss options. I'm sure there will be more questions, ideas, etc. while time goes on and we hone these tours to accommodate what camp participants are looking for, but I wanted to get you a rough draft of what we can offer to be able to get the ball rolling!

I hope this finds you well and wish you and everyone involved a great rest of 2024! Let me know what you think and we will be in touch. Check out the web page. wildtrailtours.com

Regards, Dalton Lee

707-613-1333. wildtrailtours@gmail.com wildtrailtours.com

REDWOOD AREA CAMP MEETING
Transforming lives through wilderness activities and worship

Join us!!
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24th - 27th, 2024

FREE CAMPSITES!
Water and electricity hookups

Camp Cleanup!

- Debris Cleanup
- Painting Buildings
- Bathroom Beautification

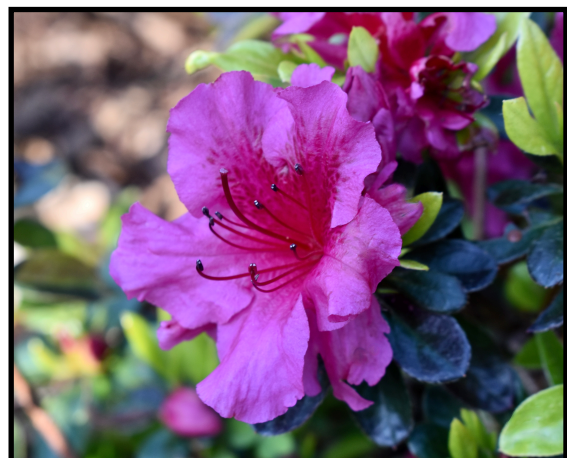
PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN TOOLS AND FOOD FOR THE WEEKEND!

For more information, sign in to our new updated website:
<https://mcsda.com/rac>
or contact:
Harry Sabini 707-864-2452
Jennifer Shaw 530-591-2208

May 24th - 27th, 2024

Upcoming Special Sabbaths

- April 13: Rio Lindo
- April 20: Steve Case, guest speaker
- April 27: Outdoor Church at Mill Creek Park
- May 11: UJA and Rio Lindo Youth



UJA News**Public Speaking Leads to Sermons and Week of Prayer**

By Dan Kuntz

Skydiving and public speaking both arouse some level of anxiety and fear. To “get better” at either endeavor, preparation and practice are essential. For public speaking, fear dissipates with practice. Spend plenty of time preparing, and connect with your audience.

Public speaking is a skill that many high school students do not have and colleges look for in prospective students. How could we as a school develop this skill while reducing anxiety? When Jeff Lauritzen taught at Fresno Adventist Academy, his high school students led out in evangelistic meetings. Jeff and I collaborated on how to develop this skill at UJA and we came up with two activities—preaching a sermon and a student-led Week of Prayer.

The opportunity for public speaking was presented to the class. We promised the students that we wouldn’t let them fail and we would support them throughout the process. In the end, four of the seven signed up to give sermons: Nathan Kuntz, Samantha Ahumada-Garcia, Kyler King and Caleb Williams. Logan Kurtz volunteered to give a children's story and Ethan Harper agreed to have the offering appeal. The rest of the class had a regular Bible curriculum on Wednesday, while the others met with Mr. Lauritzen to learn how to put together a sermon, children’s story and offering appeal.

Our high school Bible class had just finished up a unit on Hosea which shows humanity's relationship with God—our unfaithfulness to Him but His continued faithfulness to us. This was the perfect topic for the Youth Sabbath. The students came up with their own material. Working with Mr. Lauritzen, the students honed their material into excellent sermons. As the big day drew close, Pastor Kablanow and myself gave little points on presenting sermons, but the students needed very little help.

All praise to the Lord! The worship service went off better than we could have imagined! Youth led the entire church service and the feedback from a supportive church family was amazing. The kids felt that the message of God’s love was well received and appreciated by the church family.

Week of Prayer:

In the past, we have had visitors come to UJA to present a Week of Prayer message to the school. At times, they were presented to the entire school body. At other times, they were given to groups of similar age. Building on the success of giving sermons, the high school students took up the task of sharing God’s love with their classmates.

UJA News, cont.

Public Speaking, Cont.

The high school students—all students listed in the church service, plus Klayten Zinn, picked “The Names of God” as their topic. Did you know God has over 600 unique names in the Bible? Each of the seven students picked a name to present to the other students at UJA. We split the student body into three groups, Kindergarten and First Grade, Second thru Fourth Grade, and Fifth Grade thru Eighth Grade. The high school students picked a name to present to the student body. They picked the following names: Alpha and Omega, Abba - Father, King of Kings, I AM, Jealous God, God Most High, God of Forgiveness.

Each day started with songs, a message and then a craft. The high school students on Monday presented to their small groups what each student’s name meant and also what their own name meant. They asked why God has so many names (so we can get a clearer name of who God is and what God does).

Tuesday thru Thursday the high school students presented their names to a small group and rotated groups the next day so that all three groups learned the seven names of God they had prepared. The crafts were also a big hit.

Overall the students had a great experience presenting to their peers and classmates, which can be a challenge. Additionally, the younger students got to know the older students better and have a fun time learning with them.

Who knew that challenging students to embrace public speaking would lead to sermons and a Week of Prayer? God did, and He

blessed their efforts. Will there be future sermons? Stay tuned!



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, cont.

Special Invitation From Margie Rice

Please come to Ukiah Junior Academy's Spring Concert on Thursday, May 16, at 6:00 p.m. Enjoy patriotic music by grades kindergarten through six, the Ukiah Junior Academy string ensemble, and the Music Man, presented by students from grades five through ten.

Registration is Open:

Planning for the 2024-2025 school year is in full swing! You can save 10% off next year's registration fees by completing the online registration and paying the fees by May 31.

Just go to myuja.org and find the link for next year's registration forms. Please contact Allison in the office if you need any assistance. She will be happy to help you.

Tuition and Registration for next year are as follows:

- K-4 Registration \$ 505.
- 5-10 Registration \$ 646.
- K-6 Tuition \$6,521.
- 7-10 Tuition \$6,862.

If you have any friends, acquaintances or neighbors who might be interested in UJA, be sure to let them know about us. Please have them call the school office, 707-462-6350, and ask to speak with either Allison Kurtz, the Office Manager or Rick Nelson, the Principal.

Nature Nugget

by Beth Garibaldi

I had a problem: a ten-foot wide by sixty-foot long strip of weeds and gravel behind my house, and because it was across the driveway, there was no water faucet nearby. I started thinking about planting California natives that wouldn't require so much water.

Starting a couple summers ago, during a drought, meant slow progress. New plantings needed more water to get established. And seeds of invasives were already there just waiting to take over. But, little by little, the natives are beginning to look good.

There are several advantages besides water saving to planting natives. Insects and other wildlife prefer the natives. For instance, one species of butterfly, the Karner Blue, only eats Wild Lupine leaves. Natives are also less susceptible to local pests, which means fewer pesticides are needed.

And, last but not least, natives are already adapted to their local climate. Our Arroyo Lupine is a great example. It has thick, almost succulent stalks and funnel-shaped leaves that allow it to retain enough water to produce seeds in our dry summers. Meanwhile the Coastal Bush Lupines are tough woody plants that help them stand up to the near constant winds. I think it's amazing that God built these plants with the ability to adapt to their circumstances in this fallen world.



Photos of plants Left: The "invasive" strip
Bottom left Wild Lupine that the Karner Blue butterfly eats
Bottom right; Coastal Bush Lupine
Photos by Beth Garibaldi



Family News

A Warm Welcome to Roxanne Martinez

Roxanne is not a stranger to our church. She has been attending for a couple years, but just recently transferred her membership from the Redwood Valley SDA Company to join our church family. Small-group Bible studies and prayer meetings are special places to her. We are delighted to share our love and friendship with her.

To get to know Roxanne a little better, here are her answers to several questions.

Roxanne, are you a native Californian?

No, I am not a native of California, but I have lived here for about 35 years. I was raised in a small town, named Questa, an hour south of Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Do you have family in the area?

I don't have family here, but I have good Christian friends.

How did you come to know Jesus?

I was raised Pentecostal. My mother would attend church for a bar of soap and that is how I came to know Jesus. It was a growing church with plenty of young people.

What is the most fulfilling activity you like to engage in?

Pickleball. For those who may need a brief explanation, Pickleball is a fun and friendly game played on a court with groups of two to four players, and combines the elements of badminton and tennis.

If you could learn a new skill, what would it be?

In my retirement, I would like to learn to play an instrument, but I don't have time now.

What is a favorite Bible verse?

My favorite Bible verse is Matthew 6:33 - "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you."

May your spiritual journey be strengthened, Roxanne, as you experience Jesus with our church family.

*Every morning lean your arms awhile upon the
windowsill of Heaven and gaze upon the Lord.*

*Then, with that vision in your heart, turn strong to
meet your day.*

Source unknown

Peru Adventures

by Danae Brunner

Peru has had an unexpected major role in our family's life. Scot traveled to Pucallpa, Peru where he served as a student missionary at a medical clinic for nine months. Pucallpa is considered the gateway to the jungle, as it is a large city on the banks of the Ucayali River, the main headstream of the Amazon River. He worked with AMOR Projects, which provides free medical and spiritual care to the underserved at their local clinic and up to an hour into the countryside through their mobile clinic setup. The director lives in the US and hires a team of local Peruvian doctors, nurses, and Bible workers to run the clinics, with the help of student missionaries. I was able to visit Scot while he was living there and that's when we started dating! In 2018, we returned to Pucallpa over spring break to help out with one of AMOR Projects short-term mission trips, not knowing when another chance to visit would come again.

In March of 2021, my brother Bradley and his wife Jessica, were called as missionaries to Pucallpa, with a sister program to AMOR Projects called Peru Projects. This program runs a Bible-worker training center, which sends local missionaries out into the jungles for three months to evangelize. Due to the dense jungles, there's often no way to get to these locations by road, so the missionaries have to take a boat or a plane. Peru Projects owns a small Cessna 182 and a Lake Renegade 250 that can land on an airstrip or in the water. Bradley, an aircraft mechanic, maintains the planes, while Jessica homeschools a missionary's child and organizes donations. Upon arrival, Bradley had to immediately ground the planes as there were major fixes and it took about two years to get them back in the air. Everything is much slower on jungle time.

In February of this year, my family flew to Peru for two weeks to spend time with Bradley and Jessica. My parents flew from Michigan, we flew from California, and my youngest brother, Nathan, flew from North Dakota. We were able to explore the coastal capital city of Lima; the jungle city of Pucallpa; the Sacred Valley ruins of Moray, Chincero, and Machu Picchu; Cusco, the former capital of the Inca Empire; and the floating islands on Lake Titicaca. We traveled by plane, train, bus, and boat—all of which broke down at some point or another. We visited several zoos and historical sites; learned to drive a motorcar; jumped into the 56 degree water of Lake Titicaca; held a wild tarantula and baby rainbow boa constrictor that Bradley caught; visited the salt flats; took a dip in the hot springs; learned to make chocolate from "bean to bar"; and, of course, got an obligatory picture with the llamas. We were able to visit AMOR Projects and re-connect with the local workers who are just getting student-missionary support since COVID. They have only two local workers there this year; they had eleven when Scot was there in 2018.

Peru Adventures, Continued

On our last Sabbath, Bradley was able to preach at the floating Seventh-day Adventist church on Lake Titicaca. Members of Danae's parents' church were part of Maranatha team that helped to build the church in 2005. The church is uniquely floating on pontoons, while the Adventist school next door was traditionally built using peet and reeds, which have to be maintained on a monthly basis. The local people respect the Adventists, as the little Adventist school was the first education brought to the island people.



Scot & Danae—first day as a couple in 2018 !!



Bradley & Nathan by the Lake Renegade 250



Left: Traditional garb of the Uros on the floating islands on Lake Titicaca



Left: Machu Picchu with the whole family: Jessica, Bradley, Danae, Scot, Danae's Mom & Dad, and Nathan



La Raya Pass at 14,222 ft elevation