



FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Phil Vasseur

May/June 2007

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Prayer Warriors

Affirming Your Right & Authority



One of the chief methods Satan uses to cripple prayer is to fill the Prayer Warrior with an overwhelming sense of his or her own inadequacy. As we struggle to grow more like Jesus, we find weak places in our characters, old and new patterns that keep repeating themselves, areas which we wrestle repeatedly. Satan uses these during vulnerable times in our lives, and floods us with feelings of condemnation and unworthiness. The enemy whispers: "How dare you feel that God will answer your prayer when you keep doing _____? No one with the weaknesses and failures you have is worthy of prayer."

During these times of discouragement, we must remember that *our right and authority to pray does not depend on us*. The right to pray is a gift of grace—a gift given to us because of who Jesus is and not because of what we are. Your right to act as a Prayer Warrior was given to you when you accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. By believing on Him and depending on His death on the cross, on His resurrection, on His work as your intercessory High Priest in heaven, all His *purity* and power were credited to your account. "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Corinthians 5:21).

It gets even better. When you accepted Christ as Lord and Savior, you became a citizen of God's kingdom of God. You've been adopted into the family of God (Romans 8:14-16). The Holy Spirit became your personal prayer partner (Romans 8:26-27). In fact, Jesus gave you the personal right to use His name as authorization to take your petitions before God's throne (John 16:23). Not one of these rights and sources of authority depends on your righteousness or merit apart from Christ.

While it's true, your sins and weaknesses can interrupt your communion with God. They can erect barriers, which reduce your effectiveness as a channel for His love and truth. ***But*** "If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father" (1 John 2:1). In times of faltering from your own sense of weakness and unworthiness, go to the Bible and claim and affirm your rights and authority before God. Confess, repent and receive forgiveness from sins. But affirm your rights and authority based on Christ's life, death, resurrection and intercession. Stand firm and strong in the biblical fact that you're a son/daughter of God and part of His kingdom, adopted into the His family in which Christ is the head!



Pathfinders' Corner

Photos by Bob McCall

King's Kids Pathfinder Club

Submitted by Rita McCall

The Pathfinder year is coming to a close and we have been working hard to complete the honors and class work necessary for Investiture that was held on Saturday evening, April 28th. Family and friends were invited to share in a potluck soup and sandwich supper. We then gathered in the sanctuary for worship and the Investiture service.

Elizabeth and Evelyn DeJesus received their 1st year pin for TLT. They earned the Seeds Honor, Cake Decorating Honor, and Drilling & Marching Honor. They are working on the Master Guide requirements and still have a lot of reading and reports to prepare to complete the requirements.



Photo by Dale Jacobson



Ayzlynn Crowley and Abigail Santana received the Companion Class Award. They earned the Wood Handicraft Honor, Seeds, and Drilling & Marching Honor.

In addition to the honors they received there are a few requirements left in order for them to receive these additional honors: Weather (all), Cake Decorating (Ayzlynn & Abigail), Wood Handicraft (Elizabeth & Evelyn), Basic First Aid (all), Knot Tying (All).



After the service we joined in the fellowship hall for a game of Family Feud. There were the two teams "Ladies" & "Gents". The Gents were at a disadvantage (there were only 5 of them) compared to the Ladies (there were at least 10 of them). The Gents quickly let the Ladies know that they were there to win - and they did - at least the first round! The Ladies insisted on a second chance. They won round two but only had a total of 857 points compared to the Gents 20,587 points. After round two the Ladies and Gents decided a 3rd round was needed. The Ladies took revenge! They won round three and their total points for the two rounds came just over the Gents 20,587 one round total.

Everyone agreed it was a fun time. We then moved on to quieter games. Ice cold watermelon and Bob's famous hot buttered popcorn was enjoyed by everyone during the evening.

The Pathfinders are working hard to prepare for the Spring Camporee in Connecticut. We are presenting the Sabbath Morning Church Worship. On Sunday we need to be prepared to do First Aid, Orienteering, Knot Relay, Obstacle Course, and Drilling & Marching.

Thank you for all your support and prayers. It has been a busy and exciting year and we are all looking forward to the Spring Event that will be our final activity for the 2007 Pathfinder year.



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

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May 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 | | |

May Calendar of Events

- **2** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **4** – Adventurer Spring Escape
- **5** – Adventurer Spring Escape
- **6** – 12:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting–Full Dress Uniform
5:30 p.m. Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- **8** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **9** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **11** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **12** – GBA Choir (postponed)
1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
2:30 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study
2:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry
4:00 p.m. Adventurer Meeting
- **16** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **18** – Pathfinder Camporee
7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **19** – Pathfinder Camporee
1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **20** – Pathfinder Camporee
- **23** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **25** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **26** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **30** – 7:00 p.m. Mid-week study, New Community
- **31** – 7:30 p.m. Elders’ Board Meeting

June 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 |

June Calendar of Events

- **1** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **2** – 3:00 p.m. Area Adventurer Investiture
- **8** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **9** – **Women’s Ministry Sabbath**
1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner
2:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry
2:30 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study & Craft
- **10** – 11:00 a.m. Adventurer’s End of Year Party
- **12** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **15** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **16** – **Prayer Breakfast & Promotion Sabbath**
12:30 p.m. Church Alive–S.S. Promotions Dinner
4:00 p.m. Area Adventurer Investiture
- **22** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **23** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **24** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **25** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **26** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **27** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **28** – SNEC Camp Meeting
7:30 p.m. Elders’ Board Meeting
- **29** – SNEC Camp Meeting
- **30** – SNEC Camp Meeting
1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry

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



Problem Solver

Follow the instructions to discover what Psalm 34:19 says about God helping His people.

| | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|----------|-----------|
| SHEEP | A | ROSE | RHONDA | RIGHTEOUS |
| DIG | SCIENCE | MAN | MARCH | MAY |
| MATH | TOES | JUG | HAVE | HANNAH |
| MANY | GLORIA | BOOST | NOSE | TROUBLES |
| HOUSE | BUT | THE | BAG | GYM |
| LORD | BOARD | SUPPOSE | DELIVERS | BUILDING |
| MARCIA | HIM | FOODS | ENGLISH | FROM |
| HOG | THEM | JANICE | ALL | TRUCK |

1. Cross out all *school subjects*.
2. Cross out all *girls' names* with *six letters*.
3. Cross out all words that end with *G*.
4. Cross out all *five-letter* words.
5. Cross out all words that rhyme with *hose*.
6. Read the remaining words, starting from left to right across, for the answer.



Answer:

"A righteous man may have many troubles, but the LORD delivers him from them all."

Our Shared Values

Gifted Ministries

Every believer has a place in gospel ministry and is empowered by the Holy Spirit, through prayer, to exercise spiritual gifts with joy and a growing effectiveness in both the church and community.

Did you realize that you are empowered to step forward in ministry in a way that no officer of the church can deny? Jesus established His church with leadership and laborers whose abilities and skills were given directly by the Holy Spirit. No human agency has a vote or even a voice in that gift. It is a uniquely individual present that can only be unwrapped and used by its recipient.

In the early years of Merrimack Valley, nearly all the members participated in a series of small-group studies on discipleship, church life, and spiritual giftedness. This “Spiritual Body-building” study was the foundation for our understanding of ministry. In the years that followed, we have occasionally resumed those studies to bring new members up to speed.

For any church, effectively using the members’ gifts can be a challenge. We are so attuned to electing people to various posts that we often forget that many of those responsibilities are not ours to bestow. Our job is to prayerfully help each member identify their gifts, and then match them with a ministry opportunity that fits their gifts.

Whether elected, or recruited, we need to turn our members loose to do what God has designed them for. We must get out of their way and let the Holy Spirit lead. When we work side by side with Divine power, all of our activities will fit together like a well-maintained machine. As we become more practiced with our gifts, the impact in our church and in the community is multiplied.

The gifts that are necessary for Merrimack Valley to function effectively are spread across our entire membership. Each new member strengthens our ability to reach the world around us, and to touch lives for eternity. We have also seen that as members leave, others with similar giftedness soon arrive to move us back into balance.

The Elders have adopted a tradition for each of our baptismal services. After the service, we formally vote the new member onto our family roster, we present them a study Bible, and we pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in their life and ministry. We want the power of Pentecost to fill every new believer, so that many will be brought to the Cross.

All of us need to regularly consider our inventory of gifts. Are you using all of your gifts? If you are, you still need to check, because new ones may be given to those who are willing to commit themselves to ministry. No matter what it is, no matter how large or small a part you fill, your spiritual gifts make Merrimack Valley complete.

Submitted by Steven Dovich

Kids’ Korner



Here’s a challenge for the kids. In this newsletter is a hidden ladybug. See if you can find it. The ladybug 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!



Sabbath — March 24, 2007

David Morris' baptism—we welcome him into our church family



Photos by Dale Jacobson



Worship in Song—the Dovich family



Children's Corner:
D.O.G. Puppet Ministry

Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

Edgewood/GBA just finished up two majors events that challenged its students on a number of levels. The first, a student evangelistic series called "Let Freedom Ring," resulted in five baptisms. This series was conducted simultaneously in four venues and involved more than 50 young people grades 7-12. Pastor Skip Johnson, service learning teacher at Edgewood/GBA, wrote and directed this 4-site series, empowering the young people to speak God's Word, many for the first time publicly. The experience was a positive one on the whole and has given the students the opportunity to share what they know about Jesus with many others. Their next activity in their Service Learning class will be street ministry at Quincy Market.

The second event was the annual Spring Week of Prayer. Jonathan Henderson, a young pastor from Oakland, CA, shared the Word with all Edgewood/GBA students, grades PreK-12 and was equally effective on all levels. His energy and his deeply spiritual honest made an impact on many. Pastor Jon spent time in the classrooms after his morning devotional talk. The students appreciated the time he spent with them. The week began with a Sunday night Kick-Off Event with youth groups from area churches joining Edgewood/GBA students and staff. It ended with a Youth Church on Sabbath where Darrell Gowasack, Edgewood's 4th-6th-grade teacher, gave his testimony.

Meanwhile, the Edgewood/GBA Choir has been out and about, taking its testimony in song to many in the Greater Boston area. The choir also took a long weekend tour to CT and PA. The Merrimack Valley Church has the opportunity to hear this choir in their Spring Concert on May 31st at 7 p.m. Please come and enjoy the choir and lower grades in this annual musical celebration. We will also be honoring retiring science teacher Sandra Bent. If you knew her, or were her student, you won't want to miss this opportunity to say thank you for more than 30 years of dedication to Adventist education.

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Excellence for the Purpose of Service
Educating for Eternity

Sabbath School News

Submitted by Alice Jacobson

Sabbath School Classes



Are you lost or have they moved your Sabbath School room while you weren't looking? You are not lost; Sabbath School rooms have changed location to give the biggest class the biggest room. The Kindergarten Class lead by Joanie Reiss and Denise Vasseur had totally outgrown their old room by the back door to the Fellowship Hall. The Kindergarten Class had grown to more than a dozen members and their room was just too small. The Kindergarten Class has moved across the hall to the stage. To make the stage



work for a young class and for two adult Sabbath School classes to

take place in the Fellowship Hall, a removable soundproof wall was added to the stage. The Kindergarten Class now has the room they need and the adults have the quiet they need to carry on a lively discussion of the lesson. The Youth Class under the leadership of Chali Masotta has moved furniture and a home-like setting with have their own TV and VCR/DVD player discussions about the lesson. The Primary has moved to the room by the back door to Gilda Newell and Agnodia St. Louis now have more room and fewer interruptions. The McCalls and their Juniors are still in the Baptistry Room and



Sherri Dovich's Beginners have not moved from their location next to the kitchen. It seems like a lot of moving, but what a nice problem to have. Our Sabbath School rooms are too small!! Praise God!! A big thank-you to Gary Patch who oversaw the construction of the movable wall. It really looks nice, and the teachers are really glad for the quietness it provides. The youth are thankful to those who donated the TV, video player and furniture.

Prayer Breakfast

The Merrimack Valley Church had its very first Sabbath School Prayer Breakfast on March 17th. It was an overwhelming success with more than 50 in attendance. It started off at 9:45 a.m. with a potluck breakfast. While the participants were eating breakfast Pastor Phil led in a devotional about the power of prayer. After the devotional the group broke into small clusters of four or five for prayer bands. Following prayer there was a joint Sabbath School lesson discussion moderated by Dale Jacobson. We were honored to have a group of 25 Brazilian Literature Evangelists join us for Sabbath School and Church. The Sabbath School department has decided to make Prayer Breakfast a regular quarterly event at MVSDA. The next one is planned for June 16th. We will have a guest Sabbath School teacher and special devotional service. So, mark your calendars for June 16th and be thinking about what you will bring to the breakfast.

Sabbath School Promotions

June 16th, the last Sabbath before Camp Meeting, will be division promotion day. The service will take place during Church Alive. Come and support our Sabbath School leaders and teachers. It is always a pleasure to see how God is blessing our children. A growing church has lots of children, and they need to know that we care about them.

Remember, Sabbath School is where the action is! Sabbath School at MVSDA is not a spectator sport; it is a participatory event. Come and participate and be blessed. We now have four adult classes and five children's divisions. Come at 10:00 a.m. every Sabbath and enhance your relationship with Jesus by studying God's word together with your friends at MVSDA. You won't regret it and you will be blessed.

May

28 – Sherri & Steven Dovich



June

7 – Veronica & Paul Iria
18 – Alice & Dale Jacobson
21 – Jennifer & Rob Voight



March

21 – Thouncy & Tom Sing
24 – Denise & Pastor Phil Vasseur



INTERNATIONAL SABBATH

April 14, 2007



International Sabbath was a celebration of our cultural diversity here at Merrimack Valley. All were encouraged to wear clothing which exhibited their cultural heritage or country of origin. Fellowship dinner followed the worship service which featured foods from around the world.



POINTS OF INTEREST

- ◎ Debi Verrill is the WM leader at the Woodstock, ME SDA Church. She is a stay at home Mom working as an Executive Recruiter. The Verrills have 3 children and have recently become grandparents. Debi reached a point in her life when she was wondering why the joy was gone in her Christian experience and two weeks later was invited to be a representative for the World Health Services on a ten-day trip with eleven other missionaries to Tanzania, Africa. She returned with a renewed commitment to the Lord and a realization that this world is not our home and we need to prepare for our final home-heaven. Come on June 9, Women's Ministry Day, to experience Debi's sharing with us God's love and plan for us. The day will be continued with our fellowship dinner, the WM Bible Study in Matthew, and a special WM craft led by Cindy Harris. Debi's message is timely with the world events that are occurring around us each day. The song that rings in my head is: "The Lord Is Coming, Are You Ready?"
- ◎ June 16th is Prayer Breakfast with Sabbath School promotions during the worship service.
- ◎ June 22-30 – SNEC Campmeeting.
- ◎ June-August – SNEC Summer Camp, "Break Free." For more information, go to www.campwinnekeag.com
- ◎ July 30th to August 3rd – Vacation Bible School. "Avalanche Ranch"





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Merrimack Valley Young Adult Sabbath School

Submitted by William Carvajal

We are a group who want to encourage authentic friendships to emerge and grow, but more than that, to build lives on the one foundation that will never crumble.

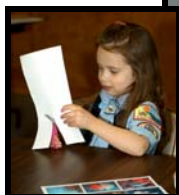
There are no better means of evangelism than through committed Christian young adults. I can think of nothing stronger than a core of young Christians, who would be prepared to come together, to pray, to study the life of Christ, to share their own witnessing experience among their work mates or school friends, to be Christ's representatives on the frontiers of life.

We love seeing new faces and would like to encourage all young adults whether married or single, with or without children, church member or guest, to join us. We look forward to helping Merrimack Valley young adults bring their faith to life through Biblical study, fellowship, service to others and care and support for each other.

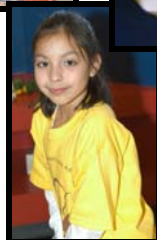
Billerica Church Visit



Adventurer Meetings



"Imagine That" Outing February 21, 2007



Adventurer Sabbath March 3, 2007 Club Picture



From the Editor's Desk



Please call Cindy Harris at:
(978) 685-5905, or e-mail me at
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to submit articles for the next newsletter.

NEXT DEADLINE: [June 22nd](#)

RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor
Bob McCall, Printer

Southwick Zoo Outing Sunday, April 22, 2007 Club Picture

