Three-Alarm Fire Damages Two AAA Warehouses

A three-alarm fire burned an industrial (AAA) warehouse and damaged an adjacent warehouse on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy, in Auburn, Wash., on Thursday, May 7, beginning around 8:30 p.m. The warehouse buildings in the 2800 block of Academy Drive SE, are owned by the Academy and leased to multiple tenants including an auto body shop. Tenants from another warehouse first spotted the fire, alerted the auto shop employees to evacuate, and called the emergency authorities. No injuries were reported. "We are grateful that everyone is safe and accounted for," says Tom Decker, principal. "The firefighters were very conscientious in their work and we appreciate their continued support after the fire was out. We are saddened by the loss of work space for our industry partners and how this fire is affecting their business." Read the full story on the AAA website.
Is American Christianity in Decline?

A new study released Tuesday by the Pew Research Center shows Christianity is on the decline in America. While Christianity is still the dominant faith, it dropped more than seven percent from 2007 to 2014. At the same time, Americans who considered themselves atheist, agnostic or of no particular faith grew from 16 percent to almost 23 percent. The findings "point to substantive changes" among the religiously unaffiliated, said Greg Smith, Pew's associate research director, not just a shift in how individuals describe themselves. Other religions, such as Muslims and Hindus, saw a slight increase, though they each comprise less than 1 percent of the U.S. population. Additionally, the number of Jews grew from 1.7 percent to 1.9 percent over the same time period. Read more from The Washington Post online.
New Gem State Academy Staff

Marvin E. Thorman has accepted the invitation to serve as the next principal of Gem State Adventist Academy, in Caldwell, Idaho. He brings 33 years of teaching, working in both boarding and day academies, and has been a supervising teacher for several student teachers for the past nine years as part of Southern Adventist University’s education program. Thorman bring a strong service background, have served as part of volunteer fire departments for 15 years, eight of them as captain of a local fire station. Thorman and his wife, Lisa, who is a musician with a master’s in piano performance and enjoys teaching piano, have two grown sons. Thorman says that ministry gives him purpose and fulfillment. He will begin his work at GemState on July 1.

Glen Wahlman will lead the Science program at Gem State. He comes from Bakersfield Adventist Academy in California. Wahlman has a Master of Science of Education from Southern Adventist University and graduated from Pacific Union College with a Bachelor of Science in Biology. Certified to teach biology and chemistry, he brings 17 years of teaching experience in sciences and has also taught anatomy and physiology for six years. Wahlman uses art and new technology in the classroom to help his students succeed. He is mission-minded, having spent over five years in Russia and the Marshall Islands. Wahlman truly enjoys teaching in the natural sciences, exploring the wonders of God’s creation.

Three Lifestyle Changes to Prevent Diabetes

Diabetes is on the rise. An estimated 29.1 million people have type 2 diabetes in the United States. About 27 percent of those with diabetes don’t know they have the disease. Another 86 million people have pre-diabetes. It is among the top 10 leading causes of
death in the U.S. Part of the problem is linked to rising rates in overweight and obesity. Lack of exercise and poor food choices also contribute to diabetes for both children and adults. Other risks include smoking, sleep disorders and depression. However, researchers have found that following these three specific lifestyle habits can prevent or delay diabetes: Weight management, regular exercise and healthy food choices. Read more on how to prevent diabetes from Wellsource.

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Adventist Health News Notes

Dorane Brower named Vice President of Integrated Physician and Health Plan Services for Adventist Health. While her title has been expanded to vice president, she will remain president of Healthcare Resources Northwest. Brower replaces Steve Kinzer, who worked at Adventist Health Medical Center in Portland, Ore. for more than 27 years, with the last 17 years as CEO of Adventist Health Medical Group.

Additionally, Adventist Medical Center in Portland, has earned a top ‘A’ score as one of the 782 safest hospitals in the U.S. The rating has been published by The Leapfrog Group, a national patient safety organization.
Would Jesus Use Social Media?

The Christian church has always wrestled with its language — from the exclusivity of the Latin Mass to the perpetual struggle to speak the language of younger generations. This past fall an article showcased this struggle in the Pacific Northwest. The reporter comments: "One billboard stands out among the rest on the elevated train tracks at Post Street downtown: It features a young woman holding a cell phone and looking toward the sky. It reads, "Have you tweeted Jesus lately? ..." The question of whether Jesus would use social media is tricky. Sometimes He told people not to "post" anything (Mark 7:36). People typically ignored this command, and Jesus attracted mass followers by word of mouth (see Matt. 4:24; Mark 1:45; and Luke 7:17). Did He know that people would tell? And when He sends out the 72 (Luke 10:1), can that be considered the same as a mass email? How do we integrate social media without separating ourselves from real relationships, developing obsessive phone-checking tics at the supper table, or simply drowning in the total onslaught of conspiracy theories, political posts, health tips and baby pictures on the Internet? To read more of Seth Pierce's inspiring article, visit the Adventist Review online.

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- Couple Builds Relationship With God
- Western Washington Dentists Volunteer in San Antonio
- Churches Hold Combined Women’s Ministry Mini Retreat
- CAA Sees Sign of Miracles
- Nature Photo Gallery

*And More!*

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**Looking Ahead**

**May**

- May 14: 39th Annual NPUC Regional Convocation, Auburn, WA
- May 15: Walla Walla Health Expo, College Place, WA
- May 17: Idaho Conference Constituency Session, Caldwell, ID
- May 31: Upper Columbia Conference Constituency Session, Spangle, WA

*More Events Online*
May
This year’s NPUC Pathfinder Bible Experience event brought clubs together from across the Northwest to test their understanding from the Gospel of Matthew. Share this fun-filled day through words and photos in the May issue of the Gleaner. Take a moment now to flip through the latest issue at GleanerNow.com.
A three-alarm fire damaged two academy industrial warehouses on May 7. / Photo: Brendy Lindsay

Three-Alarm Fire Damages Two Academy Industrial Warehouses

Auburn, Wash. (Friday, May 8) - A three-alarm fire burned an industrial warehouse and damaged an adjacent warehouse on the campus of Auburn Adventist Academy in Auburn, Wash., on Thursday, May 7, beginning around 8:30 pm.

The warehouse buildings in the 2800 block of Academy Drive SE are owned by the Academy and leased to multiple tenants including an auto body shop. Tenants from another warehouse first spotted the fire, alerted auto shop employees to evacuate, and called the emergency authorities. No injuries were reported.

"We are grateful that everyone is safe and accounted for," says Tom Decker, Auburn Adventist Academy principal. "The firefighters were very conscientious in their work and we appreciate their continued support after the fire was out. We are saddened by the loss of work space for our industry partners and how this fire is affecting their business."

The fire was initially a two-alarm blaze, but firefighters called a third alarm when the flames spread to a nearby warehouse. The Academy has several clusters of small warehouses in its industrial park; the fire was localized to two warehouses that are separate from what used to be the old Harris Pine Mill.

Valley Regional Fire Authority (VRFA) said via Twitter that the fire was under control by 11 pm and firefighters were working on hot spots until about 1:30 am. Multiple agencies, including three ladder trucks, 10 fire engines and several command units from VRFA, South King Fire & Rescue, Kent Fire, and Mountain View Fire & Rescue, responded to this fire and took a defensive strategy in fighting the fire, Valley Regional (@ValleyFire) reported on Twitter.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.

VRFA stayed on site Friday to monitor the scene as investigators continued their work. Authorities allowed some tenants to begin removing salvageable tools and equipment. An engineer examined the buildings to plan for
stabilizing the facility.

“It is still a dangerous place,” Decker says. “We’re making sure the area is a safe place. The fire department is helping us with the next steps for securing the area and keeping people and our tenants safe.”

While the Academy retains insurance on warehouse buildings, it is up to the tenants to hold insurance for their business. Some of the tenant losses are covered and some are not. Auburn students are planning to host a fundraiser next week in support of tenants and the portion of their losses that are uninsured.

Aftermath of the warehouse fire. / Photo: Heidi Baumgartner
Christianity faces sharp decline as Americans are becoming even less affiliated with religion

The Memorial Peace Cross is a well-known landmark in Bladensburg, Md. (Mark Gail for The Washington Post)

Christianity is on the decline in America, not just among younger generations or in certain regions of the country but across race, gender, education and geographic barriers. The percentage of adults who describe themselves as Christians dropped by nearly eight percentage points in just seven years to about 71 percent, according to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center.

“It’s remarkably widespread,” said Alan Cooperman, director of religion research for the Pew Research Center. “The country is becoming less religious as a whole, and it’s happening across the board.”

At the same time, the share of those who are not affiliated with a religion has jumped from 16 percent to about 23 percent in the same time period. The trend follows a pattern found earlier in the American Religious Identification Survey, which found that in 1990, 86 percent of American adults identified as Christians, compared with 76 percent in 2008.

Here are three key takeaways from Pew’s new survey.

1. **Millennials are growing even less affiliated with religion as they get older**

The older generation of millennials (those who were born from 1981 to 1989) are becoming even less affiliated with
religion than they were about a decade ago, the survey suggests. In 2007, when the Pew Research Center did their last Religious Landscape Survey and these adults were just entering adulthood, 25 percent of them did not affiliate with a religion, but this grew to 34 percent in the latest survey.

The trends among the aging millennials is especially significant, said Greg Smith, associate director of research at the Pew Research Center. In 2010, 13 percent of baby boomers were religiously unaffiliated as they were entering retirement, the same percentage in 1972.

“Some have asked, ‘Might they become more religiously affiliated as they get older?’ There’s nothing in this data to suggest that’s what’s happening,” he said. Millennials get married later than older generations, but they are not necessarily more likely to become religiously affiliated, he said.

2. There are more religiously unaffiliated Americans than Catholic Americans or mainline Protestant Americans

The numbers of Catholics and Protestants have each shrunk between three and five percentage points since 2007. The evangelical share of the American population has dropped by one percentage point since 2007.

There are more religiously unaffiliated Americans (23 percent) than Catholics (21 percent) and mainline Protestants (15 percent). “That’s a striking and important note,” Smith said.

The groups experience their losses through what’s called “religious switching,” when someone switches from one faith to another. Thirteen percent of Americans were raised Catholic but are no longer Catholic, compared with just 2 percent of Americans who are converts to Catholicism.

“That means that there are more than six former Catholics for every convert to Catholicism,” Smith said. “There’s no other group in the survey that has that ratio of loss due to religious switching.”

There are 3 million fewer Catholics today than there were in 2007. While the percentage of Catholics in the United States has remained relatively steady, Smith said we might be observing the beginning of the decline of the Catholic share of the population.

Pew estimates there are about 5 million fewer mainline Protestants than there were in 2007. About 10 percent of the U.S. population say they were raised in the mainline Protestant tradition, while 6 percent have converted to mainline Protestantism.

Evangelical Protestants have experienced less decline, due to their net positive retention rate. For every person who has left evangelical Protestantism after growing up, 1.2 have switched to join an evangelical denomination.

3. Those who are unaffiliated are becoming more secular

The “nones,” or religiously unaffiliated, include atheists, agnostics and those who say they believe in “nothing in particular.” Of those who are unaffiliated, 31 percent describe themselves as atheists or agnostics, up six points from 2007.

“What we’re seeing now is that the share of people who say religion is important to them is declining,” Smith said. “The religiously unaffiliated are not just growing, but as they grow, they are becoming more secular.”

And people in older generations are increasingly disavowing organized religion. Among baby boomers, 17 percent identify as a religious “none,” up from 14 percent in 2007.

“There’s a continuing religious disaffiliation among older cohorts. That is really striking,” Smith said. “I continue to be struck by the pace at which the unaffiliated are growing.”
White Americans (24 percent) are more likely to say they have no religion, compared with 20 percent of Hispanic Americans and 18 percent of black Americans. The retention rates of the “nones” who say they were raised as religiously affiliated has grown by seven points since 2007 to 53 percent.

The Pew survey was conducted between June and September of 2014.

Sarah Pulliam Bailey is a religion reporter, covering how faith intersects with politics, culture and...everything. She can be found on Twitter @spulliam.
What Would Jesus Tweet?

Social media isn’t a fad. Here’s what you need to know.

By Seth J. Pierce

The Christian church has always wrestled with its language—from the exclusivity of the Latin Mass to the perpetual struggle to speak the language of younger generations. This past fall an article showcased this struggle in the Pacific Northwest. The reporter comments:

“One billboard stands out among the rest on the elevated train tracks at Post Street downtown: It features a young woman holding a cell phone and looking toward the sky. It reads, “Have you tweeted Jesus lately? . . .”

“While church leaders hesitate to call it a marketing strategy, it is at least an attempt to appeal to a generation that uses social media for the bulk of its communication. This kind of advertising for religious organizations is becoming more common not just in Spokane but around the nation.”*

While it is laudable that religious organizations are acknowledging the existence of social media, the question remains: Why did they use a billboard to reach people on Twitter?

The interplay between church and technology typically lacks rhythm and coordination, and includes frequent stepping on toes. It’s painful when the microphone refuses to work midsermon, the singer’s monitor refuses to resonate, the words on the screen disappear during the opening hymn, and the church Web site takes a vacation from its URL.

Part of the problem involves a language barrier separating those born after 1970 (known as “digital natives”), those born before but readily adaptable to technology (“digital settlers”), and those who get excited when they manage to send an e-mail . . . to the correct person (“digital immigrants”). The disparity among groups is not strictly generational. The president, the pope, and prime ministers all tweet.

Immigrants can feel intimidated by technology, and have a harder time understanding how it works. The first time I spoke with my brother on MSN Messenger, my mother was incredulous as to how that was possible. . . . I laughingly told her his soul was trapped in the machine and I was helping him find his way out, “just like in Tron, Mom.” She didn’t laugh.

While digital natives take in astonishing amounts of data, those who can’t keep up often turn the use of technology into a moral issue. I have known many who take pride in not having an e-mail address. To them it seems noble, but their ability to be effective witnesses for Jesus in a digital age is compromised.

Bottom line: digital media is not a fad. The Internet is 45 years old; the World Wide Web is 25; Facebook is 11; and Twitter is 9. Most people don’t keep their houses, their cars, or their carpet that long. Additionally, the number of people using these outlets is measured in the hundreds of millions.

While I affirm the primacy of in-person communication, I also recognize that refusal to participate in tech diminishes one’s influence and ability to network. And it can frustrate those around you. Fundamentally, media (whether paintings, film, literature, or an Instagram photo) is language. With nearly a billion people Facebooking, the “lingua franca” should be fairly obvious.
Ministry

The question of whether Jesus would use social media is tricky. Sometimes He told people not to "post" anything (Mark 7:36). People typically ignored this command, and Jesus attracted mass followers by word of mouth (see Matt. 4:24; Mark 1:45; and Luke 7:17). Did He know that people would tell? And when He sends out the 72 (Luke 10:1), can that be considered the same as a mass e-mail?

Jesus began His ministry with a tight-knit “group” of 12 in order to reach a specific target audience. Post-Resurrection Jesus told us to share His message with the world, making us His social media. This means we have to speak people’s language in the places they actually spend time. This is something Jesus mastered.

Jesus’ use of language involved agrarian imagery, current political situations, religious symbolism, popular sayings, stories, hyperbole, and more. He went to weddings, wells, temples, feasts, gardens, hills, houses, and parties, and even hosted a fish dinner. I have a hard time believing that Christians with a missionary spirit would ignore the river of social media as a venue for facilitating conversations, awareness, and personal connection.

So how do we integrate social media without separating ourselves from real relationships, developing obsessive phone-checking tics at the supper table, or simply drowning in the total onslaught of conspiracy theories, political posts, health tips, and baby pictures on the Internet?

Integrate Your Values Into Your Media

All of us have values, whether we have defined them or not. A quick glance at where your time and money are spent will show you your values (for better or worse). Once you have them in mind, or once you have worked out what you would like your values to be, begin asking how each media outlet can augment those values.

For example, social media should help relationships, not hinder them. If the time spent online is taking you away from real conversations, the ability to listen to others, embroiling you in constant online debates, or causing you to post inappropriate things in order to get more followers, you need to scale it back.

While the ancients didn’t have any specific advice for social media use, they do offer timeless truths that can help guide our time. Texts such as Proverbs 20:19; 16:28; 12:17; and Ephesians 4:29 encourage us to stifle gossip and speak in order to build others up. Given the tendency for online toxicity, fostering a spirit of kindness and gentleness is a good place to form a boundary.

The boundaries you set and the reasons you choose various apps to build your platform for the kingdom will vary, but a few reflections may help to stimulate your church’s creativity—and your own.

Twitter

Twitter limits your post to 140 characters—meaning you need to use intentional language. Jesus places a high value on word economy, especially in prayer (Matt. 6:7). Church communicators would do well to spend a little time tweeting to find accessible forms for their insight.

You’ll find that many of your favorite Bible verses are tweet-sized.

Twitter is also about sharing content—such as articles on how to use Twitter—with people. If you can become a resource for what people are seeking, people will follow. Tweets also spark dialogue—be prepared to respond to others’ words as well as your own.

Instagram

For the photographically incompetent, Instagram provides built-in filters to make your iPhone photo rival those of Ansel Adams. People can “like” your pics and make comments about them. How could your church feature its social events? What pictures could the church post that would provoke theological
dialogue?

The Christian church used to create stained glass to help the illiterate understand the stories of Scripture. What if Instagram was the modern stained-glass window? What stories can we tell with our pictures?

**Facebook**
If the government really wanted to keep information from people, they would place it in church bulletins. Every leader laments the lack of bulletin reading in the church. Facebook allows you to create a church account, add parishioners, and bombard them with important announcements, urgent prayer requests, and last-minute cancellations. Instead of calling every congregation member to tell them snow has buried the church, a quick post from home lets everyone know instantly.

As a pastor I have also found Facebook to be helpful in keeping tabs on major life events within my congregation. While no system is perfect, Facebook has enabled me to see announcements of births, deaths, moves, marriages, and troubling questions involving my parishioners. Many times a quick note of congratulations or sympathy lets the member know they are noticed and loved. It helps multiply my very limited physical presence, and helps me be “with” people when I can’t physically be with them.

**Vine**
Vines are extremely brief videos that people have turned into mini skits, parables, and social commentary. What could a youth group do if tasked with creating parables using this media? How could short interviews be used in sermons, or to create online trends? Ask a provocative question, post a response, and see how many other people accept the challenge.

**Snapchat**
Like the *Mission Impossible* messages that self-destruct, a Snapchat video or message is viewed once before it vanishes. While this app has been used for salacious ends, most people have found it useful for event invitations and quick pics for fleeting moments (the app opens directly to the camera). This app could be used to send quick notes of encouragement to members, funny moments to make people smile, and last-minute event reminders.

**YouVersion Bible**
This app not only places every Bible translation at your fingertips for free; it also allows preachers to upload sermon outlines/notes for members to download during the service.

**Put a Pin in It**
The ways we can use social media are endless, as is the potential time spent on them if we don’t set boundaries. However, rightly used, congregations benefit from increased participation in the worship service (including live dialogue on Twitter while the sermon is going on), instant feedback on worship experiences and social events, marketing to nonmembers (just have members “check in” on Facebook when they come to church), access to new recipes/books/quotes (if your church uses Pinterest), and even fund-raising with a technique called crowdsourcing (Google it).

Like dessert or seasoning, social media can be used in ways that keep it from being a valuable tool to enhance quality of life. Living with so much information, however, means we have access to articles, tweets, books, and micro-blogs to help us on our way. Churches also benefit from digital natives holding seminars to help settlers and immigrants adapt to a world that can feel overwhelming.

One last thing: Whether you tweet, Facebook, Pin, or YouTube, do all for the glory of God.

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**Seth Pierce** is the lead pastor at the Puyallup Seventh-day Adventist Church in Puyallup, Washington.
We reserve the right to approve and disapprove comments accordingly and will not be able to respond to inquiries regarding that. Please keep all comments respectful and courteous to authors and fellow readers.
Betty Pratt recommits her life to Christ through baptism. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Their relationship with God changed the marriage of Thom and Betty Pratt. They look forward to their daily time of Bible study and prayer together. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Thom Pratt prepares for baptism following a prophecy seminar at the Southcenter Church in Des Moines, Wash. Credit: Heidi Baumgartner

Twenty years ago, God brought Thom and Betty Pratt together. As their acquaintance turned to friendship and romance, they found healing from their broken relationships.

Betty remembered growing up in a God-fearing home and knew in her heart what it meant to follow Jesus. She prayed for 20 years for Thom to know Jesus. Betty convinced Thom to go to church with her every so often.

Thom recently had some health challenges. After being released from the hospital one day, Thom and Betty went to look at a boat for sale. En route, they turned down a different street than they normally traveled. They drove right past Southcenter Adventist Church in Des Moines, Wash.

The couple saw the signs for the church’s Bible prophecy seminar and decided to go. Their first night was the church’s second night of meetings. The presentation went right over Thom’s head. He didn’t understand much of
what he heard.

Before long, Thom and Betty agreed to have Bible workers from SOULS Northwest come to their home. The Bible workers helped Thom get acquainted with the books of the Bible, answered his questions and prayed with the couple. Soon Thom was receiving top marks on his Bible prophecy quizzes instead of failing them.

Today the Pratts are both baptized members of the Adventist Church. They thoroughly enjoy their daily devotional time together as they grow in God’s grace and discover His blessings in life.

May 12, 2015 / Washington Conference
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Coming in the June 2015 issue

Heidi Baumgartner

Washington Conference communication director

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Heidi Baumgartner serves as communication director for Washington Conference.
Western Washington Dentists Volunteer in San Antonio

These dentists from western Washington spent two and a half days volunteering in San Antonio, Texas, to bring care to needy patients. Bob Wohlers practices dentistry in Chehalis, and Samuel Minagawa practices dentistry in Tukwila.

Dentist Bob Wohlers works with a patient.

Samuel Minagawa, a western Washington dentist, heard how a patient had waited in line all night for access to care. The patient had been in pain for months. After the bad teeth were surgically removed and he was experiencing a pain-free mouth, this patient was so happy and grateful that he wanted to take a picture with Minagawa and his team.

Samuel Minagawa and the dental team work with a patient.

All her posterior teeth were rotted to the gum line. Jennifer, in her mid-20s, said she "had been a heroin addict," but she was trying to get her life back in order.

It is not easy to anesthetize someone having used hard drugs, but dentist Bob Wohlers was able to keep her numb long enough to remove the teeth in one quadrant. After the procedure, Jennifer expressed her gratitude. MiMi, Wohlers' assistant, was able to pray with Jennifer and her mother before they left and promised to continue to do so. Both Jennifer and her mom had tears of gratefulness.

Forty or more dentists and dental hygienists, including three volunteers from western Washington, served approximately 950 patients during the two and a half days of Your Best Pathway to Health in San Antonio, Texas.
Each dentist brought his/her own instruments, anesthetics and supplies for the purpose of serving the underserved. The other departments did the same, giving away surgeries, eye glasses, haircuts, lab work and all sorts of medical care. A total of 6,193 patients were given more than $20,000,000 in services in two and a half days.

As Samuel Minagawa, a dentist, so aptly put it, “It was such a privilege to be able to interact with the people of San Antonio on such a personal level. As crazy as it was in the Alamodome, you could sense the presence of a sweet spirit and oneness of purpose among all the volunteers.”

The gratitude and smiles of patients leaving the dental area, free of pain or possessing a newly acquired smile, was reward enough for the long hours. Washington volunteers Minagawa, Wohlers and Wohlers’ wife, Earlene, would do it again in a minute.

Your Best Pathway to Health’s motto is “Christ’s methods alone.” It was an event that changed lives (volunteers included) in San Antonio, Texas. The city of Spokane, Wash., will be the next venue for this explosion of services, and volunteer registration is now open at pathwaytohealthvolunteer.org.

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Earlene Wohlers

LCAS administrative assistant
Chambers Hold Combined Women’s Ministry Mini Retreat

< Previous

Janice Nelson portrays Martha during the afternoon meeting.

The retreat included a delicious lunch in the Family Life Center.

Carol Milicia (center), Janice Nelson (left) and Beth Boram (right) present gifts of appreciation to the retreat speakers.

Next >

The Junction City, Santa Clara (Eugene) and Veneta churches in Oregon, hosted the seventh annual Women’s Ministry Mini Retreat on Sunday, March 15. The theme, “Women Walking in Faith,” was taken from Ps. 90:17.

Beth Boram from the Cottage Grove (Ore.) Church spoke about righteousness by faith for the morning program, and Janice Nelson from Yreka, Calif., portrayed Martha, the sister of Mary and Lazarus, for the afternoon program.

Vi Reddick, Pam Shipley and Dede King inspired with beautiful spiritual music throughout the day. Eileen Swegle showcased needlework from the ladies of Bangladesh. Melissa Hernandez and her helpers provided a luncheon of crepes, fruit and more. A blessing was enjoyed by all who attended.

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Coming in the June 2015 issue
Lynda Phelps
Junction City Church
communication leader
CAA Sees Sign of Miracles

The new LED sign relays the good news that the CAA capital campaign for the new administration building is over.

I will ... open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Mal. 3:10

The new LED sign on the campus of Columbia Adventist Academy (CAA), a gift from the class of 2014, quickly relayed good news to the community that the capital campaign for the administration building was over. This landmark, the last in a string of miracles, was realized over alumni weekend, the result of completing a $100,000 match made possible by a group of alumni and friends.

At the worst possible time — the onset of the 2008 economic downturn — the original building project was initiated with an estimated cost of $6.2 million. In the end, after many unexpected twists and turns, the project's total was close to $8 million. While not your "typical miracles," many events along the way culminated in this final one: lead donors who prayerfully provided the foundation to make it possible to begin the project.

There was Back to School Night and Thanksgiving events that each raised more than $100,000. A donor added $50,000 for a principal's shaved head. Donors shared funded the plan for the principal to run the Shamrock Run in the Kodiak bear suit alongside students. Unexpected gifts of stocks, old coin collections and boxes filled with rolls of $100 bills showed up. Alumni responded to the alumni decade challenge and brought in almost $1 million. Others provided financial support when staff "struck oil" in old underground kerosene tanks while excavating, which necessitated an unforeseen and expensive environmental cleanup. Unexpected last-minute calls by different donors provided funding to capture the full amount when matching dollars were available. The unexpected sale of property when there was a $17,000 payment due and only $20,000 in the bank, prompting Greg Jackson, CAA accountant, to say that it "proved once again that God is never late but seldom early by our standards."

One of the greatest blessings was the consistent charity from committed supporters who had made pledges. Ranging from 20-year-old entrepreneurs to 90-year-old widows, they showed the miracle of God's people working together. The list could go on but to loosely paraphrase John 21:25, "There are also many other things which Jesus did, which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the [Gleaner articles] that should be written."

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Larry Hiday

CAA Gleaner correspondent
Images of Creation 2015

February 6, 2015: Mountain Lion, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell


February 20, 2015: Red Foxes at Play, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell

February 27, 2015: Dew Drops in Suspension. More Information Credit: Jeffry Seldomridge

March 6, 2015: Mt. Hood Orchard. More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico

March 13, 2015: Fairy slippers had touch of snow, Credit: Jeff A. Whiteouse


March 27, 2015: Lavender's Sweet Descent, Hulda Klager Lilac Garden, Woodland WA More Information Credit: Renae E. Smith

April 3, 2015: Once Upon a Time, More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico

April 10, 2015: Mine!, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

April 17, 2015: Spring Rain, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

April 24, 2015: Fox kits at play, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell
May 1, 2015: Ponder the

Exquisite, Vancouver, Wash. More Information Credit: Renae E. Smith

May 8, 2015: Emerging Signs of Spring, More Information Credit: Jeffry Seldomridge

May 15, 2015: Hummingbird, Gresham, Ore. Credit: John L. Corban

May 22, 2015: Pretty in Pink, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure


June 5, 2015: Cape Kiwanda, More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico


June 26, 2015: Eunice Lake, Eunice Lake, Wash. Credit: Ulrich Tutsch


July 17, 2015: St. Mary’s Lake Sunrise, St. Mary’s Lake, Mont. Credit: Mary Lane Anderson


July 31, 2015: Hydrangea with Frog, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

August 7, 2015: Ladybug With Morning Dew, Vancouver, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure


August 21, 2015: Heron With Fish, Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge, near Rickreall, Ore. More

September 11, 2015: Bald Eagle, Alaska Credit: Cherelyn Y. Strickland


September 25, 2015: Canola Road, Eastern Washington More Information Credit: Cindy A. Kassab

October 2, 2015: Two great horned owllets, Washington More Information Credit: Cindy A. Kassab

October 9, 2015: Egret in the Sun, Ridgefield, Wash. Credit: Lynne McClure

October 16, 2015: Harbor Seal, Alaska Credit: Cherelyn Y. Strickland

October 30, 2015: Mt. Rainier Bench Lake, Mt. Rainier Bench Lake, Wash.  Credit: Gene Heinrich

November 6, 2015: , Boardman, Ore.  Credit: Mary Lane Anderson

November 13, 2015: Visitor from the North, Ocean Shores, Wash.  More Information  Credit: Cindy A. Kassab


November 27, 2015: Sunset Afterglow, Oregon  Credit: Mary Lane Anderson

December 4, 2015: His Eye is on the Sparrow,  Credit: Jeff A. Whiteouse
December 11, 2015: Glowing Maple, Japanese Gardens, Portland, Ore.  Credit: Scott Swetnam
December 18, 2015: Mt. Adams, More Information Credit: Christina G. Angquico

December 25, 2015: Bobcat, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell
January 1, 2016: One Cone, Andies Prairie, Tollgate, Ore.  Credit: Curtis R. Lund

January 8, 2016: Mountain Lion, Kalispell, Mont. More Information Credit: Adam Cornwell


Each year, the *Gleaner* holds a photo contest. This year's 2015 winners for the online *Photo of the Week* are included in this gallery.

January 12, 2015