



# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Phil Vasseur



July/August 2007

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### "Equipment From Heaven"

In August 2000, Flight 4590 was sitting on the tarmac. Its departure time had been delayed an hour by the passenger bags and a last-minute repair. The pilot, Capt. Christian Marty, 54, was an adventurous type—he had windsurfed across the Atlantic 20 years ago and was an avid mountain biker. But that afternoon he took the precautionary step of ordering a last minute repair on the "thrust reverser" that helps brake the plane. It wasn't a fix required by the rulebook, but it would make for a smoother landing in New York.

The passengers and nine crew members waited while mechanics found and installed the new part. Then the SST rolled out. Fifty-six seconds after controllers cleared the plane for takeoff, the tower radioed an urgent warning: the aircraft's rear was spouting fire. Marty and his copilot, Jean Marcot, sent a terse reply—"Engine No. 2 is down." It was too late to abort the flight. They had passed "V1" the term pilots use for the speed at which they can no longer abort a takeoff, and the pilots immediately reported that they couldn't retract the landing gear. But rather than lifting skyward, the plane strained to defy gravity.

A sightseer captured the doomed flight on amateur videotape. And you captured it on CNN. The plane then banked into the small wood-frame motel. "It dropped straight down." The plane and motel erupted in flames that shot 300 feet in the air. Five people inside the family owned Hotel were killed. And all aboard the plane perished.

What went, terribly, tragically wrong? Several years have past now and the most widely held theory is that on take-off, the SST ran over a piece of debris and severed a gas line causing the crash. No matter how you stack it up, it tumbles down to this-mechanical failure! Equipment breakdown!

We need machinery, equipment to live. After all, you can't fly without a plane! What would life be like without our cars, computers, lawnmowers, cell phones, lights, TV?



What about life in God's world-life in His kingdom? Jesus said, "The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you," (John 14:17). When it comes to kingdom business, God has supplied the equipment. (Talk about the mechanical advantage.) In God's spiritual kingdom, the Holy Spirit makes the difference. He is the Equipment from Heaven! He's an imperative!

However, there is one big difference between earthly and heavenly equipment, you don't use the Spirit, He uses you! But you've got to have Him in order for Him to have you. Please receive Him again today.

In Christian love,  
Pastor Phil



**Pathfinders' Corner**

This Pathfinder year has come to a close. More King's Kids Pathfinder Club articles and pictures will follow in future newsletter editions.



The Primary Class enjoyed making Easter Egg Bunnies for Easter 2007. From left to right: Braighan, Andrea, Jackie, Elena and Jessica. We missed a few kids that day. So parents, please bring your kids to Sabbath School and we will teach them crafts, fun things, singing and most especially teach them the Bible and Jesus' love.

See you Sabbath.

(Submitted by Gilda Newell)



**July**

- 8 – Catalina & William Carvajal
- 10 – Marianne & Jay Wiacek
- 16 – Ellen & Dwight Morgan
- 21 – Vivian & Greg Irrgang

**August**

- 6 – Gilda & Jim Newell
- 8 – Jovanie & Maxwell Whyte
- 12 – Sonia & Carlos Gonzalez
- 20 – Stephanie & Rick Wall
- 30 – Cindy & Doug Harris
- 30 – Jean & Stan McKillop

**Father's Day Recognition**

On June 16th, Father's Day recognition was given by Pastor Phil and bookmarks created by Alice Jacobson and Cindy Harris were handed out.

**Why God Made Fathers**

"God knew that children  
all would need  
someone secure  
and strong  
to shelter and  
protect them  
And to teach them  
right from wrong...  
someone to take pride in  
And look up to as a guide,  
someone that  
they could count on  
And in whom  
they could confide...  
He knew as  
children grew up,  
They'd need the  
reassurance of  
someone with faith  
and trust in them  
Who would always  
give them love...  
And that's why  
God made fathers."



**F.A.T.H.E.R.S.**

"F" aithful  
"A" lways there  
"T" rustworthy  
"H" onoring  
"E" ver-loving  
"R" ighteous  
"S" upportive

**Broken Dreams**

As children bring their broken toys  
With tears for us to mend.  
I brought my broken dreams to God  
Because He was my Friend.

But instead of leaving Him  
In peace to work alone,  
I hung around and tried to help  
With ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried,  
"How can You be so slow?"  
"My child," He said, "What could I do?  
You never let them go."

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Phone: 978-454-9226  
[www.mvsda.org](http://www.mvsda.org)

July 2007

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>				

July Calendar of Events

- **1** – Pathfinder Water Country Trip, Portsmouth, NH
- **10** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **13** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **14** – 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  
 2:00 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study
- **20** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **21** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **26** – 7:30 p.m. Elders’ Board Meeting
- **27** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **28** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry  
 1:00 p.m.–6:30 p.m. Vacation Bible School – setup
- **29** – 10:00 a.m. Vacation Bible School – setup
- **30/31** – 6:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m.  
 Vacation Bible School – “Avalanche Ranch”  
 A wild ride through God’s word!



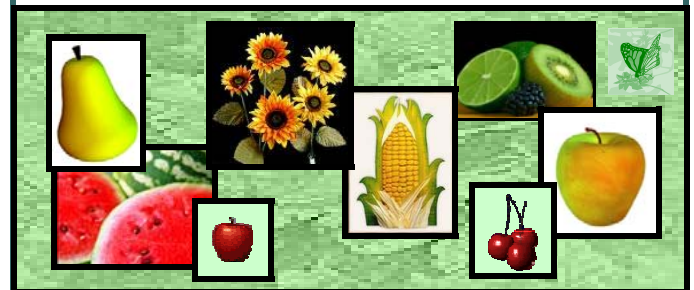
August 2007

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>	

August Calendar of Events

- **1-3** – 6:00 p.m. –9:00 p.m.  
 Vacation Bible School – “Avalanche Ranch”  
 A wild ride through God’s word!  
 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **7** – 12:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m. Blood Drive
- **10** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **11** – 1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  
 2:00 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study
- **14** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **17-19** – 4:30 p.m. Friday through 12:00 p.m. Sunday  
 Pathfinder Camping & Outdoor Skills, Camp Winnekeag  
 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **18** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **24** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **25** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **30** – 7:30 p.m. Elder’s Board Meeting
- **31** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice

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



# The U.S.A. Maze



## Our Shared Values

### *Church Affiliation*

Our congregation is a local expression of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church, a movement of prophetic destiny. We actively proclaim and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ in our community as we eagerly prepare for His coming in glory.

**S**ummer time has arrived and family vacations will take us in different directions, usually away from our Merrimack Valley church home. Yet I have found that no matter where I go, there is always an extension of my church family nearby. It is almost like finding a McDonalds, but yet it is different. When I walk into the fast food restaurant, I expect to find exactly what I would if I went to the McDonalds around home. And while the menus and layout are similar, there is very little else to remind you of home.

Visiting another Seventh-day Adventist church is a different experience. I remember traveling across the country as a teen. We arrived in Salt Lake City, and on Sabbath morning went to visit the local Adventist church. Our family had never been there before, and we did not know anybody from there. Yet that Sabbath we met a woman who my father had met while teaching at South Lancaster Academy years before. That afternoon we shared a picnic lunch at a park.

Then there was our recent trip to visit family in Michigan. Of course we know lots of people at our family church there. But imagine our surprise to discover from the head elder of a nearby church, that his daughter was dating one of our Pathfinder friends from Southern New England. The Adventist church is a family, and nothing brings it home like finding friends, and friends of friends, in unfamiliar or unexpected places.

At Merrimack Valley, we have a distinct advantage in understanding the worldwide nature of our church. You see we have a blended family, with members and regular friends from all around the world. We come from almost every continent around the world. We are all individuals who find, that with a little good will and acceptance, we can taste just a bit of heavenly fellowship. We are truly a local expression of the entire worldwide Seventh-day Adventist church.

Our local church owes its character to a sense of global mission. The early Adventist pioneers invested their lives in spreading the gospel to every corner of the world. Across oceans and continents, the message reached to our ancestral doorsteps and found a place in the hearts of those who came before us. We are the heirs of that movement. And we are the reflection of its result.

Jesus called His followers to share the good news, to be His witnesses. We in Merrimack Valley are blessed with the heritage of mission, and must do our part to reach proclaim and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. When He returns to claim His church, I hope that each of us will have done our part to prepare others for that day.

Submitted by Steven Dovich

## 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!



## Sabbath – June 2nd



### Farewell

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, all were invited to join in a Fellowship Dinner to bid farewell to Lance Forrester who has been in our church for many years. Lance has transferred to the Markham Woods Church in Longwood, Florida. We will miss Lance and his contributions to our church.

### Guest Speaker

The speaker for the Worship Service was Frank Tochterman, Southern New England Conference President.



Photos by Dale Jacobson

### Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

**G**reater Boston Academy is hosting a basketball camp the week of August 6-10 for boys and girls ages 8-17. Bobby Jackson and former NBA player Anthony Bowie will conduct the daily sessions from 9-3. The \$100 fee will include lunch for the five days, a Camp T-Shirt, and instruction. Call 781-438-4253 for more details or visit the GBA website at [www.greaterbostonacademy.com](http://www.greaterbostonacademy.com) to register.

Edgewood Elementary is now offering Pre-School for 3 year olds. The full-day program will offer Bible-based curriculum, pee wee sports, certified and experienced care. Call 781-438-4253 for more details or visit the GBA website at [www.greaterbostonacademy.com](http://www.greaterbostonacademy.com) for more information.

Rondi Aastrup  
*PreK-12 Principal/Senior English teacher*  
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*Excellence for the Purpose of Service  
 Educating for Eternity*



July

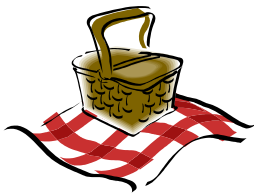
1 – Kim McClendon  
 3 – Gustav Mergenthaler  
 4 – Bonnie Crowley  
 5 – Dara Sing  
 7 – Ricky Rocha  
 8 – Braighan Forrester  
 8 – Patrice Forrester  
 10 – Chali Lewandowski  
 17 – Sonia Gonzelez  
 18 – Sarone Thi Neang  
 21 – Doug Harris  
 24 – Owen Johnson  
 24 – Heidi Martella  
 25 – Linda Farley  
 27 – Theresa Sing  
 30 – Bill Cady  
 31 – Veronica Iria  
 31 – Jeanine McKillop

August

1 – Jeff Martella  
 1 – Alissa St. Louis  
 2 – Shaina Holiman  
 4 – Brad Dembkoski  
 5 – Karen McClendon  
 8 – David Morris  
 10 – Gilda Newell  
 11 – Carine Garozzo  
 12 – Carlos Gonzalez  
 12 – Michael Mergenthaler  
 19 – Leah Patch  
 23 – Danielle Mortimer  
 23 – Jackie Candelario  
 24 – Mimi Ahn  
 26 – Ruth Crispo  
 28 – Valerie Lopez  
 30 – Chali Davis

POTATO SALAD

(submitted by Cindy Harris)



5 or 6 med. potatoes cooked and cut into chunks  
 8 boiled eggs, cut in chunks  
 1 small sweet onion, diced  
 Salt, if desired

Mix All Together:

1 small jar of Miracle Whip salad dressing  
 2 teaspoons mustard  
 1 teaspoon vinegar  
 2 Tablespoons of sugar  
 a little milk

Mix all together and pour over the potato, egg and onion mixture. Keep moist, add more salad dressing if needed.

Serves: 4-6

(Recipe is from my mother—Ruth Rochester)

# Sabbath School News

Sabbath, June 16, 2007

## **Prayer Breakfast**

The second Prayer Breakfast was very successful. Many members brought delightful breakfast dishes. This was followed by a lively devotional presentation by the Pastor, which taught us the keys to good health. There was a special prayer session where each one was given the opportunity to pray individually or in a group. The lesson was a spirited discussion lead by Steve Dovich and Dale Jacobson. This prayer breakfast feature of Sabbath School will continue quarterly throughout the coming year. It will feature guest Sabbath School teachers, special devotionals, and lots of good food. If you have not attended, you are missing out on a genuine spiritual experience. Watch for future announcements for which week in September the next prayer breakfast will take place! We hope to see you all at this very special spiritual spectacular Sabbath School series. Don't miss the next one-you need breakfast for physical and spiritual fulfillment. Families are welcome!

## **Sabbath School Promotions and Graduations**

Sabbath, June 16<sup>th</sup>, marked the semi-annual day for Sabbath School promotions by the divisions. The highlight of the event was the children being presented their certificates and Bibles by their division leaders during Church Alive time.

**Beginners to Kindergarten:** Shayla Crowley, Evensha Semerzier.

**Kindergarten to Primary:** Jenna Crowley, Dewey DaSilva, and Benjamin Esmeal.

**Primary to Juniors:** Raquel DaSilva, Alissa St Louis.



Photos by Dale Jacobson

Two division leaders retired (for a short hiatus, we hope) Bob and Rita McCall in Juniors, and Chali Masotta in Youth. The new leaders were presented: Michael Casadine in Juniors and Veronica Iria in Youth. There was a potluck after church to honor the promotees.

## **New Teachers for Adults**

There are two new teachers for adult Sabbath School: Gloria Candelario and Ron Holiman. We look forward to having them participate! There are currently four adult Sabbath School classes: the class in the sanctuary, a discussion class in the fellowship hall, a young adult class in the fellowship hall and a Cambodian class in the library. If you haven't yet chosen, come and sample each one and then decide. You don't know what you are missing until you come to Sabbath School. Sabbath School is a verb! It's where the action is! If you have children, make sure they get to enjoy Sabbath School in the divisions specifically tailored to their development level. Don't let your children miss this opportunity to develop spiritually! See you next Sabbath at 10:00 am!

*Submitted by Alice Jacobson, Sabbath School Superintendent*



# WOMEN'S MINISTRY SABBATH June 9, 2007



Jennifer Voight receives corsage presented by Alice Jacobson



Agnodia St. Louis and Gilda Newell handing out favors



Guest speaker Debi Verrill, Women's Ministry leader at the Woodstock Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maine



Marge Patch presents a gift to Jennifer Voight who was ordained as an Elder



Nancy Saxton Scripture Reading



"Fellowship Dinner" roses adorned the tables and were given to all the women



Jennifer Voight presents a gift to Debi Verrill



Debi Verrill and husband Jerry



Women's Ministry Bible Study in Matthew



Women's Ministry Craft Floral arrangements were made using teacups with saucers



Some of the women with their finished floral arrangements



Photos by Dale Jacobson and Gilda Newell



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Southern New England Conference Campmeeting was held on June 22nd through 30th. Potluck lunch each Sabbath was held at the McCall's trailer site, which was across from the Junior Tent. Everyone brought their favorite potluck foods.



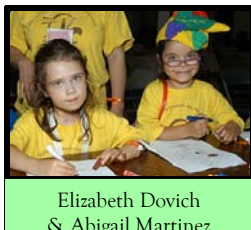
Photos by Bob McCall



Elena Iria



Elizabeth Dovich



Elizabeth Dovich  
 & Abigail Martinez



Karl Michael Camacho  
 & Katherine Nelson



Adrianna Perez



Kalev Guillen,  
 Karl Michael,  
 & Lisa Camacho



Karl Michael Camacho



Hanna Guillen



Abigail Martinez  
 & Miguel Iria



Kalev Guillen

**Adventurer Spring Escape**  
 June 1-3, 2007  
 South Lancaster, MA



Sabbath Morning Special Music,  
 "I've Got the Joy"



Merrimack Valley Little Lights



Alexander Dovich



Sabbath Morning Parade



Katherine Nelson

**Investiture**  
 June 16, 2007

*From the Editor's Desk*



Please call Cindy Harris at:  
 (978) 685-5905, or e-mail me at  
 cinlee4@comcast.net  
 to submit articles for the next newsletter.  
**NEXT DEADLINE: August 20th**

**RECOGNITION**

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor  
 Bob McCall, Printer



Pastor Pete Maldonado,  
 Guest Speaker



Special Music,  
 "I've Got the Joy"

Photos by Sherri Dovich



Adrianna Perez  
 & Elena Iria



Elizabeth  
 Dovich