



# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Phil Vasseur

January/February 2008

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### A New Year's Blessing

Yesterday, Saturday, December 29, as Denise and I drove home after church, she read the Christmas card you gave us. Our hearts were filled with love and gratitude. Many of you expressed how thankful and blessed you are for our presence at MVC. For that we are grateful. But you have also been a tremendous blessing to us. Our hearts are filled with gratitude for you, our MVC family!

Denise and I pray that 2008 will be a great year for MVC. We pray that God will continue to prosper MVC. The apostle John succinctly wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John 1:2 NKJV). To us, that sounds like a great New Year's blessing! It expresses our heart for you, our MVC family.



Love,  
Pastor Phil and Denise

## *"Sing a Song of Christmas"*

December 15, 2007

*Kids' Christmas Musical Presentation – Kindergarten and Beginners (angels)*



Photos by Steve Dovich



Photos by Dale Jacobson



## *Baby Dedication—December 29th*

Gian Carlo Camacho  
Born October 30, 2007



Ellie, Alex and Karl Michael sang a song for the dedication.

Photos by Steve Dovich

**Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church**

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## January 2008

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

## February 2008

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

### January Calendar of Events

- 5** 1:00, Marriage Seminar Luncheon  
2:00, Marriage Seminar
- 6** 2:00, Baby Shower—Catalina Carvajal
- 8** 7:00, Church Board Meeting
- 12** 1:00, Pot Luck  
2:00, Women's Ministry Bible Study  
2:30, Adventurer Meeting  
2:30, Men's Ministry Study
- 13** 3:00, Pathfinder Meeting  
5:30, Staff Meeting
- 26** 11:30, Pathfinder Sabbath—Church Service  
1:00, Pathfinder Pot Lock  
1:30, Nursing Home Ministry  
2:00, Museum of Science Trip
- 27** 3:00, Pathfinder Meeting
- 31** 7:30, Elders Board Meeting

### February Calendar of Events

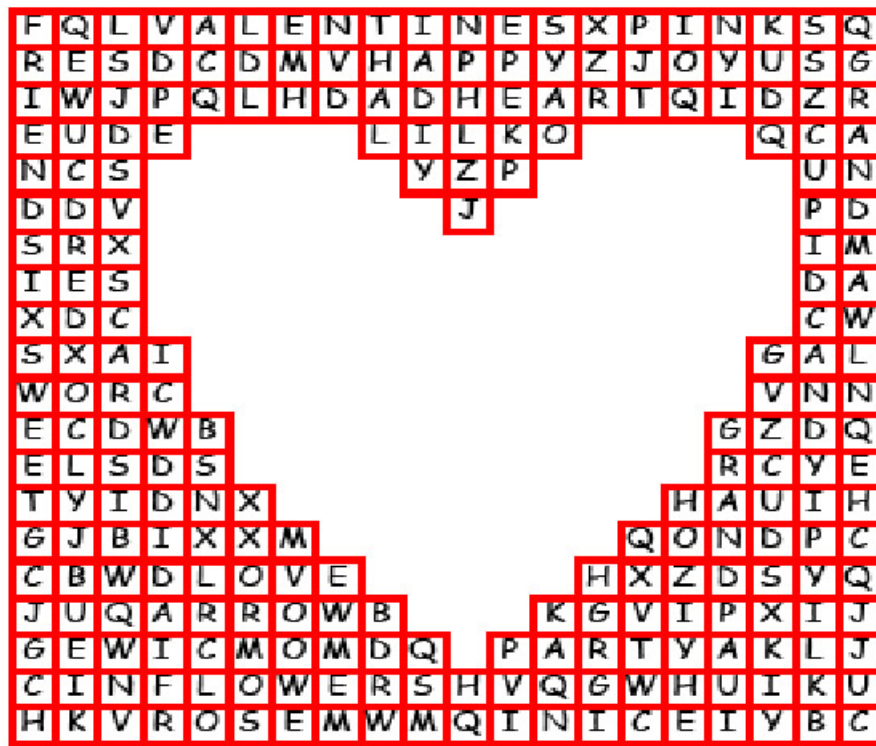
- 2** 9:45, Prayer Breakfast  
1:30, Adventurer Fellowship Lunch  
2:30, Adventurer Club Meeting  
4:30, Adventurer Staff Meeting
- 3** 3:00, Pathfinder Meeting  
5:30, Staff Meeting
- 9** 2:00, Women's Ministry Bible Study  
2:30, Men's Ministry Study
- 10** Valentine's Banquet
- 12** 7:00, Church Board Meeting
- 16** 1:30, Adventurer Fellowship Lunch  
2:30, Adventurer Club Meeting
- 23** 1:30, Nursing Home Ministry
- 24** 3:00, Pathfinder Meeting
- 28** 7:30, Elders Board Meeting



Please refer to the church website for current information,  
[www.mvsda.org/index.php3?section=Calendar](http://www.mvsda.org/index.php3?section=Calendar)



# Valentine Word Search



VALENTINES  
CANDY  
GRANDPA  
CUPID

HEART  
PARTY  
SWEET  
ARROW

LOVE  
CARDS  
FLOWERS

HAPPY  
MOM  
ROSE

FRIENDS  
DAD  
PINK

NICE  
GRANDMA  
RED

## Kids' Korner

Here's a challenge for the kids. In this newsletter is a hidden butterfly. See if you can find it. It 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!



Adventurers' Christmas Party—December 9, 2007  
(Submitted by Sherri Dovich)



**JANUARY**

11 – Lizbeth & Julio Martinez

**FEBRUARY**

There are no known anniversaries for this month.

## Our Shared Values

*The Seventh-day Adventist church around the world is singing our song. Adult Sabbath School classes have begun a quarter-long study on the topic of discipleship. Why does this sound like our song? For years we have reminded ourselves that we are:*

*Friends helping friends become fully devoted followers of Christ.*

**T**he first part of our vision statement is the easiest for us. We like to think of ourselves as friendly and helpful. The last part we don't like to argue against, but it is also much harder to see in ourselves. What does it mean to become a fully devoted follower of Christ? What does it mean to be a disciple? For answers, we need to look back at Jewish society.

The rabbi was respected both for his knowledge of scripture, and for his understanding of what it meant in practical terms. Young men who wished to achieve a similar level of knowledge and wisdom would apprentice themselves to the rabbi. They would become disciples, who hoped one day to be seen as someone to emulate. Disciples would study with the rabbi, spend time with the rabbi, even live with the rabbi. They were willing to do almost anything that would improve their chances of becoming like the rabbi.

Jesus is our Rabbi, and all others are no more than shadowy reflections of what He is. Every disciple of Jesus has the same objective, the same focus. They want to become like Jesus. We want to become like Jesus. But this is often easier to say than it is to become.

Jesus, the Rabbi, was certainly wise in the study and application of scripture. He was also compassionate, and personally touched by every case of human need. He was selfless, serving everyone he came in contact with, even though He was still the Creator God. He was the friend of children and the outcasts of society. He was nothing like what people imagined the Messiah to be. And yet he had many followers and disciples, more than just the 12 men in His closest circle. Followers who saw in Him the truth of life, the universe, and everything.

For us to become fully devoted followers of Christ will require a lot of changes. Changes which we are not equipped to make in ourselves. Fortunately our Rabbi has provided His Holy Spirit to guide us in this journey. All we have to do is be willing to be His disciples, which means that we want to become like Him someday. And day-by-day, we will learn and become more fully devoted followers of Christ.

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Submitted by Steven Dovich

### *Secret Sisters' Brunch November 11, 2007*

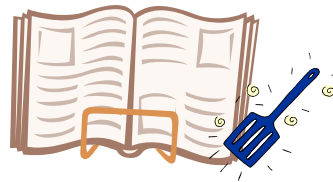


Photos by Dale Jacobson

## Ultimate Chocolate Chip Cookies (eggless)

(Submitted by Marge Patch)

1 cup butter	1 ¼ cups flour
1 cup brown sugar	½ tsp. salt
1 tsp. baking soda	2 cups oats
¼ cup boiling water	12 oz. chocolate chips
1 tsp. vanilla	



Cream butter & sugar. Dissolve soda in boiling water. Add to butter and sugar, add vanilla then mix in dry ingredients, and then chocolate chips. Drop by tablespoon onto an ungreased cookie sheet and bake for 12 minutes at 350 degrees.

### Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

New Year Greetings from Edgewood/Greater Boston Academy! There are lots of good and exciting things going on at the school as we finish up our first semester:

- We recently received the excellent news that one of our seniors, James Harper, scored an amazing 2260 on his SATs. This is high enough to qualify him for applying to Harvard University if he so chooses. James, earlier this year, also qualified as a semi-finalist for a National Merit Scholarship, one of the most prestigious scholarships in the country. James has gone through Edgewood and GBA and says he “loves” having spent his time here. He believes he is getting a quality education, and his test scores certainly back that up.
- Our music department is undergoing some changes, but a recent graduate, Rachel Pamphile, is picking up the baton and will be working with our choir for the rest of the year. This will be the third time Rachel has worked with the EW/GBA choir. A talented musician, she is also the director of the Youth Choir at the Philadelphie Church in Malden.
- Our three-year old pre-school class is growing almost on a weekly basis. Mrs. Rita Jackson opened the school year with three students and now has a dozen. She offers a Bible-based curriculum at \$450 a month, a bargain considering what day care costs! If you are interested in this program, please give the school a call at 781-438-4253 for more information.
- Mr. Jackson, our 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, conducted a 3-day Basketball Clinic with his friend Anthony Bowie (former NBA player) returning as the clinician. More than 50 students enjoyed 6-hour days of hard work, ten non-Adventists among them. We will be offering a full-week’s camp again this summer. All boys and girls, ages 8-18 are encouraged to attend. Other camps (possibly reading and math) are in the works for the summer as well. Be watching for details in late spring.
- Upcoming events include a Mini-Week of Prayer January 9-11 with a Youth Church on the 12<sup>th</sup>, Student Week of Prayer January 28-February 1 with Youth Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Academy Day on March 6<sup>th</sup>, and our Spring Week of Prayer and Youth Church in April (TBA). All young people grades 7-12 and their families are invited to attend the Youth Churches and the Academy Day. Make plans now to join us!

We ask that you keep Edgewood/GBA in your prayers. We face many challenges every day, but there are also many blessings that come our way as we educate our young people for this earth and eternity. Your support and prayers make a difference.

**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](http://www.greaterbostonacademy.com)

*Excellence for the Purpose of Service*  
*Educating for Eternity*





# Happy Birthday

## January

1 – Agnes Breault  
 1 – Lang Khil  
 1 – Wendi Walsh  
 3 – William Lee  
 4 – Madison Esmeal  
 4 – Rebecca Mergenthaler  
 4 – Frankie Sok  
 5 – Kelly Lim Kan  
 6 – Jim Newell  
 16 – Roselene Bellevue  
 16 – Alexander Dovich  
 16 – Jose Portillo  
 18 – Kellie Esmeal  
 18 – Greg Irrgang  
 18 – Youda Ly  
 19 – Reggie Watson  
 20 – Navy Lim Kan  
 26 – Diane Nelson  
 27 – Jereme Holiman  
 27 – Miguel Iria  
 29 – Evelyn DeJesus  
 29 – Dennis Rodriguez



## February

1 – Nalyne Sok  
 7 – Krista Dembroski  
 7 – Kim Saxton  
 8 – Lisa Oh  
 8 – Gary Patch  
 10 – Rychny Sok  
 11 – Joan Reiss  
 13 – Edwin Candelario, Jr.  
 13 – Rita McCall  
 19 – Monica DaSilva  
 19 – Chelsea Reuther  
 19 – Johana Sosa  
 19 – Jennifer Voight  
 20 – Eric Patch  
 22 – Becky Leveille  
 25 – Warren Saxton  
 26 – Norma Tatone  
 26 – Gabrielle Victor  
 26 – Rob Voight  
 27 – Ayzlynn Crowley  
 28 – Duarte DaSilva



## Baby Shower

Catalina Carvajal  
 January 6, 2008



Photos by Dale Jacobson

## Sabbath School News

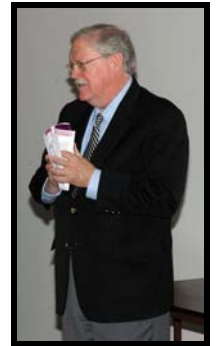


On December 15 three Sabbath School students were promoted from Cradle Roll to Kindergarten. This is an important transition for these little children of Jesus. Sherri will certainly miss them but Joanie will be glad to see their bright smiles each Sabbath. We congratulate Maya Bondar, Alex Dovich, and Paul Victor and we pray that they will continue to grow in their love for Jesus. All of the Sabbath School division leaders, teachers, and assistants deserve our continual thanks for leading our young Christians along the path of spiritual growth. We will not know until The Kingdom how important their influence has been.

Photos by Dale Jacobson



Our fourth prayer breakfast took place on Sabbath November 17. The day started with potluck breakfast. The food is better each time, thanks to all who made the extra effort to make the day special. Steve Dovich presented the devotional and the lesson study was presented by our guest teacher of the day, Rick Trott, Professor of Religion at Atlantic Union College. Prayer Breakfast is scheduled once a quarter. The winter quarter guest teacher will be Jack Mentges, Dean of Students at Atlantic Union College. Be sure and mark your calendars for February 2, and prepare for another inspiring Prayer Breakfast.



If you don't regularly attend Sabbath School make it your New Year's resolution to choose a Sabbath School Class and study God's word with your fellow church members. You will be glad you did.

## Women's Ministry

The Women's Ministry group meets the second Sabbath of each month right after the Fellowship Dinner. This Quarter the women are studying Lee Venden's book, *To Know Him*. Do you know how much you need God? This book goes beyond the theory and academic knowledge of God and it will lead you into a deeper walk with Him. The practical, every day ways, you can make friends with Jesus will be explored. The warm style of Pastor Venden's writing will capture your attention and draw you into a meaningful relationship with your creator, redeemer and friend. Come and join the ministry and gain a blessing.



## The Best Is Yet To Come

Family Ministries presented its second annual *The Best Is Yet To Come* marriage seminar on Sabbath afternoon January 5. If you wanted to improve your marriage with God's help, learn to be forgiving like Jesus, or just plain have a good time with your spouse and other Christian couples dedicated to serving Him, this seminar was the right place for you. Apology and Forgiveness training sessions conducted by Alice and Dale Jacobson were followed by a demonstration on how to relax your spouse with massage therapy. Carol Covensky shared her professional massage secrets with us. The afternoon ended with a Marriage recommitment service conducted by Pastor Phil. These programs are very labor intensive. The



Lunch was prepared and served by Karen McClendon with the assistance of Nancy Jacobson; the decorating crew and the creative team led by Cindy Harris with the help of her husband Doug made this a very special Sabbath afternoon. We cannot thank enough, all who worked so hard to make this seminar a pleasant experience. If you're a married couple and you didn't make it to this year's seminar, plan on being at next year's third annual *The Best Is Yet To Come* Seminar. These seminars are low-key, fun, relaxed, casual events with no pressure to publicly disclose your personal life. A happy marriage here on earth is just a little piece of heaven before we get there.



Photos by Bob McCall



## Pathfinders' Corner

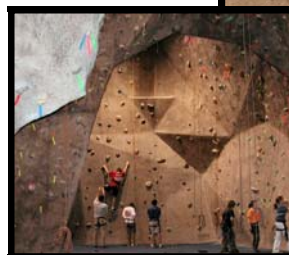
### King's Kids Pathfinder Club

Submitted by Rita McCall

The Pathfinders have been busy over the past couple of months. Our usual can collecting for Thanksgiving food baskets was cancelled due to bad weather. There was a tropical storm with heavy winds and rains. We were afraid of falling tree limbs and wires. We did put together 20 baskets of food with the help of the church members. Ten families were blessed by the generosity of the Merrimack Valley Church Family.



We tried our feet out with rock climbing in November. It was the first time for everyone. Everyone agreed that it was a lot harder than it looked. You definitely need strong legs and upper body strength. After 2 ½ hours there was no strength left in most of the group. It was such a hit we have decided to do it again in February and all who are interested are welcomed to join us. Watch for details in the Church bulletin.



We had to postpone our Christmas party until after Christmas due to a snow/ice storm. It was still enjoyed by all.



Photos by Bob McCall

January will be a busy month. We are getting ready for Pathfinder Sabbath and are looking forward to presenting a skit for the worship service. We are planning a family potluck after church and a trip to the Museum of Science that all are welcomed to join. Details will be available in the Church bulletin.

Ayzlynn, Abigail and Nathalie are preparing for the Bible Achievement. The preliminary round will either be February 2 or 9 at Greater Boston Academy or the Boston Spanish Church. The girls are studying the book of Matthew in preparation for this event.

As you can see, we are very busy. Please keep us in your prayers and we are always looking for help. Stop in anytime or let me know what you would like to do.

## *"A Child is Born"*

A Christmas Cantata presented during the worship service on December 8, 2007  
by the combined choirs of Christ Church United and Merrimack Valley.



Photos by Dale Jacobson





**2008 Merrimack Valley SDA Church**  
**Approved Spending Budget**

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
<b>Church Expense</b>	\$26,000	\$27,000
Church Maintenance	1,500	1,500
Building Fund		
Church Mortgage	39,000	39,000
Church Ministries		
Adventurers	750	1,200
Pathfinders	1,200	1,200
Social Committee	300	300
Sabbath School	7,000	7,000
Spiritual Renewal & Ministry Training	1,000	500
Women's & Family Ministries	1,000	1,000
Youth Ministries	300	300
	<hr/> \$11,550	<hr/> \$11,500
Evangelism		
Personal/Public Evangelism	4,500	11,200
Vacation Bible School	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	\$6,500	\$13,700
Service Ministries		
Church Member Assistance (On Hand)	500	500
Church School Scholarship Assistance	600	600
Community Services (Balance NAD Grant \$3200)	3,500	3,700
School District Support	<u>2,000</u>	<u>2,000</u>
	\$6,600	\$6,800
<b>Total Spending Budget</b>	<b>\$91,150</b>	<b>\$99,500</b>

**Projected Income**

Church Budget	\$ 42,000
Building Mortgage	39,000
Community Service Grant	3,200
Church Member Assistance (On Hand)	500
SNEC Evangelism Grant	6,000
Evangelism Funds (On Hand)	2,300
Evangelism Support*	*5,200
School District Support	1,300
Total Projected Income	<hr/> \$ 99,500
Total needed per month for Church Budget	\$ 3,500
Total needed per month for Building	\$ 3,250
Total needed per month for Evangelism	\$ 434
<b>Total Income Needed Per Month</b>	<b>\$ 7,184</b>
(Does not include funds on hand or grants)	
*Extra funds to be raised beyond our current income	





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## *Adult Christmas Party & Yankee Swap*



*December 1, 2007*



*Photos by Dale Jacobson*



## *From the Editor's Desk*



### Snowflake Craft

November 10, 2007



*Photos by Dale Jacobson*



Please call Cindy Harris at:  
 (978) 685-5905, or e-mail at  
[cinlee4@comcast.net](mailto:cinlee4@comcast.net)  
 to submit articles for the next newsletter.

**NEXT DEADLINE: February 22th**

### RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor  
 Bob McCall, Printer