

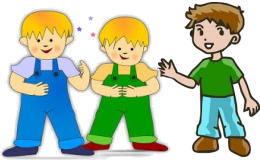


Mr. Grace and God's Grace

by Terry Koch

Our street was divided by his property. Our grandmother lived on the section of the avenue to the right of his property and we lived to the left.

For us three young brothers (the fourth was too little to join our adventures) the impenetrable hedge and bushes surrounding the large property in west Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, were a huge source of intrigue. What wonders lay beyond that enticing wall of greenery?



We would try to form a peephole through the thick layers of leaves and branches in order to view whatever amazing things were contained within the quiet, long green lawn and gardens of the stately mansion of Eugene Grace, President of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation.



No, we never were accosted by a guard chasing us away. No, we never figured out how to make an opening large enough to slip through into the forbidden area. Although a number of our relatives were employed at the Steel, and we lived just half a block from his palatial home, we never made the personal acquaintance of Mr. Grace. If we had, perhaps he might have invited us to come in as his guests and experience the sights thrilling our imaginations, which made up that back yard, and which called us so enticingly.

As I cogitated on Mr. Grace and the memory of his beautiful property, my mind went to the uplifting words of poetry in a well known gospel song, "Grace, Greater Than Our Sin," more commonly known as "Marvelous Grace." The text was written in

1911 by Julia H. Johnston and set to a tune called MOODY composed, also in 1911, by Daniel B. Towner who named his tune for the great evangelist, Dwight L. Moody.

Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace,
Freely bestowed on all who believe!
All who are longing to see His face,
Will you this moment His grace receive?

Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God's grace,
Grace that is greater than all our sin.

As I considered this song and coupled it with the experience my brothers and I had trying to see the interior of Mr. Grace's land, I remembered a passage of Scripture from Paul to the believers in Corinth. "For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (I Corinthians 13:12 KJV).



We who believe and hold the hope of the Second Coming in our hearts see into "the Land of Canaan" darkly and imperfectly as we contemplate what awaits us there, what there is to do, what there is to see.

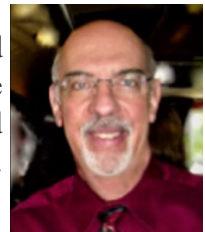
My brothers and I were never able to view Mr. Grace's property clearly, as we had only small, imperfect views no matter how much we squinted through the holes in the hedge and bushes. And if he even knew we were out there,



Terry Koch

Mr. Grace never invited us in.

However, the verses from Corinthians remind me there is a time coming when our seeing will be made clear, and we shall view that heavenly land in all its glory due to the invitation of not Mr. Grace, but of Jesus, who is God's Gift of Grace.





“And when the fullness of the time had come, the Deity was glorified by pouring upon the world a flood of healing grace that was never to be obstructed or withdrawn till the plan of salvation should be fulfilled.” —The Desire of Ages, p. 37

Welcome, New Members!

by Pastor Dan Solis

Daniel and Graciela Androes, together with their two daughters, Mila and Harper, are uniting with the Village Church family. Daniel grew up in the Lincoln City/Salem, Oregon area where he was involved with Pathfinders. After attending Livingston Junior Academy, he went on to graduate from Milo Adventist Academy. He then came to Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) before entering the workforce. He left the area in 2002 before returning in 2006 at the invitation of a friend. Following a long-distance courtship, (Graciela was living in Switzerland), the Androes were married in 2009. Daniel enjoys anything outdoors: riding ATVs on trails, backpacking, camping—and finding lost things—a habit he developed at age three when he discovered a 1918 quarter. Graciela enjoys baking and cooking. She is fluent in English and German. The Androes appreciate the church’s club ministries and children’s Sabbath Schools as well as Trina McCoon’s Sabbath School class.



Jim and Jenny Pensiero have lived in the Walla Walla area since 2019. Jim came from Boston to the west coast when his father moved to Seattle. Jenny moved to Los Angeles at the age of nine

and lived there for thirty-eight years. They met through a mutual acquaintance and married in 2000. They have two daughters and four grandchildren. They learned about the Seventh-day Adventist faith from a man named Charlie who came to the United States from Guatemala. After hiring Charlie, Jim was impressed by his singing and introduced him to his daughter, Casey. Charlie and Casey are now married and have four children. Jenny's spiritual background includes Buddhist grandparents, but she says that her mother took her and her sister to a Christian church. Jim was raised in a Roman Catholic home, attending Catholic schools where he remembers that the teachers would crack their students' knuckles with a ruler! In 2022 the Pensieros, including daughter, Lindsey, attended evangelistic meetings at the Village Church and the follow-up Daniel and Revelation Seminar with Pastors Dan Solis and Thomas Knoll. Convinced of the truths that they were learning, they joined the church, through baptism, earlier this year. Jenny is involved with the church choir and hand bell choir, and enjoys arts and crafts as well as pickleball. Jim, an army veteran, also plays pickleball, enjoys using his training as a landscape architect, and manages business investments.



Bill Combs
Baptized
October 28, 2023

Family Matters

A feature especially for parents of young children

by Bev Donahey

Control Yourself!

Little Jeni was expecting my son would pick her up when the bus dropped her off at the station. But while he was on the way to the station to pick her up, there was an accident on the freeway. He was delayed and got there after she did. He hurried into the waiting room and apologized for being late. She looked calmly at him and said, “Those things happen.” That’s what her mother would have said. Jeni had picked up a peaceful mental attitude from her mother.



Parents not only need to maintain a calm way of life, but also to start teaching the little ones early on to control themselves. How do we do that? The main way is by example. We can develop an “It’ll be OK” or “Those things happen” attitude. And we use skills to calm ourselves physically such as taking a few minutes to get a drink of water, taking deep breaths, massaging our palms with our thumbs, and/or walking outside. By whispering a prayer, we enlist the help of our Savior. These are mental, physical, and spiritual ways to have self-control. Another way is through social support. When we need more help, we should ask for it from our spouse, support group, or family members. Mental, physical, spiritual, and social—all are ways to help us control ourselves through the stressful parts of life!



Bev Donahey believes that one of the best things on earth is a happy family. She has a college degree in psychology and a master’s degree in Applied Behavioral Science. Her work experience includes providing services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, therapy with children and teenagers who have behavior problems and mental illness, and adults with addictions. She shares tips that she picks up from her experiences, friends, and research.

Valued Volunteers

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BABY- WELCOMING TEAM!

by Pastor Steve Reasor

Remember, parents, those first few months after your child was born? Your entire world changed as new priorities and responsibilities took center stage in your life. To support young families in this transition, the Village Church strives to communicate love and encouragement through the actions of the Baby Welcoming Committee. This dedicated team of volunteers ministers quietly and faithfully, reaching out to welcome young families with friendship and support.



Imagine that you have just had a new baby. In the first weeks, amid sleepless nights and an array of new experiences, you bring your newborn to church for the first time. Amid the well-wishers, Rachel Vixie spots you and comes to meet the new addition to your family. Her friendly smile and greeting make you feel welcome. She is truly delighted to see you and to meet your little one. But she is also part of an operation to reach out to young families.



Later that week, Rachel will contact Lisa Jones, chair of the committee. Lisa will start putting together a welcome basket for the new baby. She will connect with Rebecca Huxel to source some items, and Annie LaVelle will start working on a handmade hooded bath towel. They will fill the basket with an array of gifts, like a baby blanket, a toy or rattle, a special Sabbath outfit and clothes in a selection of sizes up to 2 years old. There will be play clothes, pajamas, and eating utensils. Two special gifts will top the basket—a plush lamb that plays a Jesus Loves Me lullaby and Baby's First Bible, personalized with Baby's name, from the Village Church.



Then one evening, you (the new parent) will answer the door to find Rachel there with a basket overflowing with _____ small tokens of love. She will ask if there is anything else you might need that the church can provide. All this is to let you know you are cared for, supported, loved and welcome at Village Church.

I am so delighted that these volunteers express the love I know we all have for our young parents. Keep up the good work, ladies!

Steve Reasor



105 years
young!



Charlotte Rollenhagen celebrated her 105th birthday November 13! The previous Sabbath, she shared an inspiring testimony, praising God for His goodness and faithfulness. Her family hosted a reception for her after church. Happy Birthday, Charlotte! You are an inspiration to us all!





KLRF 88.5 FM Shares the Sound of Hope!

by Gary Heagy, KLRF newsletter editor

For those who may be new to the community, we invite you to take the time to tune in to KLRF 88.5 FM, a local Adventist radio station that shares the gospel of hope through beautiful music, spiritual messages, children's stories, and practical programs that encourage health, relationships, and financial stability.

Village Church member Richard Grizzell is currently the chairman of the KLRF board, and was one of the founders of the ministry almost 24 years ago. He has been involved in one way or another through most of the years since KLRF began. Another Village member of the board is Nancy Teale. The remaining board members come from the other churches in the valley. If you have an interest in working with this ministry in some way, speak to Richard or Nancy, or contact the KLRF office.

Pastor Jeff Kinne, rotating with other area pastors, writes an occasional spiritual article for KLRF's quarterly newsletter, which is greatly appreciated. To be on the KLRF newsletter mailing list and be connected to what is happening with the ministry, stop by the KLRF office at SonBridge, 1200 SE 12th Street, Suite 3, during office hours (currently Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to noon), send an email to manager@klrf.org, or call (509) 524-0885.

KLRF is a listener-supported ministry that reaches the Walla Walla Valley and beyond, as far south as Pendleton and Hermiston, and west to the Tri Cities. A new arm of the ministry

is being developed in Enterprise, Oregon, to reach the entire Wallowa Valley.

Tune in during this Christmas season for the beautiful music of Christ's birth, and please pray for God's rich blessings on this radio station as it touches many lives in our community!

THIS SEASON!

HOPE
COMES ALIVE

JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS AT
KLR 88.5 FM

Upcoming Events

by Pastor Jeff Kinne

Annual Christmas Candlelight Communion

There's nothing really like it.

It's a special time of year,

a special day of the week,

and a special kind of worship.



For 55 years Village Church has gathered on the Friday evening before Christmas to celebrate the Lord's Supper. The mood is reflective, festive, expectant, renewing, warm, inspirational. The service is a powerful reminder of God's saving work for us in Christ from His birth to His death. Join us Friday, December 22, at 6:30 p.m. for this special service of worship. Come prepared to be blessed and to be a blessing.

Annual Christmas Worship Service

Sabbath morning, December 23, join us as we celebrate Jesus' birth, God's perfect gift of hope and salvation, through prayer, music, Advent readings, scripture, and carols. It's a perfect time to invite friends and relatives to join us as we remember and rejoice in the arrival of Immanuel, God with us, Jesus, come to earth to save. Oh come, let us adore Him!



The Social Committee cordially
invites you!

What: caroling led by Kent Keller

When: Saturday night December 16,
6 p.m.

Where: meet at the Fellowship Hall

Why: To reach out to our neighbors
and have fun with church family!



Warm up later with refreshments
served 7:30 to 9 p.m.



“It is not the fear of punishment, or the hope of everlasting reward, that leads the disciples of Christ to follow Him. They behold the Savior’s matchless love, revealed throughout His pilgrimage on earth, from the manger of Bethlehem to Calvary’s cross, and the sight of Him attracts, it softens and subdues the soul. Love awakens in the heart of the beholders. They hear His voice, and they follow Him.”

—The Desire of Ages, p. 480

With Love; Gen Z—Part 4

Hey, it's me again. Just thought I'd check in with you. How have you been? Are you doing okay? It's been a while since I heard from you, and I hope you're staying well. I'm proud of you, and I hope you've gotten to make a dream come true recently. I did. I got to watch the sun set over the ocean. Water and sunsets just go together best.



I wanted to tell you a little more about myself. I've grown up in a post 9/11 America, had the internet and the world at my fingertips from an early age, and been offered a unique world to navigate. Sometimes when we talk it's hard to explain this because the culture you were raised in and the culture I was raised in are very different.

It's okay if you can't cross the gap. We'll work through the generational trauma and cross divides in race, culture, and gender together. There's a lot we don't know about each other yet, and I know we've gotten off on the wrong foot a bit here at the beginning, but I hope we can listen and ask each other questions.

It's hard to live with hope for the future when tensions are everywhere and the world itself is collapsing. It's hard to hope for a family and stability when money doesn't buy what it used to, or when love is fragile. So, we live with what we've been handed. Sure, our humor is darker than you like, and we might take more risks, wear black more than you'd like, and spend time online. It's about adaptation.



I remember hearing in church about how faith is superior to hope, and how the just live by faith. And that makes sense to me regarding salvation. But sometimes I need hope. Hope for tomorrow that things will get better, or at least that I'll have a minute to catch my breath. Hope that someone out there sees my achievements and is proud of me. Hope that maybe someday I'll be enough.

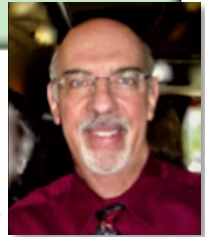
I was reading the Bible recently, and noticed how intensely practical religion is, particularly about interpersonal interaction. Like the good Samaritan, or Jesus' life and ministry. It's hard to hear about the practicality of religion and God's love, and then rarely experience that practicality in practice. Faith is how we find assurance of salvation. Good works should be directed toward each other, as we act out of our love for God and choose to live a life that honors Him, not because we are anxious about being good enough for heaven. Could we try some practical Christianity together?



I love you, and I hope you're doing well. I'm proud of you, and I'm here for you. With love, Gen Z

Once in Royal David's City

by Terry Koch



Greetings, class! Please take your seats. Today we will become familiar with the subject of a service of worship called Lessons and Carols. Open your textbooks to the year 1880 in Cornwall, England.”

First of all, a bit of geography. The county of Cornwall is the long rugged arm of England stretching out into the Atlantic toward the southwest. The descriptive name given to the very tip of the county is “Land’s End.”



About the middle of the county is the village of Truro where, in 1880, the first Festival of Lessons and Carols was held in a temporary structure made of wood which was put into use as a house of worship during the time a local cathedral was being built. The Right Rev. Edward White Benson felt that people needed encouragement during the season of Christmas to be invited to move away from their secular activities and merrymaking to a more profound and uplifting type of celebration.

Benson and Rev. George Walpole, who had the idea of a celebration of Bible readings interwoven with Christmas music, collaborated together in the first service of Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve, which had an attendance in excess of 400.



The service became quite popular, and in 1918 the Dean of King’s College in Cambridge, England, Eric Milner-White, who had served as a chaplain in the British army during the first World War, felt that something was needed to encourage people back to the service of worship after the devastating emotional trauma of war. So on Christmas Eve of that year, Milner-White instituted the Lessons and Carols service at the College. Since then, enthusiasm for the service from the chapel of King’s has increased year by year, especially with the inception of its broadcast beginning in 1928 via the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The beloved service traditionally begins with the lovely carol, “Once in Royal David’s City,” created by two Brits, poet Cecil Frances Alexander, and composer Henry J. Gauntlett. The first stanza is always sung by a young boy soloist with a sweet, floating, flute-like voice after which is presented a series of readings from Scripture on the story of Redemption and the birth of the Savior. Carols are sung by the choir and congregation.



Terry Koch will direct an ecumenical choir of Adventists, Methodists, and others from the community, accompanied by an orchestra in a Service of Lessons and Carols. The service consisting of carols for choir and congregation based on the readings of Scripture which recount the plan of salvation will be an adaptation of the original British template in that “Once In Royal David’s City” will be the closing carol instead of the first.

You are warmly invited to attend this beautiful service of music and the Word of God. Bring a friend, come and worship. Exalt the royal birth that gives us the blessed hope of eternal life with the One whose ministry and mission to earth is celebrated.

“Thank you for your careful attention. Class is now dismissed. You may go, but please remember your homework assignment written on the board.”



The Village Pantry

by Cindy Solis



This recipe, shared with us by a church member, is a healthier version of an old favorite. Though there is a recipe within a recipe, the results are well worth the effort! It would make a great addition to your holiday meal.

Hash Brown Casserole

Ingredients

- 1 30 oz. package frozen shredded hash browns oil-free version (or 4 cups freshly shredded)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup onions, diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup red bell pepper, diced
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup fresh spinach leaves, shredded
- 1 cup No Cheese Sauce (recipe next page)
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup nutritional yeast
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. crushed rosemary
- 1 Tbsp. ground smoked paprika
- Salt to taste

Spinach



(continued on next page)

Creamy Vegan Cheese Sauce

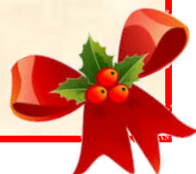
Ingredients

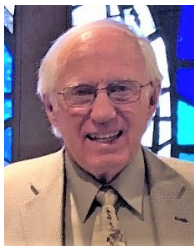
- 1 cup potatoes, peeled and sliced
- ¼ cup carrots, diced
- ¼ cup onions, diced
- 1 cup broth from veggies
- ½ cup raw cashews or ½ cup white beans
- 4 Tbsp. nutritional yeast flakes
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- Pinch paprika
- ½ pinch cayenne pepper (optional)



Instructions

1. Begin with the cheese sauce. Place 3 cups of water in a medium pot and bring it to a boil.
2. Add potatoes, carrots, and onions, cooking until tender—about 15 minutes.
3. Retain 1 cup of the broth and add to the blender with the drained vegetables and remaining ingredients. Blend until smooth. This makes more than is needed for the casserole. Extra sauce is fabulous for nacho cheese dip, veggie pizza, mac-n-cheese, topping steamed broccoli, etc. Keeps in refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.
4. For the casserole—in a large bowl, combine diced onions, diced red bell peppers, frozen hash browns, 1 cup cheese sauce, and seasonings. Mix thoroughly.
5. Add shredded spinach leaves and lightly mix again.
6. Line a 9" X 13" baking dish with parchment paper. This allows the casserole to bake without oil. A silicone baking dish would also work fine.
7. Pour hash brown mixture into the baking dish and bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.
8. Remove from oven and serve warm.

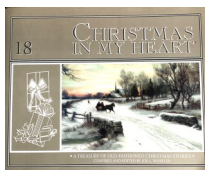
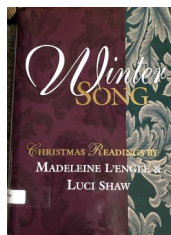




From the Library

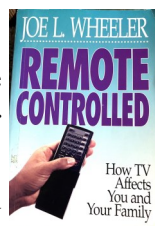
by Marcel Grondahl

Our library selections this month center around Christmas. The first selection is *Winter Song*—a collection of Christmas readings by L’Engle & Shaw published in 1996. The authors are lifelong friends and complement each other by the choice of poems and readings in the book. These readings reflect on the winter world around us, drawing Joy from winter days, Hope from Christmas celebrations, and Promise for the New Year. Enjoy!!

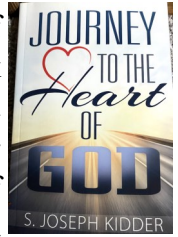


Joe L. Wheeler has been publishing “Christmas In My Heart” stories for years. Number 18 in the series is similar to all the others being a treasury of old-fashioned Christmas stories that touch the heart and stir the memory. His goal is to restore simplicity and sanity to a Christmas season that has lost its spiritual moorings. Strange as it may seem, the fondest Christmas memories generally have to do with tough times...such as those we are experiencing in our nation now.

Joe L. Wheeler does more than compile Christmas stories. He has published a book called “Remote Controlled” detailing how TV affects you and your family. Dr. Wheeler taught at Columbia Union College prior to his retirement. He presents sobering and shocking information on what television is doing to our families. Dr. Wheeler explains how children are affected by TV at different stages of their development, how it can harm a child’s reading and writing skills, and, even more serious, it can contribute to the desensitization of a child to violence and destroy his or her sense of Christian values. Read the book to find out more.



Our fourth book this month is “Journey to the Heart of God” by Joseph Kidder, published in 2019. The book is full of practical ways in which one can establish and maintain a relationship with God. If you have ever been frustrated with your spiritual life, wondered if real change is possible or felt confused or stuck in a spiritual rut, this book is for you!! The author outlines several Christian spiritual practices such as worship, prayer, Bible study, fasting, fellowship and more in a practical and innovative way to improve your spiritual journey. You will be blessed!!



More Heritage Weekend Pictures



Dear Village Voice readers,



Tom and I were driving along Highway 12 near the Columbia River.

Suddenly we noticed, high overhead, silvery streams of migrating water birds, their feathers catching light and shadow in graceful, rhythmic wingbeats against the blue sky. I was awestruck and entranced by their ethereal beauty (good thing Tom was at the wheel) and kept craning my neck to gaze upward as long as I could. It felt like a glimpse into another world. In the back of my mind echoed this verse: “Even the stork in the sky knows her appointed seasons, and the dove, the swift and the thrush observe the time of their migration. But my people do not know the requirements of the Lord” Jeremiah 8:7.

It applied in Jeremiah’s day. What about ours? I’m talking about heart work more than outward activity. The birds are directed as to time and place. Are

we as receptive and open to the Spirit of God? What beauty could He reveal if we were?

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor



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