

# Calimesa Connections

## Welcoming Our New Senior Pastor, Darrin Thurber

Pastor Darrin comes to us from Mansfield, Ohio, where he's pastored for the last five years. Though many in this congregation might recognize his family name since his roots are right here in this church! His father, Mic Thurber, was Calimesa's senior pastor from 1991-1993, and the Thurbers continued attending Calimesa even after Pastor Mic took a position with Southeastern California Conference.

Pastor Darrin attended Mesa Grande Academy from first through ninth grade. He fondly remembers the friends he made and the teachers that helped set him on the path he's on today. He was even baptized here at Calimesa Church, and Pastor Ken was his youth pastor!

He didn't always plan on becoming a pastor, however. While attending Pacific Union College he studied music performance, and after graduating he earned a Master of Music in Guitar Performance from San Francisco State University. Then he served the Pacific Union College Church as the worship pastor, coordinating the program for Sabbath services and mentoring students to become worship leaders.

He realized God had been leading him in this direction, and with continued encouragement from peers and mentors, Pastor Darrin decided to study theology and earned his Master of Divinity from Andrews University in 2015.

He continued pastoral ministry in Ohio, first at Ohio University as Chaplain. He then pastored a four-church district in Southern Ohio before taking his prior position at the Mansfield Adventist Church.

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**Pastor Darrin with his wife, Beamy, and daughters, Aryia and Amelia**

# Carrying On Together, Even When We Can't Be "Together"

by Pastor Ken Curtis

Dear Church Family,

We've been navigating through a lot lately, including changes in pastoral staff, unwelcome and unfortunate illnesses in the lives of precious people, and most recently the challenges that come from the COVID-19 situation.

This particular challenge, however, comes with opportunities to actually serve others in our community by working with public health officials to do what we can do slow the spread of this highly contagious virus.

Being a genuine community together is what has helped us steer through these things as we keep focused on Jesus and seek to live in ways that reflect the values of His Kingdom.

In addition to exploring new ways

to be a church when we're not all physically in the same place, and creative ways to stay connected between Sabbaths, we also have exciting things to look forward to!

We're so glad to welcome our new senior pastor, Darrin Thurber, and I know God has great things in store for the ministries of this congregation even in the face of difficulty. Only He knows what's coming our way in the weeks and months ahead. But we can be certain He goes ahead of us, and we get to go there with Him.

That's what family is about. Through times of joy and celebration, as well as times of challenge, we can embrace it together.

*Welcome to the ongoing journey!*



Check for updates at

**[calimesasda.com](http://calimesasda.com)**

and view live streamed and archived church services at

**[livestream.com/  
accounts/1529409](http://livestream.com/accounts/1529409)**

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Now he's excited to be returning to the Calimesa community with his wife, Beamy, a social worker, and his two daughters, Aryia (8), who

is in second grade, and Amelia (5), who is in kindergarten. Both girls are looking forward to attending MGA!

When it comes to his vision for Calimesa Church, Pastor Darrin's

initial priority is to support the many effective ministries already in motion. He knows God has been doing great things in this church and wants to do whatever he can to help keep up that momentum.

"I have always loved the culture and ministry philosophy here at Calimesa, and I first want to see how I can best uphold the wonderful ministry model already in place. I plan on observing, listening, and building relationships with the church family and pastoral staff so I can best work with the strengths and spiritual gifts we already have here."

"I know God has big plans for this church family and this community, and I'm excited to find out what we all can accomplish together."



# Responding to COVID-19 Recommendations

by Kathy and Jim McMillan

***During this time when we are asked to stay at home if at all possible, we want to find ways to stay connected as a church family.***

**Please know that the pastoral staff is still available to you.** Although the church office is closed, you may still call the church office and select the pastor's extension. If someone does not answer, use the voice mail options which will transfer your call to their cell phones.

Because we want to stay connected, we will be trying to be in contact with you. One of our elders, deacons, deaconesses or another church member will be reaching out to you by phone over the next couple of weeks to check in and see how we can be praying for you and if there is any way we can be of assistance. If somehow we miss you, please feel free to call us—you don't have to wait for our call.

For those who need help picking up

groceries or getting prescriptions (particularly if you are at high risk), we have people who have volunteered to help by picking up groceries or medicine for you. But we won't know your needs unless you tell us. If we can be of help, please send an email to Katherine Frykman, who is coordinating this for us, at:

**kthegrateful@gmail.com or 909-312-9678.**

If you are willing to be part of the helping team, please send her an email as well.

**We will also be offering Zoom gatherings several times each week for those who want to check in and pray together.** A different elder will lead out each day of the week, beginning the week of March 29. The schedule for prayer groups will be listed on the website. You will need to call the group leader in advance and let them know you

would like to join, so a link can be sent to your email. Watch for details on the website.

Because this is a time of financial uncertainty, we want to make sure our members are OK! We know that gas and electric companies have announced that they will not suspend services, and other utilities and services may follow. However, if you find yourself in a situation where essential services, food, etc. become an issue for you, please contact one of the pastors so we can talk about ways we might be of help!

These are difficult times, but we have many promises to help us through. It is such a comfort to know we have a God who will never leave us, even when we walk through the shadows!

Blessings to each one of you and we look forward eagerly to the day we can be together again!

## Calimesa Grand Piano Available

The Calimesa Church board voted to purchase a used Yamaha grand piano for our sanctuary to replace the current Steinway. Since we are about \$2000 short of the necessary funds to complete this purchase, we are asking for your donations if at all possible. You may designate your gift as "piano fund."

The Steinway will be relocated in the Fellowship Hall. Our current sanctuary piano is 59 years old and

showing definite signs of wear—the felts and hammers are quite worn and difficult to refurbish.



With this board action, we realize the need to reduce our piano inventory. **Thus, we would like to make available the 4.5' grand piano that is currently in the music room.** Although we are not "selling" this piano, we are making it available for any donation to our piano fund.

This piano has been tuned every year and holds its tune well. If you are in the market for a small grand piano, please contact Mike Fillman at (951) 295-5270.

# Just Coincidence, or Divine Timing?

by Michael Fillman and Laura Nyirady

It happened on Sabbath December 28, 2019. Our Calimesa Church sanctuary was full; many visitors; college students were home; all reveling in the beauties of Christmas and family.

Because of the crowd, I sat in a different pew than usual—right side, center aisle, third row. During the sermon by Chaplain Terry Swenson, I glanced at the hymnal rack and noticed a book that looked different. Typically, the rack held two hymnals and one Bible. The Bible was missing but a smaller, well-worn book was in its place.

I picked it up: *Councils on Diet and Foods* by Ellen White. And there was a name written on the inside cover, Carl Currie.

I know him! This book belonged to Laura Nyirady's father (he passed away on January 3, 2009).

After church I gave the book to Laura. She opened the cover and also noticed her father's name and handwriting. She paused and then with profound realization said, "Today, December 28, would have been my father's 100th birthday."

Wow! We both marveled and wondered how this book found its way into a church pew and how it happened to be found on Elder Currie's 100th birthday!

I later related this story to Dick and Bonnie Parker. They often sit in that pew and had also noticed Carl Currie's book but had not remembered to deliver it to Laura. So there it stayed until that day.

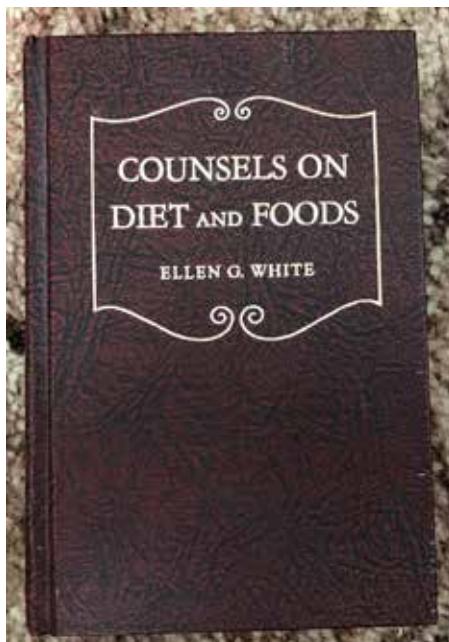
Why did God choose to have the book found and delivered on Elder

Currie's 100th birthday?

The story doesn't end there. I've asked Laura Nyirady to tell the rest.

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When Michael approached me at the end of church on December 28 and handed me my father's very old copy of Ellen White's *Councils on Diet and Foods*, I was very surprised and moved that he would find a book belonging to my dad



just sitting in the church pew. With tears in my eyes, I realized that my father had passed away ten years earlier, just after his 90th birthday, and this very day would have been his 100th birthday!

To add to this apparent "coincidence," I had invited a young, newly engaged couple, Ariel Lynch and Eric Stocker, to our home to eat lunch and spend the afternoon with us. Ariel is a beautiful young lady who has blessed our lives in many different ways. Throughout her high school

years, Ariel would spend one afternoon every week helping my mother with her laundry as well as curling up next to her on the bed and reading to her from her favorite old mission stories.

After our meal, I felt impressed to share the morning's incidence of how Michael found my father's old book in the church pew on his 100th birthday. When I brought the book out to show her, she immediately said, "I have a book just like that."

I handed her the worn book and she turned to where she, herself, had written notes in the margins of several different pages. Ariel recalled having the book with her during our church's Easter services in April 2019. So the book apparently was left in our church pew rack and remained there for nine months awaiting the special 100th birthday discovery!

It is still somewhat of a mystery of how that well-worn book, which unbeknown to me had obviously been gifted to Ariel by my Mother before she passed away, happened to be left in the church pew where Mike happened to sit that day. It also "just happened" that Ariel was at our house the same day that the book was found and I "just happened" to feel impressed to share our discovery on my dad's 100th birthday.

It brings tears to my eyes when I realize that our God finds great joy in finding little ways to let His children know He is real and present, even in the small apparent coincidences of our lives.

# Calimesa Church Kitchen Project Update

Church board has approved a campaign to remodel the Calimesa Church fellowship hall and kitchen, while also creating a new space for the Juniors' Sabbath School room.

This will be a two-phase project. The first phase involves moving the current Junior Sabbath school room into the music room, and phase two will be the actual kitchen and fellowship hall remodel, as well as the entire project of transitioning the current Juniors' room into a green room and expanding the kitchen by six feet.

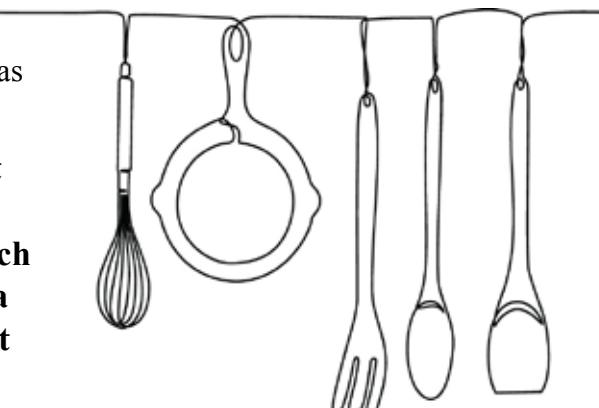
The church has over 35% of the funds ready for the project, and the

board has approved these plans as of March 12.

**However, due to the current COVID-19 situation, the board met virtually on March 18 and voted not to pursue a major fundraising project at this time.**

We know many people are affected by the economic impact of this national emergency, and we would rather direct our effort toward helping one another through this difficult time.

The plans to move forward on this project are on hold, but we have



secured everything else needed to get started. When circumstances improve, we can resume focus on this undertaking and a church business meeting will be scheduled.

***Do not be afraid or discouraged, the for Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; He will neither fail you nor abandon you.***

Deuteronomy 31:8, NLT

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April 2020