

THE GAZETTE

Green Lake Church of Seventh-day Adventists

Reflections

I've been asked to share some reflections from the past twenty-six years - over a quarter of a century - during which I have had the honor of being the Minister of Music here at Green Lake. This is not an easy task, but one worthy of undertaking. When I began my new role in the Fall of 1996 the world was a very different place, Green Lake church was very different, and I was very different. Change is a given. We cannot avoid it, but we can reflect and learn from the insights we've gained along the way as we encounter and adapt to changes in our world.

Last Fall we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of Green Lake Church. Naturally a lot of focus was on events that took place during the first 25 years. But it is also helpful to articulate and appreciate the changes that have taken place over the most recent 26 years. Just to list a few, in no particular order, in the area of programming we have added children's choirs, a handbell choir, an inter-generational orchestra, and week-long summer Exploration programs for children. Enhancements to the building include replacing the shag carpeting in the Chapel with hard wood and adding a gas fireplace and beautiful lighting options, adding an elevator, expanding the platform in the sanctuary to better accommodate our orchestra and other programs, replacing the organ with one designed to enhance Green Lake's worship as it had evolved, adding new sound equipment, cameras, and a screen to help improve the quality of the worship experience for those in the sanctuary as well as for those joining from home on Sabbath mornings. I think we all enjoy the weekly Children's Story in worship, but when I started at Green Lake in 1996, that was not a component of our worship. Hard to imagine!

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Sometimes we can feel energized and excited by change, but it can be tempting to turn away and reject it, preferring the security of the known to the scariness of the unknown. No matter how we react to changes happening around us, we are rarely able to stop them altogether. And after experiencing 26 years of changes here, I've noticed that on the other side of that change, once we've had time to adjust, we may even enjoy the very change we had feared.

I have been very blessed by my years at Green Lake. Many of you have become "family" to me in the best ways. While change is hard for all of us, I am ready to step back and pass the torch of music leadership, and I am excited for your future. With Pastor Kevin and Pastor Raven in place I believe you are well situated for moving forward to the next twenty-six years and that it will be an exciting time full of growth, new ideas, and, yes, change!

~ Wanda Griffiths



Photo by Gummi Ibsen



Pastor's Corner

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up.

~James 4:10

A couple of years ago I listened to a conference by the Barna group that talked about the difference between intellectual humility and general humility. General humility is how you see yourself. Intellectual humility is how you see your knowledge, the knowledge that no matter how smart we are, we can always learn from others.

Intellectual humility relates to everyone. General humility means you have an accurate perception of your strengths as well as your weaknesses. This kind of humility has 4 practical behaviors.

1. When you are humble about your knowledge you will not be overconfident.
2. You won't become defensive when people have different perspectives than you.
3. You will be open to revision.
4. You will respect the viewpoint of others.

A Litmus test for Christians is how we relate to those that disagree with us. Throughout church history, millions of martyrs have been burned at the stake as a result of their "heretical" beliefs. I find it telling that in all of church history, no one has been punished as a heretic for being unloving. Jesus put the litmus test this way, "The world will know you are Christians by the way you love one another."

That's why when it comes to truth, honesty, humility, and love are so important.

1. Honesty, because it's a reflection of the heart. It is about good intentions.

It's David's prayer in Psalm 51. "Create in me a clean heart oh God, and renew a right spirit within me."

2. Humility, because even when we think we have the right belief, the right practice, and the right intention of the heart, we can still get things wrong. Humility recognizes this is part of the human condition.

3. Love, because it is the more excellent way. As 1st John 4:18 says, "there is no fear in love, perfect love casts out all fear." Allow the truth and humility to set you free.

The Bible isn't always clear. History informs us that we have not always interpreted well. In our disagreements about "disputable" matters we have not always demonstrated the love of Christ. Instead, we have sacrificed people on the altar of our own opinions.

"But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: "God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.'" James 4:6

~ Pastor Kevin

I wonder if sunrises & sunsets
respect each other even
though they never met.

~ Naima Penniman

True Gospel

On Sabbath, February 18th, our services were blessed by the Gospel group Les Chanticleers. This group has an extensive history in the Pacific Northwest and beyond, having sung before presidents and other dignitaries over the years. We last hosted them in February of 2020, when our own Green Lake Singers were blessed to sing several songs together with them in the loft under the gifted leadership of their director, Patric Paris. For those of us who go back far enough to remember the Old Spruce Street Church where they got their start back in the 70's, it was a special treat and a true blessing for us all. Thank you Les Chanticleers.

Photo by Kimmie Thiesen



~ Katie-Lynn Thiesen

*I wonder if snowflakes get sick
of being perfect all the time
each one
trying to be one-of-a-kind*

~ Naima Penniman

Member Interests

Every year the Seattle Violoncello society sponsors a Bach Marathon during which cellists from the Seattle area play all six of the J. S. Bach Suites for Solo Cello. This year the event will be held on Saturday, March 18, from 10:00 – 2:00 at the Haller Lake Methodist Church, located at 13055 1st Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125. The concert is free, and everyone is invited. Michelle Carlill will be participating in this year's event playing the Sarabande from the 3rd Suite in C major. If interested in attending, please contact Michelle for further details.

~ Michelle Carlill

GLC EVENTS

March

- 21 Church Board Meeting ·7:30
- 23 Bible Study/Chapel7:30
- 24 Café Night/Chapel7:30
- 25 Book Club/Lib/Zoom ...2:00
- 26 Neighborhood Meal ...4:30

April

- 1 Book Club/Lib/Zoom ...2:00
- 7 Young Adult Bible Study /Meridian7:30
- 8 Easter Worship Service
- 8 Potluck
- 8 Book Club/Lib/Zoom ...2:00
- 8 Game Night/Chapel6:30
- 15 Book Club/Lib/Zoom ...2:00
- 15 Praise, Worship/Soup ..5:30
- 20 Bible Study/Chapel7:30
- 22 Book Club/Lib/Zoom ...2:00
- 23 Neighborhood Meal ...4:30
- 27 Bible Study/Chapel7:30
- 28 Café Night/Chapel7:30
- 22 Book Club/Lib/Zoom ...2:00

May

- 5 Young Adult Bible Study /Meridian7:30
- 12-13 Spring Lecture Series
- 13 Potluck
- 13 Game Night/Chapel6:30
- 16 Church Board Meeting ·7:30

Photo by Gummi Ibsen



God's School

School was just over for the day. My phone was ringing. "Hello, this is Ray Geigle. Remember me?" "Yes, I do." "Can you come up to Providence Hospital in Everett as soon as possible? Dad is experiencing kidney failure and wants to talk with the Cypress School principal." "I can make it by 4:00, OK?"

We had become acquainted with Ray and Eda Geigle. As head deacon and deaconess of Mt. Tabor SDA Church in Portland, OR, they had presided over five funeral dinners for my wife's aging family members. Ray had grown up at the old Mountlake Terrace School-Edmonds area and Eda at the old Ballard Church and Seattle Jr. Academy.

When I entered the hospital room, Ray introduced me to his dad, Reuben, and his two brothers. Reuben asked his sons to go to supper and to give him an hour with the Cypress principal.

Photo by Candace Renk, taken from Cypress SDA School garden.



"Mr. Dunston, are you aware that you are principal of God's School, a real miracle school? I don't have long to live and I want you to hear from my lips just how we got God's School." In the next few minutes, the following story spilled out!

Reuben had worked many years in the custodial department of the Edmonds School District. The superintendent talked to him one day telling him that the Cypress property then used for storage would soon go up for auction. He continued, "I know that you Adventists run schools and I'd like for your people to have a chance at this."

At that very time the Edmonds church had discussed an expansion project for additional classrooms and a gym at the Mountlake Terrace School for around \$600,000.

A meeting of the area Adventist churches was called.

The Cypress property with twenty classrooms, library-office, gym-kitchen all on ten secluded acres was available for less money (about \$390,000). Those men and women of faith and great vision voted to move out in faith and purchase the Cypress property.

Pastor Roger Ferris of Volunteer Park and Pastor Don Scully of Edmonds were asked to deliver the sealed bid the next morning. After having special prayer together, the pastors felt strongly impressed to raise the bid by \$5,000.

If the bid had not been raised, the Cypress property would have gone to another bidder. Another providential event happened. On overhearing an Adventist discussion about the Cypress miracle, a lady of another Christian entity looking for a property reported that the Mountlake Terrace School might be for sale, which led to a quick cash sale providing the down payment money for the Cypress property.

Here we come to an interesting wrinkle in the story reported to me in one of my last visits with Pastor Ferris. Since the pastors raised the bid on their own, they were held responsible to come up with the extra \$5,000. On inspecting the Cypress plant, they discovered thousands of old textbooks in mothballs. Resourceful Pastor Roger, and friends from Volunteer Park rented a truck, hauling many loads of books to a recycler raising the additional five grand.

I feel very blessed, indeed, to have known some of the "faith heroes" from the archives of the Cypress past and to have heard these precious memories from their lips.

Following are some of the heroes of Hebrews 11 (Cypress Version): Reuben Geigle, Roger and Ida Ferris, Wilbur and Sara Howell, Dorothea Searson.

~ Lowell Dunston

George Neiswanger

George met his wife Irene in the elevator of the Smith Tower. They have been married for over 70 years. I asked them, "What is a key to a successful marriage?"

George gave a one word answer, "acceptance."

Irene and George come from different religious backgrounds. They decided early on that they wouldn't make the other join their church. They have been able to thrive within that religious pluralism because they are committed to respect and acceptance.

George said that wasn't always easy for him. He grew up believing that only 144,000 people would be saved, and that his church was the one true church. When you think all outsiders will be lost that can make you intense. However, as George visited his wife's church and met sincere wonderful people there, his theological certainty cracked. The circle of insiders expanded. Perhaps God could include the other denominations... For George, curiosity and acceptance are some of the keys to a meaningful life.

George shared a story about growing up in the Great Depression era. His family like most families was poor. He got used clothes from siblings and the pants would be patched and well worn. George wanted to play football like his dad. One day while trying out for the team he was doing a sprint and his pants ripped. A little later one of the teachers brought another boy over and made him apologize for snickering. George didn't even hear the boy laugh, but this was a memory that stood out to him.



~ Pastor Kevin



Photo by Gummi Ibsen

New Member

Reid Cook came to us from Iowa when he followed his career as a medical scribe to Seattle. Feeling lost in a new city and dealing with depression, loneliness, drugs and alcohol, his life was on a downward spiral. One day after a few days off and a bad experience after LSD, he started praying for the first time in fifteen years. Two days later he had a vision of a golden book which he took to mean he should be reading his Bible. He started reading and praying 2-3 times a day.

He reached out to his mom (an ex-Catholic who told him he should seek out an Adventist Church because they know the Bible best and would be able to help him. He found Green Lake Church and the rest, as they say, is history. Reid says that besides finding biblical truth here, he has also found the Spirit of God in our Church. He had been searching for a place with people without condemnation for him and his situation in life. Green Lake provided a safe love filled environment where he could study God's word and experience His love through the members of the Church. Reid has a very powerful testimony that is so inspiring. We all should reach out and have him share.

Reid loves to study his Bible and is involved with world ministry and fundraising. He likes to read sci-fi, go for walks around Seattle as well as day hikes, and play his guitar.

~ Katie-Lynn Thiesen

Upcoming Event: April 14-15

Are you a university or college student? Do you know one? You won't want to miss this exciting weekend where we will come together to learn more about creating community on the campus. Maybe you aren't a student, but want to learn how you can support our students, this weekend is for you too. **Pastor John Leis**, newly hired Public Campus Ministry Director for the Washington Conference, will be joining us April 14-15 to help launch Adventist Christian Fellowship clubs on campuses throughout the Washington Conference beginning in Seattle. Come learn how you can be a part of this exciting community.

John Leis has been in the Indiana Conference as the Public Campus Ministries Coordinator and pastor of the Bloomington SDA church



next to Indiana University. For the last 8 years he has worked the mission fields of IU and other universities in Indiana building strong communities through ACF. He is married to Sarah Leis and has 4 children, Matthew, Violet, Ellen, and Mabel. He loves basketball and can't wait until he is settled in Seattle this June.



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The Gazette Is Back!

We sincerely hope you enjoy this issue of the Gazette. We will be on a bi-monthly schedule for now with plans to maybe go monthly sometime later this year. We need your help to improve this publication. Please send your feedback along with suggestions for articles, personal testimonies, jokes, anecdotes, things going on in your life you wish to share with our Church family, upcoming events of interest to you both in and out of the Church, Poetry, Photos and more to: glsda.gazette@gmail.com or see Katie-Lynn Thiesen.

GLC Men's Group

The Green Lake Church has just kicked off a men's group that plans to meet about once a month. Our first event was bowling. We rented 3 lanes and had just under 15 people participating. Some of us had not bowled in over a decade so it was fun to put on the shoes and give it our best shot. Look for more events coming soon and if you are interested in participating reach out to Bryan Carli at MrBryanCarli@gmail.com.



Photo by Gummi Ibsen



Photo by Gummi Ibsen



Photo by Gummi Ibsen

Fireside Sabbath School

A big part of church is the community within and this was the main premise behind the development of Fireside Sabbath School. Each class starts with an opportunity for people to share their experiences from the week, with open and candid discussions about triumphs and frustrations, perhaps sharing thoughts on a good book, a podcast discussion that caught someone's attention, or a moment in a show or movie that resonated. This typically leads to the main discussion topic, often carried on from week to week (currently, we are going through the book of John).

We welcome you to join us for hot beverages and good discussion at Fireside Sabbath School at 10:00 a.m. each Sabbath in the chapel.

I have learned that faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse.

~ Anonymous

The Gazette Staff

Coordinator | Katie-Lynn Thiesen
Editor | Michelle Carlill
Layout and Design | Candace Renk
Send all submissions to:
glsda.gazette@gmail.com



It is an honor to
share about
freedom and a
privilege to be
alive.

To have
opportunities
every day to
tell other people
how incredible
it is to know
Grace.