



FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Phil Vasseur

November/December 2007

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Justification on a Plane—Part 2

"I'm glad that I don't have to fly anymore today." That's what the Captain of the plane, the pilot, said after the injured passengers disembarked the plane.

I remember thinking, "thanks, I still have to fly to Texas in an hour."

Flying was the last thing I wanted to do. In fact, I was determined not to fly. I was sitting in Chicago's O'Hare, trying to figure out how not to fly. "I'll rent a car. I don't care how much it costs. I'm keeping my feet on the ground!" I said to myself.

You may recall in part 1 of "Justification on a Plane," that I thought the plane was going to crash, and I was going to die. In that moment, I realized, in a very real way, that I had nothing to present to God that qualified me for heaven except the perfect righteousness of Jesus! The Bible calls it justification by faith (Romans 3:23, 24).

When you receive Christ as your Savior, He also becomes your Lord! You've joined His team. As the captain of the team, He's continuously working in your life for his purposes. While I was sitting in the airport trying to figure out how to get home, I began to have a dialogue in my head that went something like this: "Wait a minute. Check out the weather report. Maybe the plane will be flying in good weather? The plane I'm flying in is a large jet, not a prop-propelled plane!" As I looked back on it, to me, that was the Spirit helping me to regain the courage to fly, not drive, home.

My team Captain was working His leadership into my life. Just as we are dependent on Christ to qualify us for heaven (justification), we are also dependent on Him to live according to His purposes on earth (sanctification)! At first I was not open to the idea of flying ever again, especially not that day. But my Captain began working. He met me where I was. Then began guiding me to where He wanted me to be. I boarded the plane. My flight home to San Marcos, Texas, via San Antonio, was smoooooth flying!

Where are you? Are you where He wants you to be? Is He fulfilling His purposes in your life? Let Captain Jesus work His leadership into your life. He can get you to the place He wants you to be. He'll be happy to fly today!

By His grace,
Pastor Phil





Pathfinder & Adventurer Induction Ceremony
& Potluck Supper
Friday, October 19th

After a potluck soup and sandwich supper, we joined in the sanctuary for a candlelight ceremony welcoming the new members to the Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs.

Building Fund Envelopes

In December, the Christmas tree in the sanctuary will be accepting your donations to help payoff our church mortgage. We've made a lot of progress! But we still have a large balance to erase.



Thank you for all you do to make the Merrimack Valley Church a great place to worship!

Pastor Phil



Apologies to Joanie & Jim Reiss who's October 28th anniversary did not get into the last edition

NOVEMBER

- 13 – Sarone Thi Neang & Savuth Chanh Chan
- 19 – Ingrid & Gustav Mergenthaler
- 20 – Stephanie & Andreas Goelzer

DECEMBER

There are no known anniversaries for this month.

Baby Dedication—October 13th

Eriel Giovanni Portillo
Born on June 28, 2007
Mother: Flor Portillo
Grandmother: Reina Buruca



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

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November 2007

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	

December 2007

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					

November Calendar of Events

- 3 1:00, Can Collecting—pass out bags
1:00, Sabbath School Council Meeting
- 4 12:00, Can Collecting—pick up bags
3:00, Pathfinder Meeting
5:30, Staff Meeting
- 6 7:00, Depression Seminar
- 10 Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner
2:00, Women’s Ministry Bible Study & Craft
2:30, Men’s Ministry
- 11 Rock Climbing—details to follow
8:00, Secret Sister Brunch
3:00, Pathfinder Meeting
- 13 7:00, Depression Seminar
- 14 7:00, Church Board Meeting
- 17 9:45, Prayer Breakfast
- 20 7:00, Depression Seminar
- 24 1:30, Nursing Home Ministry
- 27 7:00, Depression Seminar
- 29 7:30, Elders Board Meeting

December Calendar of Events

- 1 Community Table
Adult Christmas Party/Yankee Swap
- 4 7:00, Depression Seminar
- 8 Christmas Cantata with Christ Church United
2:00, Women’s Ministry Bible Study
2:30, Men’s Ministry
- 9 3:00, Pathfinder Meeting
11:30, Kids Christmas Musical Presentation
5:30, Staff Meeting
- 16 3:00, Pathfinder Meeting
- 18 7:00, Church Board Meeting
- 27 7:30, Elders Board Meeting
- 29 1:30, Nursing Home Ministry

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



Thanksgiving Word Search

A N D H S P I L G R I M S P
 M T H A N K S G I V I N G U
 P U O R A G T I A H M N M M
 M R B V S E U N F I F X A P
 B K J E P F F D A E R O I K
 F E A S T Z F I M F I G Z I
 K Y H T G I I A I P E I E N
 L C F H G E N N L Z N E Z K
 A D O O F Q G S Y E D S A J
 N O V E M B E R O M S T R T



THANKSGIVING
 TURKEY
 HARVEST

FAMILY
 FRIENDS
 FEAST

NOVEMBER
 PILGRIMS
 STUFFING
 PUMPKIN



Kids' Korner



Here's a challenge for the kids. In this newsletter is a hidden ruler. 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!



Our Shared Values

Evangelistic Growth

We believe that those who do not have a saving relationship with Christ matter to God, and therefore, matter to the church. Evangelistic growth in our church requires an outward focus that reaches everyone for Christ within the context of caring relationships.

We have invested a lot of energy over the years to building a culture of Christian growth based on friends helping friends. From the early challenges following the merger of two congregations, we have made a lot of progress. Merrimack Valley has a personality that is different from either of the parent churches. Central to that has been our shared vision of “Friends helping friends become fully devoted followers of Christ.”

We have seen growth as our community has attracted others to come join with us. Strengths which have developed from the shared values appeal to families looking for a new church home. Merrimack Valley has been successful in creating a comfortable environment for those who come to visit. Now, our challenge is to actively seek out those who need Christian relationships, but are not yet looking.

We need to turn our focus outward, and spend our energies on those outside our circle of fellowship. Of all of our shared values, this is the one which requires us to connect our personality as a church with the commission to go into all the world. Our worship, fellowship, and spiritual integrity are critical to becoming fully devoted followers of Christ. But they are not enough.

Jesus took on Himself the sins of all mankind. There was no limit to just a chosen people, or just those who found their way to the place of worship. He gave Himself to save everyone, because every person matters to God. He does not want even one to be separated from His family relationship. And if we are to become like Jesus, we too must make reaching others a priority.

Biological growth, retaining new generations of our own families, is important for a healthy church. But it doesn't reach the world for Christ. We need to be doing both. Our values of spiritual integrity demand that we care about the things that God cares about. And our shared vision statement calls us to use the strengths of Merrimack Valley in our outreach.

As you exercise your ministry gifts here at Merrimack Valley, remember that an outward focus is important. We need to be a beacon of light, calling people to a friendship that will prepare them for eternity. Everything we do must be a part of teaching people to be gospel witnesses, including ourselves. We must not rest until Jesus has brought us to live in His Father's house, and has called us good and faithful servants.

Submitted by Steven Dovich



Women's Ministry – Tea Party Sunday, October 21st



Happy Birthday

November

- 1 – Richard Farley
- 1 – Julio Martinez
- 3 – Elizabeth DeJesus
- 9 – Polina Kadatska
- 9 – Jessica Masotta
- 10 – Samuel Oh
- 10 – Agnodia St. Louis
- 13 – Agnes Walker
- 15 – Vannara Chan
- 21 – David Esmeal
- 25 – Richard Campbell
- 26 – Raquel DaSilva
- 26 – Alice Jacobson
- 28 – Sary Neang
- 29 – Stan McKillop
- 30 – Jessica Grant



December

- 1 – Vivianne Lewandowski
- 1 – Beatrice Quagraine
- 3 – Brian Portillo
- 4 – Jeong Sook Ahn
- 4 – Katherine Nelson
- 6 – Elizabeth Bryner
- 12 – Sarah Moynihan
- 12 – Ben Osei-Mensah
- 17 – Gloria LaBlon
- 23 – Duarte DaSilva, Jr.
- 25 – Thouncy Sing
- 30 – Paul Iria

Baby Showers

Elizabeth DeJesus
September 16th



Phyllis & James
September 22nd



News and Views from Sabbath School

The students, teachers and parents are all looking forward to Sabbath School Promotion at the end of the year. Promotion marks a new beginning in each child's life. As they grow physically and mentally it is the purpose of Sabbath School to assist them in maturing spiritually. Each promotion signals another step along that path. Merrimack Valley is blessed by having devoted division teachers and leaders to guide our children in their pathway to Christ. It does take a whole village to assure a positive experience in spiritual growth.

Sabbath School Council met on November 3rd to discuss issues relevant to proper Sabbath School function. It was encouraging to see a large number of members participating at the Council meeting. This again illustrates the priority given to the spiritual development of both adults and children by our church family. The Council is recommending to the Church Board that additional lighting be provided to the Kindergarten Sabbath School room by adding a window, skylight or additional lighting fixtures. The children and leaders are very much enjoying the additional space provided by the renovation of the classroom area.

Mark your calendars for November 17 when our 4th Prayer Breakfast will begin at 9:45 a.m. Professor Rick Trott from the Religion Department at Atlantic Union College will be our guest teacher. Remember to bring your favorite breakfast food and your appetite for spiritual growth and good cuisine. Prayer Breakfasts are scheduled quarterly. February 2 is the date for the first quarter 2008 Prayer Breakfast.



Dr. Eldon Roberts, Professor of English, Atlantic Union College was the guest teacher on September 22nd.

Women's Ministry Highlights

November will mark the completion of our study of the Book of Matthew. Please call Alice with suggestions for study topics for the next series of Women's Ministry meetings. A few of the recent highlights include Secret Sisters, Secret Sisters' Brunch, a tea party at *Antiquiteas* in Londonderry, making gifts for the Nursing Home Ministry, and a Christmas Craft. Cindy's craft talents are so much appreciated by the ladies who attend. As a result of the tea party the proprietor of the teahouse has asked our church to provide a regularly scheduled Bible Study at her establishment. God opens unforeseen doors when you serve Him. Pray that the Lord will lead Women's Ministries as we endeavor to be Christ's representative in the church family and community.

Submitted by Alice Jacobson, Sabbath School Superintendent

Share Him

Church Alive
October 13th



Hands on prayer for the Share Him Leadership Team

Pathfinders' Corner

King's Kids Pathfinder Club

Submitted by Rita McCall

The Pathfinder Club is off to a great start. We have five young people in the club this year, Asher Clark, Ayzlynn Crowley, Nathalie Crowley, Raquel DaSilva, and Taylor Johns.

September 14, 15, & 16 was the Southern New England Conference Camporee. Ayzlynn and Nathalie attended for the entire weekend. Raquel joined us on Sabbath for the day. On Sabbath morning during the worship service the guest speaker invited anyone who wanted to follow Jesus in their life to come forward to let everyone know. Ayzlynn, Nathalie, & Raquel were one of the first to go forward. I have to tell you I had tears in my eyes.



Sabbath afternoon the three girls joined the 800+ other kids in a series of 10 activities, which included the school kit project. Every Pathfinder was given the opportunity to put together a school kit from all the supplies that were brought in by the different clubs. The completed kits were given to local homeless shelters so kids who come with their moms could go to school with new supplies just like everyone else. Thank you to everyone from our church who supported this project. We had enough to share with clubs who couldn't bring anything.

Sunday was event day. We had to borrow 5 pathfinders from another club because we didn't have enough kids in our club to participate in any of the activities. Jesus Arocho's Boston club lent us 5 of his girls. They all quickly became friends and off we were to participate. There was volley ball; bike riding relay while carrying an egg on a spoon; physical fitness relay which included running, bike riding, bike obstacle course, sit ups etc.; and then the A-frame. The A-frame involves walking a person standing in a wooden a-frame from a start line to a finish line with the team balancing and helping to move the A-frame with ropes. Anyone who slacks causes the A-frame and the person in it to fall.



The King's Kids won a first place blue ribbon for the weekend.



We took a week off and then we were off to apple picking and a hay ride at Parlee's farm.



We have been working on honors which include model rockets, knot tying, basic sewing (which we completed), origami, and marching and drilling.

The kids are learning their Bible texts and the Friend class is memorizing the Old Testament Bible Books in order.



On October 19th we had a family supper in conjunction with the Adventurer Club and then had a candlelight ceremony inducting the new members to the Pathfinder Club. New members are: Asher Clark – Friend Class (our only boy), Nathalie Crowley – Friend Class, Taylor Johns – Friend Class and Raquel DaSilva – Explorer Class. Ayzlynn Crowley is our only returning Pathfinder.

We are looking forward to collecting food for the Thanksgiving baskets in November. We are also planning an outing to Boulder Morty's to try out some rock climbing.

If you thought about joining the club and haven't yet it's not too late. We meet two Sunday's a month from 3-5:30 and we try to schedule our monthly activity and community service on the same weekend or day as our meeting so that you have some free weekends.



Photos by Bob McCall



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SNEC Adventurer Fun Day -- Davis Farm Land



Shayla Crowley
Hay Ride



Little Lights Adventurer Club
Davis Farmland
September 23, 2007



Lizbeth and Abigail Martinez



Shayla Crowley
Croc Charms



Alexander Dovich
Scooter Bug Ride



Katherine Nelson
Pedal Carts



Elizabeth Dovich
Pony Ride

Photos by Sherri Dovich

From the Editor's Desk



Please call Cindy Harris at:
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NEXT DEADLINE: [December 18th](#)

Crafts for Nursing Home Residents October 13th



RECOGNITION
 Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor
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