



FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

Pastor's Corner

by Pastor Phil Vasseur

October – December 2008

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Corner	1
Elder's Corner	2
Baby Dedications	2
MVC Calendar of Events	3
Kids' Korner – Maze	4
Birthdays & Anniversaries	5
Edgewood/GBA	6
Sabbath School News	7
Women's Ministry Highlights	8
Pathfinders' Corner	9
Recipe	10
Merrimack Valley Praise Team	10
Grammie Reiss' Birthday	11
Kindergarten Mission Project	11
Church picture/address and Services	12
Adventurers	12
Editor's Desk	12
Next Newsletter Deadline	

The Joshua Report

Do you remember the spies? Twelve men were sent to spy out the occupied land. Moses wants them to see what the land is like. Are there trees or not? Do they have good or bad fruit? Are the people who live there strong or weak, big or small? They want to learn whether they can take the land and if it's worth the taking. (Read Numbers 13:17-14:12).

In a way, we all have twelve spies inside our heads. Ten strive to convince us why we need to stay put, avoid change and play it safe. But two mental spies tell us about greener pastures, fruitful horizons and splendid skylines. Whom do we trust? Whom should we listen to? Who is speaking the truth? Could it be that they both are?

Twelve men spied out the land, but two of them, Joshua and Caleb, returned with a yes-we-can report. Only two saw the possibilities. Ten reported that the people are too big and too strong. We can't take the land. It's impossible! That's what they saw. It's not that they were wrong. The people were big and strong. The cities were fortified. It's that they didn't see the possibilities God had promised.

If you know the story, then you know the history. They did NOT go up and possess the land. Instead, they wandered in the wilderness for forty years, and many died there. How unfortunate! They missed the possibilities. All the people listened to the ten spies and played it safe, so they thought.

How about us? Who are we listening to? What are we seeing? Are we listening to the ten spies in our heads telling us that the people are too big and strong, and the cities are too strong? Are we blind to the possibilities? Or are we listening to the two spies in our heads telling us yes we can? Do we see the possibilities God has for MVC?

In His service,
Pastor Phil



ELDER'S CORNER

A Time for Every Purpose

To everything *there is* season,
a time for every purpose under heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



This is a very well known text. It is even the lyrics for a popular song written by a famous songwriter. But what does it mean to us at the Merrimack Valley Church? What season are we in and what should we be doing in that season? What should our purpose be for this time?

Should we all have the same purpose at the same time? Of course not! We should work in our strengths not from our weaknesses. In the coming weeks we will be learning what our gifts are. It is not sufficient to just know what our gifts are; we must learn how to use them, and then actually use them. This is a participatory experience, not an academic theoretical mind game.

The leadership of the church wants to provide you with the structure that is necessary for every member to actually use their gifts for the glory of God. Please prayerfully consider how you will participate in this plan.

Dale Jacobson

Baby Dedications

August 23, 2008

Baby Boom! That's what I call it. On August 23, 2008, I had the distinct pleasure of dedicating not one, but three babies! On that Sabbath morning, I had the opportunity to present Phyllis' daughter, Joy, Elizabeth's son, Joseph and William and Catalina's daughter, Gabriella to the Lord! How good is that? For me, it's special to be able to pray with the moms and dads for their children. It's also great to ask God to empower them to raise their children to love and serve Jesus! I can't think of a better way to help moms and dads than to help lead their children to the *Way*!

Thank you, Phyllis, Elizabeth and William & Catalina for inviting me to be a part of your special event.

Sincerely yours,
Pastor Phil



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road
 Dracut, MA 01826

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

October 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	

November 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						

December 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			

Calendar of Events

October:

- 3 — 4:00pm Pathfinder Fall Camporee
- 4 — All day — Pathfinder Fall Camporee
 1:00pm Adventurer Lunch
 2:30pm Adventurer Meeting - Field Uniform
 4:30pm Adventurer Staff Meeting
- 5 — 2:00pm Pathfinder Fall Camporee
- 11 — 1:00pm Fellowship Luncheon
- 12 — All day — Adventurer — Topsfield Fair
 9:00am Topsfield Fair Field Trip - Pathfinders
- 14 — 7:00pm Church Board Meeting
- 18 — 1:00pm Adventurer Lunch
 2:30pm Adventurer Meeting - Field Uniform
 5:00pm Pathfinder Meeting
 7:30pm Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- 19 — 3:00pm Fall Hay Ride

October 24th through November 29th

- 7:00pm Discovery 2008 seminar with Mark Finley
- 25 — 11:30am Adventurer - Induction Ceremony
 1:30pm Nursing Home Ministry
 2:00pm Pathfinder Nursing Home Visitation
 5:00pm Pathfinder Meeting

November:

- 1 — 1:00pm Adventurer Lunch
 2:30pm Adventurer Meeting - Field Uniform
 4:30pm Adventurer Staff Meeting
- 11 — 7:00pm Church Board
- 15 — All day -- Adventurer Sabbath
 9:45am Prayer Breakfast
 1:00pm Adventurer Lunch
 2:30pm Adventurer Meeting - Field Uniform
 5:00pm Pathfinder Meeting
 7:30pm Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- 22 — 12:00pm Fellowship Luncheon
 5:00pm Pathfinder Meeting
- 29 — 1:30pm Nursing home ministry

December:

- 6 — 1:00pm Adventurer Lunch
 2:30pm Adventurer Meeting - Field Uniform
 4:30pm Adventurer Staff Meeting
 6:00pm Adult Christmas Party
- 9 — 7:00pm Church Board
- 13 — 2:00pm Pathfinder/Adventurer - Christmas Caroling
 5:00pm Pathfinder Meeting
 7:30pm Pathfinder Staff Meeting
- 14 — All day — Adventurer - Christmas Party
 11:00am Pathfinder/Adventurer Christmas Party
- 20 — 12:00pm Fellowship Luncheon
 1:00pm Adventurer Lunch
 2:30pm Adventurer Meeting - Field Uniform
 5:00pm Pathfinder Meeting
- 27 — 1:30pm Nursing home ministry

KIDS' KORNER

A-MAZE-ING ANIMALS

Fly the bird to her nest.





October

- 1 – Joseph Angel deJesus
- 1 – Abigail Martinez
- 4 – Cindy Harris
- 5 – Carla Bonfim-Garozzo
- 5 – Kwang Oh
- 8 – Cheng Sieu Tang
- 10 – Sophone Tang
- 11 – Joy Ndro
- 12 – Emmanuel Leveille
- 12 – Regina Yu
- 13 – Thomas Sing
- 13 – Marianne Wiacek
- 16 – Nancy Saxton
- 20 – Melissa Candelario
- 20 – Monte Nelson
- 22 – Abigail Santana
- 23 – Gail Boissoneault
- 23 – Marie Caggiano
- 23 – Jim Newell
- 26 – Andrew Lee
- 26 – Denise Vasseur
- 29 – Dale Cady
- 29 – Rick Wall
- 30 – Gian Carlo Camacho

November

- 1 – Richard Farley
- 1 – Julio Martinez
- 1 – Graciela Robles
- 2 – Melody Morgan
- 2 – Rex Pajela
- 3 – Karl Michael Camacho
- 3 – Elizabeth deJesus
- 7 – Slava Bondar
- 9 – Polina Kadatska
- 9 – Jessica Masotta
- 10 – Samuel Oh
- 10 – Agnodia St. Louis
- 13 – Agnes Walker
- 15 – Vannara Chan
- 15 – Richmond Pajela
- 19 – Ellen Morgan
- 21 – David Esmeal
- 26 – Raquel DaSilva
- 26 – Alice Jacobson
- 28 – Sary Neang
- 29 – Stan McKillop
- 30 – Jessica Grant

December

- 1 – Vivianne Lewandowski
- 1 – Beatrice Quagraine
- 3 – Bryan Portillo
- 4 – Jeong Sook Ahn
- 4 – Katherine Nelson
- 4 – Dwight Morgan
- 12 – Sarah Moynihan
- 12 – Benjamin Osei-Mensah
- 14 – Karl Camacho
- 14 – Elaine Pajela
- 15 – Jodie Masotta
- 17 – Gloria Lebron
- 19 – Cassidy Connolly
- 23 – Duarte DaSilva, Jr.
- 25 – Lena Lee
- 30 – Paul Iria
- 31 – Eve Pajela

Anniversaries

October

- 4th – Rita & Bob McCall, 39 yrs.
- 20th – Dale & Bill Cady, 34 yrs.
- 26th – Marge & Gary Patch, 34 yrs.
- 28th – Jim & Joanie Reiss, 30 yrs.

November

- 13th – Savuth Chau & Sarone Thi Neang, 39 yrs.
- 19th – Ingrid & Gustav Mergenthaler, 30 yrs.
- 20th – Stephanie & Andreas Goelzer, 3 yrs.

December

- 25th – Diane & Monte Nelson, 15 yrs.
- 26th – Natalie & Joseph Connolly, 12 yrs.



Edgewood Elementary/Greater Boston Academy

Submitted by Rondi Aastrup, Principal

The school year is off to a great start at Edgewood/Greater Boston Academy. With three new full-time academy teachers and an additional elementary teacher, enrollment is up, and spirits are high. The theme for the year is "Higher than the Highest," a phrase that comes from the first chapter of Ellen White's book *Education, this year's staff devotional book*. "Higher than the highest human thought is God's ideal for His children," it states, and that is EW/GBA's teachers' ideal for their students as well.

Alumni Homecoming Weekend is a couple of weeks later this year, October 17-19, to take advantage of the fall foliage and the annual Fall Festival to be held on Sunday. The class of 1998 will present the vespers program Friday night at the Stoneham Memorial Church. Art Conrad, class of 1968, will deliver the sermon for church, also to be held at SMC. Of course there will be a potluck and social time afterwards at the EW/GBA gymnasium. Classes will have their time to meet together Saturday evening. And Sunday, from 11-3, all will have the opportunity to support the various classes and school organizations. Delicious varieties of food, games, a car wash and a flea market are just some of what the Fall Festival holds. Most importantly, there will be lots of fun and fellowship. All are welcome!

The school is investigating the possibility of offering evening courses in computers and English for adults later this fall. There will be more news on this in the next newsletter. In the meanwhile, keep the school, the staff, and the students in your prayers.

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

Prayer Breakfast

Sabbath, September 20th, found the MV Church enjoying another Prayer Breakfast. The food was plentiful and delicious. The gifted cooks who arrived early to prepare for the potluck breakfast surely deserve our thanks. What a bountiful spread! While we were savoring



our delightful breakfast, Warren Saxton brought us a devotional message. After breakfast we joined in small groups to pray. Following the prayer session we were led in an interesting and stimulating group lesson by Pastor Phil. Never before had we had the privilege of having the Pastor lead us in a Sabbath School lesson.

Once each quarter the adult Sabbath School joins together for Prayer Breakfast. The next time we will enjoy this blessing is November 15, 2008. The guest teacher will be Jack Mentges, Dean of Students at Atlantic Union College. We are looking forward to this program, good food, prayer, and Bible study.

If any of you have an idea for an interesting guest teacher, or how we could make this program more of a spiritual blessing, please contact any of the Sabbath School leaders.

Submitted by Alice Jacobson, Sabbath School Superintendent

Women's Ministry Highlights

The Women's Ministry Convention for the Atlantic Union Conference was held on Aug 15-17, 2008 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Albany, NY. Upon arrival on Thursday evening the Women's Ministries Directors of the Atlantic Union Conference were hostesses for a buffet dinner that took place in a dining room that overlooked the city of Albany. Charlotte Thoms, WM Director of the Atlantic Union welcomed everyone and then they were treated to music and messages of the upcoming weekend. At exactly 9 p.m. as Charlotte was saying goodnight to all, there was a spectacular array of fireworks behind her somewhere in the city. It was the beginning of a spiritually refreshing and renewing opportunity to "Feel His Presence" and "Grow in Grace." Friday, the WM Directors were invited to join in with the North American Division Advisory Committee Meeting where Union Conference WM Directors gave reports of the many and varied programs and events that were happening in their Union. What a blessing to hear how the Lord is working throughout the NAD! There were over 20,000 baptisms as a result of Women's Ministry evangelistic meetings, services and other events. Certainly it was a reminder of how the Lord can use women for His ministry.

The Convention meetings started on Friday night and continued until Sunday noon. The weekend was filled with heavenly music, including Christine Schneider and Tammy Vice, and spirited speakers including Rosa Taylor Banks, Ginger Church and Carla Baker. On Sabbath afternoon the community enjoyed a concert overlooking the reflecting pools of the community center. There were approximately 400 women who attended and left there feeling the presence and grace of God. Charlotte Thoms, AUC Women's Ministry Director and her team planned and executed a fulfilling and meaningful Convention and many thanks were expressed for their hard work.

Submitted by Alice Jacobson, SNEC Women's Ministry Director

Family Ministry Day

It was a beautiful, sunny, warm Sunday, September 21 when the MV Church held its Yard Sale and Family Fun Day. The tables were full of donated items for sale. The charcoal grill was hot and filled with corn roasting. The grills also had vejalinks and grillers cooking. The Pathfinder canopy housed tables for balloon art, crafts and there was a puppet stage. The Pathfinders were finishing setting up their tables of donated baked goods, drinks and snacks to sell. On the grass right behind the church were two blowers filling a 40' x15' bouncy obstacle course balloon. All was set for the big day. Prayers were ascending upwards for a safe, fun-filled outreach to the community. Before 10 am people were coming to see the items for sale. Families started arriving, enjoying the blown up obstacle course, the free corn and vejedogs, the face painting, and balloon art. Each area of the Family Fun setup was bustling with activity. There were many families from the Dracut community that shared the food and fun. God richly blessed all those who were involved in planning, setting up, cooking, conducting the activities, helping with the yard sale, tearing down and cleaning up when it was over. The blessings came when they saw that the people came and got to know a little more about our church and our caring for our community. Thanks to all who participated in making the day memorable.



Pathfinders' Corner

King's Kids Pathfinder Club

Submitted by Rita McCall

The 2008-2009 Pathfinder year is off to a great start. We have more than doubled in size from 4 Pathfinders to 10 and I am anticipating the possibility of maybe 3 more joining in the next couple of weeks. We have an awesome God! Our first fundraiser was a success. We raised \$250 on Family Fun Day by selling donated baked goods, water, juice and doing face painting. Thank you to everyone for a great start to our year. Please keep us in your prayers.



Pathfinders Learning Basics of Marching & Drilling



Preparing to Watch a Sign Language Demonstration



Watching a Sign Language Video



Enjoying a Welcome to Pathfinders Haystack Supper

Pecan Nut Patties



- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 1 cup ground pecans or walnuts
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 6 eggs, beaten (or use vegemaise equivalent)
- 1 tsp. sage
- 2 cups mushroom sauce or mushroom soup



Combine all ingredients except mushroom sauce. Drop by spoonfuls into frying pan with hot oil and brown on both sides (or drop by spoonfuls onto a parchment paper covered cookie sheet and bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes, turning at 15-20 minutes) Place in casserole. When ready to bake, cover with mushroom sauce or soup and bake at 350 degrees for approximately 25 minutes or until hot and bubbly.

Recipe by Mrs. Jack Powell (An Apple a Day Cookbook, Vol. 1, p, 63)

Merrimack Valley Praise Team

Worship in Song — August 2, 2008



"Look who turned 101!"



Jim and Joanie spent some time with Grammie Reiss in August at Connie & Ed Stone's, Grammie's daughter. We all wish Grammie a Happy 101st Birthday on September 24th!

Submitted by Joanie Reiss

You are loved and missed.



**Ghana, West Africa
Kindergarten Mission Project**

Submitted by Joanie Reiss



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway Road
Dracut, MA 01826
Phone: (978) 454-9226
<http://www.mvsda.org>

Service Schedules:

Our weekly services meet on Saturday mornings.

The Saturday morning service begins at 10:00 am with a Bible study and includes age appropriate groups for children, youth, and adults. The Sabbath Worship service follows at 11:30 am.

Adventurer Fun Day

September 28, 2008

Another Adventurer year has started and boy are we having fun. Adventurer Fun Day was our first field trip of the year September 28, 2008. The conference put together a day at the Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, CT. The day was full of excitement and unfortunately a little rain but that didn't slow us a bit. The kids got a chance to see Beluga whales, dolphins, sea lions, many fish and even had a chance to feed birds from the outback. I could go on listing the great things we learned and observed. The day was packed full of wonderful exhibits and activities. One little interesting fact I learned during the sea lion show was the sea lions have joined the Navy. Not only are sea lions part of zoos or marine parks but they help the Navy for certain military operations. We learned many little facts about the animals in the aquarium but one thing I was reminded of during the day was how amazing God's creation really is.



Submitted by Veronica Iria



To submit articles and/or pictures for the next newsletter, please call Cindy Harris at: (978) 685-5905, or e-mail me at cinlee4@comcast.net

NEXT DEADLINE: DEC. 19TH

RECOGNITION

Dale Jacobson, Photo Editor
Bob McCall, Printer

From the Editor's Desk

