



# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

## Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Phil Vasseur

November/December 2006

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Finish Well	1
Wedding Announcement	2
Pathfinders' Corner	2
Kids' Korner	2
Baptism	2
MVC Calendar	3
SNE Calendar (Nov./Dec.)	4
Women's Ministry, Craft Pics	4
Holiday Recipes	5
Kids' Page (crossword puzzle)	6
Our Shared Values	7
Welcome the Newcomer	8
Edgewood/GBA	8
Birthdays	9
Birthday Celebration	9
Recipe	9
Points of Interest	10
Recognition	10
Editor's Desk	10



### "Finish Well"

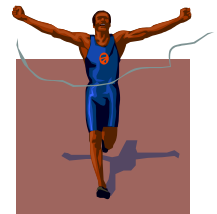
In the early 90's my sister, Sharon, her husband, Steve, and I began a tradition—running in the Manchester Road Race. Every Thanksgiving Day we would run the race. I remember how excited I was at the starting line. I felt like I was running on air. The sun was in my face and the wind at my back. The sea of heads bobbing up and down, the people cheering you on sent chills up and down my spine. People were having fun. One guy ran in full circus clown makeup. Four people draped themselves in a specially designed costume and competed as a human centipede. The first phase of the race might be called the pleasure stage. At this point running is fun.

After the initial rush of pleasure, running becomes harder, effortful and even painful. And if you keep going long enough, you reach the point when the temptation to stop is overwhelming. Your feet are protesting, your legs are aching and your lungs have burning coals at the bottom of them. Runners refer to this experience as "hitting the wall."

To run at this stage—to hit the wall and keep going—is the ultimate test of a runner.

Races are won or lost, completed or abandoned, at "the wall." Remember the guy running as a circus clown? At this stage he wasn't laughing anymore. The human centipede was hanging over the fence, and it didn't look good. At the finish line, people came dribbling in one at a time. Some didn't make it at all.

The start of the race is enjoyable. It is easy. Finishing is hard work. To finish well—that's glory. Finishing well is what counts. How will we run the race of life? Will we finish well? The capacity to finish well is what the New Testament writers called endurance, or perseverance. Having endurance is the ability to honor your commitments, finishing what you start. It is especially the ability to honor commitments when honoring them becomes difficult. Revelation 14:12 says, "Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." By God's empowering grace, let's finish well!



With love,  
Pastor Phil

## Wedding Announcement

Melissa McClendon, daughter of Tim and Karen McClendon, was married to Brian Trepanier on Sunday, July 30th at the Andover Country Club. Our Pastor Phil was the minister for this happy couple. It was a beautiful ceremony. The couple is residing in Stoneham.



## Pathfinders' Corner



### **King's Kids Pathfinder Club**

Submitted by Rita McCall

The Pathfinder Club is in full swing. We just completed our first campout and received a first place ribbon for participating. See the pictures below.



We have three pathfinders, Ayzlynn Crowley, Abigail Santana, and Jonathan Gonzales. Elizabeth and Evelyn DeJesus are in the TLT program (Teen Leaders in Training). We are still accepting applications for the Pathfinder group, ages 10-15 and the TLT group, which is 15-18 or high school age.



Upcoming events include a Bible Times Party. We are planning games and will have light refreshments. The young people are encouraged to come dressed as a biblical character or biblical theme. The date is October 29. We will be sending invitations out to all the kids who came to VBS. We have set a goal this year to invite the kids from VBS to all our activities. More information will be coming in the next couple of weeks.

Please keep us in your prayers and don't hesitate to offer your services or join us in any activity. We always welcome new faces.

### **Kids' Korner**

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

This Thanksgiving turkey 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:



### Baptism

We welcomed Nancy Lagana into our church family on September 30th.

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road  
Dracut, MA 01826

Phone: 978-454-9226  
www.mvsda.org

November 2006

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>		

December 2006

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>						

November Calendar of Events



- **3** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **4** – 1:30 p.m. Pathfinder Can Collection—Pass Out Bags  
4:30 p.m. Adventurer Club Meeting  
5:00 p.m. Pathfinder Ice Cream Social at Coldstone’s  
5:30 p.m. Adventurer Staff Meeting
- **5**—12:30 p.m. Pathfinder Can Collection  
3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting—Full Dress Uniform  
5:30 p.m. Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- **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  
2:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry
- **12** – 3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting—Field Uniform
- **14** – 7:00 p.m. **Church Board Meeting**
- **17** – 7:00 p.m. **D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice**
- **18** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry  
4:30 p.m. Adventurer Club Meeting
- **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

December Calendar of Events

- **1** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **2** – 4:30 p.m. Adventurer Club Meeting  
5:30 p.m. Adventurer Staff Meeting  
--- Adult Christmas Party ---
- **3** – 3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting—Full Dress Uniform  
3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting—Field Uniform
- **8** – 6:00 p.m. Live Nativity
- **9**—11:30 a.m. Worship Service—Cantata  
2:00 p.m. Women’s Ministry Bible Study  
2:00 p.m. Men’s Ministry
- **10** – 3:00 p.m. Pathfinder Meeting—Field Uniform  
6:00 p.m. Children’s Christmas Party—All Ages  
(Sponsored by the Pathfinders)
- **12** – 7:00 p.m. Church Board Meeting
- **15** – --- Community Christmas Caroling ---
- **16**—11:30 a.m. Worship Service—Kids’ Christmas Program  
1:00 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  
4:30 p.m. Adventurer Club Meeting
- **22** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **23** – 1:30 p.m. Nursing Home Ministry
- **28** – 7:30 p.m. Elder’s Board Meeting
- **29** – 7:00 p.m. D.O.G. Puppet Ministry Practice
- **30** – 1:30 p.m. **Nursing Home Ministry**





## Southern New England—Calendar of Events 2006

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>
Nov. 9 - 11	Academy Bible Conference	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551 Ext. 20
Nov. 17 - 19	Family Ministries Retreat	Camp Winnekeag	Carol Cabrera	978-365-4551 Ext. 20
Nov. 19 10 AM - 4 PM	Holiday Sale	Adventist Book Center	ABC	978-365-6376
Nov. 23	Office Closed - Thanksgiving	Conference Office		
Nov. 23 - 26	Closed	Adventist Book Center		
Dec. 8 - 10	Portuguese Elders' and Church Leaders' Retreat	Camp Winnekeag	Nahor Muchiutti	978-368-8205
Dec. 24 - 25	ABC Closed	Adventist Book Center		
Dec. 25	Office Closed - Christmas	Conference Office		

### Women's Ministry – Craft Fellowship Pictures

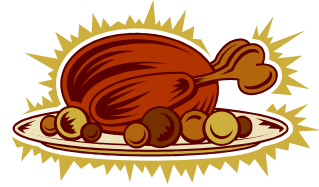
Below is a sampling of photos taken at the last Women's Ministries Craft Event. There is a different craft presented each month. All women are welcome to join us in fellowship during this time. Please see below.



## HOLIDAY RECIPES TO ENJOY

### Bulgur Drumsticks

- 1 cup water
- 6 Tbsp. bulgur wheat
- 1 cup cracker crumbs or bread crumbs
- 2 cups finely shredded cheese (Monterey Jack, mild cheddar, etc.)
- 1 cup ground nuts (pecans or walnuts)
- 1 cup finely chopped onions
- 3 eggs slightly beaten



For broth, combine the following:

- 2 pkgs. George Washington's broth or vegetable seasoning
- 1 cup boiling water

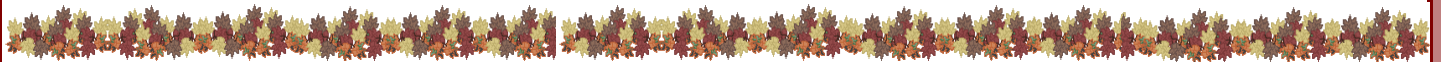
Bring 1 cup water to a boil. Add bulgur wheat and simmer 10 minutes.

In a bowl, mix wheat, cracker or breadcrumbs, cheese, nuts, onion and eggs. Form into drumstick-like shapes and place on lightly oiled baking sheet. Bake at 350° for 20-30 minutes on each side or until golden.

Place in Pyrex baking dish. Pour broth over drumsticks and continue baking until liquid is absorbed. They freeze well so you can make them ahead of time.

Makes about 15 drumsticks.

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 From the kitchen of Linda Martella  
 Modified by Dale Cady



### Pumpkin Knot Rolls

from the kitchen of Dale Cady

- 2 packages (1/4 ounce each) active dry yeast
- 1 cup warm milk (110° to 115°)
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup cooked or canned pumpkin
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 tsp. salt
- 5 1/2 to 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbs. cold water
- Sesame or poppy seeds, optional



In a mixing bowl, dissolve yeast in warm milk. Add the butter, sugar, pumpkin, two (2) eggs, salt and 3 cups flour. Beat until smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour to form a soft dough. Turn onto a lightly floured surface. Knead until smooth and elastic; about 6-8 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1 hour.

Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide in half. Shape each portion into 12 balls. Roll each ball into a 10-inch rope; tie into a knot and tuck ends under. Place 2 inches apart on greased baking sheets. Cover and let rise until doubled, about 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, beat water and remaining egg. Brush over rolls. Sprinkle with sesame or poppy seeds, if desired. Bake at 350° for 15-17 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks.

**Yield:** 2 dozen.



### Across

2. Unto you, O God, do we give thanks, unto you do we give thanks: for that your name is near your wondrous \_\_\_\_\_ declare. Ps 75:1
6. Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His \_\_\_\_\_. Ps 30:4
8. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, and make a \_\_\_\_\_ noise unto Him with psalms.
10. Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the \_\_\_\_\_ unto our God. Ps 147:7
12. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His \_\_\_\_\_ endures forever. Ps 106:1
14. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise: be \_\_\_\_\_ unto Him, and bless His name. Ps 100:4
16. I will praise the name of God with a song, and will \_\_\_\_\_ Him with thanksgiving. Ps 69:30
17. O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make known His \_\_\_\_\_ among the people. Ps 105:1

21. It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto your \_\_\_\_\_, O most High. Ps 92:1
22. O give thanks unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of gods: for His mercy endures forever. Ps 136:2
23. O give thanks unto the God of \_\_\_\_\_: for His mercy endures forever. Ps 136:26
24. That I may publish with the \_\_\_\_\_ of thanksgiving, and tell of all your wondrous works. Ps 26:7
25. Whither the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of Israel, to give thanks unto the name of the Lord. Ps 122:4
26. I will give thanks in the great \_\_\_\_\_: I will praise you among much people. Ps 35:18

### Down

1. So we your \_\_\_\_\_ and sheep of your pasture will give you thanks for ever: we will show forth your praise to all generations. Ps 79:13
3. And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and declare His works with \_\_\_\_\_. Ps 107:22
4. At \_\_\_\_\_ I will rise to give thanks unto you because of your righteous judgments. Ps 119:62
5. Therefore will I give thanks unto thee, O Lord, among the \_\_\_\_\_, and sing praises unto your name. Ps 18:49
7. I will offer to you the \_\_\_\_\_ of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord. Ps 116:17
9. Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous; and give thanks at the \_\_\_\_\_ of His holiness. Ps 97:12
11. Offer unto God \_\_\_\_\_; and pay your vows unto the most High. Ps 50:14
13. Save us, O Lord out God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto your holy name, and to \_\_\_\_\_ in your praise. Ps 106:47
15. O give thanks to the \_\_\_\_\_ of lords: for His mercy endures forever. Ps 136:3
18. O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy \_\_\_\_\_ forever. Ps 107:1
19. To the end that my glory may sing praises to you, and not be \_\_\_\_\_. O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto you forever. Ps 30:12
20. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto your name: the upright shall dwell in your \_\_\_\_\_. Ps 140:13
22. For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the \_\_\_\_\_ who shall give thee thanks? Ps 6:5

## Our Shared Values

### *Loving Fellowship*

*We believe that loving relationships should fill every aspect of church life.  
Together in Christ we are building a fellowship of believers that is caring, accepting, and unified.*

**F**rom the very beginning of the Merrimack Valley Church, we have shared the desire to maintain a friendly atmosphere. When there were only a few families in the Lowell and Lawrence churches, it was easy to keep the church family close. Merging created a bigger challenge, but we were still small enough, that we could come together in the same level of fellowship.

Still, the process of merging brought its own challenges and strained some of the relationships. So as we began to come together and form our new identity, rebuilding and strengthening our church family ties became important. While we haven't always agreed on everything, at the end of the day we are a family, brothers and sisters in Christ.

That family atmosphere has also been part of the attraction at Merrimack Valley. Visitors and prospective members have found us to be friendly and worth visiting. The warm welcome in the foyer is only the first impression, and it is wasted if not matched by friendliness in the Sabbath School class, or a smile in the Sanctuary, or personal conversation after the Worship service.

But simply making someone welcome is not enough; fellowship implies a deeper relationship, one where life events during the week are as important as attendance at weekly services. Do we know what is happening in the lives of our fellow members or frequent visitors? Are we engaged in meeting their needs, and encouraging them along the path of discipleship? What we do beyond the pew has more impact in communicating Loving Fellowship than anything that happens in the church service.

We have grown in numbers over the past few years, and could soon see that close-knit family atmosphere fade away. It will take focused attention to prevent that from happening. We all need to take responsibility for reaching out to others, especially those outside our own circles of friendship. It starts with greeting those you don't know, and introducing them to another church member.

This is also where the power of small groups can make a significant difference. Spending some time together helps to knit those relationships more closely. And an effective culture of fellowship can be built with tightly knit small-groups who value each other's presence and contribution. All aspects of our church life are affected when small groups contribute to Bible study, outreach, service, as well as social interaction. This is the true power of loving fellowships, where fellow worshipers are the friends we want to spend time with, both here in this world, and in an eternity to come.

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Submitted by Steven Dovich

## Welcome the Newcomer

*Hello, I am a Newcomer to Your Church:*

*You cannot know the reason I am here this morning. It may be as simple as a move to the area or as complicated as a personal crisis that leads me to seek strength from others. In either case, I am here. I will probably remain here and come back to visit you again if you . . .*

*. . . smile at me as I walk thru your door. You are the first impression of the church, and this impression will probably stay with me for a long time.*

*. . . speak to me before or after the service. I know that you want to see your friends, or that you are shy or that you need to finalize committee business, but won't you have a moment to care for the "stranger in your midst"?*

*. . . tell me those good things about your church. I want to believe that I have come to some place where people care for each other and where they believe they are doing something exciting and important in their lives.*

*. . . notice me even if I am not family. I don't want to feel invisible just because I am alone, disabled or new to your church.*

*. . . talk to me again the second time I come back and the third and fourth. Please don't feel that you have "done your duty" because you spoke to me that first visit.*

*. . . invite me to become a part of your church. I need to know that I am accepted and affirmed by a group of people within the church who know me by my first name and who care about me as an individual.*

*If you can find it in your heart to do these things for me, I will probably come back, maybe forever. I will share lunch with you, I may join a Bible study group or a committee; work on your projects; take a trip, and become a highly involved member of your church. In so doing, I will find my own life enriched and by meeting a new friend, your life will be enriched as well.*

Submitted by Dale Cady

Adapted from the Stoneham Sentinel, January 28, 2001

## Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy News

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

**G**reater Boston Academy's motto is "Excellence for the Purpose of Service" and this year the school is living that motto to the fullest extent. A new class has been introduced that has service as its sole reason for existence. Called "Service Learning," the class is taught by Skip Johnson, new associate pastor of the Stoneham Memorial Church. Each grade spends 80 minutes a week with Pastor Skip, as they call him, working on a number of service projects for the community.



Each quarter emphasizes a different kind of opportunity to serve. This first quarter is focusing on the Community Service Center on Gerry Street in Stoneham. The students have been organizing the clothing distribution area, cleaning out the basement, and setting up the new food pantry. They have also done a food drive for the pantry, and the sophomores have worked on the Service Van at the Topsfield Fair doing Health Age surveys.

Second quarter, the students will be more involved on the van providing a number of services as they move from place to place throughout the greater Boston area. Third quarter, they will be involved in a Union-wide evangelistic series that Pastor Skip is writing just for them. They will be preaching the sermons and participating in all aspects of putting on such a series.

Fourth quarter, the students will work with Pastor Skip in the Quincy Market area doing street ministry. This is something that is particularly dear to the pastor's heart as he has had a lot of success with this activity in previous posts.



The students are excited about the opportunity to serve their community this way. Some even say it is their favorite class. That's just one of several extra dimensions inherent in a Christian education.



<u>November</u>	
1	Richard Farley
1	Dean Hodson
3	Carmen Guevara
3	Elizabeth DeJesus
9	Jessica Masotta
13	Agnes Walker
20	Sharon Stuart
21	David Esmeal
24	David Masotta
25	Richard Campbell
26	Alice Jacobson
28	Sary Neang
29	Stan McKillop
30	Jessica Grant



<u>December</u>	
1	Vivianne Lewandowski
3	Frederick Clare
3	Brian Portillo
4	Jeong Sook Ahn
6	Elizabeth Bryner
10	Florence Asomugha
10	Rutendo Gomwe
11	Tim McClendon
12	Sarah Moynihan
25	Thouncy Sing

### Birthday Celebration

Nancy Jacobson's birthday was celebrated at the Fellowship Dinner on September 9th. Nancy was away on vacation on her birthday ~ September 13th.



### Fresh Cranberry Salsa

Taken from *Taste of Home* magazine  
Submitted by Dale Cady

- 2 green onions
- 1 jalapeno pepper, seeded and cut into quarters
- 1 package (12 oz.) Ocean Spray fresh or frozen cranberries
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp. ground cumin
- 1 Tbs. chopped fresh cilantro (pluck the leaves off the stems!)
- 2 tsp. lime juice

Tortilla chips

Place onion and jalapeno pepper in food processor. Cover and process until chopped. Add all remaining ingredients; pulse 8 times or until cranberries are coarsely chopped, stopping to stir once or twice. Store in refrigerator overnight to allow flavors to blend. Serve with tortilla chips. Yield 3 cups. Freezes well.



# POINTS OF INTEREST

☉ **The Hallmark Channel** has confirmed that they will air the NAD 2006 Christmas Show, "Love's Pure Light," on the morning of Dec. 24th. This year's story will be a continuation of the storyline featured on the 2005 Christmas show.

☉ **Inside Scoop:** Walla Walla College has elected to change its name to Walla Walla University. The college's Board of Trustees will determine the date the new name will become official. Walla Walla College has been officially recognized as a university for more than 10 years by the Carnegie Foundation's Basic Classification System, which provides guidelines for naming higher education institutions. Approximately 1/3 of WWC's graduates receive master's degrees, according to Ginger-Ketting Weller, vice president for academic administration. Contact: [www.wwc.edu/namechange](http://www.wwc.edu/namechange) for more information

☉ **Women's Ministry Bible Study** now meets on the 2nd Sabbath of the month. It begins at 2 p.m. We will be studying the book of Matthew. Come and study God's Word together and enjoy fellowship at the craft time. Special crafts are presented by Cindy Harris for the women of the church.

☉ **Boston Van Ministries is on the move!** Now operated by the Stoneham Memorial Church, Boston Van Ministries has recently upgraded its vehicle to a 33 foot-long George Boy Pursuit (for those interested in "brands"). The purchase of this new (but used) vehicle was made possible by those who support Boston Van Ministries with donations.

☉ **The Norwood congregation,** begun several years ago by Pastor Bill Brace, organized into a church company on Sept. 9th at 698 Washington St., Norwood, MA.

## ☉ Caring for Marriage Seminar

The Jan. 6, 2007 "Caring for Marriage" seminar will include talks about differences between men and women, temperaments and surprises. Couples will need to register before that weekend so that supplies can be ready. More information will be in the bulletin. Caring for Marriage will supply the lunch and then will go into the seminar. This seminar is for couples ONLY and pre-registration is required. Come and enjoy a day with your spouse and renew your relationship.

## From the Editor's Desk



Call Cindy L. Harris at (978) 685-5905, or e-mail at [cinlee4@comcast.net](mailto:cinlee4@comcast.net) to submit items of interest for the next newsletter.

**Next Deadline: Dec. 1st**

☉ **On Aug. 29th, Atlantic Union College** opened its doors for the 125th year! Enrollment is up with more than 100 new students!

☉ **Wayne Henry** from Blue Mountain Academy will teach Math at GBA.

☉ **Retired AUC professor** James Segar is serving as interim Vice-President of Finances at AUC.

## RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road  
Dracut, MA 01826

Friends helping friends

become

*Fully devoted followers*  
of **Christ**



Phone: 978-454-9226

[www.mvsda.org](http://www.mvsda.org)

**To:**