

FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Phil Vasseur

July/August 2006

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“Plugged In?”

Dear friends,

A story is told about a widow living around the turn of the century. Electricity was fairly new in homes. However, she was one of the fortunate ones to have had it installed. Months had passed when an official from the electric company came to her house to read her electric meter. After several visits and meter readings, he noticed that she had not used any electricity. “Something seemed fishy,” he thought.

As he learned later, this lady was still using oil lamps and candles to give her light in her house. She was totally equipped to enjoy the convenience and power of electricity. But

she didn't want to change. The old way was just fine with her.

Is it possible that we are a lot like this widow? Christ has sent the Holy Spirit to provide “power” to live for Him—electricity from heaven if you will. But are we still using the “old way?” Are we trying to live for Him in our own strength? God help us to be plugged in, connected to Christ through the Holy Spirit. It's impossible to be a Christ follower or disciple without it!

I suspect that this will empower us to be “The light of the world” (Matthew 5:14).



Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Phil

“Forming A Shared Vision”

By Steven Dovich, First Elder

The Israelites were ex-slaves and out of the habit of taking responsibility for themselves and their community. To prepare for a time when Moses would not be around to guide and instruct them, God provided a solution to keep the lessons alive and vibrant. Their fractured society needed something to keep them together and to preserve their identity into future generations. The method was so important that it was recorded twice in the book of Deuteronomy alone. It was also simple enough that everyone could follow it successfully.

Tell the stories. Tell them to your children. Talk about it when you are at home and when you are away. Share them in the morning and in the evening. Keep the reminders posted at your doors and gates. God promised that as the Israelites diligently shared their stories with their children, that He would bless them and they would prosper as a community. This promise is available to us, even today. If we look back at where we started from and where we are today, there are many stories to be shared. (Continued on Page 2)

Forming A Shared Vision—Continued from Page 1

We have fallen out of the habit of telling the stories and reminding each other of what God has done for and through us. Many of our church family were not present when God blessed more abundantly than any of us could imagine. Some missed the stories of how God worked in the lives of individual members to mature them in faith. We haven't shared the stories, and we haven't shared the challenges we face together. Those who haven't been told cannot be expected to share a passion to grow and develop our church.

We have many challenges and opportunities ahead which need all of us to be fully invested. There are dreams of retiring our church mortgage early, and ending concern about making the monthly payments. There are dreams of starting a school, of sharing the Good News with our Dracut community, of growing so successfully that a new church can be planted. But none of these dreams will become real unless we share them, and share how God has worked in and through us.

In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history. (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*)

Pathfinders' Corner

On Sunday, May 21st, the Pathfinder Club joined together after their last meeting for the year to celebrate all the accomplishments and class work that they worked on all year. We waited for people to arrive and at 5:45 p.m. decided that we needed to begin the celebration with those who were present. (Please see the picture.) We found out later in the evening that the Area Coordinator who was coming had a family emergency. Abigail and Ayzlynn received their Friend Class pins. Evelyn received the Ranger Class pins and Elizabeth received her Voyager Class pins. The following honors were earned during the past year: Red Alert, Scrapbooking, Airplane Modeling, Decoupage, Christian Grooming and Manners, Camping Skills, Butterflies, Bats, and Maple Sugaring.

We all agreed that it was a great year and we all learned a lot. All are looking forward to next year.

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20



Kids' Korner

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

This pen could be on any of the pages and could be in a different color or size.

Happy hunting!

This is the object that you will be looking for:



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC TO AIR DOUG BATCHELOR INTERVIEW

Several months ago, Doug Batchelor, speaker/president of Amazing Facts, was interviewed three times by National Geographic TV for a special prophecy program called "Secrets of Revelation." The film crew told him that his explanation of Revelation made the most sense of any interview they had filmed.

"Secrets of Revelation" will air on the National Geographic Movie Channel on Sunday, July 16, at 6 p.m. Pacific/9 p.m. Eastern, 9 p.m. Pacific/12 a.m. Eastern; Saturday, July 22 at 6 p.m. Pacific/9 p.m. Eastern 9 p.m. Pacific/12 a.m. Eastern.

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Phone: 978-454-9226
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July 2006

Calendar of Events

- 15—Sabbath School Council Potluck and meeting
- 23—10 a.m.—5 p.m.—Car wash sponsored by the D.O.G. Puppet Ministry
- 27—7:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
- 31-Aug. 4—Vacation Bible School
- Nursing Home Ministry is the last 2 Sabbaths each month

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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					

August 2006

Calendar of Events

- 14—Vacation Bible School
- 14—3-8 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive
- 15—7:00 p.m. Church Board Mtg.
- 27—11-12:30, Pathfinder Registration, Church Fellowship Hall
- 27—Cookie and Bake Sale
- 31—7:30 p.m. Elders Meeting
- Nursing Home Ministry is the last 2 Sabbaths each month

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		

Southern New England—Calendar of Events 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
June 25 - July 2	Teen Camp	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
July 4	Office Closed - Independence Day	Conference Office		
July 2 - 9	Blind Camp	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
July 9 - 16	Junior Camp	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
July 16 - 23	Junior Extreme & Adventurer Camps	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
July 23 - 30	Family Camp #1	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
July 30 - Aug. 6	Family Camp #2	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
August 6 - 9	NAD Teachers' Convention (All SNEC Teachers)		Angela Montoya	978-365-4551, Ext. 18
August 6 - 10	Wakeboard Camp	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
August 11 - 12	Pathfinder/Adventurer Staff Outdoor Skills	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551, Ext. 20
August 25 - 26	Spanish Lay Retreat	Camp Winnekeag	Jose Alarcon	978-368-6321

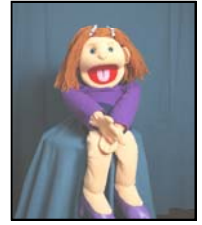
Dependent On God Puppet Newsletter

Dependent On God Puppet Team
July and August 2006

News

The Puppet Ministry would appreciate some help. Please look at the volunteer sheet in the fellowship hall to sign up in the area you would be willing to help out in. There's also a donation sheet to cover items needed for the maintenance/repair kit and other items needed by the Puppet Ministry. Please bring your donation items from the list to the two-drawer wheeled cart in the fellowship hall by the bulletin board. We pray the Lord will impress you with generosity for this ministry.

THERE ARE MORE PUPPET MINISTRY PERFORMANCES AND EXCITING EVENTS COMING!!



Fundraisers

The next fundraiser will be a Car Wash from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on July 23, 2006 (location to be announced). August 27, 2006 there will be a cookie and bake sale- details to be announced.

Future Performances

The next Puppet Ministry performance will be held at MVSDA Church for the children's story on July 8, 2006. It will be about *Martha and Mary*. On August 19, 2006 *Jonah and the Whale* will be presented.

Past Performances

This year we have had:

- 👂 Daniel in the Lions Den, performed by William and Catalina Carvajal, Michael Casdine, and Andreas and Stephanie Goelzer.
- 👂 Mary Magdalene, performed by Nancy and Warren Saxton.
- 👂 John the Baptist, performed by Dale and Alice Jacobson
- 👂 Jesus Loves Me, performed by Lizzy and Eve de Jesus. The entire audience participated by singing *Jesus Loves Me*.

Thank-You's

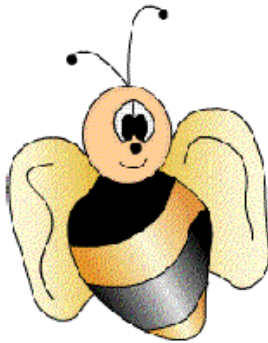
We would like to thank the following people for helping out in our second Family Movie Night:

Alice Jacobson for helping in the kitchen and making cookies; Eve de Jesus and Abby Santana for helping with the popcorn; Dale Jacobson for running the Audio-Visual system and Lizzy de Jesus for taking the donations at the door.

We are **Dependent On God** Puppet Ministry!



Change the order of the letters to find the things that we should "Bee."



1. **LUHFAKTN** -----
Psalms 100:4

2. **INDETGIL** -----
Proverbs 27:23

3. **ATHUFFLI** ----- Revelation 2:10

4. **RGOTSN** ----- Ephesians 6:10

5. **IMFECRLU** ----- Luke 6:36

6. **NDIK** ----- Ephesians 4:32

7. **OEDSR** ----- James 1:22

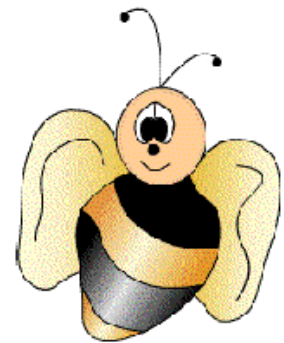
8. **LDGA** ----- Psalm 32:11

9. **ESOUORCUT** ----- I Peter 3:8

10. **OETNTCN** ----- Phillipians 4:11

11. **USGAOEUROC** -----
Psalms 31:24

12. **SEIW** ----- Proverbs 8:33



Women's Ministry Sabbath June 3, 2006



Recognition



Women's Bible Study



Lynn Ortel, Women's Ministry Day Speaker
NNEC Women's Ministry Director

Alice Jacobson, Director of Women's Ministry



Fellowship Dinner



Crafts



Children's Story



Puzzle Pieces Fit!

June 3 was a memorable day at our church – a day when each woman realized that she is a piece of the puzzle when put together makes our church whole. The diversity of God given talents are nurtured and appreciated here. Each woman attending was given a puzzle piece bookmark and a fragrant rose to indicate their important role at our church.



Each of us received a special blessing from the message by the awesome speaker, Lynn Ortel, of the NNEC Women's Ministry Department. She shared the Unfailing Love of God, and how He wants us to serve Him and communicate with Him daily. God is always there waiting for us to seek Him.



The program was enriched by Karen McClendon making the announcements, Juanita Ortiz calling for the offering, the Ladies Chorus, prayer



by Marge Patch, a children's story by Rena Forrester, scripture reading by Catalina Carvajal, and benediction by Nancy Saxton.

The history of Women's Ministry was given by Alice Jacobson. We learned that God has blessed Women's Ministries around the world with over 133,421 baptisms in 2005. God has called us to reach out to others for Him – your Women's Ministry is preparing and enriching for that purpose.



The Fellowship Dinner was an epicurean delight and made more enjoyable because the men (we thank them!) cleared and cleaned up after the dinner.

A Bible Study presented by Jean McKillop and Sherri Dovich focused on Joanna and Dorcas, two women that loved the Lord and worked diligently for Him.

After the Bible Study, Cindy Harris led out in our craft; Lace, Fabric and Frames to mount Bible verses and religious sayings. The women had a wonderful time being creative just for fun.



If you are interested in participating in the Women's Ministry at the MVSDA Church contact Alice Jacobson and watch for announcements in your weekly church bulletin.

Give Thanks to the Lord, for He is good; his love endures forever.

I Chronicles 16:34

It is our prayer that your home will be God's home.



JULY

- 1 Kim McClendon
- 3 Gustav Mergenthaler
- 4 Bonnie Crowley
- 5 Dara Sing
- 7 Ricky Rocha
- 8 Braighan Forrester
- 8 Patrice Forrester
- 18 Saronethi Neang
- 21 Doug Harris
- 24 Linda Farley
- 27 Theresa Sing
- 30 Bill Cady
- 31 Jeanine Coggsell



AUGUST

- 2 Shaina Holiman
- 4 Brad Demboski
- 5 Karen McClendon
- 10 Gilda Newell
- 11 Carine Garozzo
- 12 Michael Mergenthaler
- 19 Leah Patch
- 22 Abigail Santana
- 23 Jackie Candelario
- 24 Mimi Ahn
- 26 Ruth Crispo
- 28 Valerie Lopez
- 30 Chali Masotta

Broccoli Oriental Salad

from the kitchen of Dale Cady



- 1 pkg. broccoli coleslaw mix
- 2 pkgs. Ramen noodles (mushroom flavor)
- 1 cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 1 bunch green onions, chopped
- 1/2 red pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup Craisins

Dressing:

- 3/4 cup canola and olive oil, mixed
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup rice vinegar
- 1 flavoring packet from Ramen noodles

Directions:

Crush noodles in packages and mix with almonds & sunflower seeds
 Mix slaw, onions, red pepper and Craisins
 Make dressing about 1/2 hour before serving. Mix all together. It tastes better after the dressing has been on at least 1/2 hour.



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408 Broadway Road
Dracut, MA 01826

Friends helping friends
become
Fully devoted followers
of **Christ**



Phone: 978-454-9226

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To:

POINTS OF INTEREST



☉ This is a reminder that fellowship dinners are held on the 2nd Sabbath of every month except for June, July, August, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or if we have a special guest or program.

☉ First Place Weight Loss Program is a scripture-based program that will involve commitment on your part with daily study and weekly meetings. The program will start in September and will be a continuing program throughout the year. If you are serious about weight loss and Bible study, come and join us! There will be a fee, and cost of books, etc. More information later.

☉ Women's Bible Study will resume in September.

☉ Charles Holmes, Math teacher at Greater Boston Academy, has retired from teaching. We wish him the best!

☉ Dr. Weymouth Spence has accepted the invitation to serve as Vice-President for Academic Administration at AUC beginning June 1, 2006.

☉ For 2006-07 School-Year, AUC is re-establishing its Art Program. It will also offer a B.A. in Business, a Minor in Discipleship/Missions, a certificate in Gerontology, a certificate in Medical Missions, and a one-year certificate in Vegetarian Culinary Arts.

☉ Pathfinder Registration will be held in the church Fellowship Hall from 11-12:30 on Sun., August 27. Pathfinders' ages range from 10-15.

☉ Have you seen *The Voice*, newsletter of the Connecticut Valley Church? If you don't have a hard copy, you can view it online at www.connecticut-adventist.org.

Einar Rom, pastor.

☉ Great News—in the upcoming weeks, Dale Jacobson will be putting together a new church directory. He will be taking pictures and gathering your information in the weeks to follow. You don't want to miss this opportunity.

RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor

Bob McCall, Photo Editor, Printer

From the Editor's Desk



Call Cindy L. Harris at (978) 685-5905, or e-mail at cinlee4@comcast.net to submit items of interest for the next newsletter.
Next Deadline: 8-11-06

*Prayers go up...
blessings come down*