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# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter  
May/June 2004

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*Casting Vision*

## Keeping Our Kids Safe

*By Pastor Dan Martella*



The Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church is committed to providing a safe environment for worship, spiritual growth, fellowship and evangelism. We are all painfully aware that churches are not always safe places. Today's news headlines are heavy with the stories of children who have been physically and sexually abused in church settings. Trust has been broken. Churches have been divided. Innocence has been lost. Lives have been destroyed.

Because it is the responsibility of the church to provide a safe environment where our children can learn to love and follow Jesus, the church must take steps to select, screen and manage trustworthy individuals to fill volunteer positions in children's ministries. In the Church Manual we read, "The local church should take reasonable steps to safeguard children engaged in church-sponsored activities by choosing individuals with high spiritual and moral backgrounds as leaders and participants in programs for children" (120).

Our Church is in the process of implementing a set of guidelines and procedures, which the North American Division has recommended for volunteers in children's ministries. We are establishing a process that is intended to demonstrate to parents, guardians and the community that our church cares about the integrity of those with whom their children interact. This process is very much like the one that has been used in Pathfinder ministries during the past 12 years. We are also committed to respect for the privacy and reputation of those who agree to serve in these important ministries.

The first phase will be in place for the beginning of the new church year on July 1, 2004. We will act with sensitivity. We

will carry out the process in an unobtrusive manner. Most important, we will provide safe, sparkling children's ministries that will continue to draw families to our church. Truly we will be friends helping friends become fully devoted followers of Christ.

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## Pathfinders

*By Rita McCall*

The past two months have been exciting and busy for the Pathfinders. In February we went bowling at the Brunswick Lanes in Lowell. Rita's extra light bowling ball was very popular with the group. Only a couple of us fell on our faces (literally) while bowling.



Pictured: King's Kids at the bowling alley.

In March we went Maple Sugaring in Mason, NH. It was a dreary day, but the tour was great. We got to taste the sap from the trees. We watched how the sap is boiled into syrup and got to have all our questions answered so we could earn the badge for this activity. We also got to sample pancakes with maple syrup that was made at the farm where we took the tour. (continued on page 2)

# Pathfinders - continued from page 1



Pictured: King's Kids having pancakes with maple sugar syrup at Parker's Maple Barn

Pathfinder Sabbath on March 27 was a wonderful experience. The Pathfinders participated in everything from Sabbath School through the church service. We then enjoyed a potluck lunch. During the afternoon we had a group of 40 people join us at the New England Aquarium.



Pictured: New England Aquarium "Sea Dragons" from Australia

From the Aquarium we went to the Salem Athletic Club. We enjoyed a pizza feast and then got to play and swim. This was not the end. At 9:00 p.m. we went to Chali & David's café for ice cream sundaes. What a treat!

On Sunday April 4, the Pathfinders hosted an Easter Egg Hunt for kids ages 1-9. The weather was dreary and the ground was damp, so the hunt was moved inside. The Pathfinders filled about 300 eggs with little surprises and then hid the eggs all over the church hall. When the kids arrived they were directed into the church sanctuary where Jodie and Linda read an Easter story to the 1-3 year olds, and Rita helped

the 4-9 year olds open eggs that were filled with little items from Jesus' last days here on earth. Steve then told a nature story about skunk cabbage and it's relationship to the Easter Story.



Pictured: Easter story for the 1-3 year olds with Linda Neang and Jodie Masotta

It was now time for the HUNT. Everyone was ready. The 1-3 year olds were let out to the hall first. After about 1 minute the 4-6 year olds joined them. There were only three older kids, 7-9, and they couldn't wait to join the group. When it was time for them to go, they had a hard time controlling themselves. They were walk-running to the hall. The church hall was filled with giggles and laughter as all the little ones ran from one egg to another filling their little baskets, pails and bags. When the hunt was done we all enjoyed a light supper. We had 17 young children join us for this event. Everyone had a great time.

We hope you will join us for our end of the year event, Investiture, on Sunday, May 16, 2004 at 5:00 p.m. The Pathfinders will be presented with all the awards they have earned during the year.

Thank you to all for your continued support and prayers for this youth ministry.

## **Schedule for April and May:**

April 25	11:30 - 3 p.m.	Camping Skills
	3 - 6 p.m.	Regular meeting - field uniform
May 2	3 - 6 p.m.	Regular meeting - dress uniform
May 16	3 - 5 p.m.	Regular meeting - dress uniform
	5 - 6 p.m.	Investiture - All are invited
May 22		SNEC Pathfinder Sabbath Cathedral of the Pines, NH

# GOD SPEAKING TO US

By *Gustav Mergenthaler*

In the previous newsletter you read about how important it is to read God's Word daily. Today I would like to tell you how important it is to have quiet time meditating with God. Many start a quiet time each day with great enthusiasm, but soon get too busy, somehow God gets squeezed out. Consistency is the answer. The person who merely samples the Word of God never acquires much of a taste for it. You must come back to God's Word daily for Him to feed you, just as you come to a table daily to eat physical food. You start with prayer and ask God to prepare you to meet with Him. If there is something in your life that you know displeases Him, confess it (1 John 1:9). Let Him forgive you so that nothing will hinder your communion together.

Read a specific passage of scripture. Perhaps you would enjoy reading one or two of the Psalms every day. Then meditate on it awhile. Think about what you read, and ask yourself what it means. Ask how you can apply the passages you read to your own life. Then wait upon God. David gave us an example in Psalms 62 where he says, "I wait patiently for God. Only He can save me. Only He gives me hope." In another translation it says "wait in silence for God." This is a command and also a promise. Wait in silence for God. Wait in silence for God only. The one who waits in silence for God only, at His invitation, will not be disappointed. He will be satisfied.

What a wonderful invitation this statement is! You have prayed, you have poured out your soul to Him who alone understands. Do not say "Amen" and walk off. Give God an opportunity. Wait for Him. Wait in silence. And in the silence of the soul, God may speak. He has invited you to wait. Let your whole soul be intent upon Him. Wait for Him only. It may be that God, through a still small voice, will make Himself known.

To some Christians, this is not new doctrine. They know what it is to commune with God. They have had precious seasons alone with Him. They have learned to wait in silence. And precious have been the revelations that have come to them.

To others, however, this may be a new experience. They have learned to pray, but they have not learned to wait in silence upon God. Meditation as a part of prayer has not been important to them. They have conceived of prayer as a certain form of words reverently addressed to the Father in heaven. With their "Amen," the communion is ended. And so indeed it may be, though God does not intend it. "Amen" may mean

the end of man's speaking, but it should not be the end of the interview. God invites us to wait in silence. He may wish to speak, or He may not. In any event, we are to wait. The most important part is not our speaking to God, but God's speaking to us. True, God loves to have us pray. Our prayers are music to Him. We cannot tire Him. And yet, would it be well to give God the opportunity to communicate with us? Surely, God will not let us wait in vain. Who has not felt the tremendous power of the few moments of silence after the benediction? Maybe we should have a few moments of silence whenever a prayer is said, so that we can feel the presence of God in the stillness of the sanctuary? It would be well for us to explore the power of the realm of silence. God is there (EGW, Sanctuary Service 248-250).

We believe that God will lead those who are willing to be led. We also believe that such leading will always be in harmony with God's revealed will. It will not in any way contradict the written Word. Wonderful as is the privilege of communing with God, and wonderful as is the privilege of meditation, there is danger of their misuse. Especially younger Christians should be on their guard. Only long experience in the things of God backed by a life of obedience to God's will, enables one to judge the processes of the mind. Satan is always ready to suggest his own thoughts, and spiritual discernment is needed to know the voice speaking. This, however, should not cause even young Christians to omit meditation. Far from it. God is ever near to help and guide, and we may believe that the quiet hour spent with God will yield large results for the kingdom.

**Do you have any experiences you would like to share? Please contact Gustav Mergenthaler.**



**Start Saving Your Dollars  
for the Church Sign**

Donations marked "church sign" may be sent to  
Merrimack Valley SDA Church

# Picture Gallery

## ALEXANDER DOVICH - BABY DEDICATION



Pictured from left: Pastor Dan Martella, Linda Martella, Steven, Elizabeth, Alexander, and Sherri Dovich, Luvamay Dovich and Esther Van Duinen

## PATHFINDER SABBATH - PRAISE SONGS



Pictured: Merrimack Valley congregation singing "Lord I Lift Your Name on High"

## PATHFINDER SABBATH - SONG SERVICE



Pictured from left: Flora Portilla, Carine Garozzo, Linda Neang, Celina Uy, Danielle Mortimer and Rita McCall

## PATHFINDER SABBATH - WORSHIP THOUGHTS



Pictured : Rita McCall

## PATHFINDER SABBATH - PROCESSIONAL



Pictured from left: Linda Neang and Jodie Masotta

## PATHFINDER GREETINGS



Pictured: King's Kids Pathfinder Club and Merrimack Valley congregation

# Picture Gallery

## PATHFINDERS - NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM



Pictured: Center reef tank at the New England Aquarium

## NEW ENGLAND AQUARIUM SEA LION SHOW



Pictured: Tyler the sea lion and his friends

## SALEM ATHLETIC CLUB - BASKETBALL



Pictured: Merrimack Valley All-Star Game

## SALEM ATHLETIC CLUB - RACQUETBALL



Pictured from left: Gabriella Rocha, Eliana, Rocha, Danielle Mortimer and Flora Portilla

## SALEM ATHLETIC CLUB - SWIMMING



Pictured from left: Julio, Abigail and Lizbeth Martinez

## ICE CREAM AT RUTABAGA'S CAFE



Pictured: the guy's table

# Easter Egg Hunt Picture Gallery

## PATHFINDER'S HIDING THE EGGS



Pictured from left: Matt Heng, Rutendo Gomwe, Danielle Mortimer and Taylor Masotta

## INVENTORYING WHAT YOU FOUND



Pictured: Benjamin Esmeal

## THE HUNTING BEGINS



Pictured: Shayla Crowley

## COLLECTING A PENCIL FROM RITA MCCALL



Pictured: Katherine Nelson

## WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MOM



Pictured from left: Kellie and Madison Esmeal

## VEGGIE HOT DOGS AND CUPCAKES FOR SUPPER



Pictured: Diane and Katherine Nelson and Elizabeth Dovich

# Bible Word Search - Plants and Trees

All the words listed below are in the puzzle. Circle each word as you find it. After you have found all the words, put the leftover letters in the correct order to reveal the mystery word.

<p>L L A G E Y R R E B L U M Y F          E K C N H S U R L U B R A E L          N A Y N I V U O T H I S T L E          R O P G I S S R E I R B H R N          A M R N N S E M Y S S E R A T          D U E F O I Y L Y P K G E B I          N S S M F M W C B R A O S R L          S T S N I A A O A A R P H A S          B A L S A M S N N M T H I M S          R R E P I N U J N N O E N B A          E D D N O M L A P I I R G L R          H E E E Y A W A R A C W E E G          S W O L L I W O R M W O O D V          F L O W E R S T S E R O F I G          N I M M U C O R I A N D E R C</p>	<p>Almond          Anise          Balsam          Barley          Blossoms          Bramble          Briers          Bulrush          Caraway          Cinnamon          Coriander          Cummin          Cypress          Darnel          Fig          Flowers          Forests          Gall          Gopherwood          Grass          Herbs</p>	<p>Juniper          Lentils          Mulberry          Mustard          Myrrh          Oak          Palm          Papyrus          Rye          Saffron          Sycamine          Sycamore          Tares          Thistle          Threshing          Vegetables          Vine          Willow          Wincrowing          Wormwood</p>
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## Bible Quiz - Loaves & Fishes

One day Jesus was teaching a large crowd about the kingdom of God. When supper time came, the disciples urged Jesus to send the crowds away so they could find food and lodging for the night. However, Jesus took a few loaves of bread and fishes belonging to a boy in the crowd and miraculously broke them into enough food to feed the entire crowd!

- Where did this miracle occur?
  - Bethsaida
  - Cana
  - Capernaum
  - Caesarea Philippi
- How many loaves of bread and fishes did the boy have?
  - Two loaves and three fishes
  - Two loaves and five fishes
  - Five loaves and two fishes
  - Five loaves and three fishes
- How many people did Jesus feed?
  - 1,000 total
  - 1,000 men and women, plus children
  - 5,000 total
  - 5,000 men, plus women and children
- After everyone had eaten their fill, Jesus told His disciples to pick up the leftovers so that nothing would be wasted. How many baskets full of leftovers did they pick up?
  - Three
  - Seven
  - Twelve
  - Twenty

You can view this newsletter on-line at  
<http://www.mvsda.org/?section=newsletter>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### April

- 18 9 - 1 p.m. Spring cleaning bee
- 25 11:30 - 3 p.m. Pathfinders Camping Skills  
3 - 6 p.m. Pathfinder mtg - field uniform
- 29 7:30 p.m. Elder meeting

### May

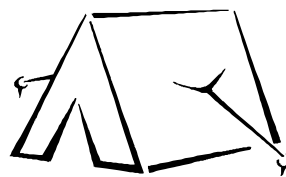
- 1 Nursing Home Ministry
- 2 3 - 6 p.m. Pathfinder mtg - dress uniform - staff mtg
- 5 Cooking School - Raw Foods
- 8 Fellowship dinner  
Nursing Home Ministry
- 11 7 p.m. Church board mtg
- 12 Cooking School - Dinner Extraordinaire
- 16 3 - 5 p.m. Pathfinder mtg - dress uniform  
5 - 6 p.m. Pathfinder investiture
- 22 SNEC - Pathfinder Sabbath  
Newsletter submissions due
- 27 7:30 p.m. Elder meeting
- 29 Communion

### June

- 5 Nursing Home Ministry
- 8 7 p.m. Church board mtg
- 12 Nursing Home Ministry
- 13 10 - 12 noon Father's day breakfast
- 18-26 SNEC Campmeeting

**\*\*Watch the MVC bulletin or MVSDA.org for further information regarding up coming events\*\***

## Southern New England Conference Campmeeting



**June 18 - June 26, 2004**  
Campmeeting grounds  
South Lancaster, MA

### Speakers & presenters include:

Dr. Donald G. King, Dr. M. Lloyd Erickson,  
Charles Sandefur, Steve Darmody, Patricia R. Garey,  
Jeff Wilson, and Dr. Leonard Holst.

**What:** Vacation Bible School  
Lava Lava Island

**When:** August 2 - 6, 2004

**Where:** Merrimack Valley  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church

<http://www.groupvbs.com/>



## Salisbury Beach Picnic



Fun in the Sun for the Whole Family  
August 29, 2004  
Salisbury Beach, Salisbury, MA



### Spring Cleaning Bee

Sunday, April 18, 2004  
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Merrimack Valley SDA Church  
(bring your own cleaning supplies)

## Cooking School



**May 5 Raw Foods**  
**May 12 Dinner**  
**Extraordinaire**

At the Merrimack Valley  
Seventh-day Adventist Church

## A Night in October



An Evening of Food, Fun and Entertainment  
Sunday, October 24, 2004  
Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church



## In the Kitchen

### Milk Pudding (Flan)

By *Juanita Ortiz*

4 eggs  
1 1/4 ounce can sweetened condensed milk  
1/2 cup whole milk  
1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon cinnamon  
1/2 cup sugar

1. With a hand mixer or blender, beat eggs.
2. Add sweetened condensed milk, whole milk, vanilla and cinnamon blending well. Set custard mixture aside.
3. Heat the sugar over medium-high heat in a small saucepan, stirring constantly, until sugar caramelizes (turns brown and syrupy).
4. Quickly pour sugar mixture into bottom of ovenproof mold or bowl, coating the bottom and sides of container.
5. Pour custard mixture into the mold.
6. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 45 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
7. Chill until ready to serve.
8. To serve, turn onto platter. The pudding will be covered with a caramel sauce.

Serves 6



## Nature's Whey

Merrimack Valley SDA  
Church health food store is

open for business. The order forms are located on the Community Service cabinet in the fellowship hall, and should be returned to Joan Reiss with your payment. Payment for bulk orders of herbs and grains may be paid after delivery.  
\*\*Don't forget, the church building fund receives a percent of your purchases.\*\*

## In memory

**Robert Moynihan, Sr.**, father of Bob Moynihan died Tuesday, February 24, in Peabody, Mass. Funeral services were held Sabbath, February 28, at the St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Peabody, Mass. Our sympathies continue with Bob and his family.

## BIRTHDAYS

### MAY

1 Tom Reuther  
3 Lance Forrester  
4 Pedro Campbell  
4 Edward Lee  
7 Jose Mortimer, Jr.  
7 C.J. Candelario  
8 Ray Lewandowski  
10 Jay Wiacek  
11 Laura Moynihan  
12 Jennifer Holiman  
12 Ricardo Rocha  
13 Kristina Walker  
14 Brenda Candelario  
15 Kellywan Kan  
18 Jenn Watson  
19 Michael Casadine  
19 Steven Dovich  
19 Lizbeth Martinez  
20 Annette Campbell  
23 Norman Round  
26 Shawn Crowley  
26 Ashley Moynihan  
27 Isabella Rocha  
28 Alloys Gomwe  
28 Jean McKillop  
29 Reina Buruca  
30 Rufaro Comwe  
31 Daniel Guevara

### JUNE

4 Monique Forrester  
4 Ron Holiman  
7 Benjamin Esmeal  
9 Bob Moynihan  
10 Matt McClendon  
12 Brian Mergenthaler  
12 Jim Reiss  
13 Herminio Guevara  
19 Jenna Crowley  
24 Vivian Irrgang  
25 Linda Martella  
25 Chanh Chan Neang  
26 Juanita Ortiz  
29 Stefanie Holiman

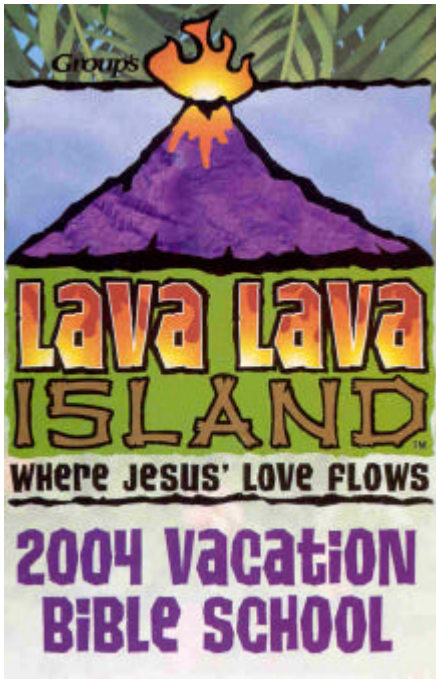
## SCHOOLPOP UPDATE (formerly SCRIP)

by *Ingrid Mergenthaler*

In the last several newsletters, I have been sharing information regarding the Schoolpop (formerly SCRIP) program. I feel that most of our members still do not understand the concept behind this type of fundraising. Each of us goes grocery shopping, many of us eat at restaurants on a regular basis and many of us shop at stores such as Sears, J.C. Penney, Home Depot, etc. The idea of the Schoolpop program is that we can make donations automatically to the building fund by just doing what we always do!

I'm sure that everyone has seen the building fund figures in the bulletin for the last three months. Not once have we been able to meet our obligation. This is a real concern to me and hopefully to all of you. We have a beautiful church that God is blessing. We all need to do our part in paying off the debt. This fundraiser is one way to accomplish our goal of paying off the church.

With a little extra planning, we can help to pay the mortgage while not spending anything extra out of our pocket. It seems like something that we can all do. If anyone has questions about the Schoolpop program, please don't hesitate to call me at 603-894-7295. I will be happy to help!



**What: Vacation Bible School 2004 - Lava Lava Island**  
**When: August 2 - 6, 2004**  
**Where: Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church**

March/April Word Search and Quiz answers:  
 RESURRECTION  
 D, D, D, D

May/June Word Search and Quiz answers:  
 FRANKINCENSE  
 A, C, D, C

**e resources**

- <http://www.mvsda.org/> - Merrimack Valley SDA Church
- <http://www.mvsda.org/?section=newsletter> - MVC online newsletter
- <http://www.adventist.org/> - SDA World Church
- <http://www.sneonline.org/> - Southern New England Conference
- <http://www.plusline.org/> - Adventist resources
- <http://www.pathfindersonline.org/> - NAD Pathfinders
- <http://www.twopaths.com/wordsearch.htm> - Bible Word Search Puzzles
- <http://www.adventistyouth.org/> - Center for Youth Evangelism
- <http://www.christianitytodaymovies.com/> - Biblical perspectives on contemporary cinema
- <http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/> - Adventist Book Center (ABC)
- <http://www.dayspring.com/ecards/index.asp> - Christian e-cards by DaySpring
- <http://www.adventsource.org/cgi-bin/start.cgi/start.html> - AdventSource provides resources for the local church

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 Bob McCall, Photo Editor, Printing .....(978) 667-6670

**\*\*If you do NOT wish to receive this newsletter in the future, please contact Sherri Dovich\*\***

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To: