



FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Phil Vasseur

July – September 2008

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"Disciple"

Disciple. The word just rolls off your tongue so easily doesn't it? It's not a hard word to pronounce, but it is harder to understand. It has more distinguishing characters than syllables—that's for sure. In the *NIV Complete Concordance* the word "Christian(s)" is found only three times in the New Testament. However, if you look up "disciple(s)" in the same concordance, you'll find it listed over 200 times in the New Testament! Of course, there's nothing wrong with the word Christian; it's a great word. But apparently, Jesus placed a tremendous amount of value on the word "disciple."

At Merrimack Valley we have a saying that describes our vision/picture of a disciple. It looks like this: *"Friends helping friends become fully devoted followers of Christ."* I think that's a biblically accurate picture of a disciple. What do you think? It's great! I hope I'm not overstating it, but, for me, it's almost on the level of a self-evident truth.

Here's how that statement breaks down for me. Let's consider it in just two parts. The first part, "friends helping friends become," tells me that discipleship is an active process that happens in relationship with others. In other words, discipleship is done in relationship. Jesus knew this and modeled it. Perhaps that's why He "discipled" (trained) a group of twelve men (a team) called disciples. Jesus was always teaching His friends (disciples) to "become" what God wanted them to be. He had a mission for them to fulfill. People are much stronger together than they are apart!

The second part, "fully devoted followers of Christ" is the purpose for our friendships. It focuses on the disciple's devotion to Jesus. So a disciple is not only a Christ follower, he/she is a "devoted" Christ follower. A fully devoted disciple is a disciple that deeply desires to do the will of Christ. That's what devotion is all about!

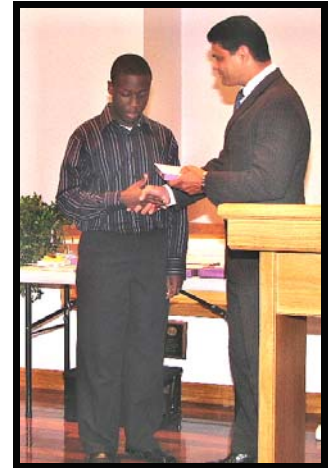
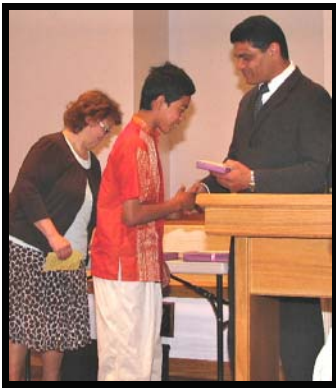
So, according to our vision of a disciple, he/she is an active participant in joining with others to develop his/her devotion to Christ! What a picture of a church! Can you imagine it? It stretches me, but I can.

May God help us to "do" what we "say" we want to become.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Pastor Phil



Graduations & Celebrations June 14, 2008



*Congratulations to All of Our Graduates,
May God Bless You as You Seek to Serve Him*



Juniors:

- Brenden Chery
- Jonathon Gonzalez
- Youda Ly
- Celena Uy

Youth:

- Evelyn DeJesus

Kindergarten:

- Rychny Sok

High School:

Evelyn DeJesus, Greater Lowell Technical H.S.
She will be pursuing a culinary degree at the prestigious Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY

College/University:

Stephanie Goelzer, Zoo Animal Technology Program, Gainesville, FL
Stefanie Holiman, Masters Degree, Temple University

Margarita Santa, Bachelors Degree, Boston Architectural College
She also received the President's Award for the highest GPA.



Please refer to
page 8 for more
information

Photos by Bob McCall

Submitted by Joanie Reiss

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

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www.mvsda.org

July 2008

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		

August 2008

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						

September 2008

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				

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY:

- 5 - Prayer Warrior Team Meeting
- 8 - 7:00 p.m., Church Board Meeting
- 26 - 1:30 p.m., Nursing Home Ministry
- 28-31 - Vacation Bible School
- 31 - 7:30 p.m., Elders Board Meeting

AUGUST:

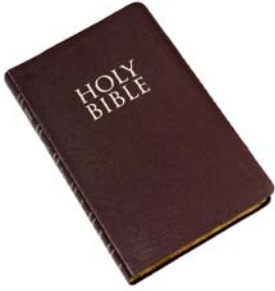
- 1 - Vacation Bible School
- 2 - Prayer Warrior Team Meeting
- 12 - 7:00 p.m., Church Board Meeting
- 16 - 1:30 p.m., Nursing Home Ministry
- 23 - 1:30 p.m., Nursing Home Ministry
- 28 - 7:30 p.m., Elders Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER:

- 6 - Prayer Warrior Team Meeting
- 9 - 7:00 p.m., Church Board Meeting
- 20 - 9:45 a.m., Prayer Breakfast
- 20 - 1:30 p.m., Nursing Home Ministry
- 25 - 7:30 p.m., Elders Board Meeting
- 27 - 1:30 p.m., Nursing Home Ministry

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

KIDS' KORNER



BIBLE QUIZ

Choose one of the four answers

1. Name the disciple of Jesus who was a doctor.

Matthew Mark Luke John

2. Name the disciple who brought his brother to Jesus.

James John Peter Andrew

3. Who is known as the "Father of Faith?"

Moses David Abraham Joshua

4. Who met God on top of a mountain and the entire mountain quaked?

Joshua Solomon Moses Job

5. Who was in prison and an angel came to set him free?

John Peter Mark Luke



Answers:
1. Luke, 2. Andrew, 3. Abraham, 4. Moses (Exodus 19:17-18), 5. Peter (Acts 12:7)

ELDER'S CORNER



God Wants to Communicate with Us

Throughout the Scriptures we find many examples of the ways God chose to communicate with people. There are several stories of God using angels to communicate. Jacob, Zechariah, Mary, and the shepherds all were spoken to by angels. Joseph, Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, and the Magi are just a few of those that God chose dreams as the mode of communication. God wrote on the wall with his finger to get Belshazzar's attention. Balaam is probably the only person ever talked to by a donkey. God directed the children of Israel across the desert with a pillar of fire and a cloud. Abraham, Moses, Jesus and Paul were spoken to directly by God. The burning bush was used to talk with Moses. Jonah was swallowed by a fish to convince him to listen.



What does it take to get our attention? How does God communicate with you and me? It might be by many different methods, but unless we listen we will never hear. We need to make time in our busy lives to talk to God and then give Him a chance to talk with us. It is my prayer to spend more time listening and less time talking. May God bless us as we seek to know Him better.

Submitted by Dale Jacobson



- July
- 1 – Kimberly McClendon
 - 3 – Gustav Mergenthaler
 - 4 – Bonnie Crowley
 - 7 – Amber Baker
 - 7 – Ricky Rocha
 - 8 – Natalie Connolly
 - 10 – Chali Lewandowski
 - 14 – Fermin Peralta
 - 17 – Sonia Gaonzalez
 - 18 – Sarone Thi Neang
 - 21 – Doug Harris
 - 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
 - 3 – Anya Bondar
 - 4 – Brad Dembkoski
 - 5 – Karen McClendon
 - 8 – David Morris
 - 10 – Gilda Newell
 - 11 – Shirley Antoine
 - 11 – Carine Garozzo
 - 12 – Carlos Gonzalez
 - 12 – Michael Mergenthaler
 - 16 – Amanda Mergenthaler
 - 19 – Leah Patch
 - 24 – Mimi Ahn
 - 26 – Ruth Crispo
 - 30 – Chali Davis

- September
- 2 – Andreas Goelzer
 - 2 – Eileen Robichaud
 - 4 – JoAnn Artis
 - 4 – Matt Heng Sing
 - 4 – Elena Iria
 - 7 – Kate Saxton
 - 8 – Flor Portillo
 - 11 – Ashley Reuther
 - 12 – Jason Bryner
 - 13 – Nancy Jacobson
 - 15 – Jodie Masotta
 - 16 – Grace Yu
 - 19 – Caitlin Connolly
 - 20 – Victor Berlus
 - 20 – Rosalinda Candelario
 - 20 – Royce Pajela
 - 20 – Justin Sunly Tang
 - 22 – Phyllis Ndoro
 - 24 – Mutsi Holiman
 - 24 – Duk-Mee Lee
 - 24 – Clarice Reiss
 - 25 – Bob McCall
 - 25 – Margarita Santana
 - 26 – Helene Gilman
 - 28 – Young Oh
 - 29 – William Carvajal
 - 30 – Sue Reuther
 - 30 – Jeanette Voltaire

Anniversaries

July

- 8th – Catalina & William Carvajal
- 21st – Ilsa & Karl Camacho
- 21st – Vivan & Greg Irrgang

August

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

September

- 25th – Diane & Monte Nelson
- 26th – Natalie & Joseph Connolly

Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

Most of the students and staff of Edgewood/Greater Boston Academy are taking some time to catch their breath during the summer months. It was a busy last few weeks that made school life seem like a roller coaster and a merry-go-round all at the same time. In the span of one week, there were three graduations (eighth grade, kindergarten, and senior), two year-end evening programs, two awards chapels, a National Honor Society induction of four students, and semester exams! That's enough to make anyone's head spin!

The truth is, though, that all these activities reminded everyone how much life and energy there is in a school, and what a great experience it is to be part of a school family. Ever more so, part of an Adventist school family. In all of the activities, participants and observers were reminded what an important role God plays in the life of Edgewood/GBA. He has blessed the school family richly, and each one has much to be thankful for.

The week after school ended, the staff met for a series of meetings to debrief about the year just ended and to plan for the coming school year. The personnel committee was busy hiring new teachers: Mrs. Grace Mercado will take on grades three and four, Mrs. Andrews will now just teach grades one and two, and Mr. Gowasack will have just five and six. This will provide much-needed relief to the teachers and enable them to focus on students better. Mr. Edwin Silie will be the new math teacher and Pastor Kenn Dixon will be the new chaplain/Bible teacher.

Mrs. Rita Jackson is offering a full-day Summer Camp for the first time this summer. Two of the weeks in July will focus on math and science, and there will be a repeat of the popular Basketball Camp, July 28-August 1. Former NBA player Anthony Bowie will return as the clinician. Anyone interested in these specialty camps is welcome to attend. Just call 781-438-4253 for information and to register.

School begins again on August 25. Now, more than ever before, there are options for financial assistance. Parents who would like to send their students to Edgewood or GBA but think they can't afford it should call the school and ask for financial information. Where there's a will... and a little faith...there's a way! Ask to speak with Mr. Bobby Jackson about enrolling now!

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*

Sabbath School News

Sabbath June 14th the Children's Divisions held their semiannual promotions. Each child that was promoted received a special gift and met their new division leader. Seven Sabbath School children moved to their next level.



As they grow physically and mentally it is our prayer that they will develop spiritually.

We will have several new division leaders starting in July. Fermin and Zaira Peralta will be leading the

Primary Division, replacing Gilda Newell. Gilda has been the Primary Division Leader for many years. Her service is very much appreciated, she will be missed. Her assistant Agnodia St. Louis will continue to help in the division. The Youth Division will be lead by Shirley Antoine and Steven Dovich. Your young people will miss Chali Davis who has devoted many years of leadership to that division. Veronica and Paul Iria will also be leaving the Youth Division. Veronica will be directing Vacation Bible School and leading the Adventurers Club.



Prayer Breakfasts for the next 12 months will be September 20 (TBA), November 15 (Jack Mentges), February 28 (Gary Swinyar), and April 25 (Eldon Roberts).

Children's Division Leaders are planning to include a short segment each week that will present to our children what Adventists believe. They will be using special materials prepared by the General Conference of SDA for this specific purpose.

If you would like to help with one of the areas of Sabbath School (teach, lead, help, play piano, sing, or join a class) please call Alice Jacobson at 603-898-4075.

(Please refer to page 2 for more pictures)

Submitted by Alice Jacobson, Sabbath School Superintendent

SNEC Camp Meeting June 20-28, 2008



Photos by Bob McCall

Women's Ministry Highlights



The Annual Women's Ministries Emphasis Day was held May 31. Our special guest presenter was Charlotte Thoms, Women's Ministries Director for the Atlantic Union Conference. "Metamorphosis Through Christ" was the theme for the day. Charlotte spoke to the title and really left an impression on each of us, that with Christ leading us we can change our lives. Recognition of the women that serve in our church was given during the church service with each woman receiving a beautiful rose. The highlight of the recognition service was the presentation of a personalized Bible to the newest woman elder, Juanita Ortiz. The Fellowship Luncheon following the service was hosted by the men of our church and was much enjoyed by the ladies! An afternoon service featuring Charlotte



lead us to the realization that evangelism is an important part of Women's Ministry and inspired us to more outreach in our ministry.



The afternoon was concluded with a Creative Craft by Cindy Harris. Beautiful greeting cards were designed and assembled by the ladies under the direction of Cindy Harris who, as usual, had all the makings ready to go. During the next year two outreach projects will be undertaken by Women's Ministry—The Bags of Love and Heart Call.



Women's Ministry and Community Services are making the Bags of Love a joint project. The Massachusetts Department of Social Services has been contacted and we will be working with them to determine the age and gender needs for the bags. The Bags of Love ministry involves making large cloth bags and filling them with age (infant to 17 yrs) and gender specific items such as: toys, quilts, toiletry items, books, clothing and other essentials. They are given to children that are removed by Social Services from their homes. Usually they cannot take anything with them when they leave the home. The Social Services representative presents the Bag of Love to the child as they are driving away from the home and it gives them something as a distraction as they are leaving. It also supplies them with necessary items for living and something that is personally theirs. This project will be starting in September.



Heart Call is a ministry for reclaiming those that are taking a break from church. We all have friends and family that could benefit from this ministry. It is fully developed program sponsored by the NAD Women's Ministry Department. If you are interested in participating or have names of members to be reclaimed please call Alice Jacobson at 603-898-4075.

Submitted by Alice Jacobson, SNEC Women's Ministry Director



A gift of appreciation was presented to Alice Jacobson during the Fellowship Luncheon

Pathfinders' Corner

King's Kids Pathfinder Club

Submitted by Rita McCall

The 2007-2008 Pathfinder year has come to an end. We celebrated our achievements at Investiture on Sunday, May 4, 2008. Nathalie and Asher were invested in the Friend Class. Ayzlynn, Abigail and Raquel were invested in the Explorer Class. The young people asked why only one church member



was present besides their immediate family. They notice - in case anyone is wondering! A slide presentation of the year in review was done and can be viewed on bob-rita.net if you have not already seen it.

May 10 we visited the Butterfly Place and completed our last honor for the year. We were able to observe butterflies and moths in their natural habitat as well as learn the different phases in development.



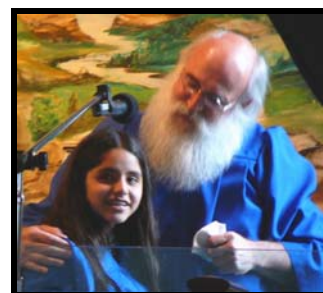
The weekend of May 16, 17, & 18 we joined the Southern New England Conference Pathfinders at Camp Berkshire in Wingdale, NY, for the Spring Camporee. The weekend started with rain. Sabbath morning we were greeted with sunshine and had a wonderful day. The King's Kids participated in the opening ceremony on Friday night and the closing ceremony on Sunday afternoon. Sunday was events day and we managed to complete the swimming activity, marching and drilling, knot tying relay and first aid (in conjunction with another small club) before time ran out. We borrowed a member of the Lancaster Amazon Club to do the marathon, which included, swimming 100 meters, biking 5 miles and running 1 mile. All enjoyed the speaker, the music, and the activities and had a wonderful time



for the weekend. We managed to receive a first place ribbon for the weekend and attribute this to teamwork. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help and assistance.



Nathalie was baptized the weekend after the Camporee at her home church, Stoneham Memorial. Nathalie and her family will be moving to Texas by the end of the summer. We will miss her next year.



The Pathfinder year went by quickly. We are all looking forward to returning again in September and the kids are all talking about asking friends to come and join us in the fall. We have learned many life skills and have drawn closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We know that without Him we could not have accomplished anything that we did this year. He is our true leader.

We wish you all a blessed and safe summer and ask for your continued prayers for this ministry. Look for announcements in the bulletin for registration. Remember to let those who are between the ages of 10-15 know that they are welcome to join us and adults are needed too!

Vegan Cooking School *June 1, 2008*



On Sunday afternoon June 1 the Church was alive with delicious smells emanating from the church kitchen. The source of these enticing odors was Chef Reyes from Atlantic Union College where he practices his sous cooking skills to the delight of the students and faculty.



Chef Reyes came to the Merrimack Valley Church to teach us about healthful Vegan cooking. 18 members and guests participated in the cooking school. The Sous Chef prepared enough of his delightful and healthful food for all of the participants to have a gourmet and healthy meal at the end of the class. All were interested in learning how to please the palate and the eyes in such a healthy way.



This Sunday afternoon treat was not only educational to our members but doubled as an outreach opportunity because there were several visitors that came as a result of the advertising that was done in preparation for the event. If you have other ideas about sharing healthful living principles and how to use the opportunity to witness please contact Alice Jacobson.

Synai Music Concert

June 7, 2008

Synai is a musical group which started as a quartet in about 1992. Over the years, the group has evolved and now is comprised of 3 men and 5 ladies and sing mostly A cappella.

They love to praise the Lord.



Deacons Ordination

June 14, 2008



Maxwell Whyte and Vitali Bondar were ordained.



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church
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www.mvsda.org

Adventurer Spring Escape

May 23-25, 2008

Little Lights
and Their
Parents
and Staff



Sabbath Morning Parade



Photos submitted by Sherri Dovich

Little Lights Adventurer Club Campsite



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

NEXT DEADLINE: SEPT. 19TH

RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor
Bob McCall, Printer

From the Editor's Desk

