A multi-agency warehouse in Washington, Ill., is being operated by Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) volunteers for the purpose of accepting palletized donations which they will deliver to distribution centers in the affected area. The distribution centers directly serve the survivors of the tornadoes with needed supplies.

An ACS DR class was taught close to the tornado ravaged town of Washington, Ill., Sunday, November 24, at the Richland Bridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in Chillicothe, Ill. Attendees were from the Illinois and Lake Region Conferences and wanted to learn how to be better equipped to help in the disaster response. To have trained volunteers ready for disaster relief in your area, contact your local conference Adventist Community Services director about taking ACS DR classes.

ACS wants to thank you for caring, and for all that you do to help out during the many storms and emergencies that have occurred in the past year! Without your help, so many people would not have food, water, shelter and hope for a brighter future. To donate to the tornado relief, go to communityservices.org and click on "Donate Now." Churches can also use the bulletin inserts for the ACS DR Relief available on the Midwest Tornado Relief page.

Find bulletin inserts about donating for Philippines relief in the story posted in the 2013 archived news.

The Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) on the campus of Atlantic Union College was officially opened with a dedication ceremony on Wednesday, November 20. NETS, a non-higher education certificate program, is an evangelistic training school for our church members and leaders who wish to be trained in the art of Bible teaching, soul winning, and community health ministry. Graduates will be prepared for a career in lay ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to more effectively serve God in churches, communities, or schools. MORE

The parsonage exemption was ruled unconstitutional by a U.S. federal judge last week. The ruling was the result of a suit brought by the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which advocates for the separation of church and state. If upheld, it could affect the compensation package of tens of thousands of clergy in the country. The case is expected to be appealed to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. If it is, the Adventist Church will likely file friend of court brief. MORE

November 27, 2013

Special Days

November Focus: Health
Nov 2-30, Native Heritage Month

December Focus: Christian Hospitality
Dec 7, Bible Sabbath

January Focus: Friendship Evangelism
Jan 4, Day of Prayer
Jan 19-25, Religious Liberty Week

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Offerings
Nov 30, NAD Evangelism
Dec 14, Adventist Community Services
Jan 25, Religious Liberty

Sample Offertory Readings

What's a "Building Block?"

Retention of Young Adults

Watch:
"Retention of Young Adults"
I spent last Thursday and Friday evenings with the Adventist Society for Religious Studies (ASRS). The purpose of ASRS is to gather theologians from all across America. There also were some from Great Britain. They meet on an annual basis and discuss different theological perspectives.

On Sabbath I went to the Unity Meeting of the Allegheny East Conference and listened to an outstanding sermon by Carlton Byrd, entitled, “Get your War Clothes On.”

On Monday, I went to Dallas to chair the board of Seminars Unlimited in Keene, Texas. — Dan Jackson, president of North American Division

Islanders who rescued Kennedy had connection to Keene

Chattanooga filmmaker aims to raise funds to finish "Black Friday...

Review and Herald Publishing Association marks 30th anniversary with open house

Seventh-day Adventist Guam Clinic sends medical team to Philippines

Uniontown church to share Thanksgiving meal with public

Reverent Refurbishment: An Eagle Rock Church Gets a New Look

The 2014 Christmas Special, "Miracle at Gate 213," produced by Faith for Today, will be free for NBC stations this year. It is a heartwarming holiday story about stranded travelers at the airport on Christmas Eve. Learn about their personal journeys and watch as each is given a Miracle at Gate 213. This hour-long movie stars Academy Award winners Louis Gossett, Jr. and Shirley Jones, TV and stage star Della Reese, Parenthood star Savannah Paige Rae, and from In Love and War Mackenzie Astin. It also features four-time Grammy winner Deniece Williams and Grammy-nominated Jaci Velasquez, Days of our Lives Gill Hayes and Susan Seaforth-Hayes and daytime star Kate Linder and others.

Please contact your local NBC station and let the programming department know how important it is to you for them to air “Miracle at Gate 213” (tell them to “check the APT pre-feed”) during the Christmas holidays. This is a huge opportunity nationwide – a free, full hour on NBC stations. Your calls will make a difference! Watch the 30-second promo.

REMINDER: The early bird registration deadline is Tuesday, December 3 for the Adventist Ministries Convention, so save $50 and register today.

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http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=84ac0411b705798057dab6f2&id=a9a229b712&c=3075540be8[11/27/2013 3:16:54 PM]
More than 7,000 from 15+ countries have registered for the 2014 International Pathfinder Camporee to be held August 11-16 in Oshkosh, Wis. Organizers are expecting 40,000 from at least 60-100 countries around the world. Registration is now open. Don’t miss out! MORE or call (269) 471-8380.

"Lifeline" is the newsletter for Mission Lifeguard which, as a resource of the NAD Young Adult LIFE building block initiative, will focus specifically on youth/young adult retention. It will feature resources ready to be used by Adventist members and leaders. Lifeline's purpose is to train church and conference members and leaders how to reach Millennials who are disengaged from the church. It’s about connecting with young people who are "drowning" or missing. It’s about connecting young people with Jesus, the “abundant life-Giver.” Steve Case will be coordinating the Mission Lifeguard initiative. Subscribe to Lifeline, Like on Facebook.

"Did you know you are invited to be part of God's family on earth?"
Fundamental Beliefs video #12 from My Way to Jesus

Just "Click" to share your beliefs: The Fundamental Beliefs videos and other updates are shared on the My Way to Jesus Facebook page and from there onto the NAD Facebook page. Both updates link back to www.MyWaytoJesus.com, NAD's "seeker site." The site offers options such as sending a prayer request, enrolling in the Discover Bible Course, watching a beliefs video, and a connection to Adventist Information Ministry where people can chat with someone about spiritual issues or things that are troubling them. "Like" these pages on Facebook, and then share the updates with your friends.

Share the Beliefs videos on your own website: Just go to www.vimeo.com/channels/didyouknow for the entire video series and click on the "Share" button in the upper right corner of a specific video for the embed code, to share on social media or email to a friend.

REACH North America

REACH: Education for discipleship

Castle Rock Adventist Hospital in Colorado is setting a different example by growing...
some of their own food for their hospital restaurant. Not only that, they are also providing 104 separate garden plots for people in the community to grow fresh produce, a demonstration pavilion where cooking demonstrations are given, a playground, and a half-acre restaurant garden. This project proved to be quite a challenge this past year due to the extreme weather conditions in their area.

The vice-president of the Landtech Contractors, Inc. that did the landscaping work was impressed with the project and the mission. "This community garden is unlike any other in the state and we were excited to be a part of it," he said. "Hospitals aim to be healing but this hospital is being proactive about staying healthy in the first place. We think that's a great idea and were proud to contribute." Full story

Like Castle Rock on Facebook for updates.

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George Johnson Jr., communication director | Dan Weber, associate communication director
Lynetta Murdoch, sr. editorial assistant. Email: newspoints@nad.adventist.org

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North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 11-26-13 Northeast Evangelism Training School Officially Opens

A dedication ceremony signaling the official opening of the Northeast Evangelism Training School (NETS) was held on November 20 on the campus of Atlantic Union College. The ceremony included a ribbon cutting, brief speeches by special guests, and a tour of the Miles Building where NETS will be housed.

Welcoming those attending the event, Donald King, Atlantic Union Conference president and co-founder of NETS, said “Today marks a very special and epochal moment in the history of our union, to capture the beginning of a training program for our church members, and local community leaders, who wish to be trained in the art of Bible teaching, soul winning, and community health ministry.”

Among the special guests was Lancaster town administrator, Orlando Pacheco, who brought greetings. “It’s a very special day for the town, not just today, but we look toward the future as we welcome a new member into our community,” Pacheco said. “I can’t think of a more important time for this type of instruction to take place, when not only nationally but globally we’re suffering from so many issues.”

Alvin Kibble, North American Division vice president, brought greetings on behalf of the administrators of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. “We celebrate you, we support you, and we praise God for the visionary leadership that has brought this about. So, please know that your brothers and sisters throughout the North American Division salute you for this brand new initiative,” Kibble said.

Attending the event were administrators, directors, staff, and executive committee members from the Atlantic Union Conference, the six local conference presidents and other conference administrators, the Atlantic Union College interim president, and others from the college and the community.

NETS is an evangelistic training school, directed by Eric Flickinger. Graduates are prepared for a career in lay ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and to more effectively serve God in churches, communities, or schools.

NETS, a non-higher education certificate program, is sponsored by the Atlantic Union Conference, headquarters for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Northeast United States and Bermuda, and is supported by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America and the Seventh-day Adventist World Church.

Watch the Fall 2013 news video which includes a video of this event.

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by Ednor A. P. Davison
Assistant to the President for Communication
Editor, Atlantic Union Conference Gleaner
A U.S. federal judge in Wisconsin ruled that the "parsonage exemption" for clergy is unconstitutional. Her decision is pending appeal. Above, the parsonage of the First Methodist Church in Monroe, Wisconsin. [photo: James Steakley/Wikimedia Commons]
Adventist News Network

A United States federal judge last week ruled that the clergy exemption for paying taxes on income designated for housing is unconstitutional, a ruling that if upheld could affect the compensation package of tens of thousands of clergy in the country.

In her decision, U.S. District Court Judge Barbara Crabb said the law, known as the “parsonage exemption,” benefits “religious persons and no one else, even though doing so is not necessary to alleviate a special burden on religious exercise.”

The exemption for clergy, she wrote, violated the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment, which prohibits Congress from making a law “respecting an establishment of religion.”

Crabb said her ruling would not be enforced pending appeal.

Her decision is the result of a suit brought by the Wisconsin-based Freedom From Religion Foundation, which advocates for the separation of church and state. The foundation sued the U.S. Treasury secretary and Internal Revenue Service commissioner over the exemption, which was passed by Congress in 1954. Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code permits a “minister of the gospel” to designate some compensation as a housing allowance and exempt it from income tax.

“This ruling is a huge deal because it would have a dramatic impact in how the church compensates its ministers,” said Tom Wetmore, associate general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. “We have long depended on this tax benefit for the compensation package for our clergy in North America.”
The after-tax benefit to Adventist ministers is estimated between 5 and 10 percent of their total compensation package, he said.

Wetmore said the ruling also raises questions about other aspects of the tax status of ministers and other unique tax rules for churches, such as exemptions from reporting revenue activities and church benefit plans.

The case is expected to be appealed to the 7th U.S Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago. If so, Wetmore said the Adventist Church would likely file an amicus brief (friend of the court) or join an amicus brief brought by other groups.

----- Author: Ansel Oliver Adventist News Network Silver Spring, Maryland November 26, 2013
Islanders who rescued Kennedy had connection to Keene

By Paul Gnadt Keene Star

The 50th anniversary of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy brought to light another unusual connection that exists between Keene and two monumental events of World War II.

One, as told in James Bradley's 2000 book "Flags of Our Fathers," is the visit to Keene in 1944 by Marine Pvt. Harlon Block to see his girlfriend at then Southwestern Junior College. A couple of months later, Block was sent to Iwo Jima and killed in action. However, he lives forever in one famous photograph and one national monument as the soldier planting the end of the flag pole on Mount Suribachi.

And now, as the world paused last week to remember the fallen 34th president, comes a reminder that three of the six Solomon Island natives who rescued Lt. John F. Kennedy during World War II were Seventh-day Adventists, converted to the faith by a man who studied about missionary service in Keene.

Griffith Jones, 26, was captain of a British merchant ship sailing between England and North America when he discovered a tract about Adventists, and instead of throwing it away, read it and, upon returning to England, visited the group, according to a story in "Lest We Forget, The Heritage of Southwestern Adventist College," compiled in 1985 by Mary Ann Hadley for the college's 90th birthday one year earlier.

Griffith and his wife, Marion Valentine, decided to become missionaries and began searching for a missionary preparatory school. Since there were no such schools in England, they wrote for information about those in America and chose the industrial institution in Keene known as Keene Industrial Academy, according to "Lest."

The Griffiths arrived in Keene in 1900 to find the school of their choice out in a desolate, windswept area among small scrub oaks, according to "The Chronicle of Southwestern Adventist College," a 1,000-copy history of the college that references a Jan. 11, 1949, story from the Youth Instructor, a periodical for Adventist youth.

"There were only a few partially completed buildings; and teachers and students alike lived in tiny, weather-beaten houses that were a far cry from the homes they had both left in England," according to the Youth Instructor. "However; they had purposed to make the best of whatever came, and they soon made themselves as comfortable as possible in one of the rural dwellings.

"When school opened, they both enrolled in the Bible instructor's course, but it was probably here that they obtained an even more important foundation for the work that lay ahead of them. Captain Jones and his wife learned to labor with their hands as perhaps they had never done before," according to the Youth Instructor.

Capt. Jones found time to sing in a quartet at the school and was long remembered for the fine quality of his voice, the story said.

Opening a school

When the year came to a close, the Joneses answered a call to the Society Islands to pioneer
among the savages, the story said. Capt. Jones would again command a vessel. After serving in the Cook Islands, Singapore (1904), Java, Sumatra and Borneo, the Joneses were appointed to Australia.

There, Adventist leaders asked if a boat were built for them, would they minister to the natives of the Solomon Islands.

It would mean risking their lives among one of the most treacherous, bloodthirsty races in the Pacific where head-hunting was still practiced among the natives,

On May 16, 1914, the Advent Herald left port in Sydney bound for the Solomons.

Thirty-three days after picking a site, Jones opened his school with 34 pupils including two named Biuku Gasa and Eroni Kumana.

Nineteen years later during World War II, Kennedy and members of his crew were patrolling onboard a Patrol Torpedo boat-109 off the coast of Kolombangara, one of the Solomon Islands, when their boat was rammed by a Japanese destroyer, killing two crew members. JFK, a junior lieutenant and 10 other crew members survived in the water as their boat sank but were rescued by Gasa and Kumana, former students from Jones' Solomon Islands Mission School, according to Richard De Lisser of the British Union Adventist Conference.

**Message on a coconut**
The account of the rescue is reported by a J.P. Holms on pages 44-45 of “Lest.”

“After extensive inquiries, I was happy to discover that three of our Adventist natives shared with several Methodist friends the honor of saving the life of a young man who was destined to become president of the United States,” wrote Holms in an article printed in “Lest We Forget, The Heritage of Southwestern Adventist College.”

Holms, who lived on Kukundu in the Solomon Islands, had been visited by reporters from the New York Herald-Tribune for a book on the incident.

They had already interviewed Kennedy and the other survivors from the PT 109 and had access to Navy files, Holms wrote.

From his visits to the area and talking with the rescuers, Holms told this story to the reporters, he said.

“A coastwatcher, Lt. Reg Evans of Australian Naval Intelligence, received word from two native scouts that they found a group of Americans on a small island about three miles from our Kukundu headquarters,” Holms said.

“The natives brought a message inscribed on a coconut telling that there were two survivors of a wrecked PT boat. The message was signed by Lt. John F. Kennedy. Eight natives, including Moses, Joseph and Koete, who were Adventists, were sent in a canoe to take food and make further contact.”

That coconut was saved by Kennedy and can be seen sitting on his desk in photos of the Oval Office.

“On the small island of Naru, which is about 300 x 100 yards, the party found Lt. Kennedy and a
Marine, both weakened by exposure in the sea and badly cut by the sharp coral reefs. The natives took these men to join the rest of the survivors on another small island about 5,000 yards distant,” Holms continued.

“One of these men was badly burned from exploding petrol, but he smiled with relief when he saw help coming. The natives quickly made a fire and gave the Americans their first meal since they had lost their boat,” Holms wrote.

“About four in the afternoon, Lt. Kennedy was taken off in the canoe. When shortly afterwards a Japanese plane approached, there were some tense moments, but Kennedy lay down in the bottom of the boat and was quickly covered with leaves. The plane came down low, and apparently satisfied with what it saw, continued on its way,” Holms said.

“As the natives paddled, they sang hymns. It was night when they arrived at the coastwatcher's hideout in a small island surrounded by a shallow reef. A rendezvous had been arranged with the American PT boat for about midnight, so his new friends paddled him out from the island and waited in the darkness,” Holms wrote.

“Hearing the throb of an engine and four signal shots, they knew the boat approaching was the one for which they had been waiting. Soon they came abreast and Lt. Kennedy was transferred. Again, he thanked his rescuers and waved goodbye as the PT boat, with the two native scouts aboard, set off to take on the rest of the survivors,” Holms wrote on pages 44-45.

As the rescue ensued — De Lisser writes — Kennedy, his crew, and their rescuers sang the familiar song, “Yes, Jesus Loves Me,” a song Kumana and Gasa learned at the feet of Griffith Francis Jones.
Chattanooga filmmaker aims to raise funds to finish "Black Friday" documentary
By Cloe Morrison
Southern Adventist University graduate, entrepreneur and filmmaker Leif Ramsey loved Christmas as a child, but as he got older, he grew to hate it.

"I felt pressured into liking Christmas," he said via email. "I lived in fear, afraid to be called a 'Scrooge' for saying how I felt. I couldn't put my finger on it at first. I thought it was just the environment—Christmas music starting the day after Halloween, crowded stores with stressed shoppers, ever-growing expenditures in the name of gift giving."

And there's also the Black Friday "shopping madness," he said.

Ramsey, who also runs creative agency SVAD Productions, directed a documentary in 2010 called "Black Friday."

And Sunday, he launched a Kickstarter campaign at Enzo's to get the funds to complete the project.

He filmed throughout Chattanooga with a 22-person production team and six film crews during Thanksgiving week at area retailers.

"For me, making a documentary film is about something bigger than Black Friday and all the shopping madness," he said. "It's about a quest to reclaim Christmas. By touring the film in the national festival circuit, I want to ignite a conversation about how to reclaim the meaning and joy of Christmas."

**Black Friday**
In 2012, about 35 million Americans visited retailers' stores and websites on Black Friday, which is the day after Thanksgiving, according to the National Retail Federation.

And 247 million shoppers visited stores and websites over the entire Black Friday weekend last year, also according to the federation.

The average holiday shopper spent $423 that weekend last year, and total spending reached an estimated $59.1 billion.

Ramsey noted that many people go into debt to fund their holiday purchases.

"As a culture, we seem to collectively lose our minds on Black Friday, stampeding over one another as we kick off the holiday season," he said. "Yet, despite the fact that we all participate in this bizarre social phenomenon, nobody has yet captured it from an observational, outside perspective."

**Kickstarter funding**
Ramsey is trying to raise $35,000 to finish the film.

He will use some of that money to hire a feature film editor, who has agreed to help him for three months at
half the market rate.

The Kickstarter funding will also be used to pay for illustrations and color correction, he said.

He also needs to pay a composer and for music licensing, he said.

"I'm stoked to announce that Lon Eldridge, an amazing Chattanooga blues musician, is joining the soundtrack," he said. "Lon will be performing some Christmas classics with his unique arrangement and buttery voice."

Accessed: Wednesday, November 27th 2013

Review and Herald Publishing Association marks 30th anniversary with open house

Posted: Sunday, November 24, 2013 6:15 pm

For 30 years, the Review and Herald Publishing Association off West Oak Ridge Drive in Hagerstown has been a mainstay in the local economy, churning out millions of publications for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

On Sunday, the publishing operation welcomed the public to the facility for an open house to celebrate its anniversary.

The Review and Herald Publishing Association is one of two large printing facilities publishing material for Seventh-day Adventist churches, and the local operation prints weekly, monthly and bimonthly publications and books, according to Steve Hanson, director of list services and special sales for the local facility.

One of the most recognizable products is “The Bible Story” series, a collection of 10 books geared toward children about the Bible. The books are a common sight in places like doctor’s office waiting rooms.

“ Millions have been sold,” Hanson said.

The other large Seventh-day Adventist publishing facility is the Pacific Press near Boise, Idaho, said Theresa Broden, who does marketing work for the local operation.

There are other smaller publishing operations printing material for Seventh-day Adventist churches, Broden said.

The public was welcomed to the facility between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday, and about 160 guests had visited by midafternoon, Hanson said.

Hanson led a reporter through parts of the building, including its sprawling pressroom, administrative areas and historical collections, which included the desk of Uriah Smith. Smith wrote “Daniel and the Revelation,” a book registered with the Library of Congress in 1897 that had an unrivaled influence on the understanding of prophecy, according to www.adventistbookcenter.com.

Hanson also showed the facility’s research library, which holds 40,000 volumes used to verify accuracy of materials being printed, Hanson said.

“We have our own copy editors and proofreaders here that read material before publication,” Hanson said.

Also at Sunday’s open house was Martin Doblmeier, who has completed two films about Seventh-day Adventists. The first film, “The Adventists,” explores the physical, mental and spiritual connections of
Seventh-day Adventists, and how followers of the faith have enjoyed long life spans, among other benefits. Doblmeier’s second film, “Adventists 2,” tells the story of Seventh-day Adventists’ commitment to medical mission work and is being aired on public television.
The Seventh-day Adventist Guam Clinic has linked up with a group of Adventist medical personnel from the mainland to assist in providing medical services to the victims of Typhoon Haiyan.

In addition, the clinic has also raised $20,000 to help support this mission, according to a release from the clinic.

A team of 11, comprised of doctors and support staff, left on Sunday morning, and will spend this week, in the province of Tacloban and Samar where thousands of victims have been evacuated. The team will provide much-needed medical care to those who are fighting infections and diseases. They hope to not only help with physical healing, but provide spiritual healing as well.

"Our neighboring brothers and sisters in the Philippines need all the help they can get right now," said Ted Lewis, Chief Executive Officer and President of the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic.

"There is no electricity, water, shelter, and food where they are at right now. Our SDA medical team are staying in tents and traveling by foot to different locations in the Philippines to provide medical services and medicine to our brothers and sisters in need."

The Guam SDA Clinic would like to thank Oka Pharmacy and M.D. Wholesale for their generous donation of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals.

They also thank the Consul General of the Philippine, St. Luke’s Medical Hospital, and the Adventists Medical Evangelism Network for assisting the team with this mission trip.
Uniontown church to share Thanksgiving meal with public

Working on homemade gravy are Lucille Colbert and her daughters, Patience Barnes and Karen Nelson, who have coordinated and managed the Thanksgiving meal at the Berean Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Uniontown since its inception.

By Marilyn Forbes

Published: Saturday, Nov. 23, 2013, 3:44 p.m.

Reaching out to their friends and neighbors who would like to share a wonderfully cooked homemade Thanksgiving dinner, members of the Berean Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Uniontown once again are having their holiday meal and inviting the public to join in.

The meal will mark its 23rd year as a community event, which was started when church member Patience Barnes decided she wanted to celebrate the holiday in a different manner.

“I got tired of eating Thanksgiving dinner and watching football,” Barnes said. “I felt that there was more to life and more to Thanksgiving then eating and watching football all day.”

And Operation Jesus Feed was started.
The church began offering meals to anyone in the area who is homeless, unemployed, lonely, a senior citizen, low income or simply hungry, and over the years, the event has grown to where the church and the volunteers feed about 200.

“When we get here that morning, there are already people that are waiting,” volunteer Lucille Colbert said. “When we start serving, they are lined up around the corner, because we can't feed everyone at the same time.”

The event not only features a full dinner — the main entrée, mashed potatoes and sweet potatoes, numerous side dishes and fresh homemade pies — but a large area of the church is set up with racks of clothing, household goods and even furniture that is free to those in attendance.

“We get a lot of donations, and people from the church bring things,” volunteer Karen Nelson said. “There are people who look at what is there while they are waiting to eat.”

In addition to the meal, boxes of donated food items are given to families to take home to prepare their own Thanksgiving dinner.

“Last year, we gave out 80 boxes,” Nelson said. “My goal this year is to have 100 and have a turkey in each one.”

Nelson said she works on creating a nice table setting for each person, covering tables with a lovely fall setting complete with centerpieces.

“A lot of these people don't ever have a formal setting, and we want it to be nice for them for the dinner,” Nelson said.

“We don't want people just coming in to a bare table,” Colbert added.

The dinner is made possible by donations that are gathered throughout the year and by community contributions.

“We send out letters to the community, and churches in the area also help us get the word out,” Barnes said, adding that those who attend the meal are asked to sign a guest book to receive an invitation reminder for the meal the following year. “We see some of the same people and families year after year, but we always see some new people who join us.”

The meal is prepared and served by members of the church and other volunteers, with about 50 who turn out every year to help with the festive meal.

“It's a lot of work, but it is very rewarding,” Colbert said.

The Thanksgiving meal will be served from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday in the church, 95 Searight Ave.

The meal is free, but free-will donations will be accepted.

Marilyn Forbes is a contributing writer for Trib Total Media.

Show commenting policy

TribLive commenting policy

You are solely responsible for your comments and by using TribLive.com you agree to our Terms of Service.

We moderate comments. Our goal is to provide substantive commentary for a general readership. By screening submissions, we provide a space where readers can share intelligent and informed commentary that enhances the quality of our news and information.

While most comments will be posted if they are on-topic and not abusive, moderating decisions are subjective. We will make them as
carefully and consistently as we can. Because of the volume of reader comments, we cannot review individual moderation decisions with readers.

We value thoughtful comments representing a range of views that make their point quickly and politely. We make an effort to protect discussions from repeated comments either by the same reader or different readers.

We follow the same standards for taste as the daily newspaper. A few things we won't tolerate: personal attacks, obscenity, vulgarity, profanity (including expletives and letters followed by dashes), commercial promotion, impersonations, incoherence, proselytizing and SHOUTING. Don't include URLs to Web sites.

We do not edit comments. They are either approved or deleted. We reserve the right to edit a comment that is quoted or excerpted in an article. In this case, we may fix spelling and punctuation.

We welcome strong opinions and criticism of our work, but we don't want comments to become bogged down with discussions of our policies and we will moderate accordingly.

We appreciate it when readers and people quoted in articles or blog posts point out errors of fact or emphasis and will investigate all assertions. But these suggestions should be sent To avoid distracting other readers, we won't publish comments that suggest a correction. Instead, corrections will be made in a blog post or in an article.

Most-Read Fayette
Until now, the **Eagle Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church** wasn’t much to look at. Wall-to-wall blue carpeting in the main sanctuary reflected years of Sunday foot traffic; a poured concrete entryway did little to welcome worshippers; stark white walls gave the space a sense of sterility rather than sanctity. It was time for a change of scenery.

Enter Seth Matheson, Principal Designer at **The Design Directive**, who was selected by the church to spearhead a redesign for the building, which was originally built in 1928 by acclaimed architectural firm Meyers & Holler (you may have seen a few of their other works around town: TCL Chinese theatre, Grauman’s Egyptian theatre, Culver Studios).

“The Seventh-day Adventist community has owned the building since the ‘80s,” Matheson said. “Since then, they’ve brought it up to code, but they’ve always wanted to do a more aesthetic renovation. As the church was originally a Meyer & Holler design, I wanted to honor them with the redesign.”

Matheson’s artistic decisions were driven by the basic structure of the church, which was originally built in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. Being that it is a sacred space, he also hoped to give it a holy vibe. “I wanted to emphasize the presence of God, and I thought lighting would be the best way to highlight the architecture and bring in that feeling.” A significant search yielded some unusual LED lights—ones that gave off a warmer glow due to their lower color temperature—which Matheson submerged into the floor as uplighting. LED tape lighting was also hidden among the arches on the church’s ceiling.

In addition to a lighting scheme, Matheson hoped to return the main sanctuary to its Spanish roots by ripping out the carpet and installing a terra-cotta-esque tile. “Terra-cotta doesn’t wear well, so we went with a concrete tile that mimics terra-cotta, but it's stronger and requires less maintenance,” Matheson said. Inlaid in the new flooring are auxiliary handmade tiles that Matheson found in Mexico. “They took three months to receive because each tile is cured in the elements,” he said. “They’re extremely well-made; the color on each tile goes a quarter of the way through the material, meaning it won’t wear away even as people walk on it.”

Other aspects of the church that were reimagined by Matheson include the foyer ceiling, which now features a tile pattern printed on burnished gold mylar paper, and skim coating the church's stucco walls so that they’d mimic old plaster. The new sanctuary boats refinished pews, chairs, and side wings, and the church’s existing ironwork was either modified or replaced to match new materials that were coming in.

In all, the overhaul cost under $200,000, most of which came from member contributions to the project—and they couldn’t be happier with the result. Tomorrow, there will be a rededication ceremony to bless the finished space. “I can tell that they really cared about the project, each other, and me,” Matheson said of the congregation. “They embraced me as part of the family. It was an honor.”

*All slide show photographs courtesy Seth Matheson*
DID YOU KNOW YOU ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF GOD'S FAMILY ON EARTH?

The church is the community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. In continuity with the people of God in Old Testament times, we are called out from the world; and we join together for worship, for fellowship, for instruction in the Word, for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, for service to all mankind, and for the worldwide proclamation of the gospel. The church derives its authority from Christ, who is the incarnate Word, and from the Scriptures, which are the written Word. The church is God's family; adopted by Him as children, its members live on the basis of the new covenant. The church is the body of Christ, a community of faith of which Christ Himself is the Head. The church is the bride for whom Christ died that He might sanctify and cleanse her. At His return in triumph, He will present her to Himself a glorious church, the faithful of all the ages, the purchase of His blood, not having spot or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish.

GENESIS 12:3

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

ACTS 7:38

38 He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us.

EPHESIANS 4:11-15

11 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, 12 to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. 14 Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. 15 Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.

EPHESIANS 3:8-11

8 Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, 9 and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. 10 His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, 11 according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

MATHEW 28:19, 20

19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

MATHEW 16:13-20

13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” 14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the
living God.” 17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. 18 And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. 19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” 20 Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

MATHEW 18:18

18 “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

EPHESIANS 2:19-22

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. 21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. 22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

EPHESIANS 1:22, 23

22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

EPHESIANS 5:23-27

23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

COLOSSIANS 1:17,18

17 He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
Landtech lent its services to help build a community garden.

A hospital’s mission is supposed to be focused on good health and yet so often hospital cafeterias are filled with sugary beverages and greasy fried food. But in Colorado, Castle Rock Adventist Hospital (part of Centura Health) is setting a different example by growing some of their own food for their hospital restaurant. Landtech Contractors, Inc., recently assisted in the building of this community garden that not only harvests food for the hospital but also has the mission of creating a place where community members can grow and harvest their own nutritious foods for home.

“It’s not often that we have the opportunity to give back in such an exciting way,” says Kevin Overley, vice president of Landtech. “We donated both time and money to make this project a success for both the hospital and the community it serves.”

The community garden has 104 separate plots, a demonstration pavilion (where cooking demonstrations are given), a playground, and a half-acre restaurant garden. The biggest challenge was the fact that water restrictions required no overhead watering. “Every garden plot had to be drip irrigated, with timed watering schedules appropriate to individual needs,” Overley says. “It was critical that we keep all of the water consistent even though the garden was broken into individual plots. Some members grew different vegetables and others grew flowers, but we had to keep it consistent and also conserve as much as we could. All of this was done during a drought year.”

It was also done during a year of weather extremes. The Colorado weather went from drought, to late snowfall, to historic level flooding. Overley says that the extreme weather added to the challenges associated with the project, but in the end it not only came together, but it came together on time. That was a feat in itself considering they were only given one month to complete it.

“This community garden is unlike any other in the state and we were excited to be a part of it,” Overley says. “Hospitals aim to be healing but this hospital is being proactive about staying healthy in the first place. We think that’s a great idea and were proud to contribute.”