



FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Phil Vasseur

March/April 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

A Thankful Heart	1
Pathfinders' Corner	2
MVC Calendar	3
Kids' Page	4
Our Shared Values	5
Kids' Korner	5
Women's Ministry—Crafts	6
Edgewood/GBA	6
Birthdays	7
Recipe	7
Sabbath School News	8
Anniversaries	8
Marriage Seminar	9
Valentine's Dinner Fundraiser	9
Points of Interest	9
Church picture/address	10
Women's Ministry—Book	10
Editor's Desk	10
Recognition	10

"A Thankful Heart"

Greetings,

Usually I would write an article to inform and hopefully inspire. This time, I want to write not to inform, not to inspire, but to thank. Colossians 3:17 says, "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." That's what I want to do. I want to thank God for you and your financial giving to M.V.C.

Some of you gave a lot. Others gave a little. But I trust all of you gave with a thankful heart. The way you responded to the financial needs during December of 2006 was amazing! You learned that we were behind on our church budget and church building fund, and you responded. Boy, did you respond. Our end-of-the-year church budget and building fund were caught up! In addition, we ended 2006 with a tithe increase of about 4%. So, I thank God for you.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Phil



Pathfinders' Corner

Photos by Bob McCall and Dale Jacobson

King's Kids Pathfinder Club

Submitted by Rita McCall



The New Year has brought many exciting things to the Pathfinder Club. We celebrated Pathfinder Sabbath on January 20. The theme for the day was service. The kids did a skit and marching & drilling demonstration for Sabbath School. They took over the worship service and including the message for the day. The title of their program was Son Power Saves the Day. We learned that we are to be servants no matter where we are and there are many obstacles that discourage or prohibit us from doing what God wants. We need to focus on Jesus and His power and strength to get us through - no matter what. We had a potluck lunch hosted by the Adventurer Club and then we were off to the Museum of Science. At the Museum we learned how our eyes can deceive us and about optical illusions. We finished with snacks and ice cream at Friendly's.



Our Sunday meetings were filled with cake decorating and wood handicraft in February. Elizabeth and Evelyn are well on their way to being terrific cake decorators (see photo). Ayzlynn and Abigail are learning how to use power and hand tools. They have made book ends (see photo) and a bench. They will be making a wooden puzzle to complete their projects.



The area Bible Achievement Bowl was held on Sabbath, February 17 at GBA. Ayzlynn and Abigail have been studying the last 4 books of Deuteronomy, the book of Joshua (all 24 chapters) and the SDA Bible Commentary introduction to the book of Joshua. They were the youngest participants and we were the smallest group. We came in 3rd along with 2 other clubs. Not bad for our first try. (see photo)



We are looking forward to preparing for the spring Camporee in Connecticut and completing a few more honors and class work over the next couple of months. Stop in and see us some time. We meet on Sunday afternoons from 3-5:30 p.m. twice a month.

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road
Dracut, MA 01826

Phone: 978-454-9226
www.mvsda.org

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March Calendar of Events

- **1** – 7:30 p.m. Elders Board Meeting
- **2** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **3** – **Adventurer Sabbath**
4:00 p.m. Adventurer Club Meeting
- **4** – **International Women’s Day of Prayer**
3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting – Full Dress Uniform
5:30 p.m. Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- **7** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **9** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **10** – 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
2:00 p.m. Jean Rodriguez Memorial
3:00 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study (Matthew, 13-15)
3:30 p.m. Men’s Ministry
- **11** – 3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting – Field Uniform
- **13** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **14** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **15** – 1:00 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive
- **16** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **17** – 9:45 a.m. **Prayer Breakfast**
1:30 p.m. Adventurer Staff Potluck
2:30 p.m. Adventurer Staff Meeting
4:00 p.m. Adventurer Club Meeting
- **21** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **23** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **24** – **Special program during the church service—“Meet Paul”**
- **28** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **29** – 7:30 p.m. Elders Board Meeting
- **30** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **31** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry

April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

April Calendar of Events

- **1** – 3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting – Full Dress Uniform
5:30 p.m. Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- **4** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **6** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **7** – **Easter Sabbath**
1:30 p.m. Adventurer Staff Potluck
2:30 p.m. Adventurer Staff Meeting
4:00 p.m. Adventurer Meeting
- **10** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **11** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **13** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **14** – **International Sabbath**
1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
2:00 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study & Craft
2:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry
- **15** – 10:00 a.m. Family Ministries
- **18** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **20** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **21** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
4:00 p.m. Adventurer Meeting
- **22** – Adventurer Zoo Field Trip
3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting – Field Uniform
- **25** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **26** – 7:30 p.m. Elders Board Meeting
- **27** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **28** – **Communion**
1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **29** – Adventurer Club Zoo Field Trip – Rain Date
2:00 p.m. Pathfinder Camping Skills – Field Uniform

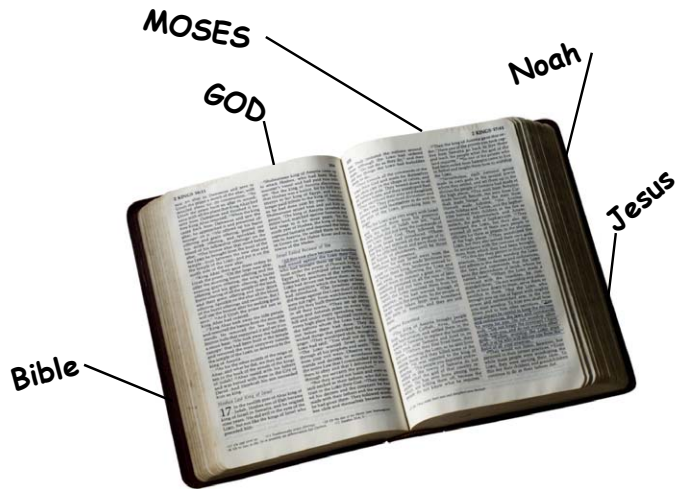
Please refer to the church website for current information,
www.mvsda.org/index.php3?section=Calendar



Words from the Bible

Unscramble the words below:

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. leBbi _____ | 11. Maewtth _____ |
| 2. sJeus _____ | 12. gnknvasgThii _____ |
| 3. dGo _____ | 13. Ihiasa _____ |
| 4. emsTtOlentad _____ | 14. Soengivre _____ |
| 5. etmwNsteTnea _____ | 15. aresht _____ |
| 6. tuhFaifl _____ | 16. ucndaaebn _____ |
| 7. sPiera _____ | 17. rmeJiahe _____ |
| 8. Gorly _____ | 18. mLaatsonteni _____ |
| 9. ehpJos _____ | 19. Nhao _____ |
| 10. raMk _____ | 20. osseM _____ |



Answers:

1-Bible, 2-Jesus, 3-God, 4-Old Testament, 5-New Testament, 6-Faithful, 7-Praise, 8-Glory, 9-Joseph, 10-Mark, 11-Matthew, 12-Thanksgiving, 13-Isaiah, 14-Sovereign, 15-Hearts, 16-Abundance, 17-Jeremiah, 18-Lamentations, 19-Noah, 20-Moses

Our Shared Values

Nature of Our Youth

Our youth are vital to our church. We encourage their growth in Christ through loving support, fellowship, Bible study, and Christian service.

Churches all around us are dying. Most of them don't know it yet, but in a few more generations they will no longer exist. The reason is because there is a youth gap in their weekly attendance. At a certain age, young people usually stop attending. Then soon those who are still interested find other churches that are more attractive to kids of their age.

As the remainder of the church ages, the gap grows large because most who leave will never return. Soon there are few children who are younger than the gap, because the rest of the church has reached retirement (or grandparent) age. And then it is only a matter of time before the membership of the church sinks so low that the church itself dies.

Merrimack Valley is blessed with a vibrant Children's Ministry program. Our Sabbath School departments are bursting at the seams, but we cannot afford to be complacent, and satisfied with our progress. Researchers have found that Sabbath School is not enough to give children the best environment for faith development. Families get the best results when their children experience three or more church contacts each week. As a church we need to always think of ways to create these environments.

More than attractive programming, young people need opportunities and encouragement to develop habits of service. Even the slightest glimmer of interest needs to be encouraged. Those who have a job to do at church have an advantage that will keep them attending when other temptations beckon.

Those of us who graduated from the youth class many years ago have the obligation to create an environment of fellowship and loving support for the young people of our church. That means a willingness to sacrifice the perfection of our programming so that children can try something new. We need to partner with our youth, so that when they experiment with leadership, we are ready to help them succeed.

For our church to survive and be self-sustaining, we need young people! They are vital to the health of Merrimack Valley. If we are to grow and prosper, we need to offer opportunities that appeal to the young. We need to make sure that a generational gap does not develop within our church body.

Submitted by Steven Dovich

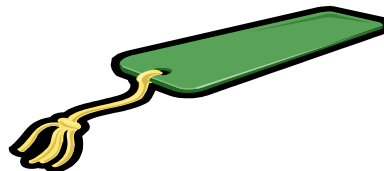
Kids' Korner



Here's a challenge for the kids. In this newsletter is a hidden bookmark. See if you can find it. The bookmark can be anywhere in this newsletter and could be in a different size and/or color.

This is the object that you will be looking for:

Happy Hunting!





Women’s Ministry – Crafts February 10th

We made paper heart sachets for the Valentine’s dinner on February 18th.

We will be having a special craft in May for Mother’s Day. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship in Bible study and crafts. More information to follow.

Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

The students of Greater Boston Academy have been anxious for the beginning of “Let Freedom Ring!,” a series of evangelistic meetings taking place this March. What is it about these meetings that’s got them so anxious? Well, for these meetings, the students themselves will be the speakers.



The 14-part series is promoted as “a celebration of the great stories and timeless truths of the Bible, in the setting of America’s culture and heritage.” Pastor Skip Johnson, who wrote all 14 sermons, is organizing the meetings as well as prepping the students to do the speaking. Over 60 young people, including all EW/GBA students grades 7 through 12, and some public school youth at Lynn SDA Church, will be making presentations at four locations: Stoneham Memorial SDA Church, Lynn SDA Church, Greater Boston Academy, and Beverly SDA Church. Each student will read one sermon at one of the four locations.

Pastor Skip has worked with 3 groups in the past on similar projects, and says that every student participating is able to succeed “in what they are being asked and trained to do.” The meetings are the primary project for the high schoolers’ 3rd quarter Service Learning class, and the Bible outreach project for 7th and 8th grade.

“They are on the cutting edge of what we expect many other students and schools will be adopting as a regular part of our school life in years just ahead,” Pastor Skip says. “[GBA students] will be able to say, ‘I was with the first group that did it when I was in school.’”

“Let Freedom Ring!” meetings will begin on Friday, March 16 at 7:00 p.m. at Greater Boston Academy, Stoneham Memorial SDA, and Beverly SDA, and on March 17 at 11:00 a.m. at Lynn SDA.

James is a junior at Greater Boston Academy and is the editor of GBA’s Panther Pause. This article was first written for the March issue of the Atlantic Union Gleaner. It is reprinted here with permission.

By: James. T. Harper

Rondi Aastrup
PreK-12 Principal/Senior English teacher
 Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy
 108 Pond Street
 Stoneham, MA 02180
 781-438-4253
 www.greaterbostonacademy.com

*Excellence for the Purpose of Service
 Educating for Eternity*



Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy
 Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday
 Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy

March

3 – Eliana Rocha
 7 – Richard St. Louis
 8 – Marge Patch
 17 – Melissa Trepanier
 18 – Sue Markin
 19 – Kyn Ree Lee
 21 – Cindy Cepulinski
 21 – Tyler Lewandowski
 23 – Jonathan Gonzalez
 25 – Linda Neang
 26 – Maxine Sears
 28 – Jose Mortimer
 30 – Daniele Mortimer
 31 – Shayla Crowley
 31 – Maxwell Whyte



April

2 – Wanda Candelaro
 3 – Tom Sing
 7 – Dan Martella
 9 – Elizabeth Dovich
 9 – Emily Gonzalez
 10 – Blanche Castle
 10 – Sherri Dovich
 16 – Ingrid Mergenthaler
 18 – Joyce LaRochelle
 20 – Millie Vazquez
 21 – Taylor Masotta
 22 – Gloria Candelario
 24 – Kwang Oh
 24 – Celina Uy
 25 – Stephanie Wall
 29 – Dale Jacobson
 29 – Diana Newell

Peanut Butter Fudge

1 c. peanut butter
 1/3 c. honey
 1 c. soy milk powder
 1/2 tsp. pure vanilla
 1/2 c. walnuts (chopped optional)



1. In medium mixing bowl, mix peanut butter and honey until smooth and creamy.
2. Add remaining ingredients, mixing well.
3. Spread in a 9x9 in. pan. Refrigerate until completely cold.
4. Cut into 1 in. squares and store in an airtight container.
5. This fudge can be stored in refrigerator for 4 to 6 weeks. It also freezes well.

Yields 8-1 in. squares

Brenda Walsh
3abn.org

Sabbath School News

Submitted by Alice Jacobson

- Your adult Sabbath School leadership invites you to come each Sabbath at 10:00 a.m. to study together the book of Ecclesiastes through the month of March. This very timely book addresses many people today as they struggle to find the meaning or purpose of life.
- Did you know that the Adult Sabbath School lesson begins at 10:00 a.m. and the Adult Sabbath School program starts at 11:00 a.m.?
- We ask that as you walk through the fellowship hall during lesson study, that you proceed as quietly as possible so that the classes in that room will not be disturbed. Thank you.
- Two special programs are planned in March:
 - > On March 17th there will be a **Prayer Breakfast**. Bring some bagels, muffins, or other breakfast food (hot or cold). Drink will be provided. Everyone (children included) will meet at 9:45 a.m. to enjoy breakfast. At 10:15 a.m. the children will leave for their divisions and the adults will stay in the fellowship hall for the prayer session, lesson study and program.
 - > On March 31st, the Primary Division will be presenting the Adult Sabbath School program at 11:00 a.m.
- CALLING ALL MEMBERS (ESPECIALLY CHILDREN) to arrive at Sabbath School on time each week. The starting time is 10:00 a.m.! If your children arrive after that time, they miss out on so many activities that the Sabbath School Division leaders have faithfully prepared each week. Don't let your child miss out on the Bible lessons and character building activities each Sabbath.
- Have you seen the new furniture on the stage and the foyer? These are for the Youth Sabbath School room, which will be located in the room off the foyer. When the temporary stage wall is completed the youth will move to that room. Watch for the announcement of the "Open House" of the new youth room.
- A survey will be presented soon to ask each of you how the Adult Sabbath School could better meet your needs. If you have any suggestions, please contact Ingrid Mergenthaler or Alice Jacobson.

March

8 Rena & Lance Forrester
10 Nancy & Warren Saxton
21 Thouncy & Tom Sing



April

24 Young & Kwang Oh

The year 2007 was started with a marriage seminar that was attended by 20 couples from our church and surrounding churches. After a delicious lunch was served, the seminar started with discussions on Communication, Differences and Temperaments. It was a great refresher on how to make love continue to grow in Christ and in our marriages. At the end of the afternoon all felt that it was a good way to start off the new year. Many thanks to all who made the day possible by their time, effort and contributions that made the seminar a success.



VALENTINE'S DINNER FUNDRAISER

"An Evening to Remember"

February 18, 2007



Warren Saxton, Emcee



The Valentine's Dinner fundraiser made \$435.00 for the Church Building Fund.
Praise God for a wonderful evening of fellowship, food and fun.



POINTS OF INTEREST

- SNEC Women's Retreat, Spring Hills Suites by Marriott, Ayers, MA.
- **Family Ministries Sabbath**—Watch for the announcement of a day in Galilee where you come dressed in Bible costumes and participate in Bible time activities—visit the marketplace, listen to a rabbi speak, learn about the temple and go back in time to learn about life as Christ knew it.
- On March 24th there will be a special Sabbath program during the church service. Come and meet Paul as he writes to the Romans in Rome. This is a program that you will not want to miss. A good day for friends and family to come.

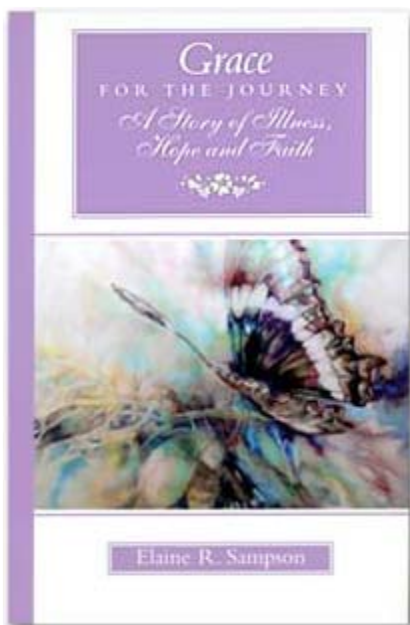


Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road
Dracut, MA 01826

Phone: (978) 454-9226

www.mvsda.org



Grace for the Journey *A Story of Illness, Hope and Faith*

By Elaine R. Sampson

While in her tenth year of living with fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome, and interstitial cystitis, the author is given the shocking diagnosis of breast cancer. A long season of illness becomes the vehicle through which she finds new purpose, meaning and joy in her life.

This book begins with the story of the author's journey of faith and her search to know a personal and loving God. It describes her experiences living with the enormous challenges of both chronic and life-threatening illnesses and how God developed a servant's heart within her as a result. Most of all, this book testifies to the sustaining power of faith and to the peace, comfort and assurance it gives during illness.

The second section of the book consists of a four-part selection of more than 400 Scriptures and 40 poetic prayers. They will not only bless, strengthen and encourage the reader, but will, together with the author's story, provide valuable insight into living with hope while ill.

Writer's Purpose:

My purpose in writing this book is to place a message of encouragement and hope into a world too often filled with suffering, heartache and loss. I see this book as my own personal love letter that I pray God will use to touch the lives of those who read it with a special blessing.

I especially wish to reach those who are chronically ill as well as those who may be hurting emotionally or searching spiritually. My prayer is to convey that God is not only merciful, loving and forgiving, but is One who desires to have a meaningful personal relationship with each of us.

May my story of physical illness and my journey to know God reveal that He is indeed very real and very near to each of us. By God's grace, may I reflect that even in the midst of the darkest and most trying times of our lives, He gives comfort, peace and joy like no other.

Women's Ministry has one copy available for those who are interested in reading "Grace for the Journey" by Elaine R. Sampson, or you can order your own copy through www.graceforthejourney.com. Please see Alice Jacobson if you would like to borrow this book.

From the Editor's Desk



Call Cindy Harris at
(978) 685-5905, or e-mail at
cinlee4@comcast.net
to submit articles for the next newsletter.

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RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor

Bob McCall, Printer