City Church Has an App for That!

PLUS:

Homecoming 2018
Glendale City Church
February 9-10

• The Great Controversy Isn’t Over Who Can Join Our Church: BELONGING
Welcome

Finding God at the Intersection of Our Lives

MISSION STATEMENT — Our mission is to reveal the love of Christ in all its tenderness and grandeur to the community in which we live. We desire to embrace the wonder of humanity in its complexity, diversity, and beauty — and to do so without precondition. In short, we yearn to reveal the splendor of Christ and to affirm the worth of all people.

MOTTO — “Revealing Christ, Affirming All”

OUR LOGO — The church logo shows four human figures of different colors coming together to form a cross. This represents our belief that robust spirituality develops when a broad diversity of people come together in community.

Glendale City is a Christian church affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist denomination. Our congregation was one of the first Adventist churches established in this part of Southern California. We continue to partner with this denomination locally and globally in its mission, and recognize the many ways our denomination brings good into the world. We also recognize that as a human organization, our denomination — and Glendale City Church itself — makes many mistakes and is often slow to respond to God’s leading. Therefore, we maintain a congregational posture of humility. To learn more about the Adventist church, visit www.Adventist.org.
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**Find Us On Social Media**

- Go to your App Store and search “Glendale City Church”
- [facebook.com/glendalecitychurch](http://facebook.com/glendalecitychurch)
- [@CityChurchGlen](https://twitter.com/CityChurchGlen)
- Podcast audio sermons: Glendale City Church
- [Glendale City](https://www.glendalecitychurch.org)

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Leif Lind, Todd Leonard

**Designers**
Victoria Lucero, Todd Leonard

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**intersections** is a monthly publication of Glendale City Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Glendale City Church welcomes people of all backgrounds into our church community. We do not discriminate based on gender, race, culture, wealth, education, religious background, or sexual orientation. If you are learning to love God and others, you belong here. God excludes no one. Neither do we.
We live today in a society where Christianity is in decline. We live, however, in a world that historically has been characterized by followers of diverse faiths and religions. Today, as the number of “nones” (nonbelievers) continues to rise, it is apparent that our world is becoming increasingly disenchanted with adherents of any kind of organized religion. Religion is seen as a source for both “boundless good and for unspeakable evil”.

Many today see organized religion — particularly fundamentalist Christianity or Islam — as hypocritical and self-serving. According to the Pew Research Center (www.pewresearch.org), some common reasons for “nones” no longer being interested in church include: “too many Christians doing un-Christian things”; “organized religious groups [being] more divisive than uniting”; “the church’s teaching on homosexuality”; “religion [being] a business, … all about money”.

When personal financial or political advantage becomes more important than treating one’s neighbor with love and respect, it is understandable that society becomes suspicious of Christians’ motives. When pastors claim that the latest tornado or earthquake is a sign of God’s judgment, when opposing teams both contend that “God is on our side”, when the findings of science are ignored in deference to preconceived ideas about God, we know it is time for us as Christians to reevaluate our thinking.

At Glendale City Church we believe God respects individual decisions of conscience. We also believe God has called us as believers to make a difference where we are — on this Earth, in our lifetimes here. It is, as Christ said, part of the conviction that God’s kingdom “has arrived” (Mark 1:15).

That is why we have been involved in programs such as Communitas, Caesura, Love Adds to Love, and our children’s programs. That is why we confidently seek to “find God at the intersection of our lives” and desire to “reveal Christ and affirm all”.

Let’s continue to be a congregation that makes a difference — here and now!

— Leif T. Lind, Church Administrator
February Events

**City Church Has an App for That!**

An existential question has arisen in the past few years that humanity has never had to grapple with before. Philosophers, theologians … and my teenage daughters ask: “If you can’t access something on your smartphone, does that thing actually exist?”

If you’ve been around Glendale City Church for a while, you’ve probably picked up on this part of our vision: Make Our Church More Visible and Accessible to All. To that end, you’ve seen us overhaul our website in 2016, and you might notice we’ve done some more work on it over the past three months. If our church doesn’t have an attractive and easy to access website, it is the equivalent of hanging a “Don’t Come In Here” banner on our church sign and constructing a maze for people to travel through to find the only unlocked door on campus.

Now, we’re taking another step: we want each of you who have found Glendale City Church and desire to become engaged with the life of our congregation to be able to access as much as possible right from your smartphone. So we are pleased to announce the launch of the Glendale City Church App. Right now, you can go to the Apple or Android app stores, search for “Glendale City Church” and download our app!

Once your app is installed, you’ll find many resources right at your finger tips:

- Weekly bulletin
- Monthly Intersections magazine
- Audio sermon podcasts
- YouTube worship videos
- Church event calendar
- Online giving
- Messaging to pastoral staff
- Bible with 19 English translation versions and a dozen other language versions

First-time attenders can click on the “I’m New” button to learn more; parents can find out what’s happening on Saturday at City Kids or Open Door; and you can access our updates on your favorite social media platform. Want to know what groups and seminars are available in the Personal Growth Marketplace? You’ll find out with one click. Got lost in the bowels of the church’s lower level? Click on our map to find your way to the light. Want the pastors and prayer quilt ministry team to pray for you? Send them a prayer request message. Need to tell the pastor after that last sermon that he needs to do remedial seminary study? You can message him (no cuss words, please). Tired of writing your donation with all those zeroes on a check? Click “Give” and set up recurring donations.

Coming this summer: Fiber-Optic internet, public wifi access and live-streaming of our morning worships. We hope our technological work will help you connect better with your church family! Let us know how we can improve our app and if you have the skills to help us succeed. Now, get back to your smartphone!

— Todd J. Leonard, Senior Pastor
February Events

Sermons

February 10 Homecoming (see ad page 7)

February 17

Black History Month Celebration with Pastor Dwight Anthony Radcliff, Jr.
Dwight Radcliff is the lead pastor of The Message Center, a non-denominational church called to reach the unchurched and de-churched. Pastor Radcliff holds an M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary, with a focus on multi-cultural ministry, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate, researching culture and preaching.
Urban Liturgy carries on the values and purposes of Glendale City Church in a new way. Like City Church, we affirm and value every human being regardless of race, gender, class, education, orientation, beliefs or relationship status. We believe that the Urban Liturgy gathering is not an end-point in a journey, but a crossroads where people’s journeys intersect and we find new traveling companions as we seek to live as spiritual people in our communities. Urban Liturgy looks to foster egalitarianism in all aspects of communal spirituality, while honoring the Judeo-Christian-Adventist heritage of our congregation.
“The Great Controversy Isn’t Over Who Can Join Our Church”
by Joe Martinson

The Great Controversy isn’t over who can join our church. It’s about the remnant, those who remain faithful to Jesus while all earthly organizations are going to hell.

The remnant is a very special bunch. Its members are joiners, and the organization they have joined is fallen according to Revelation.

My wife Debbie’s great, great, great, grandfather, John Byington, was the first President of General Conference. Some of his peers feared that he was the first pope of the fallen Adventist church. Why the disrespect for its newly elected leader?

Adventist pioneers had been recently dismembered from their denomination of origin for their interpretation of scripture. Some of these seven-day keeping, advent expecting believers worried that any incorporated religion was Babylon by definition. Turns out that their distrust of hierarchy and authority has merit.

Loyalty to an organization and its hierarchy often takes a higher priority over its mission. Religion often worships the unique teaching of its own sect over worshiping God.

Hierarchical structure works by putting one above another. Those at the top dictate the beliefs and behavior of the rank and file. It is tempting for the empowered to misuse its authority to coerce and control underlings in the name of efficiency.

Jesus himself was a victim of the expedient. Head honcho Caiaphas argued that it was better that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish. Apparently killing Jesus was a necessary evil.

The Great Controversy is a power struggle, but not from God’s side. Love and kindness are the antithesis of power. It’s the demonic that demand an exulted place.

The devil’s eco and ego system of might makes right has been projected on God. God counters that doing right makes might.

The disciples argued over their position in the anticipated kingdom they expected from a victorious Jesus. Surely the Messiah would conquer their enemies. Then, who would be the greatest? Jesus proclaimed the last would be first. The self-sacrificing servant rules. God is found working at the bottom of the hierarchy.

Jesus further deprecated the idea that the divine wants to be top God in the book of John. “I no longer want to call you servants because servants do what they are told. Instead, I want to call you friends.”

Even in the Old Testament supremacy isn’t God’s way. Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord.

God avoids absolute corruption by refusing to use force to get his way. Politely, he stands at the door of our heart and knocks. Contrast that with Protestants and Catholics alike who charred others at the stake over theological squabbles.

The inclination of human institutions is to exclude; whereas, the message of the gospel is to include. Like the faithful servants in the parable of the Wheat and the Weeds, the organized want to rid their field of all the tares. Smart, right? But saints are uprooted when the unrighteous are banished.

It’s clear that all have sinned, so who among us is worthy to pull the first weed? Jesus warns against judging. Only Jesus can see if in one’s heart a person is really a weed or just immature wheat.

Isn’t conversion itself about changing weeds to wheat? It’s harder to transmute from a tare to the transformed if the unsanctified are ripped out of the fertile soil of love. Love and kindness are the hallmarks of God’s community.
Paul encouraged each believer to make up her own mind. But man-made structures always seem to end up dictating what one should believe and how one should behave. The tyranny of hierarchy is the worst form of religion, except for all the others.

Just because the corrupting nature of power tends to be inherently evil doesn’t mean God can’t use it. God is big enough to overcome the dangers of structure by the love of the faithful. Those remnant outliers are the saviors of our corporate life together. How so?

The remnant remains faithful to Jesus or has the faith of Jesus. But what does that look like?

Jesus framed the judgment in terms of helping others. “I was hungry and you fed me…” But the judged don’t remember ministering to the hungry, thirsty, homeless, sickly, naked, and imprisoned Christ of Matthew 25.

God explains the confusion, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” But is helping others just a metaphor doing a big favor for God?

Jesus is calling the disadvantaged his brothers and sisters! Look no further than the downtrodden to find God. Their DNA is divine. God is always seen best on the fringes of society.

The remnant finds Jesus by serving others unconditionally. The faithful to Jesus add a heart of love to the otherwise fallen Church.

Belonging is the heart of the Glendale City Church. Our flaws are many, but we strive to be an accepting and loving church, a home for the disenfranchised.

Although our congregation has structure, we aren’t that picky on who joins. The pastor worries that the “Join City Church, we’re not that picky” slogan could be misunderstood.

If perfection were to be the test of fellowship, the pews would be empty. Perhaps high standards are killing us. “I don’t care to belong to any church that will have me as a member.”

There is more than one way of belonging to City Church. The first is, on the surface, more traditional. Be a member.

But membership is a little more relaxed at our church. Although traditional Adventism favors a seven-day literal creation and short earth history, my wife Debbie, the chemistry professor, was free to join this church even though she struggles with the idea that the geological column can be explained with 6,000 years and a flood.

Paul in Galatians claims, “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” At City Church we have added neither married nor divorced, gay nor straight, saint nor sinner to Paul’s unity pledge.

City members are geographically and theologically diverse. The reason we have members all over the country is that our members may not feel they fit in where they live or maybe the church in their area rejects them. City welcomes all as members.

As important as it is to some to be a member of the Adventist Church despite differences, others enjoy belonging to City Church without being a member. We call these special people friends. Some friends are members of other Adventist Churches, but feel connected to City Church, and others have no Adventist affiliation at all. Regardless, friends belong to our congregation just as much as members do.

Like members, friends hold church office, are board members, and support the church and its programs. It doesn’t matter if one is a friend, member, or visitor. All are welcome to partake in City life. But our hope is that visitors will choose to be friends or members. Visitors by definition don’t stay.

City Church has had a long history about accepting those who don’t have a place they feel at home. I hope you count it as your home too.

Unconditional love creates an environment where we get better together. That kind of connected empowerment will be the subject of this column. If you have a story to tell about how church helps bear your burden or others’, please share it with me in person or by email, jmartinson@martinsound.com.

We are the church, and you are an important part of the story.
CITY KIDS & OPEN DOOR YOUTH MINISTRIES

Children’s & Teen Programs

BREAKFAST & FELLOWSHIP
9:00 - 10:30 am - Courtyard

PRAISE TIME & CHILDREN’S SERMON
10:40 - 11:10 am - Sanctuary

Sabbath School Classes begin at 11:10 am

0-3 YEARS Room 2
(Parent must be present)

4-7 YEARS Room 1

8-10 YEARS Room 3

11-13 YEARS Room 4

Courtyard Campfire

Feb 17
6:30 pm

Join us for campfire songs, devotional and s'mores!

You may also bring a dish or snack to share.
we meet every Saturday morning at 11:15 a.m. following the Courtyard Cafe. we welcome all teens to join us at the Open Door Teen Cafe & Lounge. our gathering time allow us to worship, play games, discuss, and listen to the spoken word. follow our monthly activity calendar at glendalecitysda.com/high-school-gatherings

Join us:
Feb. 3 Parent Youth/Teen meeting after worship service, YA Cafe
Feb. 10 Roller Skating Night@Moonlight Rollerway
Mar. 10 Youth Lazer Tag@TheZone
Mar. 31 Easter Sabbath & Agape Feast
Apr. 14 Open Door Movie Night
May 12 Santa Monica Pier
June 16 Open Door Lock-in

All date and events are subject to change. Check in often at our webpage.
What is a Personal Growth Marketplace?

Thanks to our Christian ancestors, incorporating Christian education into congregational life has been one of the core missions of any local church. Whether through catechism classes, baptismal classes, Sunday School or Sabbath School classes, churches have made the investment to help children, teens, and adults of all ages continue to grow as children of God. Glendale City Church has always worked hard to resource our educational programs for children and youth, usually paying one or more staff to spend many hours each week preparing, teaching, and pastoring our young generations into the faith. And our church’s adults have had great options over the years to grow in their understanding of scripture, wrestle with current issues, find support during difficult times, and break free of detrimental habits.

You may have already sensed that our church has been shifting its strategy with what we do during our dedicated Sabbath School or Christian Education hour on Saturday mornings:

• We have shifted our City Kids children’s worship and our Open Door high school student worship to take place the same time as our morning worship experience for adults so exhausted families can sleep in a bit and still make sure their kids get their spiritual growth opportunity while mom and dad get to experience worship in the sanctuary.
• Right before morning worship, Pastor Mike and our City Kids’ staff have created a great family praise time for all ages in the sanctuary at 10:40.
• And by now you’ve had a chance to sample the delicious breakfast that’s served at our Courtyard Café from 9:00-10:30. In addition to fueling you up for the day, our café’s mission is to provide an enjoyable venue where you can connect with friends old and new.

In 2018, you’re going to start seeing more and more personal growth options that you, your loved ones, and your friends can explore. We’ll continue to have our weekly Bible studies in three languages, Pastor Leif’s Grace Center book discussion group, and The Living Project support group. January brings two new opportunities: our weekly Communitas Jump Start Center (see this month’s article) and the launch of our monthly Seniors Academy, where we provide a seminar designed to help our wise and seasoned church family members find practical growth strategies for your stage of life’s journey. We’re pleased to welcome and introduce someone who has invested his life’s work in helping seniors thrive in their personal life mission: Reverend Douglas Edwards with HumanGood. In January, Doug was our guest speaker for morning worship on January 20, and provided his first seminar during potluck that same day. Then in February and March, Rev. Edwards will be back on the third Saturday of the month to lead a morning seminar from 9:30-10:30 and a luncheon seminar following morning worship.

In the months to come, watch for the launch of additional groups like Todd Leonard’s weekly pastor’s class, and other great seminars that will make you want to be on our campus bright and early. Welcome to 2018. And welcome to the newest version of the classic Glendale City Church Sabbath School hour: The Personal Growth Marketplace.
**THIS MONTH @ PERSONAL GROWTH MARKETPLACE (9:30-10:30 A.M.)**

- **Sabbath School Quarterly (Traditional)** — Current study theme: “Stewardship: Motives of the Heart”
  - English Language Study–Chapel
  - Armenian Language Study–Room 11
  - Romanian Language Study–Room 13

- **Grace Center (Fellowship Hall, North Side)** — **New Book Study!**
  - Rob Bell, *What We Talk About When We Talk About God*
    - How do we make our concept of God relevant to ourselves and the world in which we live? Is there a way to get past a mean, primitive and unscientific God?
    - In this book, Rob Bell shows us how we can reconnect with a God who is “with us, for us, and ahead of us, pulling us forward into a better future.”

- **The Living Project (Red Room)** — Social & interactive sharing of personal, cultural, religious, scientific, and scriptural stories. As we connect with our stories we seek to discover our common story in God.

- **Seniors’ Academy (Fellowship Hall, February 17, see ad on next page)**

- **Living the Questions (February 24 Sneak-Peek, see ad on next page).**

- **JumpStart Center (Classroom 9)**

**Coming in March, a new Personal Growth Marketplace Option:**

- **Adventist Beliefs Bible Study (Sanctuary)** — H.M.S. Richard’s Bible Study (see ad on next page).
We live in an unprecedented time in history where average life expectancy has created a chapter of life that prior generations did not have the opportunity to experience. This emerging chapter presents new challenges and opportunities to aging well — ranging from our relationships among family and friends to our basic physical health and wellness. As God’s people, this chapter is a time in life where we are free to serve Christ with our gifts, abilities and unique skills.

Our special series continues in February with Douglas Edwards, director of church outreach for HumanGood.org, who has shared what you should consider during this “third half of life” by exploring three key drivers: health, community, and purpose.

**Saturday, February 17**

- **9:30 Senior Academy Opening Day:** “The Third Half of Life: Christian Faith in a New Age”. Come be inspired by scripture to learn about discipleship in the Third Half of Life.

- **12:30 Luncheon:** “What is your Call?” Come explore how you might respond to Christ’s call to you in the Third Chapter of Life.

Douglas Edwards is Director of Church Outreach for HumanGood, a non-profit organization providing retirement housing throughout the western United States. He is a Licensed Marriage, Family and Child Therapist who specializes in spirituality and aging, parenting, and attention disorders. Doug is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and has been working in the field of aging and older adult ministry for 36 years.
Adventist Beliefs

Bible Study

an introduction to beliefs shared by many Seventh-day Adventist Christians

BEGINNING SATURDAY, MARCH 3

PART OF THE PERSONAL GROWTH MARKETPLACE

Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am, at Glendale City Church
March Sneak Peek

• Personal Growth Market *presents*:

the third
HALF
of life:
CHRISTIAN
faith in
A NEW AGE

SENIORS
ACADEMY
THIRD SATURDAY
OF EACH MONTH

@PERSONAL
GROWTH
MARKETPLACE

STUDY THE BIBLE ALONG WITH H.M.S Richard’s Bible Study

Adventist Beliefs
Bible Study
an introduction to beliefs shared by many Seventh-day Adventist Christians

BEGINNING SATURDAY, MARCH 3

PART OF THE PERSONAL GROWTH MARKETPLACE
Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 am, at Glendale City Church
MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES
March 3: Youth Sabbath, Lemar Sandiford
March 10 & 17: “Ending Manipulative Religion,” Todd Leonard
March 24: Sabbath of the Palms, Leif Lind
March 31: Easter Celebration, Mike Kim

URBAN LITURGY-COMMUNITY
5th Saturday, March 31: Stations of the Cross, Sanctuary

LOS ANGELES ADVENTIST FORUM
March 24: Dr. Bryan Ness, Pacific Union College

SENIORS ACADEMY
March 17: 9:30-10:30a and 12:30-1:30p with Doug Edwards

CITYKIDS AND OPEN DOOR YOUTH
March 10: Youth Lazer Tag
March 17: Courtyard Campfire
March 31: Special Easter Worships for Kids and Teens
2018 Spring Fundraising

Please Help AT raise money!

Peanut Butter Egg
An irresistible treat.
3 oz $2.75 + $0.99

Chocolate Butter Egg
Creamy and delicious.
3 oz $2.75 + $0.99

Bordeaux™ Egg
A tasty classic.
3 oz $2.99 + $1.37

Toffee-ettes #3/16 $2.50 + $1.95

Nuts & Chews
Yummy, crunchy and chewy.
Delivered in seasonal wrap.
1 lb $30.85 + $3.34

Hoppy Easter Box
Full of See’s favorites.
4 oz $2.79 + 362

Marshmallow & Scothmallow® Eggs
One box, four yummy eggs.
3.4 oz $5.26 + $9403

Assorted Chocolates
Milk and dark chocolates.
Delivered in seasonal wrap.
1 lb $20.50 + $31.8

Assorted Lollipops
Vanilla, Butterscotch, Cashew, and Chocolate.
Approximately 30 per box.
1 lb 5 oz $18.50 + 256

Gift Certificates
Redeemable at any See’s Candies shop.
1 lb $22.30 + 1789

1 lb 3 oz $21.50 + 19.50
**2018 Spring Fundraising**

Please fill out form completely.

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**Pick-up:** Tuesday, March 20.

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**Total Quantity of Each Item**

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**For additional information, call 800.733.7123.**
OPEN HOUSE

Come tour our school, learn more about our curriculum, meet our teachers and staff, see our students’ work, and join our school family!

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2018
6:00-8:00 P.M.

New families receive 50% off first month’s tuition for the 2018-2019 school year!
MUSIC AT CITY CHURCH

Every First and Third Wednesday of the Month!

**FEBRUARY**

21 Johana Krejci, violin, Brendan White, piano

Catch these free concerts@City Church

For more information visit glendalenoonconcerts.blogspot.com
The Caesura Youth Orchestra (CYO) is a new charitable organization based on the El Sistema model to provide urban youth with a positive community where they can through music experience a break from the negative impact of drugs, gangs, and economic disadvantages. mycyo.org
Pastoral Staff

Todd Leonard, Senior (818-244-7241, office)
Mike Kim, Associate (818-468-6453)
Leif Lind, Church Administration (909-557-5230)
Rudy Torres, Emeritus (714-318-1975)

Johnny Ramirez-Johnson, Ministry & Outreach (909-382-1912)
Lemar Sandiford, Youth (951-440-8575)
Vigen Khachatryan, Armenian (747-231-8702)
Dorin Lataeanu, Romanian (909-528-2545)

Church Officers

Head Elder–John Nielsen (818-605-0057)
Head Elder–Mike Quishenberry (818-404-0406)
Head Deacon–Ronald Matusea (818-730-0350)
Head Deacon–Jerry Wahagheghe (310-963-1383)
Church Board Chair–John Nielsen (818-605-0057)
Choir Director–Clarissa Shan-Lewis (909-709-3596)
Organist–Kemp Smeal (714-658-4885); Taylor Ruhl, assistant (909-557-5229)
Secretary–Victoria Lucero (glendalesda@gmail.com)
Treasurer–Dean Vendouris (818-244-7241, office)
Church Clerk–Mindi Rüb (mindilus@mac.com)
Children’s Ministries–Anji Arm (818-632-7374)
Audio Visual–Kris Wahagheghe (kris.sn.wahagheghe@gmail.com)
A+ School Board Chair–Glen Christensen (plboss@aol.com)
A+ School Director–Malisa Smith (818-241-9353)
Facilities Administrator–Wayne Libby (760-409-6719)

Parking Diagram

Plenty of church parking is available in the lower level of the Glendale Fashion Center. Garage entrances are on Glendale Ave. and Wilson Ave. Staircase to California Ave. and Sanctuary is in northwest corner of garage. Walkway to Isabel St. and Chapel is north of the Ralph’s delivery dock. Special needs parking is available just south of the chapel on Isabel St.

Transit Info

• Metro Local 90, 91 and Glendale Beeline 3, 31, 32: stop at Glendale Ave. and California Ave. Walk one block west on California
• Metro Express 780, 180, 181 and Glendale Beeline 4, 11: stop at corner of Broadway and Glendale Ave. Walk one block west on Broadway and two blocks north on Isabel St.