

Village
Voice



March
2026



“A righteous man cares for the
needs of his animal . . .”

Proverbs 12:10, NIV



The Dogs Were Good Again This Week

by Carolyn Karlstrom

Some of you no doubt have had “We Rate Dogs” cross your Facebook feed. The page is run by a sweet-looking young man with curly hair and round glasses. He is himself quite endearing. He presents a regular feature that starts with, “The dogs were good again this week.” He then launches into the identification of several dogs that are notable for a characteristic of his choice. It may be their bravery, clumsiness, stick/branch/log/tree-carrying capabilities, their adorable confusion, size, agility, or their relationship with the mailman, and so on. The young fellow’s laudable characteristics are endless, and his commentary is priceless.



God, I believe, takes great pleasure in this branch of His creation: the animals. He has made personal provision for them, part of which includes the generous extension to us of help from us. Psalm 104:27 and 28, in an address to God regarding His non-human creatures, says, “These all look to You to give them their food at the proper time. When You give it to them, they gather it up; when You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good things” (NIV). In the feeding and care of these sweet ones, we are co-workers with Him, a very great honor indeed.

Rick and I do not currently have a dog of our own, though we are herded around the house and allowed to live here by a

wonderful cat. We do, however, have a whole bunch of dogs available to us, and we enjoy every single one of them.



In our frequent walks around our neighborhood, I've become known variously as "the treat lady," "the cookie lady," and "the biscuit lady," depending on the term used at home, I suppose. I never leave the house for a walk without a pocketful of treats for my four-legged friends.

Goose, a sweet and burly Basset Hound, recently seized a pair of gloves from my pocket (removed and placed there as I prepared to give her her treats) and took off at high speed into her house, knocking over a recycle bin of bottles and jars on her way through. We could hear them clattering across the floor. Her person had to retrieve her and the gloves from under a bed.



There's Diego, a very vocal Chihuahua, with a slightly malformed little mouth, who can nonetheless still stuff two treats in at once. Max is a baby Corgi, the newest addition to our block. He's soft like duck-down. There are a few dozen others as well, and they know us by sight. They're certainly familiar with the pocket that holds the goods.



One of my fondest hopes is that we will see our pets again. We know heaven will be populated with animals (see Isaiah 11:6-9 and Isaiah 65:25)—lots of them and in great variety. I consider it a distinct possibility that the animals we've known and loved might be among them, might be given the lives they, too, should have had the first time but didn't. They, like we, have suffered pain, confusion, uncertainty, illness, injury, and challenges of every stripe. They weren't meant for any of that, just as we weren't.



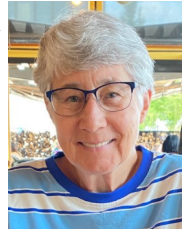
In the eighth chapter of Romans, verses 19-22, we read the repeated mention of "the whole creation" being negatively impacted by sin and eagerly awaiting restoration. Might that

restoration include the beloved creatures given into our care? I fervently hope so, as I've loved and been loved by many animals over the years. They include Penny, Bitsy, Poncho, Chipper, Sandy, Ringo, Heidi, Bernie, Aimee, Mosi, Idgie, Julian, Min, Ping, and Dusty. I very much want to see them again, hold them, communicate with them.

The dogs were good again this week. Of course they were!

And whom do you want to see again?

Carolyn K.



This spring, join us for a three-part series that looks for God-given joy even in the depths of sorrow.

Our grief is evidence that this world was made for goodness.

**When we wrong others, when we see evil in the world,
and when we lose those we love to death,
grief is the appropriate response that brings healing,
restoration, and ultimately joy
in the darkness of a fallen world.**

**Joy in the Valley of Grief begins March 21, 2026
at College Place Village Church.**



Lamb of God to be Presented at Walla Walla University

by Liubov Brunton

The Walla Walla community is warmly invited to experience an inspiring presentation of *Lamb of God*, a sacred cantata composed by **Rob Gardner**, portraying the final days of Jesus Christ, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection.



Two performances will be held at **Walla Walla University**

Church on March 28 at 7 p.m. and March 29 at 7 p.m. This special community event is **free and open to the public—no tickets are required.**

Under the direction of conductor **Liubov Brunton**, this large-scale production brings together musicians and singers from across the region in a united expression of faith, worship, and artistic excellence.

Lamb of God tells the timeless and powerful story of Christ's love for humanity. Through moving narration, expressive solo performances, rich choral harmonies, and full orchestration, the cantata invites listeners to reflect deeply on the meaning of Jesus' sacrifice—a gift given for each of us—and to rejoice in the hope and victory of His resurrection.

This year's production is truly a remarkable community effort. **Seventy musicians, one hundred singers, twelve soloists, and four narrators** have been rehearsing faithfully every Friday evening since January. Their dedication and unity reflect the very message of the cantata: coming together in faith, purpose, and hope.

The music moves from moments of deep reflection at Calvary to the triumphant joy of the empty tomb. It reminds us that Christ's



resurrection is not only a historical event, but also a living promise of redemption, renewal, and eternal hope.

Conductor Liubov Brunton shares, “Our prayer is that every person who attends will not simply hear beautiful music, but will experience the depth of Christ’s love and the hope of His resurrection in a personal and meaningful way.”

Whether you are familiar with sacred choral music or experiencing it for the first time, *Lamb of God* offers a meaningful and uplifting experience for all ages. This is more than a concert—it is a time to pause, reflect, and celebrate the central message of the Christian faith.

Bring your family and friends, and join us for this special celebration of Jesus’ Resurrection.

Liubov Brunton



“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.’ . . . By beholding Christ [the sinner] will learn to hate sin that has brought to his Redeemer suffering and death. By beholding, his faith becomes strong; and he comes to know ‘the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.’ The sinner sees Jesus as He is, full of compassion and tender love; and by beholding the manifestation of His great love toward fallen man, in His sufferings on Calvary, he is transformed in character.”

—Ellen G. White, *The Bible Echo*, November 1, 1893





Who's Coming to Dinner?

a coordinator's perspective

by Daphne Duncan

On Sabbath, January 31, Village Church members had the opportunity to host families in their homes for lunch. Our event, called “Who’s Coming to Dinner,” encouraged church members to sign up as either a host or a guest. The surprise was that neither the host nor the guest knew who they would be sharing their lunch with for the day.

We had a total of 11 hosts sign up and 55 guests participate. Connie Serl and Daphne Duncan organized the names for those who wanted to host and paired them with guests. It was a fun puzzle to figure out. We wanted to make sure we didn’t put people together who were already friends, so we tried to mix people up more. The main challenge was making sure all our vegan and gluten free guests had a place to go. Out of the 55 guests, we had two children and two teens participate with their families.

We feel that this was a successful beginning to this event. In the future, we would love to see more families with children participate, and more families that can accommodate gluten free, so we can spread out the people who need gluten free to more homes.

If you participated, thank you for opening your homes and being willing to host strangers. Our next event will be Sabbath, May 30. Mark your calendars and you will see sign ups towards the beginning of May.



Who's Coming to Dinner?

a host's perspective

by Katrina Lyons

Our girls danced around the kitchen, speculating aloud about our mystery guests. “Mama, do you think we’ll know them?” “Will there be other kids?!” “I see a car!” Giggles and laughter filled the house. I answered their questions in triplicate. “What are the chances we won’t know them at all?” I asked. “We’ll have to wait and see.” And finally, “Did it turn down the driveway?”

Two by two, our guests arrived. First were Glenn and Wendy Maxted, long-time friends and parents of a sibling’s classmate.



They were quickly followed by Larry and Cindy Moore, parents of a classmate of Michael’s and mine. Smiles and greetings, and “let me take your coat,” flashed

around. All had been guests of ours in the past, and we reminisced about those times...a Grizzell Sabbath School potluck, maybe 5 years ago, and in fact, the last “Look Who’s Coming to Dinner” event!

As the last car pulled up, the girls announced Connie and Larry Serl’s arrival. A pleasant and welcome surprise. Connie and I had talked just this last summer about a hopeful future Sabbath together, and the opportunity had fallen into her hands as coordinator for this event. The women and I embraced and chatted pleasantly in the kitchen, as we pulled out baked potatoes and Special K cottage cheese loaf. Emma worked to assemble a salad, while Connie kept an eye on the green beans and gravy. Bailey and Juniper bustled



in and out of the kitchen, ferrying a final count of plates and silverware, as Cindy, Wendy, and I set the buffet.

A call to Michael, Glenn, and “the Larrys” brought everyone quietly together for a prayer of gratitude and blessing, and a lively hum of conversation ensued as plates were filled and



serving dishes slowly emptied. The σχολή του ελληνικέ του Διδάσκαλος Στεφενος was a topic of much discussion, as Glenn, our girls, and I have all been attending Pastor Steve’s Greek class this year. The age and construction of our home, as well as those of our guests, was next, as all of the men had built or remodeled older homes at some point. The sermon topic had impressed some, and we shared thankfulness for the pastor we’ve been blessed with. We talked of warm weather and signs of spring, like the high flocks of geese, the woodpeckers out searching for bugs in unwelcome places like attic vents and fence posts with aluminum gates attached...waking to ratta-tat-tats, and the trees laden with robins who filled the air with songs.

As our dessert, a bowl of fresh pineapple, disappeared, the talk of outdoors piqued an interest. Some favored the idea of a walk-about to see the old barns and machinery, while others settled into armchairs in front of a warm fire crackling in the fireplace of the great room.

The fog and brisk air brought back ruddy cheeks and smiles, as we all came together again, warming toes, sipping tea, and expressing gratitude for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. With hearty goodbyes and talk of a large outdoor picnic under the trees in the spring where we could take in the sunshine and count the dandelions, we sent our guests off. Spying the long hand of the



clock on the downswing and the small hand pushed past five, we exclaimed over the time. It had flown by! I eased down into a chair, enjoying the glow of warm coals and thought to myself, “what a lovely afternoon.” A smile spread across my face as I wondered aloud, “Who’s Coming to Dinner’ next?”



Who's Coming to Dinner?

a guest's perspective

by Jennifer Austin



I can feel shy at times, so when I heard about the 'Who's Coming to Dinner' Sabbath meal I couldn't decide if I wanted to participate.

Lacking prior information about the event, I thought it was just going to be four people having dinner together. JoElla Purviance, Lynnette Brown, and I walked up to the door together and saw two couples and Virginia Jeffrey already there. The amazing thing was that I knew all these people by face from church, but I had never interacted with them other than with Lon Ferguson.

The two couples were Bob and Barbara Bohlman and Lon and Arline Ferguson.

We had a wonderful time! The food was excellent and we had a great conversation. Afterwards, we sat in the living room and talked until we all were afraid we were going to fall asleep!!



My biggest takeaway from this experience is that it was nice to get to know some new people on a deeper level. Like I said, I had seen all of these people in church, but had never interacted with most of them. (I knew JoElla from going to a Women's Ministry retreat in the fall). I feel like it was a great way to get acquainted and spend Sabbath with people I might not otherwise have gotten to know.



"Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it."

—Hebrews 13:2 NIV



Who's Coming to Dinner? (with children!)

a guest's perspective

by Kimberly Golles

Adventure comes in many different forms for all of us. For me, it's taking my children into the unknown—the unknown world of Who's Coming to Dinner?!

I'm pretty sure I just heard some jaws drop just hearing that I would dare take a 10 and a 7-year-old to a place where there are so many unknowns—will they like children? What will my picky eater eat? Will there be any toys? Will my children be comfortable? Well, I didn't have the answers to these questions but I wasn't going to let that stop me.



I love surprises, meeting new people, and enjoying new experiences. Thankfully, I have children who go along with Mama's spontaneous moments—yes, with hesitation at times—but with a little bit of encouragement and reassurance they jump in with both feet. This was no exception.

Jean-Lannes and Eliza were quite the team as they navigated our way to our host's house. As we turned into the drive, the three of us exclaimed with wonder at the sight that greeted us—a gas station right out of the 50s! Climbing the steps of the front porch one child, voice filled with curiosity said, "I wonder whose house this is?" I couldn't even begin to guess. As the sound of the doorbell faded away, the front door swung wide open and we were wrapped in the warmest of greetings from our hosts. They instantly made us feel at home. Any shyness my young ones may have felt melted away and wonder once again



filled their eyes when a small door was opened to a hidden playroom tucked under the staircase!

“What about the food?!” some of you are asking. It was delicious! While I did not ask her, I am sure that our hostess put a lot of thought into the menu as she knew she



would have two children to feed. The smorgasbord included corn dogs, dinner rolls, and homemade macaroni and cheese. It’s hard to go wrong with such delicacies! Dessert? That was pie and ice cream. Yum!

On our drive home we talked about our afternoon. They were quick to tell me that they had a lot of fun! Eliza’s favorite highlights were the play kitchen in the secret room and getting to play a beautiful piano. Jean-Lannes listed a camera that turned out to be a spot light and a special Bible verse painted above the mantle.



It seemed to me that it brought a sparkle to our hosts’ eyes to have young children in their home again. They gave each child their undivided attention. They understood if my picky eater didn’t eat everything on her plate. There was no judgment cast for “too many questions.” These were met head-on and answered with the utmost kindness and understanding.

Will I do this again? Absolutely! I encourage you to get involved as well. Yes, it’s uncertain, even scary, but I am ever so grateful for activities like “Who’s Coming to Dinner?” that allow us the opportunity to grow together as a family of Christ. Moments like these allow our children to see church members as “real” people, not just as “that person who goes to our church,” but also as someone who took the time to welcome them into their home, answer questions, and show God’s love in a real and tangible way. Will you join us next time?





Adventist Retired Workers Valentine Dinner

by Elizabeth Travis

For many, Valentines Day represents a day for showing love and affection, for spending time with spouses and sweethearts and making sure that those we love most know just how much they mean to us. But those closest to us aren't just our spouses and family. Our lives are full of friendships, partnerships, and community connections that make each day meaningful. It is those loving and meaningful connections that the members of the Adventist Retired Workers organization gathered to celebrate at their Valentine's Day banquet.



For over a decade, the Adventist Retired Workers have made a point of getting together throughout the year, taking part in group activities, going on outings, having potlucks, and making time to reconnect with each other. Everyone who becomes a member of ARW has, at some point in their lives, worked for the Adventist Denomination or one of the entities associated with it, such as hospitals or educational institutions. That means there is always plenty to talk about, and the Valentine's Day banquet is a particular treat that no one wants to miss.

This year, the banquet was organized by Sharon Heinrich and her incredible group of individuals who helped arrange the kitchen, table decorations, AV needs, and music,





including some lovely piano accompaniment provided by Arlo Heinrich. The catering was provided by the Sodexo team, who truly outdid themselves with the afternoon meal. Everyone was eager to enjoy the buffet, not to mention the treats and beverages provided at each table.



Once everyone had served themselves and the room had settled down a bit, the real fun began. Pastor Terry Beucler opened the program with a devotional thought and an interesting story or two highlighting the qualities that draw couples together and help marriages to last. Following that, Sharon Heinrich, as president of the ARW, got up to welcome newcomers, make some announcements, and celebrate the February and March birthdays.

Then came the real treat for the afternoon; a barbershop quartet featuring Terry Koch and Loren Koch, Steve Walikonis, and Bruce Toews. The first set of songs they performed were old-fashioned, romantic tunes familiar to many in the audience. After that came the door prizes. Five beautifully-wrapped gift baskets had been donated for the event, and everyone who'd attended the banquet had received a raffle ticket, possibly containing a winning number. Once all the numbers were read out and the gift





baskets received, the quartet went up to perform another set of songs; spiritual tunes centered on the theme ‘Better Days Ahead.’

When the quartet had finished their songs, the

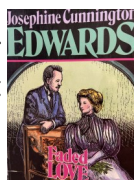
banquet ended with everyone singing a couple verses of “The Love of God” and “God Be With You Till We Meet Again.” After that, everyone said their farewells, eagerly awaiting the next event with the Adventist Retired Workers. Our warmest thanks to every member of the ARW for making all these wonderful events possible.

Beth Travis

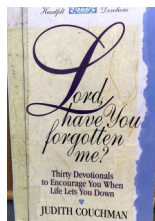


From the Library—by Marcel Grondahl

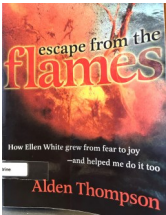
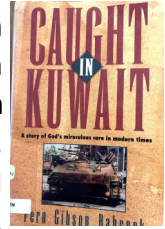
Our first book this month is a recycled classic by renowned Adventist author Josephine Cunnington Edwards. First published in 1961 as “Unto a Knowledge of the Truth” and republished in 1989 as “Faded Love” the story centers on the conflict between son and father regarding religion. After the son makes the decision to join the Adventist church, his father makes him an offer via a letter that causes the son to rethink his decision so as to please his father. A well-crafted story that will intrigue and inspire you.



Our second book consists of 30 devotionals written exclusively for women by Judith Couchman with the title “Lord, Have You forgotten Me?” She writes from a non-Adventist perspective but her viewpoint is strictly Bible-centered and Christian oriented. She asks gently probing questions to help clarify your thoughts and put scriptural insight to work in your life—a great companion for journaling!



Our third book is a story of God’s miraculous care in modern times titled “Caught in Kuwait” and written by Fern Babcock in 1992. It tells the story of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and his family, chronicling the terror they faced when Iraq invaded Kuwait and they were caught in the middle of it. Mark Eden and his family’s real-life drama will move you with intense feelings of suspense, fear and love for God. It is a reminder of the blessings of freedom we enjoy every day.



Our fourth book is by a person familiar to many in the community as he taught at Walla Walla University for many years. Alden Thompson wrote this book in 2005 and gave it the title: “Escape from the Flames.” It tells how the life and writings of Ellen White have helped him discover what she discovered—joy in the Lord. Along the way he details how prophets grow in their own understanding of scripture, showing the real Ellen White who not only learned but also unlearned as she walked in the increasing light God gave her.

Lucia Tiffany, MPH, RN

presents

The CHOICE Diabetes Freedom Seminar

Simple, practical steps to stabilize blood sugar and reclaim energy!

March 14–18, 2026, 6:30–8 p.m. nightly
Fellowship Hall Village SDA Church

With 50 years experience as a health educator, Lucia teaches prevention and reversal of chronic diseases through lifestyle intervention. She is the author of several cookbooks and a regular on 3ABN doing recipe demonstrations and sharing healthy tips.

—Hosted by the Health and Wellness Committee

Free!

samples served!

The Village Pantry—hosted by Pattie Reasor

When I was a new bride, the first cookbook that I bought was an Indian cookbook called “Indian” and it was full of delicious but meat-heavy recipes. One that intrigued me was a lamb recipe and I adapted it by replacing lamb with gluten. You can use any gluten recipe that you like, but I’m including my mom’s gluten recipe that I grew up on. I like to incorporate lots of lentils and beans into my diet, but every once in a while it is nice to have a meat analog. This gluten steak turned into “lamb” fills that void.



Pattie Reasor



Indian Gluten Steak Lamb

Gluten Steaks

- 3 ½ cups of gluten flour
- 1 cup oatmeal, ground in blender
- ½ cup of brewers yeast
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. sweet basil
- Pinch of thyme
- 3 cups cold water
- ½ cup soy sauce



Mix dry ingredients together then pour the water and soy sauce onto the dry ingredients. Mix immediately and freeze in 2 long rolls. Use an electric knife or meat slicer to make steaks. Cook them in a broth of:

- 3 quarts water
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 medium onion, rough chopped



Simmer for 1 hour and sit for 1 hour. Drain from broth and you can then fry the steaks up for supper, freeze for future use, or

chop a few steaks up into bite-sized pieces and make Indian Lamb.

Indian Lamb

- 1.5 - 2 lbs. of gluten steaks
- 2 tsp. fresh grated ginger
- 2 tsp. fresh garlic, crushed
- 2 tsp. garam masala
- 2 tsp. cumin seeds
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- 3 Tbsp. lemon juice
- ¼ cup of oil
- 1 large onion, minced



Rough chop gluten steaks into bite sized pieces and put in a bowl. Mix in all of the spices, lemon juice, oil, and onion. Stir well. Let marinate in the fridge. I try to marinate for at least 2 hours but overnight is better for the “lamb” to absorb the Indian spices.

Heat a skillet with a small amount of oil and fry the “lamb” until the outside is crispy. Serve immediately with rice and your favorite curry.



“Angels are listening to hear what kind of report you are bearing to the world about your heavenly Master. Let your conversation be of Him who liveth to make intercession for you before the Father. When you take the hand of a friend, let praise to God be on your lips and in your heart. This will attract his thoughts to Jesus.” Ellen White, Steps to Christ, p. 119

Family Matters—by Bev Donahey

Supervision Is Part of Love

The court charged Cindy with child neglect. Her 5-year-old son had run into the street after a ball and died when he was hit by a car. Cindy was inside her house and not supervising her child who was playing out in the yard. She defended herself by saying she had told her boy not to go into the street. The judge didn't accept that excuse.



Jason's daughter was in academy and went to a Saturday night activity. During the evening he and her mother decided to drive over to the school gym and see how things were going. When they got there her car was not in the parking lot. They looked inside the gym and she wasn't there. They drove around looking for her car and finally found it at the mall in the corner of the parking lot. Her boyfriend was being inappropriate, insisting that she do what he wanted. The intervention was timely.

Some children, especially those who have been sexually abused, are likely to act out sexually with other children. Some kids say cruel things at times, and shove or hit. Adults need to intervene. Children should be taught at home how to deal with put downs and inappropriate talk and actions. Kids need someone who cares about them enough to check on them and to risk their wrath. Are the kids where they should be? Are they behaving and safe? Supervision is part of parenting.

I did not hit you...
I simply high-fived
your face.



Neglected children often feel unloved and can be physically and emotionally affected for life. Out of control dates do happen and may have long-lasting consequences. Rudeness and rejection are too commonplace. Kids are fortunate when they grow up knowing their parents love them and therefore check on them to make sure they are okay.



Bev Donahey has degrees in psychology and Applied Behavioral Science and shares tips she picks up from her experiences, friends and research.

Dear Village Voice readers,

There's a hymn that asks, "Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?" (Priscilla Owens, 1882).

While I was listening to Acts of the Apostles, these words from chapter 40 impacted me: "God desires His people to prepare for the soon-coming crisis. Prepared or unprepared, they must all meet it; and those only who have brought their lives into conformity to the divine standard, will stand firm at that time of test and trial. When secular rulers unite with ministers of religion to dictate in matters of conscience, then it will be seen who really fear and serve God. When the darkness is deepest, the light of a godlike character will shine the bright-est. When every other trust fails, then it will be seen who have an abiding trust in Jehovah. And while the enemies of truth are on every side, watching the Lord's servants for evil, God will watch over them for good. He will be to them as a shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

May our faith be "Fastened to the Rock which cannot move,

Karen Ekkens

grounded firm and deep in the Savior's love." (Priscilla Owens, 1882).



God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor

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