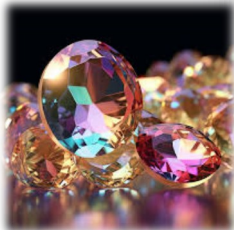


Village Voice



October
2026



" 'They shall be Mine,' says the Lord of hosts,
'on the day that I make them My jewels.' "

—Malachi 3:17 (NKJV)

Jewels

by Carolyn Karlstrom

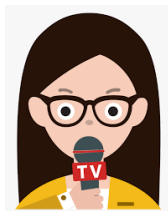
I had my fifteen minutes of fame a few years back. I'm not likely to get another fifteen.

Rick and I had just returned to church after a long absence. We knew we needed to become active, and began to cast about for something to do. I landed in our church's Adventist Community Services Center and was put to work in the food distribution area. I was off and running.

There were nine separate food banks in the city that drew from a single large food collection warehouse. We were one of them. Every week our male volunteers picked up many dozens of boxes there. Containing an enormous amount and variety of food items, the boxes were brought back to the Center where each item was unloaded, sorted, and marked with a sticker that indicated its worth in points. (Our clients shopped for themselves and were allotted a certain number of points with which to do so each week). We then placed each item on the shelves. One of my jobs was to achieve this end with our food donations; there were two other women who came in, as I did, on a day no one else was around to get this done.



Once a year, the local postal workers carried out a “Walk and Knock” event, and the community was encouraged to box or bag up food donations which the mail persons would pick up and deliver to the large warehouse for distribution to the food banks. One morning, shortly after such an event, we volunteers were informed that someone had accidentally donated some jewels; they were kept in a tiny safe which was made to look like a Campbell’s Mushroom Soup can in order to thwart any would-be robbers. And it was kept in a cupboard with all the canned goods, which included soup. Well, you can see how the mistake was made, and the woman who’d swept it off the shelf and into a bag with other like-looking items, was desperate to get it back. Upon



realizing the loss, she’d taken her aged parents with her to the warehouse, where she convinced the personnel there to allow them to look through the boxes in an effort to locate the one can. There were thousands of boxes. They were unsuccessful.

The media got involved, and the next few weeks held a newspaper article or two and a television interview with the unfortunate woman. The various food banks were the next possible salvage point, and every director of one was asked to have his/her volunteers keep an eye out. I was one of those volunteers.

I determined to look at and shake every single mushroom soup can that came into my hands, having no idea what I might notice about “the one” that could clue me in. However, I persevered. Two months went by. Then one day I grabbed a can, looked, shook, and . . . there it was. I knew immediately what I had because it did, in fact, have a different feel in my hand. Inside, in a velvet pouch, were watches, bracelets, a necklace, and some rings.

And that’s when my fifteen minutes commenced. Now it was my turn to be





featured in the newspaper, appear on television, and be interviewed on live radio. I hardly knew what to do with myself; it was all quite thrilling. And short-lived.

But. There will soon be a retrieval of jewels that are far more valuable than those I found. Far, far more. Jesus is looking forward to coming for His jewels—you and me. He can hardly wait to be united with us, from whom He's gotten temporarily separated. He's paid a spectacular price to have us in His actual, physical presence again. We are His jewels, and of inestimable value to Him.

Let's be ready to get picked up.

Carolyn K.



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Adventist *Heritage Sabbath*

OCTOBER 24, 2024

COLLEGE PLACE VILLAGE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

*Remembering Our Past • Celebrating Our Present
Looking to His Soon Return*

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AMAZING DISCIPLES

A PROVEN APPROACH TO
DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING!



JÉAN
ROSS



CARLOS
MUÑOZ

October 9-11

College Place Village Church

715 SE 12th Street | College Place, WA

PLAN TO ATTEND!

BECOME THE SOUL WINNER GOD WANTS YOU TO BE!



Prepare to dive deeper into the science of evangelism and gain new insights on how to practically apply them in your community! You will gain the confidence to both witness for Jesus *and* train others to be effective soul winners for Christ!

WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

7pm – Carlos Muñoz: Divine Commission

8pm – Jëan Ross: Three Types of Churches

SABBATH, OCTOBER 10

10am (Sabbath School) – Carlos Muñoz: The Evangelism Cycle

11am (Divine Worship) – Jëan Ross

12:30pm – Potluck Lunch

2pm – Carlos Muñoz: An Unwanted Guest

3pm – Jëan Ross: Characteristics of a Healthy Church

4pm – Carlos Muñoz: Friendship Evangelism

5pm – Carlos Muñoz: Outreach Training

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

9am – Giving Bible Studies

10am – Carlos Muñoz: Nurturing New Believers
& Reclaiming Missing Members

11am – Carlos Muñoz: Next Steps & Evangelism Calendar

A New Year of Adventure and Discovery

by Elizabeth Travis

Fall is here and the children of College Place are headed back to school, getting ready to meet their teachers, make new friends, and learn all sorts of things. But school isn't the only place children will be heading for learning and fun. Discovery and Adventurer clubs are starting again, too, and children are already getting registered for the coming year.



On Sunday afternoon, September 13, parents and children of all ages met at Village Church to register for the 2026-27 year of Discovery Club and Adventurer Club. They got to meet their new



teachers, catch up with friends from last year, and even work on the Sand Art Award. But Registration Day is just the first step. The club leaders already have tons of exciting events and activities planned for the coming year and cannot wait to share them with their

classes. (Check the church website for our calendar of events).

The Discovery Club, led by Kate Mahoney, will be meeting at Village Church every other Wednesday evening from 6 to 7 in the children's Sabbath School wing. The club is for children age 1 year through Kindergarten and is geared towards teaching them about Jesus in practical ways. This year, they will be looking at how we see God's creativity in nature and how, when they grow up, there will be many ways for them to serve their community and help others. They are also going to be practicing a special song to be presented at church later in the year.

The Adventurer Club, led by Stacy Maxted, will also meet at Village Church, same day and time as the Discovery Club, but in the adult Sabbath School wing. It is designed for children in first through fourth grade and is full of interactive classes for everyone to participate in. There are group





projects and awards to win, as well as a special pin Adventurers can earn at the end of the year. The club will also take part in a couple of conference-wide events, including the Awards Day in October and a Fun Day in April.

With so many activities in store for the coming year, the Discovery and Adventurer clubs both promise to be an exciting time for everyone, offering children a chance to make new friends and develop new skills. There is still so much to prepare as classes begin, including the ongoing search for another teacher to help with Adventurers. Volunteering to help teach and



support these youngsters is an important commitment, so we at Village Church ask that you continue to keep the Discovery and Adventurer clubs in your prayers, not just for the children and their families, but also for the teachers who dedicate so much of their time and effort into helping these clubs to thrive.

Beth Travis

The clubs have so many exciting things in store for the children of College Place and we cannot wait to share them with you. And so, from everyone at Village Church, here's to another year of Adventure and Discovery.



Music Groups

by Luba Brunton



This year our schedule will be quite full, but I am very excited about all the opportunities God has opened before us for our music ministry. I believe it will be a meaningful year of service, fellowship, and growth. This year, we will have five different music groups serving our church:

Church Choir

Children's Choir

Handbell Choir

Children's Chimes Ensemble

Violin Praise Orchestra



You are welcome to join some of these groups!

While our first performance occurred on September 19, it's not too late to be a part of music ministries. On October 31, we will have a special opportunity for our musicians—a one-day trip

to Portland on the Pathfinder church bus, where the Violin Praise Orchestra will perform at the Russian-Ukrainian Adventist Church. We will also have our Christmas Concert on December 5 at the Village Church. The following day, December 6, the Church Choir and Handbell



Choir will participate in the Feast of Carols at Cordiner Hall. We will also present our Easter Concert on March 6.

In addition, we are planning to present Rob Gardner's *Lamb of God* oratorio once again at Walla Walla University on April 10 and 11. We are very excited about the opportunity to bring this

powerful and meaningful work back to our community.

However, I believe the most exciting event of the coming year will be our missionary trip to Uzbekistan, September 6-20, 2027.



The General Conference has invited the Violin Praise Orchestra to participate in the evangelistic program “One Voice,” which will take place in 27 cities around the world. Our orchestra has been invited to support this ministry in three cities in Uzbekistan: Tashkent, Samarkand, and Navoi. The President of the General Conference, Erton Köhler, will be preaching during the evangelistic program in Tashkent. We are planning to take approximately 20 musicians from the Violin Praise Orchestra and Singers to support the local churches and musicians and to share our musical gifts in this special ministry.



The estimated cost is approximately \$2,500 per person, and our fundraising goal for the orchestra is \$55,000. Violin Praise Orchestra has an account through the church website where people can make tax-deductible donations to help support this mission trip. We are praying that God will provide everything we need and open the way for our musicians to participate in this mission. Most importantly, we pray that our music will bring joy, encouragement, and hope to the people of Uzbekistan and, above all, glorify God’s name.

You can also find our schedule of rehearsals and performances in the church bulletin.

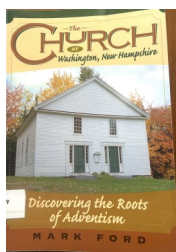
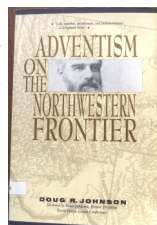
Please come and join some of these groups! Invite your friends and family to be part of this ministry as well. Let us work together, share our gifts, and serve our God through music!





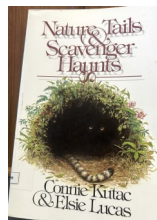
From the Library—by Marcel Grondahl

Doug Johnson was living in the Blue Mountains near Walla Walla in 1996 when he wrote “Adventism On The Northwestern Frontier.” All was not peace and goodwill among the early Adventists of this region. In fact, Ellen White said this about dealing with the Adventist settlers: “We had one of the hardest battles we ever had to engage in” after confronting the rebellious members of the region. She went on to state that they had no respect for the General Conference or even their own conference presidents. So, you will enjoy reading the story of their turning from independence to working with the church leadership to win souls for the Kingdom.

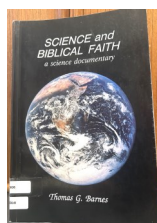


Adventist Heritage is one of my favorite topics in books. I sell many books on eBay with this as the subject. This particular book is in that category. “The Church At Washington, New Hampshire” written by Mark Ford in 2002. This book can be thought of as a “Who’s Who” of early Adventist pioneers. The book is filled with photos and illustrations documenting the trials and triumphs of those intrepid early Adventists, including one where Ellen White was inspired to publicly denounce the secret sin of a prominent Adventist preacher.

Nature writes the story of God’s providence and care in a thousand ways, if we seek them. Children especially are in tune with this evidence of a kind and loving Creator. This book, written by a mother-daughter team in 1987, documents many fascinating facts about plants, animals and minerals. The title is “Nature Tails & Scavenger Haunts” by Connie and Elsie. Along with the nature information the authors weave a spiritual lesson into each description. The book is especially relevant with children.



“Science and Biblical Faith” by Thomas Barnes, 1993, sounds rather boring on the surface. However, as you get into the book it is exceedingly informative and makes a compelling argument for a young earth and universe. Barnes uses the great scientists of the past to bolster his viewpoint. Moreover, it is entertaining, possessing some fine humor which is usually lacking in a science documentary, and does so in a manner that not only scientists can follow but laymen as well. The “Creation Research Society” promoted this book.



A great crisis is just before us. Men boast of the wonderful progress and enlightenment of the age, but God sees the guilt and depravity of the world. The heavenly Watcher sees the earth filled with violence and crime. Wealth is obtained by every species of iniquity. By robbery of God and of their fellows, men are amassing fortunes. Everything that they can grasp is made to minister to their greed. Avarice and sensuality bear sway. Men revenge themselves on those who, they suppose, have hindered the success of their ambitious projects. They have accepted the enemy of all good as their leader, and have become imbued with his spirit.

The world is a theater, and the actors, its inhabitants, are preparing to act their part in the last great drama. . . The world has not been given into the hands of men, though God is permitting the elements of confusion and disorder to bear sway for a season. A power from beneath is working to bring about the last scenes in the drama, —Satan coming as Christ, and working with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in those who are binding themselves together in secret societies. Those who are yielding to the passion for confederation are working out the plans of the enemy. Cause will be followed by effect.”

— Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1906

Bully-free Living!

What do bullies do? They intimidate, coerce, exclude, ridicule, and/or physically harm others, usually someone perceived as vulnerable, most often their classmates, coworkers or neighbors. Children who bully are more likely to have emotional, developmental, or behavioral problems than other children.



They are less likely to complete

schoolwork. They are likely to pick on children from families that speak a different language. Bullies most often come from families which have parents who are often angry or bothered by

STOP BULLYING
PHYSICAL • VERBAL • SOCIAL • CYBER



them, and mothers who have even minor mental health issues.

Insecure children longing for friends are more vulnerable to becoming bullies or victims of bullies. There are also adult bullies. Some of them are in positions of authority, such as teachers, and law enforcement

officers. Bullying also happens online.

Bullying can cause emotional and physical harm. It can lead to anxiety, depression, low self-esteem, and social isolation. Talk with teachers, parents, administrators, and supervisors to resolve hostile environmental problems. Supervise your children's use of technology.

Interestingly, many of the things parents can do to prevent their children from becoming bullies will also help their children to not become victims of bullies. Here are 13 suggestions:



1. Make sure your children feel safe, valued, and respected in your home.
2. Listen to them when they talk, and expect their attention when you talk to them.
3. Smile often at them.
4. Make eye contact with them.
5. Touch them gently, lovingly, and often.
6. Teach conflict resolution skills, and use them in the home.
7. Express your feelings, and validate their feelings. (It's okay to occasionally be sad, mad, or afraid.)
8. Make it clear that violence and rudeness are not acceptable. You can say, "We don't do that."
9. Family members have a right to space, privacy, and their own opinions.
10. Teach empathy by stories, animal care, and by your example of kindness and generosity.
11. Solve problems. Get help to resolve old or current emotional, physical, marital, family, or behavior problems.



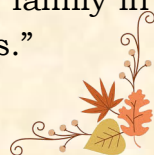
12. Speak up about bullying in your community.

13. Learn from your heavenly Father how to be a great parent who loves deeply and forever.

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

"He [Jesus] gave His life for humanity. And from the humanity in you, fathers, and the humanity in you, mothers, let us just grasp the divinity that is in Jesus Christ, so that you can express Him in your family in words, in tender words, in affectionate words."

—Ellen G. White, Manuscript 121, 1909



October is Pastor Appreciation Month



Pastor Steve and Pattie, Pastor Michael and Moriah,
We thank God for bringing you to Village Church and
for the blessing you are to us. WE LOVE AND
APPRECIATE EACH ONE OF YOU!

Thank you for your faithful ministry and your kind
and loving service to the people of this valley. We pray
for God to protect, guide, and richly bless you and
your children.

“And I will give you shepherds according to My heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”
—Jeremiah 3:15 NKJV



It wasn't a good garden year. No sooner did we plant tomatoes than gophers chewed them down. Flea beetles descended on our kale and chards, chewing a million tiny holes in the leaves. Caterpillars have invaded our orchard, chewing through ripening apples. When pick-



The Village Pantry—hosted by Pattie Reasor

In the fall I enjoy roasted veggies, and these roasted potatoes are just about perfect! They take a little time to make, but you can do the prep work the day before. If you are serving them to company, pop them in the oven to roast for about 50 minutes while you prepare the rest of the meal. These potatoes make a perfect accompaniment for a meal of salad, gluten steak, and another vegetable.



Roasted Potatoes

Ingredients:

- 4 large baking potatoes, peeled, with eyes and bad spots removed. Cube into large chunks.
- 4 cloves of garlic, peeled
- 1 sprig of thyme
- 1 sprig of rosemary
- ½ small onion
- 1-2 tsp. of salt in the water



Instructions:

Starting with a cold pot of water, boil all of the above ingredients together until the potatoes are slightly under-cooked. Drain and allow the potatoes to steam dry.

Ingredients:

- ¼ cup of flour (wheat or rice)
- ¼ cup of corn starch
- 1 tsp. of Italian seasoning
- ½ tsp. of crushed dry rosemary
- ¼ tsp. of salt



¼ tsp. of dry mustard
1 tsp. of garlic powder

Instructions:

When the potatoes are steam dried, in a large bowl mix the dry ingredients above and then coat the potatoes in the dry mixture.

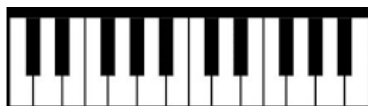
Put a generous amount of oil in the bottom of a large baking dish (depending on the size of your potatoes, you might need two dishes) being careful that the potatoes don't touch.

Bake in a 400 degree oven for 20 minutes. Toss the potatoes and bake for another 30 minutes. The potatoes should be golden and crispy before you remove them.

Enjoy these as a beautiful side to any meal.



Gospel-n-Harmony, a local Christian gospel/folk band, has an opening for a pianist. For more information, contact Lon Ferguson at 559-360-7388



WHO'S COMING TO DINNER?



October 24, 2026, you will find out who is coming to dinner. However, you get to decide...are you the host or the guest?

Who's Coming to Dinner is an opportunity for members to get better acquainted by eating a meal together. Early in the month, you will have the opportunity to sign up as a host or a guest.



When you sign up to host a Sabbath lunch, you will tell us how many you are willing to invite to your home, whether you want to have kids attend or just adults, and whether you will serve vegetarian or vegan food. If you sign up as a guest, you will let us know how many are in your family, specifying the number of children and any food preferences or allergies.

Hosts and guests will then be matched up for Sabbath lunch on October 24. At church on that day, guests will pick up directions to their host's home. Hosts will discover who their guests are when they show up at the door.

So, who is coming to dinner?
Sign up at the information desk
so that you can find out on
October 24!



Dear Village Voice readers,

Vedran Smailović, Bosnian cellist, is well known for playing his cello in ruined buildings during the siege of Sarajevo, often risking his own safety in the process. Such an act at a time when self-preservation was instinctual revealed the insanity of war. It spoke of hope and courage, reminding the hearers of beauty and life without constant fear, stress, and turmoil.

As followers of Christ, we are called to be like the cello. Sometimes the music He draws from our heartstrings will be as noticed as was the music of Smailović. At other times it is so gentle that it seems no one is benefitted. Then, like a wildflower blooming unseen in a mountain meadow, the beauty may be for Him alone. But it is never lost. It's influence, like that of the widow's mite, can be "...like a tiny stream flowing down through the ages, widening and deepening in its course, and contributing in a thousand directions to the extension of the truth..." (Signs of the Times, Jan. 21, 1886).



May we all be willing instruments in the Master's loving hands.

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor

Village Voice

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