



# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Phil Vasseur



May/June 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
"New Beginnings"	1
"New Beginnings" (continued)	2
Baptism	2
MVC Calendar	3
Kids' Korner--Hidden Objects	4
Our Shared Values	5
Birthdays	6
Edgewood/GBA	7
Sabbath School & Women's Ministry Highlights	8
Adventurers	9
Anniversaries	9
Recipes	10
Family New Beginnings Day	11
Church picture/address	12
Adventurers--Continued	12
Editor's Desk, Newsletter Deadline	12
Recognitions	12

### "New Beginnings" Thank You!

Where do I begin? How do you thank all the individuals that helped to make the New Beginnings Seminar a success? I'm going to try. Let me begin by thanking all the children, including Katherine & Luis, who helped Joanie Reiss prepare all those eye appealing, healthy and delicious snacks each night after the meetings. Great job!



The "Health Nugget" each night was interesting and informative. A big shout out to Joanie for that one, too. I must tell you Joanie really stretched herself learning how to prepare a Power Point slide show for each night's "Health Nugget" presentation. Thanks, Joanie.



I want to thank Alice Jacobson for purchasing all those great gifts for the nightly free-prize give-away drawings. That was a big help.



Dale Jacobson helped to make sure all our guests had a Bible to follow along during the presentations. He also took photos, helped greet and probably a few other things that I don't know about. Thanks, Dale.

A big thank you needs to go out to Sherri Dovich for planning and organizing all the music for each night. The music provided a powerful spiritual dynamic to the seminar. I know it blessed me. Thank you to all the musicians/singers: Marianne Wiacek, Ingrid Mergenthaler, Michael Mergenthaler, Max and Jovanie

Whyte, the group "Sinai," Victoria, Shirley Antoine, William & Catalina Carvajal, Ben Osei-Mensah. (I hope I didn't forget anyone?)

Photos by Dale Jacobson



(Continued on page 2)

Decorating was a big part in setting the stage for New Beginnings. Juanita Ortiz purchased all those nice plants you see on the platform in the sanctuary! And Karen McClendon, and those who helped her, decorated the foyer, thank you.

Cindy Harris helped to get the word out to the community by placing newspaper ads and other community media.



I have to thank Marge and Gary Patch for their help. Marge made sure we all had the money that was budgeted for New Beginnings to purchase materials, etc.! Gary helped me put up the large sign in front of the church.

A huge part of making any event successful is providing quality children's programming. Lizbeth Martinez organized the content of the nightly children's program and recruited all those who helped. You guys did a great job! Thank you so very much.

Jennifer Voight organized the greeters. Thank you Jennifer and to all the greeters for making sure the guests got their handouts and a big welcome.

Also, a special thanks to Rita McCall for leading the "Prayer Warriors" team! And thanks to the group who prayed for me and with me each night in the library. You know who you are.

Last, but certainly not least, I must thank the emcee's, Warren Saxton and Steve Dovich. You gentlemen did a great job each night setting the tone of the meetings, connecting with the audience and making them feel comfortable. I appreciate you.

I know that I am not aware of everyone and everything that was done to help New Beginnings be a success, but my heart is full of gratitude for each of you.

It's great to be part of church that wants to make a difference for the Kingdom of God!

God bless you,

Pastor Phil



Photos by Dale Jacobson



*Carol Cassidy followed her Lord  
in baptism on April 19<sup>th</sup>*

Carol lives in Boxford, MA with her husband Robert. She has four children: Carol, Alexis, Freddy, and Gabriela.

We welcome Carol and her family into our church Family.

Photos by Dale Jacobson

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road  
Dracut, MA 01826

Phone: 978454-9226  
www.mvsda.org


May 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

June 2008

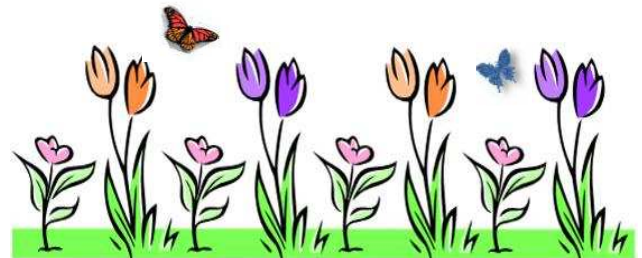
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

May Calendar of Events

- 3 1:00, Family Ministry Pot Luck & Seminars  
11:30, Adventurer Investiture  
2:30, Adventurer Meeting
- 4 1:00, Pathfinder Investiture  
3:00, Pathfinder Meeting  
5:30, Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- 10 2:00, Women's Ministry Bible Study  
2:30, Men's Ministry Study  
6:00, Pathfinder Meeting
- 13 7:00, Church Board Meeting
- 16-18 Pathfinder Spring Camporee
- 17 2:30, Adventurer Meeting
- 23-25 3:00, Adventurer Family Spring Escape
- 29 7:30, Elders Board Meeting
- 31 Women's Ministry Sabbath   
1:00, Women's Ministry Pot Luck  
Cindy's Creative Craft  
1:30, Nursing Home Ministry

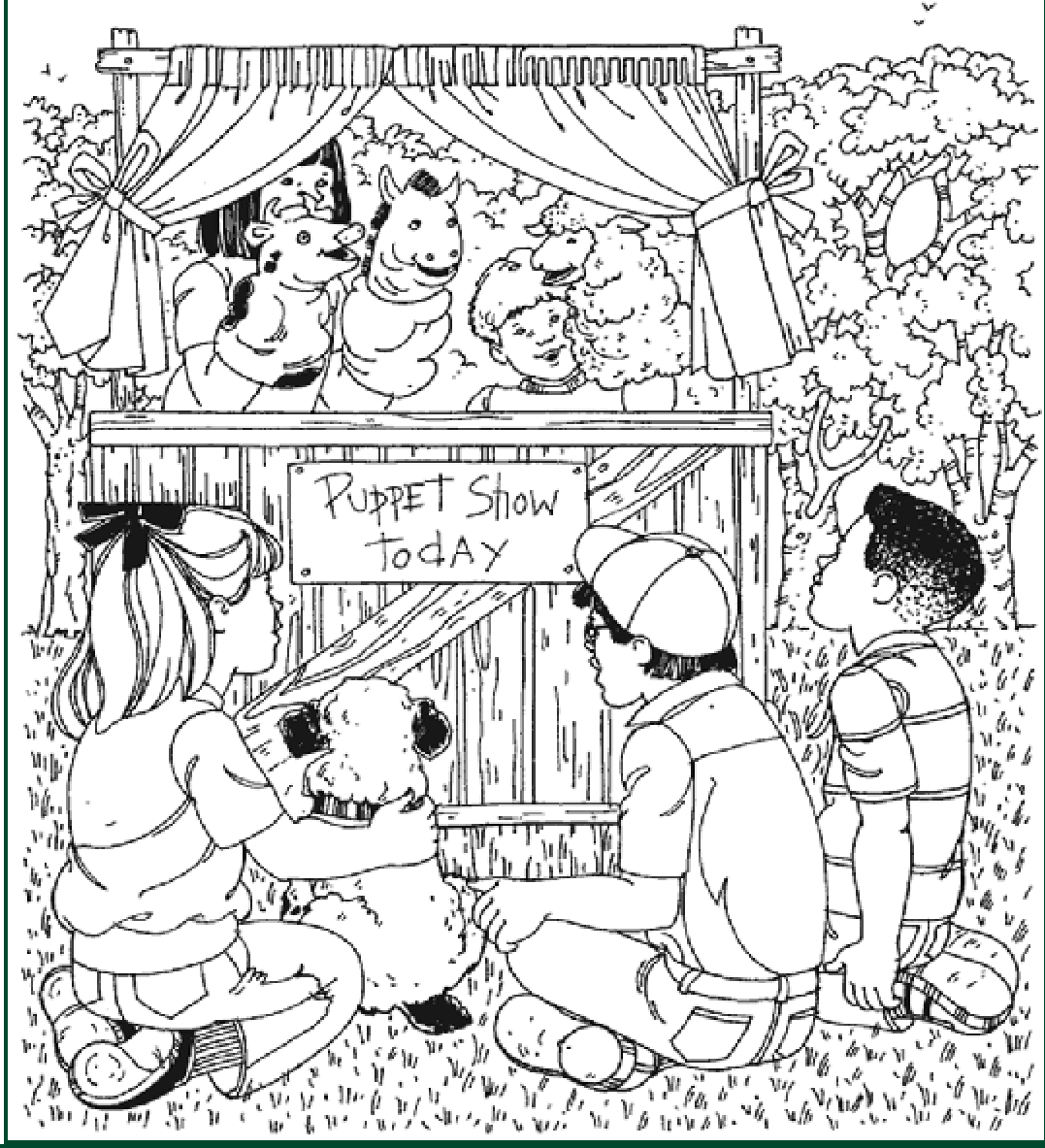
June Calendar of Events

- 1 1:00, Vegan Cooking Class
- 10 7:00, Church Board Meeting
- 11 5:30, Staff Meeting
- 14 2:00, Women's Ministry Bible Study
- 20-28 Campmeeting   
- 26 7:30, Elders Board Meeting
- 28 1:30, Nursing Home Ministry



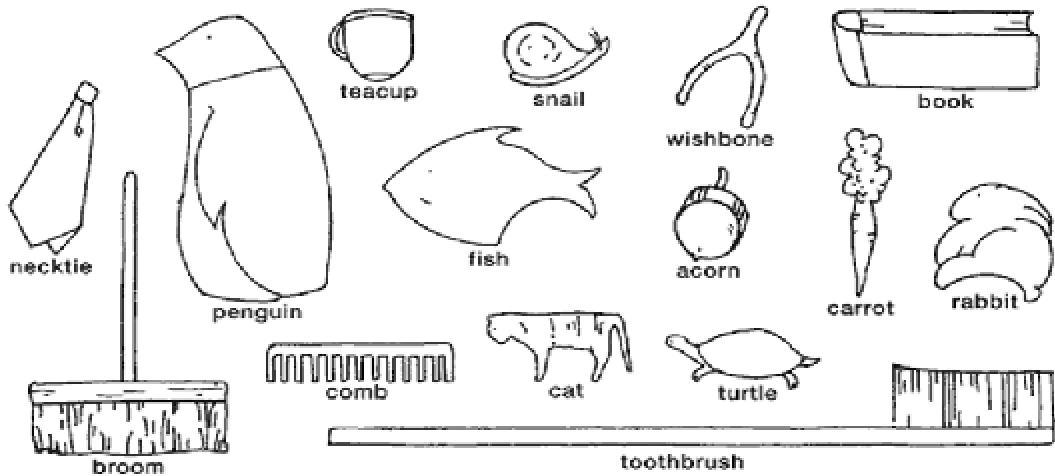
Please refer to the church website for current information,  
[www.mvsda.org/index.php3?section=Calendar](http://www.mvsda.org/index.php3?section=Calendar)

# Kids' Korner



In this big picture find the rabbit, necktie, wishbone, penguin, toothbrush, snail, carrot, comb, book, broom, teacup, cat, acorn, fish, and turtle.

**Can you find these Hidden Pictures?**



## Our Shared Values

### *Friends Helping Friends Become Fully Devoted Followers of Christ*

A lifetime of advertising has conditioned us to look for the hidden agenda in everything we experience. We suspect that every invitation will eventually expect us to return the favor. In this world there are only a few refuges where we feel free to be ourselves. There are only a few relationships where we open up the shades that hide our reality.

Yet within us is a hunger for relationships, placed there by a Creator who wanted to share one with us. First among our human relationships was the marriage of man and woman. And not long after came the family ties that nurture and support us through an expanding web of relations. In our family units we experience a small taste of the love and desire that God has for each of us. Our family knows us better than we sometimes comprehend. They know our faults and failings, our hopes and desires, and we in turn know theirs.

Yet there is one more relationship in which we make ourselves vulnerable. With those we choose as our closest friends, we come nearest to the depth of the family bond. We want to know them, and in turn to be known. We want the freedom to be ourselves, to be more transparent. We want to suspend our suspicions and concerns about motives and intentions.

Everyone who has come through the doors of our Dracut church home has encountered our vision statement. For many, hope that it could be a reality is reason enough to return and get to know the people who have the audacity to print that promise in the bulletin. Think about it for a moment, the simple idea that there are people who are willing to form friendships, and then use those under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to return once again to a relationship with our Creator.

So many people have come into our fellowship because of this simple phrase. As they mingle their friendship with those already here, that idea takes new root and develops further depth within our church family. Together we are building a discipleship community built on friendships, on chosen relationships. We challenge each other to grow spiritually, to become more fully devoted to our God.

This is both a fragile community and one that cannot be destroyed. In Proverbs we read that where there is no vision, the people perish. We must always remind ourselves of why we chose those words for ourselves, whether years ago while seated in the Tewksbury First Baptist Church, or more recently as we decided that these were the kind of friends we wanted to help us prepare for eternity. Jesus reassures us that the idea of mutual discipleship will always glimmer within our hearts. Upon this foundation He builds the church, and even the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

---

Submitted by Steven Dovich



MAY

- 1 – Tom Reuther
- 4 – Pedro Campbell
- 4 – Edward Lee
- 7 – C.J. Candelario
- 8 – Ray Lewandowski
- 9 – Pastor Phil Vasseur
- 11 – Juliana DaSilva
- 11 – Laura Moynihan
- 12 – Jennifer Holiman
- 12 – Ricardo Rocha
- 13 – Pedro Joaquin
- 13 – Kristina Walker
- 14 – Brenda Candelario
- 15 – Kellywan Kan
- 18 – Joseph Connolly
- 18 – Jenn Watson
- 19 – Michael Casadine
- 19 – Steven Dovich
- 19 – Lizbeth Martinez
- 20 – Annette Campbell
- 21 – Sarianna Neang
- 23 – Norman Round
- 26 – Ashley Moynihan
- 27 – Stephanie Goelzer
- 27 – Isabella Rocha
- 28 – Jean McKillop
- 29 – Reina Buruca Portillo
- 29 – Gavin Mergenthaler



JUNE



- 3 – Catalina Carvajal
- 4 – Ron Holiman
- 6 – Idenir Bonfim
- 7 – Benjamin Esmeal
- 9 – Bob Moynihan
- 10 – Matt McClendon
- 12 – Brian Mergenthaler
- 12 – Jim Reiss
- 19 – Jenna Crowley
- 20 – Jovanie Whyte
- 24 – Vivian Irrgang
- 25 – Savuth Chau
- 25 – Linda Martella
- 26 – Juanita Ortiz
- 28 – Eriel Jiovanni Portillo
- 29 – Stefanie Holiman



*May Birthdays were celebrated following the Fellowship Dinner on May 10th*



Photo by Dale Jacobson

## Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Astrup, Principal

It's been a busy few months at Edgewood/GBA. Perhaps the biggest news is that the school successfully went through an accreditation evaluation conducted by the General Conference Board of Regents. A team of eleven educators from the Southern and Atlantic Union spent four days on campus investigating the program and facilities. Prior to this, the board and staff had conducted its own self-study, writing up the results in a report of nearly 200 pages. The committee was impressed with many aspects of the program and commended the board, administration, staff, and faculty for offering a quality program of Christian education. They were also impressed with the support from the constituency and area churches, including Merrimack Valley. The school would not survive without the prayers and financial support of so many.

May and early June will also be busy for the school. A number of events are open to family and friends, including the Science Fair and Exhibition on May 22 at 6:30 p.m., Youth Church on May 24 with Sabbath School starting at 10 a.m., the Spring Concert on May 29 at 7 p.m., Eighth Grade Graduation on June 1, at 1 p.m., and Senior Graduation weekend June 6-8. Consecration is Friday at 8 p.m., Baccalaureate is Sabbath at 11 a.m., and Commencement is Sunday at 1 p.m.

Graduation services are at the Stoneham Memorial Church; all other programs are in the EW/GBA gymnasium.

This summer, we are offering Day Camp for ages 4-12, beginning June 16 through August 8. Registration is \$50; tuition is \$100 per week or \$30 per day. We will also be offering Reading Camp, Math Camp, and Basketball Camp. Dates and times for these three camps will be announced in the church bulletin. Be watching for that information soon, or call the EW/GBA office at 781-438-4253 if you are interested.


We are currently accepting applications for the 2008-2009 school year. We have added another elementary classroom, with Mrs. Grace Mercado as the teacher. Classrooms are filling up quickly, though, so call now for an application!

**Rondi Astrup**  
**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*



Edgewood Elementary and Greater Boston Academy  
 Excellence for the Purpose of Service/ Educating for Eternity



### Edgewood Elementary Greater Boston Academy

## Now Accepting Applications for the 2008-09 school year!

- Christian Education in a family-friendly environment
- Full-day Pre-K three year old program
- Full-day Pre-K four year old program
- Full-day Kindergarten
- Accredited elementary and high school program
- After School Care Program until 5:30
- After School Athletics program (basketball and soccer) on three levels:
- Pee Wee, Middle and Junior High, High School
- Hot lunch program
- Low teacher/student ratio
- Certified, caring Christian teachers
- Easy access to routes 28, 93, 95
- Application, curriculum, directions, financial information on the website (see below)
- Call now for an appointment to visit!

Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy  
 108 Pond Street  
 Stoneham, MA 02180  
 Phone: 781-438-4253  
 Fax: 781-438-6857  
 Website: [www.greaterbostonacademy.com](http://www.greaterbostonacademy.com)  
 E-mail: [ewgba@yahoo.com](mailto:ewgba@yahoo.com)

## Sabbath School News

April 19, 2008 found the Sabbath School Department engaged in another successful Prayer Breakfast. Dr. John Grayson Professor of Religion at Mt. Holyoke College was the guest teacher. His dynamic teaching style captivated the Sabbath School members during the lesson. The morning started off with a delicious breakfast prepared by the families of the church. Following breakfast, Rick Wall presented a devotional message. Prayer Bands followed the devotional. Professor Grayson is a graduate of GBA and AUC. He has taught at Mt. Holyoke for nearly thirty years where he is Campus Chaplain as well as teaching in the religion department.



June 14 will bring us Sabbath School promotions. As our children grow physically, mentally and spiritually we mark their achievements as they move on to new Sabbath School Classes. Come and support our families as we grow together in Christ.



Your Sabbath School Department urges you to bring your children to Sabbath School and to join an adult class yourself. If you have questions or would like to make a comment or make a suggestion about our Sabbath School program please contact Alice Jacobson by phone at 603-898-4075 or by email, [alice.jacobson@verizon.net](mailto:alice.jacobson@verizon.net)

Photos by Dale Jacobson

## Women's Ministry Highlights

Women's Ministries Day will be Sabbath May 31. The theme for the day will be "Metamorphosis through Christ," how to become a servant of Christ through the grace of God. Charlotte Thoms the Atlantic Union Conference Women's Ministries Director will be the guest speaker for the Sabbath Service. There will be a Fellowship Luncheon following the service hosted by the men of the church. After lunch Charlotte Thoms will lead out in a one hour workshop. Cindy Harris will host a craft that will end a high day.

Women's Ministries in conjunction with Community Services will begin a "Love Bag" ministry in the fall. This program will be done in conjunction with the Department of Social Services. It is intended to help children who have been removed from their homes by DSS with only the clothes on their backs. Watch for more news about this community service through the summer as we prepare to participate in this very special outreach ministry.

There will be a Vegan Cooking Demonstration and Tasting by Alberto Reyes, Sous Chef from Atlantic Union College's Culinary Arts Department, held at the church on Sunday, June 1, 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. with free supper included. Donations will be accepted at the class to cover the expenses, etc.

Alice Jacobson was recently elected by the SNEC Executive Committee to serve as the Women's Ministry Director (English) for the Conference. If you are interested in helping or have suggestions please contact her by phone or e-mail. These addresses may be found in the church directory.



**Adventurer Sabbath  
March 8, 2008**



Dewey DaSilva



"Gone Fishing" Skit

**Club Meeting**

**March 15, 2008**



Adventurers



Little Lambs Rock Search

*Photos submitted by  
Sherri Dovich*

*Continued on page 12*



Cassidy & Natalie Connolly



Eager Beaver Tea Party  
Katherine Nelson & Abigail Martinez Perez

# Anniversaries

## MAY

- 28 — Sherri & Steven Dovich
- 30 — Amber & Graham Baker



## JUNE

- 7 — Veronica & Paul Iria
- 18 — Alice & Dale Jacobson
- 21 — Jennifer & Rob Voight



# Recipes

## **Sesame Noodle Soup** (98 calories - serves 6)

4 oz whole-wheat or 50-percent whole-wheat angel hair pasta  
 4 1/2 cups fat-free, no salt added vegetable broth  
 1T peeled and minced fresh ginger  
 1/8 t red pepper flakes  
 1 cup fresh snow peas, halved diagonally  
 4 oz white mushrooms, brushed clean and sliced (about 1 1/4 cups)  
 4 cups chopped fresh spinach or baby spinach leaves  
 1/2 t dark sesame oil  
 1/4 c thinly sliced green onions



Bring a large pot 3/4 full of water to a boil. Add pasta and cook until al dente, about 7 minutes, or according to package directions. Drain the pasta thoroughly and set aside.

In a large saucepan, combine the broth, ginger and red pepper flakes, bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Add the snow peas and mushrooms and cook, uncovered, until the vegetables are softened, about 1 minute. Add the spinach, sesame oil, and pasta and cook until the spinach wilts, about 30 seconds. Ladle the soup into individual bowls and sprinkle with the green onions.

Taken from: *AMA Type II Diabetes Cookbook*

## **Apple, Raisin and Almond Salad** (106 calories -- Serves 6 -- kid friendly)

1/4 c slivered almonds  
 2 Gala or McIntosh apples, halved, cored, and cut into 3/4 inch pieces  
 2 Granny Smith apples, halved, cored, and cut into 3/4 inch pieces  
 1 celery stalk, thinly sliced  
 1/2 c red seedless grapes, cut in half  
 1/4 c golden raisins  
 1/2 c low-fat yogurt  
 6 Bibb lettuce leaves



Put the almonds in a small, dry, nonstick frying pan over medium-low heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until lightly toasted (or toast in toaster oven) for about 2 minutes. Transfer to plate and set aside.

In a large bowl, combine the apples, celery, grapes, raisins, and yogurt and stir to mix well. To serve, place a lettuce leaf on each of 6 plates and divide the apple mixture evenly among the lettuce leaves. Sprinkle with the toasted almonds just before serving so the nuts remain crisp.

Taken from: *AMA Type II Diabetes Cookbook*

## Family New Beginnings Day



Sabbath, May 3 was filled with special family events. The church service was overflowing with family participation. The sermon was presented by Rick Trott, Professor at Atlantic Union College who talked about the importance of families in today's world. A spaghetti dinner was provided for the families (crew headed by Karen McClendon). Families were greeted with colorful plates and tent cards of meaningful quotes decorating the tables. At 2 p.m. the



parents and grandparents met in the sanctuary for a seminar presented by Joanie Reiss that advised them to Communicate with their Children in a positive way. Pastor Phil presented the next seminar on How to Rear Disciples for Christ by example. Joe Connolly and Fermin Peralta finished the day for the adults with information about Drug Abuse Signs and how to obtain help for a child that might be drug involved.

The Teens had two special sessions, the first by Rick Trott on abstinence and purity. The second session was by Joe Connolly and Fermin Peralta on Substance Abuse and the effects it has on their health as well as possible legal consequences as a result of using drugs.

The children were led in games by Bob and Rita McCall with help from Shirley Antoine, Michael Casadine, Jovanie and Maxwell Whyte. The sounds of laughter and fun filled the Fellowship Hall. Next the children divided into two groups for crafts. One group went to flower planting by Amber and Graham Baker to decorate flower pots and fill them with red and purple flowers for Mother's Day. The second group went to a craft class led by Vivian and Greg Irrgang to create crafts for Mother's and Father's Day.

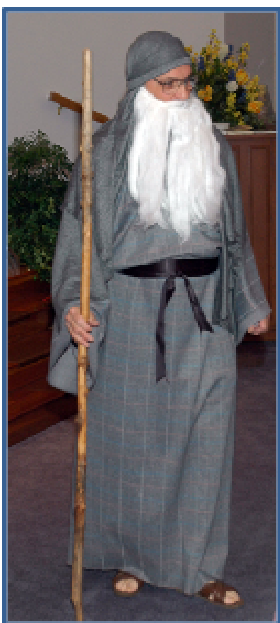


And then the two groups switched areas. Next they were instructed on tooth brushing and flossing by Dr. Vitali Bondar. Watching the floss wrapped around little fingers trying to put it in their mouths to floss was amusing to watch. Finally, the young adults led the children in joyful songs praising the Lord.

Throughout the day there was a special guest that came and talked about events in Bible times. Many thanks to Warren Saxton who was dressed as Moses and offered events from Moses' life.

The Family Day was blessed with learning, fun and food. We look forward to the next day set aside for family time in August. Date and information about that event will be in the next newsletter.

Thanks to all who made this a memorable day. It could not have been successful without their commitment, time and effort. God has told us to honor our families and with His help we will!





Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church  
408 Broadway Road  
Dracut, MA 01826  
Phone: (978) 454-9226  
[friends@mvsda.org](mailto:friends@mvsda.org)  
[www.mvsda.org](http://www.mvsda.org)

Continued from page 9

**Sleep Over and Bike Rodeo  
March 29-30, 2008**



Adventurers



Caitlin Connolly



Alexander & Elizabeth

Photos submitted by  
Sherri Dovich

**From the Editor's Desk**



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: June 26th**

**Little Lights Adventurer Club  
Boston Children's Museum on April 20, 2008**



**Adventurers Investiture  
May 10, 2008**



**RECOGNITION**

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor  
Bob McCall, Printer

Investiture Photos by Dale Jacobson