

## Order of Worship

10:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.

(Please turn off all cell phones & pagers for the worship service)

**Prelude** “Trumpet Tune in D Major” *Johnson*

**Opening Hymn** “Praise the Lord, His Glories Show” No. 25

**Invocation** Leif Lind

Almighty and ever living God,  
ruler of all things in heaven and earth,  
**hear our prayers for this church family.**  
Holy God, for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ  
**be present among us today as we seek you.**

**Greetings and Prayers of the Congregation** Cherise Gardner  
(Please remain standing for prayer)

### Prayer Response

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,  
Great is thy faithfulness! Lord unto me!

**Gifts of the Congregation** Cindy Estipona, Cherise Gardner

**Anthem** “The Holy City” *Adams*  
Abdiel Gonzalez, *soloist*

**Morning Offering** Anoosh Keshishzade

**Offertory** “And Can It Be, That I Should Gain?” *arr. K. Smeal*

**Anthem** “Poor Wayfarin’ Stranger” *Traditional spiritual*  
Abdiel Gonzalez, *soloist*

**Scripture** Acts 8:26-35 Rachel Pereyra

**Sermon\*** “Reading the Bible Again for the First Time” Leif Lind

**Closing Hymn** “Open My Eyes” No. 326

**Benediction** Leif Lind

**Musical Response**

**Postlude** “Tocatta, Opus 59” *Reger*

## Sabbath School Options

Class	Age	Location	Symbols/Leaders
Beginners	0-3 yrs	Room 3	Elephant
Kindergarten	3-5 yrs	Room 4	Giraffe
Primary	6-9	Room 2	Eagle
Junior	10-13 yrs	Room 1	Lion
Teen	14-18 yrs	Room 10b	Fish
Armenian	General	Room 11	
Romanian	General	Room 13	
Pastor	General	Fellowship Hall	Doug Schultz
SS Quarterly	General	Chapel	Hugh Gardner

## Worship Options

Option	Location	Sequence
Sanctuary Service	Main Sanctuary	Every Sabbath
Romanian Service	Chapel	1st and 3rd Sabbaths
Armenian Service	Chapel	2nd and 4th Sabbaths

## Activities

Event	Location	Sequence
Bell Choir	Youth Center	Friday at 8:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room	Sabbath at 9:15 am
Pathfinders	GAMC Gymnasium	Tuesday at 6:45 pm
Sunshine/Jubilate Singers	Room 10b	Sabbath at Noon
Bible Study		Monday at 7:00 p.m.
Marathon Clinic	Verdugo Park	Sunday at 7:00 a.m.

## Church Directory

### Pastoral Staff

Smuts van Rooyen, Senior Pastor (626-256-4240)  
Cherise Gardner, Family & Children’s Ministries (909-809-7439)  
Hovik Sarrafian, Armenian Senior Pastor (909-796-9536)  
Vartkes Azadian, Armenian Associate Pastor (626-335-6507)  
Dorin Lataeanu, Romanian Senior Pastor (909-528-2545)  
Leif Lind, Church Administrator (909-557-5230)

### Officers

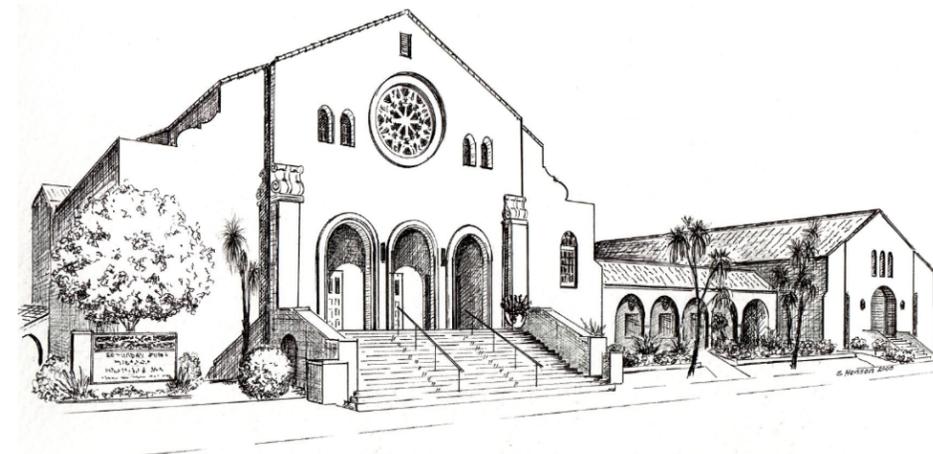
Head Elder	Don Greathouse (626-796-8579)
Head Deacon	Harold Fanselau (818-242-7772)
Head Deaconess	Eleanor Posner (818-281-5822)
Church Board Chair	Vincent Haynes (213-276-2131)
Choir Director	Brenda Mohr (brendajmohr@gmail.com)
Organist	Kemp Smeal (714-658-4885)
Children’s Choir Director	Lissie Quishenberry (626-797-2543)
Bell Choir Director	Ariel Quintana (818-552-2421)
Secretary	Victoria Lucero (818-244-7241 office)
Treasurer	Dean Vendouris (818-244-7241 office)
Church Clerk	Mindi Rüb (mindilus@mac.com)
A+ School Board Chair	Andrew Cervik (818-246-1999)
A+ School Principal	Jeanie Drake (818-241-9353 school)
Pathfinder Director	Warren Dale (818-384-2820)
Facilities Administrator	Wayne Libby (818-522-4297)

### Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Friday 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
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# Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist Church



## June 6, 2009

\*Sermon title credit: Marcus Borg

## Scripture Reading

### Acts 8:26-35

Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the book of Isaiah the prophet. The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.”

**Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. “Do you understand what you are reading?” Philip asked.**

“How can I,” he said, “unless someone explains it to me?” So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture:

**“He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,  
and as a lamb before the shearer is silent,  
so he did not open his mouth.  
In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.  
Who can speak of his descendants?  
For his life was taken from the earth.”**

The eunuch asked Philip, “Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?”

**Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.**

## Sermon Resources

The difficulty of interpreting the Bible is felt not only in secular culture but also in the church at the beginning of the 21st century. Is the Bible authoritative for the faith and practice of the church? If so, in what way? What practices of reading offer the most appropriate approach to understanding the Bible? How does historical criticism illumine or obscure scripture’s message?... The church’s lack of clarity about these issues has hindered its witness and mission, so that it fails to speak with wisdom, imagination and courage to the challenges of our time. Even where the Bible’s authority is acknowledged in principle, many churches seem to have lost the art of reading it attentively and imaginatively....

Reading scripture is an art—a creative discipline that requires engagement and imagination, in contrast to the Enlightenment’s ideal of detached objectivity. In our practices of reading the Bible, we are (or should be) something like artists. This conviction entails some bad news and some good news.

The bad news is that, like every other true art, reading scripture is a difficult thing to do well. Strangely, we do not often mention this difficulty in church, in sermons or in teaching. Our attitude seems to be that interpreting scripture is a cut-and-dried kind of thing. In most liberal churches, the issue hardly seems worth discussing. Even in more Bible-oriented churches, there is little acknowledgment of the fact that making good sense of the Bible and applying that sense wisely to our lives is hard to do. The disciplines of attentiveness to the word do not come easily to us, accustomed as we are to user-friendly interfaces and instant gratification.

(It is worth noting that recognition of the difficulty of interpretation is one of the huge differences between Jews and modern Christians; Jews have always revered the reading of scripture as the greatest and most difficult of all art forms.)

But the good news in recognizing scriptural interpretation as an art is that reading scripture, like other forms of art, has the potential for creating something beautiful. Interpretations of scripture are not just right or wrong, although at times such categories are useful and necessary....To what extent do they draw us toward something, a way of being that is—to use Paul’s language—more “lovely,” more “gracious,” more “excellent,” “noble,” “worthy of praise” (Phil. 4:8)?  
—Adapted from the *Introduction* to “The Art of Reading Scripture,” Ellen Davis & Richard Hays, ed.

## Upcoming Sermons & Events

Elder of the Day  
June 13  
June 20  
June 27  
4th July

Don Greathouse  
Smuts van Rooyen  
Smuts van Rooyen  
Smuts van Rooyen  
Leif Lind

“Free to Believe”

**Sunset tonight – 8:01 p.m. Sunset next Friday – 8:05 p.m.**

## City Church Announcements

**Welcome to City Church! May you be blessed in worship today.**

**Memorial Service.** A service for Bill Warren will take place in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Sabbath, June 13 at 2 p.m. A reception will follow in the Youth Center.

**Church Potluck** will take place next Sabbath, June 13, together with the Armenian Congregation.

The Christian organization *Cloud & Fire Ministries*, whose mission it is to provide a future and hope to at-risk urban youth, is **seeking to fill three paid positions** (teacher, construction manager, and construction trainer). Please contact the church office or see the following websites for more information: [www.cloudandfire.org](http://www.cloudandfire.org) and [www.YouthBuild.org](http://www.YouthBuild.org).

**Prayer request: Paula Leen**, who has been in charge of an AIDS orphanage in Zimbabwe, is very ill, experiencing difficulty in breathing as a result of a severe reaction to medication she has been taking. She is being constantly monitored, and would much appreciate our prayers for her.

**Student Assistance.** Applications can be picked up at the church office or mailed upon request.

There will be a **special Church Board meeting** to be held on Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m. At that meeting discussion will take place regarding the future involvement and relationship between Glendale City Church and the A+ School. Church members are welcome to make suggestions to the pastoral staff about this matter before the Board meeting date.

**DVDs of Church Services** are now available! *This offer is on a trial basis, depending upon membership interest in this.* Please see the Ginger Dale Media Center or contact the Church office for DVDs. Weekly sermon podcasts are available from our website.

Buddy the Bear, the A+ mascot, is calling all 6-10 year olds to join him at **A+ Adventist Children’s Center’s 2009 Summer Day Camp!** Call 818-241-9353 before June 8 while there is still space.

The next meeting of the **L. A. Adventist Forum** will be Sabbath, June 27, at 3:30 p.m. in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd. The speaker will be Dr. Smuts van Rooyen. His topic: “Issues in the Atonement.” All are welcome.

**Oberammergau Passion Play and Eastern Europe**, Aug. 30–Sep. 8, 2010. The tour, including a 5-hour enactment of the Easter story by a 2,000 member cast, is \$2,699 per person (payable in four installments, Aug. through May). If interested, please contact Ellenis Tohdjojo 213-595-5527 or email [ellenis2000@yahoo.com](mailto:ellenis2000@yahoo.com). Group discounts available.

Church member in need desires to sell **four plots in Forest Lawn (Glendale)**, reasonably priced. See church office for details.

Local elderly woman looking for someone to drive her for errands and do light housework. If interested please contact the Church Office.

**Karen Edwards** who was recently baptized at the *Revelation Speaks Peace* seminar would like to become a member. She is blind and needs transportation to City Church. She lives on the Eagle Rock/Glassel Park border near the 2 Freeway. If able to assist, please contact the church office.

Copies of *In Touch* newsletter are available in the Narthex for further information on Southern California SDA events.