

# **“The of the Matter”**

## **A Monthly Source of Information for the Church**

### **A Compelling Invitation**

The moment the invitation was offered, I knew I had no choice. I had to accept, and declining was not even a possibility.

I had been cutting down the almond trees behind our house. I used to let them get good and dry before cutting them for firewood to heat our home. One winter my boys convinced me to let one of the downed trees stay where it fell. They wanted to use it for a fort.

Then they went scrounging for materials to complete their project. They found scraps of twine and rope, old broom handles, cardboard, and ratty tarps. They borrowed my hatchet and saw to cut limbs strategically to open up their living quarters. They piled up cut grass for walls and a thatched roof. Soon, many of their favorite things from their room made their way outside and into their fort. What would a fort be without Nerf guns or pirate telescopes?

After a while, I would tell the boys I needed the tree for firewood. After some tearful negotiation, they would talk me into letting a recently downed tree stay where it fell so that they could make a new fort. Then the process of transferring their wealth from one tree to another would begin. Some of their treasures would need to be thrown away. Then off they would go, scrounging for new treasures to use. The neighbors seemed to have an endless supply of items they were willing to part with.

My boys were on their third tree. It was while moving into that particular tree that I received a compelling invitation. On a Sunday afternoon, my boys came up with the inevitable idea of spending the night in their fort. With great excitement, they told me of their plans. They talked of getting out our backpacking pads and sleeping bags. They wanted a campfire so they could roast hotdogs and marshmallows. Then came the invitation.

“Dad, can you sleep in the fort with us?”

There was no way I could refuse.

It was a school night, so I had to postpone. I told my boys that next weekend, on Saturday night, we would all spend the night in their fort inside a downed tree.

Every night for the next week they talked about spending the night outside in their fort, counting down the days until they could sleep there. They were so excited!

## A Compelling Invitation, cont.

The boys slept like logs all night. Me, not so much.

But that didn't really matter. I was with my boys. They gave me an invitation I could not refuse. They wanted me to be with them and were excited to have me there when I accepted their invitation.

"I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." Luke 18:17

"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will go in . . ." Revelation 3:20

When we invite Jesus into our lives it is to Him a compelling invitation, one that he will not refuse. I know the feeling.

Blessings, Rick Nelson, Principal Ukiah Junior Academy

## Church News

### The Nearness of Heaven

The church of God below is one with the church of God above. Believers on the earth and the beings in heaven who have never fallen constitute one church. Every heavenly intelligence is interested in the assemblies of the saints who on earth meet to worship God.

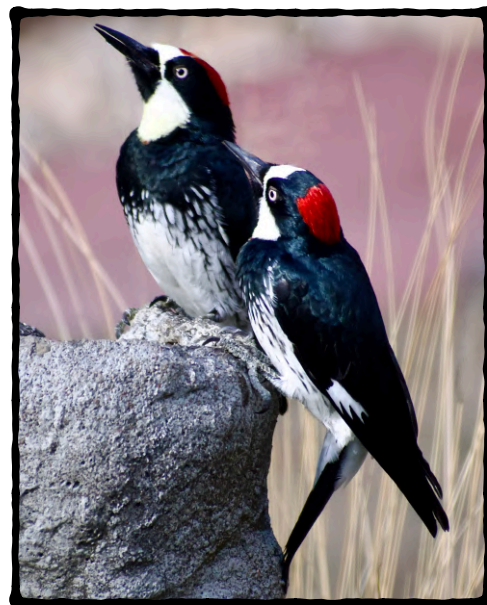
While angels drink from the fountainhead, the saints on earth drink of the pure streams flowing from the throne, the streams that make glad the city of our God. Oh, that we could all realize the nearness of heaven and earth!

In every assembly of the saints below are angels of God, listening to the testimonies, songs, and prayers. Let us remember that our praises are supplemented by the choirs of the angelic host above.

Testimonies, Vol. 6, p. 364-367

A pair of  
Acorn  
Wood-  
peckers at  
the  
fountain.

Photographer  
David Anderson



### Children's Change Jars for ADRA

Your compassion and generosity will allow ADRA to help the malnourished children, giving them a hope to grow up strong.

Please collect your coins, bills, or checks for this very special project. We will be collecting on three Sabbaths: December 21, December 28, 2024, and January 4, 2025.

Thank you for your targeted support,  
Steve Miller and Ethan Howe

## Church News, cont.

### **Special Christmas Programs in December**

On December 15, there will be two afternoon programs, at 3:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m. presenting the 33rd annual Christmas Cantata: "The Glory of Christmas—Joy and Peace on Earth".

The re-enactment of Christ's birth will feature Joseph and Mary and baby Jesus, shepherds carrying baby lambs, regal wisemen bringing their gifts to Jesus, and children dressed in colorful period costumes singing about joy and peace. A symphony and orchestra will accompany the soloists, choirs, and narrators.

This is truly a highlight of the Christmas season! Please get your free tickets at the church office, from Allison Kurtz at Ukiah Junior Academy, or at Mendocino Book Company.

Sabbath, December 23, come and enjoy sweet fellowship at a Christmas breakfast beginning at 9:30, followed by a beautiful special service, including Christmas carols, scripture readings, vocalists and instruments to celebrate the birth of Jesus with the church family.

*And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying; "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward me!"*

*Luke 2:13, 14*

### **Family Radio Station**

The long-awaited day has come: Family Radio's high power radio station, "KPRA," 89.5 FM on Spanish Peak above our church is now under our control. It appears, however, that we may have to wait a bit as of this writing to get our programming on the air. We were up at the transmitter several hours today, 11/24/2024, with the audio feed ready to go into the transmitter. The problem is an ancient transmitter that is balking at starting up again. It looks like Family Radio's Adventist engineer in Sacramento will have to come here to troubleshoot the problem. He worked with us on the phone for a long time today, with no results. A new transmitter may be sometime soon in our future. That will substantially decrease our electrical costs, be much more reliable, and pay for itself over time. The last quote I saw was about \$12,000 for a good one or 18k for a better one. In the meantime, we will have the ongoing expense of about \$3500 per month for tower rental, electricity, and internet for the feed. If God impresses you to donate, please put "radio" on your donation.

We are looking forward to having the equivalent of four evangelistic meetings going out over the air each 24 hour period. Bible truth will be offered. There are a potential **69,847** listeners within reach of our signal. The agencies that study these things say that, on average, one in every 200 potential listeners will tune in every day. Over 90% of the US population turns on a radio each week. We ask that you pray with us that God will direct the honest in heart to our station. Now, it is our turn to prepare our hearts, praying earnestly that the Holy Spirit will make us instruments in His hand to lead new people to Jesus. Maranatha: Our Lord come quickly.

Mike Wilson and Gary Brooks

P.S. Update as of 11/27/24. The transmitter is running. We are now on the air at 89.5 . Praise the Lord.

### **All About Jesus Seminar**

Gary and Marilyn Venden will be presenting their All About Jesus seminar in January,

**The dates are Friday evening, January 17 through Sabbath afternoon, January 25.**

There will be a presentation each evening, except for Sabbaths, when there will be three: **9:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and at 2:00 p.m.**, following a potluck lunch.

Gary's topics will include: how to develop or deepen a meaningful friendship with Jesus; how to become victorious over sin; how to be contagious Christians in your service and witnessing; and how to experience the latter-rain power of the Holy Spirit.

Invite your friends and family to come to this seminar. They will love it and deepen their friendship with Jesus along with us.



### **Daily Opportunities to Pray for the Holy Spirit**

- **Sundays, 7-7:30 a.m.** at Ukiah Junior Academy, Library via the parking lot door by the gym stairwell.
- **Wednesdays, 7-8:00 p.m.** in the Chapel to discover Bible teaching on what is needed to bring revival in your life and to our church by Pastors Eric Williams and Mike Wilson.
- **Sabbaths, 9-9:30 a.m.** in the Chapel.

Romans 8:27: "And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

"God desires to refresh His people by the gift of the Holy Spirit, baptizing them anew on His love. There is no need for a dearth of the Spirit in the church. After Christ's ascension the Holy Spirit came upon the waiting, praying, believing disciples with a fullness and power that reached every heart. In the future, the earth is to be highlighted with the glory of God. A holy influence is to go forth to the world from those who are sanctified through the truth. The earth is to be encircled with an atmosphere of grace. The Holy Spirit is to work on human hearts, taking the things of God and showing them to men." *In Heavenly Places*, p. 334.

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).

Photos pages 4 & 5: Fall colors on School Street, Ukiah  
Photographer David Anderson



## Church News, cont.

### From the Treasurers Desk. . .

Dear friends, another year has rolled by and December is here again. Therefore, we need to take a look at our church \$\$\$... as we have only 4 weeks and 3 days to get your checks and offerings cleared and deposited to count for 2024 donation receipts. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving this year.

There are a number of things that we have been able to do with our donations this year:

1. Support our church school - Ukiah Junior Academy

2. Purchase a radio broadcasting station - See "Family Radio Station" on Page 3 of this Heart of the Matter.

3. We have also purchased a low power radio station to broadcast in the local Ukiah area. Look for future news updates on "Radio 74".

4. The Spanish church has obtained a low power radio station to broadcast the good news Spanish. Look for updates on the "Spanish Radio".

5. A new roof has been put on the community services building and building is ready to be painted.

We definitely need to support our church budget for December which is \$39,672.00. In addition we have \$119,116.00 to make up for not making our budget on other months.

You can give: 1. at church in a tithe envelope. 2. By mail service to the church at - 1390 Laurel Ave., Ukiah CA 95482.

3: By online giving at the church website: [ukiahda.com](http://ukiahda.com) , then go to "online giving".

May God bless each of you in a very special way as we look for Jesus soon coming. Praise God for His bountiful blessings this year.

David E. Anderson, Treasurer



### Changes in the PT Department

Greetings, Church Family! It has been a time of both welcoming and farewell within our community, hospital, and church. We are thrilled to have Ben Whittaker, a talented physical therapist (PT) from Southern CA, joining our Ukiah hospital Rehab team. Jonathon Pierson, another skilled PT, has been with us for two years, and we're grateful for his presence and service. Sadly, we bid farewell to the Tremper family, who have made an invaluable impact on our church and community. We wish them the best as they finalize their move and settle in Tennessee. Truly, we are blessed with a wonderful church family, and we thank God for the people He has brought into our valley. May we all work together to share His love and gospel.

by Zack Gore



## UJA News

### Pumpkin Patch by Wendi Olivera

It was a beautiful fall morning, just right for a trip to the Pumpkin Patch! Our Kindergarten and First grades at UJA took a fun little outing to find that "perfect pumpkin". With parents in tow, students and adults alike spread out among the pumpkins, gourds, squash, and flowers at Pirate Pete's Pumpkin Patch on Boonville Road. Students learned some fun facts about these amazing fruits and their relatives in the gourd family. Their favorite tidbit was learning about the world's largest pumpkin ever recorded. Grown in our own country last year, a whopping 2,749 pound pumpkin was plucked by its Minnesota farmer and weighed. Students enjoyed comparing a single pumpkin that size to 15 of their parents put together! All in all, we had a great time exploring and learning about one of God's special gifts of fall.



Pumpkin Patch on Boonville Road with the Kindergarten class  
Photos by Wendi Olivera





## **The 9th and 10th Grade Earth Science Field Trip**

By Dan Kuntz

September 23-26 saw Ukiah Junior Academy's 9th and 10th grade students joined by the 9th and 10th graders from our sister school, Redding Adventist Academy, for an Earth Science field trip to Shasta Caverns and Lassen National Park.

UJA randevued with RAA at Shasta Caverns. We took a boat across the lake to the cavern entrance. Inside the caverns were many beautiful features that first were made by volcanic gasses weakening the rock and then the hydraulic processes of stalactites and stalagmites began. Students learned how this process could have happened in catastrophic events during and shortly after Noah's flood. Exiting the cavern into the bright sunlight, we were able to see the fossilized remains of ocean creatures, showing that the rock in that area had once been submerged.

The next three days we spent inside Lassen National Park. The first day we climbed Mount Lassen, making observations of the volcanic rock, plants and animals as we ascended the mountain. The group savored the achievement of making it to the peak and enjoyed the 360-degree views. Many were surprised that there were still patches of snow at the end of September.

The next day, we went to the sulfur works and the geothermal formations known as Bumpass Hell. Students experienced the sulfuric smells, the glacial erratics, and the amazing colors in the thermal pools. One of the most interesting observations were the high temperatures of the main pools and how the water had "cooled" into the 90s at the creek, leaving the geothermal features.

Our last day, we went up the Cinder Cone. It was a short but steep climb at a 35-degree angle. The numerous geological features were amazing. Beth Garibaldi explained so many features. She was able to teach us how this fit into a young earth creationist model. One of the students' favorite parts of this site was the diatomaceous earth that was exposed under a lava flow. The diatomaceous earth are the remnants of diatoms, microscopic ocean creatures. We were able to obtain a small sample and observe it under a microscope.

The science that we witnessed first-hand allowed the science book and videos to come to life. We saw with our own eyes, held with our hands, and climbed with our feet the wonderful volcanic past of northern California. While it took the two groups a little bit to warm up to each other, by the time the trip was done, they were fast friends. Each morning and evening, we would have worship and meals together at Lassen Campground. The students are now looking forward to more activities together at Rio Lindo, other conference-sponsored activities, and future adventures with our two schools.







The Photos on pages 7 & 8 are of the students visiting Shasta Caverns. Visiting Lassen Park and climbing Mt. Lassen. Photographer unknown.





## UJA News, cont.



### Coming Soon to a Song Service Near You

Last year the 9th and 10th grade students preached at the Ukiah SDA Church twice. This year the high-school students have put together a praise and worship group. Pastors Kablanow and Williams have helped them solidify their repertoire of five songs; adding more every month.

Rio Lindo's praise team played for UJA chapel on November 15 and stayed to work with the UJA praise team. The Rio group was impressed with how well the UJA group played and sang. They did give a few pointers to fine tune the overall presentation.

The UJA praise team debuted during chapel song service on Friday, November 22. The group looks forward to leading many more song services at UJA and to lead praise and worship at the Ukiah SDA Church in 2025.

The UJA Praise Team consists of the following members: Caleb Williams - Piano, Kyler King - Cajon, Ethan Harper - Lead Guitar, Nathan Kuntz - Cello and Bass Guitar, Hunter Tollini - Technology. Vocals are Tori Corbett, Samantha Ahumada-Garcia, Rachel Williams, Keri Strom, Angel Monjaraz, and Judah Kurtz.

by Dan Kuntz, UJA Teacher grades 9 & 10



### Results From the Silent Auctions at the Fall Festival

The classroom theme baskets brought in \$1,002.00. That money goes toward technology equipment for the classrooms.

The Helen Winkle Memorial Pie Auction brought in \$835.00. That money will help to buy a portable sound system for the new UJA Praise Band that was formed this year.

Reported by Jeni Bushby,  
Home and School Leader



## Christ is Born of Mary

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 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.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

*"Glory to God in the highest,  
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"*

So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Luke 2:1-20