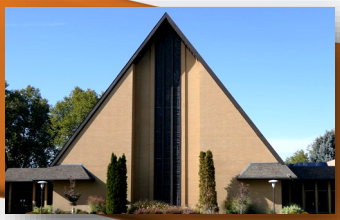
Village Voice



November 2026



Alarm or Relief?

by Karen Ekkens



Sirens. They're loud. They grab our attention. Like a scream, they alert of impending danger, potentially altering the course of the day. When that happens, I really don't like sirens.

But late one summer the ground was tinder dry. We were in the backyard and heard a very loud BANG! Black smoke and orange flames rose from the bed of a small pickup truck just a field of dry grass away.



Neighbors gathered quickly and stood watching. There wasn't much anyone could do to fight the flames. It seemed like a very long time before we heard sirens in the distance. Now sirens were a welcome sound. We needed help, and help was on the way!

What a giddy sense of relief was ours when the fire fighters arrived in full gear, pulled out long hoses, and sprayed the fire. The column of black smoke was soon replaced by billows of white steam. I wanted to cheer!

And a much greater day is coming. God's final intervention for His distressed people will bring infinitely more reassurance than the sound of an oncoming siren when there's a fire.

Ellen White wrote: "It is at midnight that God manifests His power for the deliverance of His people... The wicked look with terror and amazement upon the scene, while the righteous behold with solemn joy the tokens of their deliverance" (The Great Controversy, p. 636).



May the Lord help us sense our deep need of Him today so that we will be among those who welcome His approach with relief and great rejoicing!



Valued Volunteers—Library Teams

by Carolyn Karlstrom

Every church should have a library, and Village Church does. In fact, it has two. A team of volunteers headed up by Winnie and Dick Pyke are in charge of what is now called the Media Library. Joy Palmer leads the Book Library team.

Winnie has worked in the media library for decades and has held primary responsibility since 1983. People, that's 43 years! She's been involved in this ministry through many changes. At the beginning, when cassette tapes were in vogue, she made and copied them all. Yes, all! Copies of sermons and a variety of special programs made up the bulk of the offerings 40 and 30 years ago. However, they were replaced by VHS (now also outdated) and CDs and DVDs.

Winnie makes sure that there is plenty which is of interest to children; it has always been so. Your Story Hour, The Bible in Living Sound, creation materials, Eric B. Hare stories, and nature films are among the choices.

For adults, there are sermons, many of them by pastors, former and present, of the Village Church. A number feature Dwight Nelson and there are a few series, including those by Lyle Albrecht and Lonnie Melashenko. There is some church history ("Pathways of the Pioneers"), and inspirational films such as "Fireproof."

There is usually someone in the library, located under the stairs on the chapel side of the church lobby, from 10:30-10:50 on Sabbath morning, and again for a few minutes right after the church service concludes.

Winnie and Dick, assisted by Terry Forsyth and Sandy Mandigo, are the volunteers associated with this service, and

we're so grateful to each of them for their contribution to the congregation's access to these various materials. We thank them so much!



Joy Palmer has been head of the book library for about 30 years, and we're happy and fortunate to have her. The books can be found in a room at the bottom of the stairs that are just inside the back door entrance by the church office. Someone is usually there at a little after 9 on Sabbath mornings for a short while, then again from 10:30-10:50 and for about 15 minutes right after church lets out. If someone needs access to the library during off-hours, they should get in touch with Joy. She'll meet and open up for them.



Joy says, "We've got everything!" Among the offerings are story books for both kids and adults, SDA history, biographies, autobiographies, theology, SDA beliefs, family life materials, Spirit of Prophecy-related substance, mission stories, a large supply of teacher resource matter, and more.

She is happy to special-order a book, and does so regularly. She's also pleased to receive donations of books, especially for kids. There is currently a need for an interested and willing volunteer to process books that Joy hasn't had time to work on in order to get them shelved.

There is often a box of giveaway books outside the door of the library, so do pop by to check that out from time to time. There is generally also a cart near the greeter's desk in the lobby that offers a variety of books representative of what is in the library itself.

Joy's plea is that you "just come" and make use of what she and her team make available to our church family. We thank Joy for the time, effort, and energy she puts into this endeavor. Her team, consisting of Marcel Grondahl, Lillian Hayes, Elizabeth Wall, and Robin Patterson, are also very much appreciated, and we thank them wholeheartedly as well.

God bless each one on both teams!

Carolyn K.



Village Church Golf Scramble, October 4





















Many thanks to the Social Committee for organizing this event!









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Pathfinder Camporee—a teen's perspective



by Tullia Veverka

On September 18th, my Pathfinder friends and I piled onto our new bus to go to the camporee. Our previous bus was definitely getting on in years and I was excited to travel in a vehicle that didn't smell like 40-year-old dust. The ride up to Camp Fife was, fortunately, uneventful and was a fun time where I got to read and spend time with my friends.



When we arrived, our group quickly began to set up camp, something that I've grown very familiar with after being in Pathfinders for the last 5 years of my life. It didn't take too much time to get set up and it wasn't long after our arrival that other people from different clubs were coming over to see us and our new bus. It was its maiden voyage, and we had been talking about it for quite a while. My favorite part of being in Pathfinders is by far the people. I love spending time with my friends and seeing people from other clubs that I don't get to every day.





This weekend our speaker was Pastor Stephen Farr, who is a pastor at Pendleton's church. I had met him before when he spoke at an event when I was in middle school, and it was cool seeing a familiar face. He still had his chicken socks, which was, I thought, very important that he retained.

After evening worship, the night air was freezing cold, a stark contrast to the heat that we had been subjected to earlier in the afternoon. We all headed back to our camp, clutching blankets and coats close to us.



On Saturday, we did the normal things that are expected for a Pathfinder Camporee. We sang, we talked, and we ran around the campsite looking for things to take pictures of for a scavenger hunt. I participated because our director promised candy if we completed it.

By far the most memorable thing that happened to me that weekend was a silly little game I bet nobody has ever heard of called UNO. My friends and I started fairly early in the afternoon, unaware of the fact that we would be playing the same game for over 4 hours. We had UNO No Mercy, a version with special cards to make the game extra ruthless. Now, UNO No



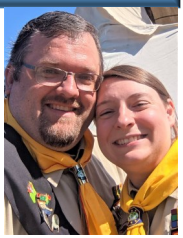
Mercy has a rule where, if you have over 25 cards, you are immediately out and lose the game. But we decided to ignore that, because we thought that rule was probably completely unnecessary. Right? Well, long story short, one of us had to draw 112 cards and in the end I did not win the 4 hour game.

On Sunday, we said goodbye to our friends and headed back onto the bus. I remember for lunch I ate pickle-flavored chips and, honestly, I thought they would taste bad, but I was pleasantly surprised. This is a non-sponsored endorsement. Lays, you're welcome. Anyway.

In the end, I came back with new friends, memories, and the desire to go to the camporee next year. I've been in Pathfinders for a good few years and have made so many wonderful memories with even more wonderful people. Needless to say, I'm so excited for the years to come with new camporees to go to.

Pathfinder Camporee—leader's perspective

by Michael Jeffery



We were very excited to get to use our new bus for this camporee. All of the staff and Pathfinders were excited to claim their seats and get underway. The camporee this year was at Camp Fife which was formerly a Boy Scout camp. It is now a youth camp run by another non-profit entity who was very excited to have us there.



Pastor Stephen Farr was the speaker and he shared with us his "chicken leg" socks. They truly made his feet and lower legs look like chicken feet. However, he shared his life story with the Pathfinders which was truly encouraging. He had

all of the Pathfinders and staff engrossed in what he had to say, and not one of them seemed to mind that his talks went longer than he was supposed to talk. It was a great reminder about how God can take us from where we are today to where He wants us to be, no matter how far or how long it will take. He is patient and can use us even when we don't feel worthy.

Sabbath afternoon we had free time to do what we wanted as a club. We started off with doing the odonates (butterfly) honor as a club. Then, after lunch, we sent the Pathfinders off on a photo scavenger hunt with the promise of a sweet treat upon completion. They had a blast and came back with many stories of what they'd found.



Sunday morning provided a time for community service where we volunteered two hours of labor from all 600+ Pathfinders and staff to do various jobs for Camp Fife. We took out old fences, painted sections of their buildings, removed weeds, spread gravel around buildings, and so much more.



Every year I ask myself why I spend countless hours planning and facilitating events for Pathfinders. Just as quickly as I ask that question a memory will pop up of a Pathfinder coming to me smiling from ear to ear about something they saw or had the opportunity to do. Or I'll witness 600 Pathfinders spend 120 minutes on a Sunday, smiles on their faces, to serve the community and save their two-person team the equivalent of nearly 15 weeks of labor.

All of this is possible thanks to our community back home. Thank you for your support each and every year so that we get the opportunity to take these kids out to see new things, but most of all to share with others the light God has put into each and every one of us.



God bless, and thank you!

Michael



Women's Ministry—Rooted And Grounded

by Elizabeth Travis

As cool, autumnal weather sets in and people begin preparations for the hustle and bustle of the holidays, it becomes more important than ever to stop and take a moment to strengthen our relationship with God and the friends that play such a big part in our lives. One of the goals of the Women's Ministry at Village Church is to encourage our female members in faith, creating opportunities for us all to connect, build friendships, and encourage one another. And that is exactly what we did on the fine Sunday morning of October 25.





The focus of this meeting was *Rooted and Grounded*, discussing ways we can stay grounded in Christ on a daily basis, trusting Him to help us through the dry patches and choosing to be thankful, even in difficult times. Befitting the theme of the event, the Fellowship Hall was decorated with gourds, flowers, and autumnal colors, including a diverse selection of small potted plants.

Once all the ladies had a bit of time to chat together and get settled, the event started with prayer and some worship songs, led by three musicians from Walla Walla University: Ellie Ruybalid, Ana Burgos, and Annika De La O. Then Barbara Frohne got up to give her message.



Barbara talked about her time in Thailand, her love of plants, and what she has learned about God's character and our relationship with Him through caring for these growing things. She talked about how she has seen God work



in her own life, restoring life to hardened hearts, removing the rocks and stones that hamper our relationship with Him, and dealing with the day-to-day thorns that cause us so much anxiety and pain. She emphasized the need to draw our strength from Jesus every day, referencing Colossians 2:6-7, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

After Barbara Frohne's worship talk, Trina McCoon shared some stories emphasizing the power and importance of Prayer Ministries, especially considering the spiritual struggles people are facing right now, not just in foreign countries, but here in our own communities as well. All the women were invited to join one of the prayer groups hosted by Village Church and encouraged to keep all the churches of Walla Walla Valley in their prayers.



After some closing thoughts, lunch was served. There were a variety of soups, breads, hot drinks, and plenty of fruit to go with them. As the event came to an end, each of the women got to take a small potted plant home with her, a simple gift to remind her to remain rooted in God's love and draw strength from Him every day.

As always, we thank all the members of the Women's Ministry team for their creativity and hard work. These events would not be possible without them.



We are eagerly looking forward to their next big event in January, *Crafted by Heart*.

Beth Travis



Family Matters—by Bev Donahey

Family Conflict—In Christian Homes?



Christians don't have conflict, do they? What about peace and love, kindness and gentleness? I recently read a description of conflict. It said conflict is when people are mad at each other, shouting and hurting each other. Well, yes, that's definitely conflict. It sounds more like a fight than just disagreement. But hopefully families don't shout at and hurt each other, even when there's conflict.

Even just one person can have conflict. Should I do this, or that? He may have trouble choosing, making up his mind. That's a conflict. It can be complicated when two or more people need to agree on something. Where to go on vacation. Who's going to do which household task. She wants the house to be repainted, he wants a different car and there isn't money for both. One parent thinks the kids should be talked to and given non-physical consequences, but the other hits or shouts or impulsively gives consequences when angry.



Some people resolve conflict by listing options and discussing the pros and cons of each. They tell why they prefer one over the others. They may decide to do both, just not at the same time. They make a deal—if we do it this way this time, then next time we'll do the other option. They might recognize that they need more information before making the decision. Listening is sometimes neglected. They want to talk, but they can't resolve things effectively without listening. In fact, listening with a goal to really understand is one of the most important skills people can develop. Effective conflict resolution is coming together to a decision respectfully.



Conflict resolution gets complicated by side issues. It's often more than just, "What shall we

do?" There may be more involved than just the immediate decision to be made. Discuss other issues involved, such as thinking your opinions aren't valued. Or realize that you're not united in your opinions on finances, or child rearing. Those things are usually important issues to be dealt with and might hinder the daily tasks of living peacefully and efficiently.

Unresolved conflict leads to resentments. When issues can't be resolved between each other, then it's smart to get some outside help together, and the sooner the better. Outside help comes in the form of books, various programs and presentations, knowledgeable leaders of various topics, and counselors. If one person involved won't seek help, the other one can, and should. We can't avoid conflict. Learning to resolve it is essential for peaceful living. Conflict resolution skills make life smoother in families, neighborhoods, churches, and the workplace.



Notice Paul's closing in his letter to the Corinthians. In 2 Corinthians 13:11 he wrote: "Finally, brothers, goodbye. Aim for perfection, listen to my appeal, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."



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

Christmas Concert—Coming December 5

by Luba Brunton



Christmas is not only about beautiful music, decorations, and traditions. It is about the hope that came into the world through a baby born in Bethlehem—the Savior who came to bring light into darkness and offer salvation and God's love to all people.

On Saturday, December 5, at 4 p.m., the Village Seventh-day Adventist Church will present *A World of Christmas* by Joseph Martin, a beautiful Christmas cantata celebrating the birth of Jesus.





A World of Christmas skillfully weaves beautiful choral and instrumental music to tell the story of Christ's birth. Through the music, the audience will be invited to journey to Bethlehem and reflect on the miracle of God's love revealed in the coming of Jesus. At the center of the celebration is the simple but profound message: Jesus Christ was born to save us.

This year's presentation is especially meaningful because more musicians and singers from across the region are coming together to be part of this special musical celebration. Participants are traveling from the Tri-Cities, Spokane, Pendleton, Dayton, and Yakima, joining local musicians and singers in preparation for the performance. If you would like to be part of the music, it is not too late to join the choir or orchestra!

The growing number of people participating this year is a wonderful reflection of the community's desire to gather through



music. Musicians and singers are giving their time, traveling from neighboring communities, and practicing together so that this Christmas message can be presented with excellence and heartfelt devotion. For many participants, this means much more than preparing for a concert. It is an opportunity to use their musical gifts to share a message of hope, peace, joy, and salvation with their community.

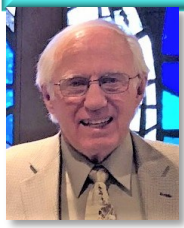
The celebration will continue the following day at Cordiner Hall. On Sunday, December 6, at 3 p.m., the Village Church choir will sing two selections from *A World of Christmas.* The hand bell choir will also participate in the Festive Carols concert.

Everyone in the Walla Walla Valley and surrounding communities is warmly invited to attend both concerts.

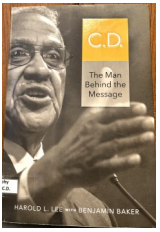


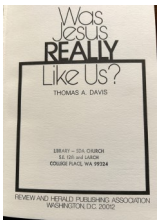
Come and enjoy beautiful music, fellowship, and the timeless Christmas story. More importantly, come and hear the greatest news the world has ever received: Jesus Christ is born! He came to save us, to give us hope, and to bring us the gift of God's love.

From the Library—by Marcel Grondahl



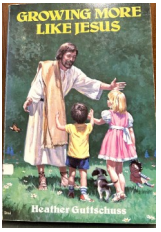
He was simply known as C.D. If people know you by just two letters then you must be doing something right! Charles D. Brooks was that kind of man. Our first book this month tells his story with the title, "C.D. The Man behind the Message" written in 2013 by Harold L. Lee and Benjamin Baker, published by Review and Herald Publishing Association. So what was it that made C.D. loved and respected? He was a dynamic preacher and received the accolade of being "the preacher's preacher." Thousands of preachers were inspired by his style and substance. Tens of thousands of SDA church members listened to him live or via media. Then there were the hundreds of thousands who tuned in to his Breath of Life telecast. You need to read his inspiring story.





Members of the Adventist church have had a long-running theological debate about the nature of Christ. Was He like us? Was He tempted like we are? Did He have the nature of Adam before the fall or the nature of Adam after the fall? Does it matter? Tomas A. Davis thinks it does. In fact, back in 1979 he wrote an entire book about it with the title "Was Jesus REALLY Like Us?" Yes, the book does address the theology of the debate, but that is not the real thrust of the author. The point he makes is practical: With the context of Jesus' divinity, what is the significance of His human nature and life for the Christian who is preparing for heaven and is struggling with sin?

The next book is geared for parents with young children—children they want to lead into a personal relationship with Jesus. The author, Heather Guttschuss, attempts to help them



with her book titled, "Growing More Like Jesus" and published in 1982. Her method is simple and sound. There are 60 stories in this book, each illustrating a Bible text. The stories are short and are geared to the thinking and understanding level of a young child. The author has provided a series of questions for the parent to ask to see if the child is understanding. There is also a section for parents to help them with problems the young child may be encountering. Very helpful book!



"Beyond Ashes" was written by Marlyn Vistaunet and published in 2018. It is Marlyn's personal story. It tugs at the heart with emotional stories that will cause tears to flow. She was born to SDA missionaries in Mexico. Kidnapped as a three-year old, she lost her brother in a house fire, and was drugged and raped as an adult. Despite the trauma of these and other events, her story is one of survival and triumph. It is a powerful reminder that God is a faithful Friend who loves us and stays by our side in spite of our mistakes and failures as we learn to trust completely in Him.

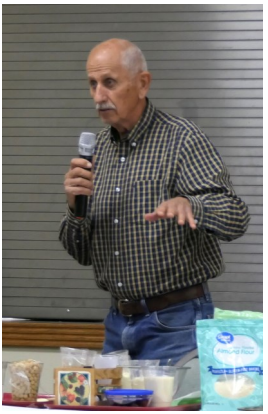
Health and Wellness—Cooking School



On Sunday, October 18, the Health and Wellness committee hosted The Art of Healthful Cooking. Committee members Arline Ferguson, Rita Schroeder, and Mary Lou Tillay warmly welcomed the attendees. As each person entered the fellowship hall, they received a recipe booklet and a Signs of the Times brochure about healthy living. The plant-based recipes emphasized whole foods combined in tasty and nourishing ways, suitable for every day and festive enough for holidays.

The class was presented by Lisa and Joe Shewchuk. Here Lisa demonstrates the recipe for Sunny Scalloped Potatoes. Joe assembles Sun-dried Tomato and Roasted Garlic Hummus. As they showed these and other recipes, Joe and Lisa welcomed comments and questions from the audience.





Meanwhile, in the kitchen, Sandy Reeves, Dave Russell, Maylene Russell, and Kathy Hazen prepared plates so each guest could taste a sample of every dish that was featured in the presentation.



Mary Lou said afterward, "The cooking school was a great success! About sixty people were there." She expressed special thanks to Jim Cain for running the PA, helping with set up, and assisting in other ways. She added, "And he was happy to do it!"

Plans are in place for the Shewchuks to return in the spring with more nutrition tips and recipes to share.



The Village Pantry—hosted by Pattie Reasor



Fall is harvest time, but it's also a time when cold viruses show up. If you are looking for a healthy soup to feed to yourself and those you love during the cold and flu season, look no further than this tasty soup. It's a quick easy meal when you are under the weather or chilled from rain.



Tomato Lentil Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 onion, diced
- 2 sticks of celery, diced
- 1 carrot, diced
- 3 cloves of garlic, grated
- 1 bell pepper, diced
- 1 large can of diced tomatoes
- 1 Tbsp. tomato paste
- Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
- Chicken-like bouillon cube
- 1 cup of red lentils, rinsed
- 1 cup of water
- Salt to taste
- 6-8 fresh basil leaves



Instructions:

Add the first five ingredients to a pot with a drizzle of oil and sauté until the onions are translucent. Add the tomatoes, paste, red pepper flakes, bouillon, water, and the well-rinsed lentils to the pot and simmer until the lentils are well cooked. I use an immersion blender to blend everything to a similar consistency and then top with chopped basil and flavor with salt.

Dear Village Voice readers,

There's a counterfeit humility that is common in our world. It is sometimes heard putting self down, hoping others will counter and build us up. Or it serves with the hope of praise or accolades in return.

Counterfeit humility, by self deprecation (pride in disguise), subtly attempts to deprive a holy God of His beloved child, His treasured redemption—you.

True humility, as revealed in the life of Jesus, never puts itself down in order to elevate others. Neither does it act from a place of assumed superiority. It springs from the knowledge that all humanity is of equal and infinite value in the eyes of God, ourselves included. True humility is divine love in action.

As humans we cannot manufacture love. We can only accept it from the Source—God Himself—let it ravish our own hearts with its beauty, then, in gratitude, reflect it to those around us in attitudes and actions that reveal the fruit of the Spirit in our lives.



May the Lord help us attain to this high calling.

God bless you!

Karen Ekkens, editor

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Staff

Editor: Karen Ekkens
Proofreader: Carolyn Gaskell
Contributing Writers: Terry Koch
Beth Travis
Marcel Grondahl
Bev Donahey
Carolyn Karlstrom
Design/Layout: Karen Ekkens

Credits

Clip art: clipart-library.com
Photography:
Karen Ekkens, pp. 2, 17
Steve Reasor, p. 4
Michael Jeffery, pp. 6-9
Elizabeth Travis, pp. 10, 11
Pattie Reasor, p. 18



Contact

Village.Voice@villageadventist.org
College Place Village Church
715 SE 12th St.
College Place, WA 99324
509-525-0882