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# FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter  
September/October 2003

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*Casting Vision*

## Outreach Opportunities

*By Pastor Dan Martella*



The heartbeat of the Merrimack Valley Church throbs with the pulse of love for God and love for friends that reaches out and enlarges the circle of those who are becoming fully devoted followers of Christ. Relational evangelism in our church involves both the personal witness and the public proclamation of truth as it is in Jesus.

This Fall we will launch two important public evangelism initiatives. Kenneth Cox, one of our premier evangelists in North America, will hold public evangelistic meetings in our Church the weekend of October 31 - November 2. As soon as those meetings are complete, we will launch phase two of our outreach thrust: A weekly series of 6 or 7 small Bible study groups that will be hosted in our church and in member homes across the valley. These study groups will provide circles of friendship that will enable us, along with our seeker and new member friends, to explore the truth of Jesus as it is found in the Bible doctrines of our church.

Here is how you can become involved:

- ✍ Be There. Block out the entire weekend of October 31 - November 2 for this important evangelistic event. Meetings will be held on Friday evening, Sabbath, and Sunday. We need you in the pews with our guests. We need you providing a variety of services from greeting and record keeping, to materials distribution and food service. We need every member to roll up their sleeves and help us make the connection with each guest God will bring to us.
- ✍ Pray. Pray for those participating in the Video Bible School--our seed sowing and nurturing event in preparation for these harvest meetings. Pray for the 5,000 homes that will receive our handbill in the mail.

Pray for your Pastor and Church leaders as they put the local program pieces together. Pray for Kenneth Cox and his team as they travel here and make the gospel presentations. Pray that the Holy Spirit will fill this place and bless this congregation with new convert growth.

- ✍ Invite Your Family and Friends. Develop a prayer list of up to 10 people in your family and circle of friends that you will pray for daily and invite to the meetings. Ask God to prepare their hearts for this opportunity and then ask them to join you at this important event. Offer to pick them up and drive them to the meetings. Invite them home afterward for a snack and conversation.

Helping our friends become fully devoted followers of Christ is not something that has to be done single-handedly. It is something that we will do together. As we pray and work together we will share in a wonderful miracle -- the miracle of changed lives and loved ones joining us in the journey towards Heaven.

## Vacation Bible School 2003

S.C.U.B.A. - **SUPER COOL  
UNDERWATER BIBLE  
ADVENTURE**

By Rita McCall

Vacation Bible School 2003 started off slowly on Monday evening August 4 with 13 boys and girls attending. The numbers were small but the enthusiasm was outstanding. Our numbers increased to 21 on Tuesday and by Wednesday evening we were up to 29 children.

Every day the group was greeted by Karen McClendon and Scuba-Dooba-Do, a.k.a. Steven Dovich, in a little skit. The

group jumped, shouted, and sang their praises to music that wouldn't let you stand still.



Pictured from left: Scuba-Dooba-Do a.k.a. Steven Dovich, & Karen McClendon

The young people not only heard Bible stories but they experienced them. They walked into the belly of a whale with Jonah. They smelled the fish and felt the wetness of the ocean as they listened to his story.

The children played games that related to the lessons they were learning. The night that they heard the story of the Storm at Sea they made their own storm in a pool of water. They used straws for the wind and a paper bowl for the boat with cotton balls as the people. They watched as the "boats" were tossed in the water.

The craft room was a favorite place. They made personalized bags, a paper plate aquarium with their picture inside and a fish mosaic.

Chadder's Theatre was also a favorite. There was a video presentation each evening. A mystery evolved as Chadder got on the wrong boat and someone was stealing the coral under the sea. Chadder learned how God takes care of us. The young people learned that the Bible holds treasure and they learned treasure verses. They received a little undersea creature with a Bible verse on it each evening.



Clockwise from top left:  
 Squirt the whale - **Obey God**  
 Ace the flying fish - **Believe in God**  
 Tank the sea turtle - **Trust God**  
 Pearl the oyster - **Love God**  
 Starla the starfish - **Share God's Love**

Snack time was a favorite as all the groups met together in the Dive in Diner. Joan Reiss and her crew mixed up some appetizing creations. The kids got to create and eat their own Bible story inspired snack. They made Elijah's altar with cupcakes, blue tinted cool whip (water) and candy corn (fire); a boat with an apple wedge, cheese and grapes; a bunch o' believers with cheese chunks and grapes.

The evenings ended with singing, and overview of the days theme and prayer.

We collected brand new shoes and socks for children overseas. This was the Mission Project for the week.

The week closed with family participation on Friday and a presentation of certificates for completing the program. Everyone was sad to see the week end and as the children were leaving you could hear "I'll definitely be back next year." "I wish this didn't have to end." "What will next year be like?" "Thank you... ."



Pictured: the whole S.C.U.B.A. crew & staff 2003

We were witnesses to God working in the hearts of the young people who attended VBS. We witnessed friends inviting friends and cousins inviting cousins to come and experience the love and joy of knowing God. Twenty of the 29 attendees were from a non-Adventist family. We had two teen leaders that were non-Adventist – one invited by a friend and one who asked to come and help because she was here last year and was too old this year to come back. We were witnesses this week to our vision statement in action, "Friends helping friends become fully devoted followers of Christ". God has truly blessed us.

Thank you to everyone that helped make this a success with supporting us financially, physically, nutritionally, and prayerfully. We are already looking forward and planning for Vacation Bible School 2004 - LAVA LAVA ISLAND!

# Sabbath School - Beginners

## Beginners Celebrate God's Goodness

By Chali Masotta

This quarter the Beginners Sabbath School Division, at Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist church, is learning about God's love for them by studying the wonderful things He created. During July and August the little ones have been enjoying the ocean and it's many creatures. If you ask them they will tell you about the fish, and the shells, and the crabs, and the lobsters, and the sand, and the water, and the list goes on and on. In August and September they will learn about insects while enjoying a summer picnic theme.

This quarter the tots will also learn the bible stories of Little Maid and Captain Naaman as well as Baby Moses through interactive story telling and songs. Little Maid's many duties in the household and her godly influence over Captain Naaman is reflected in the bible verse theme "Serve Each Other With Love". While studying Baby Moses, the children will be taught that wherever they are, God is with them.

Come peek in sometime or bring a little friend to Sabbath School. Beginners is an exciting place to be!

## Evangelism

### He Died !!!

By Andreas Goelzer

He died! My son ..... my son DIED!

We hear it every day in the news. Some tragedy happens - a car accident, a serious cancer disease or other injury causing death within a few weeks and we are shocked. The only option we see is to pray - we ask God for his support, for healing, for emotional support for the relatives and for the right words to share with them in this difficult situation.

During these times our church experiences answered prayers - and we need to be honest as well - we saw others not being fulfilled at all. Prayer during this time has tremendous impact: It helps us to get closer to God, it unites us as family and church and we show friendship with each other -- how much we care.

On the other hand we need to admit, that death is the most normal thing on earth. Everyone dies and everyone will

experience death of his or her relatives. We don't have any control over it - we only can delay it until 120 years are reached (Genesis 6:3). If we pray for healing of a deadly disease - we actually pray only for a delay of the death date.

What I'm most worried about is eternal death. This is actually something, we can have influence - either we are dead forever or we live forever in God's kingdom. We actually can decide which direction we want to go - and this not only affects 120 years - it affects eternity.

Nearly 10 years ago I learned an important lesson. I was in the Emergency Room lying on the table. Because of the urgency the doctors didn't wait for the narcotics to take affect. They started cutting and I knew I could die right there. But one thing happened - on one side I got calm, because I knew that I'm saved - but on the other side I recalled all my friends, former classmates and coworkers and noticed that I haven't told them about the gospel of Jesus and eternal life!

Why is it that we care so much about an issue that we can only delay for a few decades, but we really don't pray for the salvation of our friends and family, classmates and coworkers? Is it because we got used to it, since there was not a sudden tragedy but a steady problem? Is it because we fear their responses now more than the responses we hear from them when Jesus comes back?

Take some time to think about these 3 questions carefully:

1. Who are the friends I would love to see in heaven with me?
2. How can I make time for daily Bible study and prayer, so God can teach me how to guide them spiritually?
3. What are the issues I need to bring to God, so I can invite them to the evangelistic meetings with Kenneth Cox Oct 31st - Nov 2nd?



## 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 % of your purchases\*\*

# Wedding Announcements

*Richard and Annette Campbell*

*March 3, 2003*

Richard Campbell and Anette Paula Fusth were married Monday, March 3, 2003 in Pompano, Florida. They had a beautiful honeymooned in Brasil. The Campbell's will be making their home at 452 Chandler St., Tewksbury, MA 01876. We wish them God's blessing and much happiness in their life together.



*Reginal and Jennifer Reiss*

*July 13, 2003*

Reginal Watson and Jennifer Reiss were married Sunday, July 13, 2003 in the Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist church. The Watson's will be making their home in Ooltewah, TN. Their mailing address will be P.O. Box 1874, Collegedale, TN 37315. We wish them God's blessing and much happiness in their life together.



## In Memory

**Benoit J. Gosselin**, father of Louise Ford died Tuesday, July 1 at the age of 85. Louise remembers that he was the man who taught her to love Jesus, telling her every day for months before he died that he "was just doing God's will" and "waiting for His Creator to come for him at the Resurrection". Mass was held Monday, July 7 at the Sacred Heart Church in Lawrence, MA. Our sympathies continue with Louise and the rest of her family.

**Cyril Campbell**, father of Marge Patch and Dick Campbell died Sunday, July 20. A memorial service was held Monday, July 21st at the Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist church. Our sympathies continue with Gary, Marge, Leah, and Eric, with Dick, Annette, and Pedro, and the rest of the family.

## Kenneth Cox Evangelistic Series

When: Oct 31 - Nov 2

Time: Session 1 - Friday 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.  
Session 2 - Sabbath 11:30 - 12:45 p.m.  
Session 3 - Sabbath 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.  
Session 4 - Sabbath 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.  
Session 5 - Sunday 10:30 - 12:00 p.m.  
Session 6 - Sunday 1:15 - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Merrimack Valley SDA Church

Mark your calendar and bring your friends to this weekend of spiritual renewal

## Want to be part of the King's Kids Pathfinder Club?

Registration and first meeting for kids age 10 - 15 will be Sunday, August 24 starting at 3 p.m. (see page 7 for more details)



## Kids - see if you can complete the acrostic

**Donkey**  
**Locust**  
**Bear**

**LAMB**  
**HORSE**  
**WOLF**  
**SNAKE**

The Bible mentions over 130 animals; these are just a few of them. See if you can complete the acrostic by writing each animal's name in its proper "across" space.

**A**  
**N**  
**M**  
**A**  
**L**  
**S**  
**of**  
**the**  
**B**  
**B**  
**L**  
**E**

**CAMEL**  
**LION**  
**LIZARD**  
**BEE**  
**SHEEP**

# PRAYER

by *Gustav Mergenthaler*

Today I would like to start a series on Prayer. Let's listen in to the disciples as they approached Jesus. Luke 11:1 "Lord, teach us to pray."

It is still true today that disciples who seek Him have the same request. Yes, to pray--this is what we need to be taught.

Though in its beginnings prayer is so simple that the feeblest child can pray, it is at the same time the highest and holiest work to which man can rise. Prayer is fellowship with the unseen and most Holy One. It is the secret of power and life not only for us, but also for others, for the church, and for the world. It is through prayer that God has given us the right to take hold of Him and His strength. It is through prayer that the promises wait for their fulfillment.

How speedily are we deceived into resting in a form of prayer, while the power is still missing? Our early training, the teaching of the church, the influence of habit, the stirring of emotions-- how easily these lead to prayer which has no spiritual power and achieves little. Who wouldn't cry out for someone to teach them true prayer that takes hold of God's strength and achieves much. Only the spirit of God can enable us to do it right. Jesus trains those of His redeemed ones who especially desire to have power in prayer.

God, teach us to pray. We have read in your word about the power Your believing people of long ago had when they prayed. We know for certain that the power can be ours too. The promises are for us; the powers and gifts of the heavenly world are for us.

It is true we have God's word with its clear and true promises, but sin has so darkened our minds that we don't always know how to apply the Word.

Even when we know what to ask for, so much is still needed to make prayer acceptable. It must be to the glory of God, in full surrender to His will, in full assurance of faith, in the name of Jesus, and with a perseverance that, if need be, refuses to be denied. All this must be learned. It can only be done at the feet of Jesus. By His Holy Spirit He has access to our hearts and teaches us to pray by showing us the sin that hinders the prayer, or by giving us the assurance that we please God.

Next issue-- certain answers to prayer.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

- 24 3 - 6 p.m. Pathfinder registration & 1st meeting
- 29 12 - 6 p.m. Red Cross Blood Drive

### September

- 3 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 6 YES  
Nursing home ministry
- 7 10 - 3 p.m. ABC Open House  
3 - 6 p.m. Pathfinder mtg - dress uniform - staff mtg
- 9 7:30 p.m. Church board
- 10 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 13 Fellowship dinner
- 14 Church yard sale
- 17 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 19 Pathfinder camporee
- 20 Pathfinder camporee  
Communion
- 21 Pathfinder camporee
- 24 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 25 7:30 p.m. Elder meeting
- 28 1 - 6 p.m. Pathfinders - Apple & pumpkin picking

### October

- 1 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 4 Fellowship dinner  
YES  
Nursing home ministry  
Newsletter submissions due
- 5 Pathfinders - field uniform - Topsfield Fair
- 8 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 14 7:30 p.m. Church board
- 15 7:30 p.m. Midweek connection
- 19 3 - 6 p.m. Pathfinder mtg - dress uniform - staff mtg  
3 - 6 p.m. Longaberger basket show - fundraiser
- 19-26 Week of Prayer
- 25 Pathfinders - can collecting bag distribution
- 26 Pathfinders - can collecting - meeting - field uniform  
Fall Fun Day
- 28 Kenneth Cox meeting setup
- 29 Midweek connection
- 30 Kenneth Cox meeting dress rehearsal
- 31 Evangelistic Series - Kenneth Cox  
Pathfinders - leadership training weekend

### November

- 1 Evangelistic Series - Kenneth Cox  
Fellowship dinner  
Pathfinders - leadership training weekend  
Nursing home ministry
- 2 Evangelistic Series - Kenneth Cox  
Pathfinders - leadership training weekend

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

# Picture Gallery

## 2003 GRADUATES



Pictured from left: Pastor Dan Martella, Jeff Martella, Rufaro Gomwe, Shaina Holiman, Carmen Guevara, Sary Neang, & Tom Sing

## BEGINNERS SABBATH SCHOOL



Pictured from left: Marcus Guevara, Elizabeth Dovich, & Sherri Dovich

## PRIMARY SABBATH SCHOOL



Pictured from left: Linda Martella, Christian Guevara, Gabriella Rocha, Taina Pagan, Samantha Pagan, Celina Uy

## CAMPMEETING 2003 - BEGINNERS



Pictured from left: Jenna Crowley, Elizabeth Dovich, & Sherri Dovich.

## CAMPMEETING 2003 - "A SLEEPY MOMENT"



Pictured from left: Abigail Martinez, & Elizabeth Dovich

## MARTELLA'S 25<sup>TH</sup> WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



Pictured from left: Linda Martella, Pastor Dan Martella, & Ron Holiman

## PATHFINDERS

by Rita McCall

YOUNG PEOPLE AGE 10 - 15: come join the King's Kids Pathfinders Club for the 2003-2004 season. We will be meeting on Sundays, twice a month, from 3-6 p.m. Our first campout will be September 19, 20 & 21. This is also the year for making plans to attend the North American Division International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh Wisconsin.

Registration will be at our first meeting, Sunday, August 24, 2003 starting at 3 p.m. Bring your parents and plan to stay for the meeting that follows. If you miss registration and would like to participate please call Rita McCall for details at 978-667-6670 evenings or weekends. If you're not sure that you would like to join, come some Sunday and see what you think then make your decision.

INDUCTION CEREMONY - is planned for October 4<sup>th</sup>, during the Church Alive segment of the worship service. Watch the church bulletin and pathfinder announcements for details.

FUNDRAISERS – start making your plans to participate in our fundraisers. We are planning a Longaberger basket party, fall flowering bulb sale, and for the holidays, balsam wreaths. Watch for details in the church bulletin.

### SCHEDULE

Aug 24	3 - 6 p.m.	Registration & regular meeting
Sept 7	3 - 6 p.m.	Regular meeting - Dress uniform Staff meeting
Sept 19-21		Fall Camporee
Sept 28	1 - 6 p.m.	Apple & pumpkin picking Regular meeting - Field uniform
Oct 5	TBA	Topsfield Fair
Oct 19	3 - 6 p.m.	Regular meeting - Dress uniform Longaberger basket party Staff meeting
Oct 25	1 - 5 p.m.	Can collecting - bag distribution
Oct 26	TBA	Can collecting - bag pickup Regular meeting - field uniform Fall Fun day
Oct 31 - Nov 2		Pathfinder Leadership training weekend

## American Red Cross

### Blood Drive

When: August 29, 2003

Time: 12 noon - 6 p.m.

Where: Merrimack Valley

Seventh-day Adventist Church

408 Broadway, Dracut, MA

To make an appointment please contact Mutsi Holiman or call 1-800-448-3543

## Women's Ministries Retreat

When: January 5-7, 2004

Where: Newport, RI

Rates: \$195\* per person, if paid by Sept 4

\$205\* per person, if paid by Sept 15

\$220\*\* per person, if paid by Nov 21

\*Payment Plan = 50% deposit by 1<sup>st</sup> two dates with the balance due by Nov 21

\*\*Scholarships are available on an as needed basis

Plan to attend and enjoy a real spiritual feast. Registration forms are posted to the bulletin board in the Merrimack Valley Church fellowship hall. Please contact Ingrid Mergenthaler at 603-894-7295 for more information.

## MVC Library

The library here at the Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist church is looking for books published in the past 15 years. If you have some you would like to donate please contact Nancy Saxton at 603-893-5809.

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



## BIRTHDAYS

### SEPTEMBER

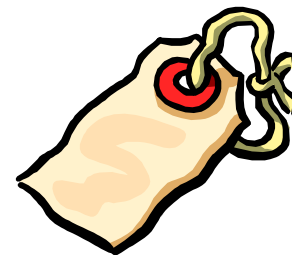
2 Andreas Golzer  
 4 JoAnn Artis  
 4 Matt Heng  
 7 Kate Saxton  
 9 Jill Hodson  
 11 Ashley Reuther  
 12 Jason Bryner  
 13 Rena Forrester  
 13 Kudzai Gomwe  
 15 Jodie Masotta  
 20 Victor Berlus  
 20 Rosa Candelario  
 24 Mutsi Holiman  
 24 Duk-Mee Lee  
 24 Clarice Reiss  
 25 Bob McCall  
 25 Margarita Santana  
 26 Helene Gilman  
 30 Sue Reuther  
 30 Jeanette Voltaire

### OCTOBER

4 Cindy Harris  
 5 Carla Conde  
 13 Tom Sing, Jr.  
 13 Marianne Wiacek  
 16 Nancy Saxton  
 20 Melissa Candelario  
 23 Marie Caggiano  
 23 Jim Newell  
 26 Andrew Lee  
 29 Dale Cady

### Church Yard Sale

Is scheduled for Sunday, September 14 with the option for items to be donated to a church sales table or sold for personal profit from a rented table. For more information contact Vivian Irrgang.



### Fall Fun Day

Scheduled for Sunday, October 26. Come for the fun, come for the fellowship, come for the games, come for the prizes, or just come to help. It's a day for the whole family, and don't forget to bring your friends. Watch the MVC bulletin for more information, or contact Vivian Irrgang.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.  
 Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.  
 Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;  
 We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.  
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.  
 Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love  
 endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. *Psalm 100 NRSV*

## Addresses - New and Improved

### Dan & Marilyn Crowe & Family

2108 Oakglen Drive  
 Ardmore, OK 73401  
 (580) 224-2760

### Herminio & Carmen Guevara & Family

67 Michael Lane  
 Naugatuck, CT 06770  
 203-729-9003

### John & Jill Hodson & Dean

1 Idlewood Ln #4  
 Kittery, ME 03904  
 207-439-9839

### Dale, Alice & Nancy Jacobson

**Nan Dunn**  
 16 Flintlock Road  
 Salem, NH 03079  
 603-898-4075

### Jeff Martella

Talge Hall  
 P.O. Box 569, Rm 204  
 Collegedale, TN 37315-0569  
 423-238-3204

### Heidi Martella

Thatcher South, Conference Center  
 P.O. Box 2218, C443  
 Collegedale, TN 37315-2218  
 423-238-2699

### Juanita Ortiz

**Greg & Vivian Irrgang**  
**Lizbeth Martinez**  
 3 Winchester Ave.  
 Methuen, MA 01844-2233  
 Phone - TBA

### Gary & Marge Patch

4 Eric Drive  
 Billerica, MA 01821  
 978-663-4544

### Reggie & Jenn Watson

(mail only)  
 P.O. Box 1874  
 Collegedale, TN 37315

(Apt. & packages only)

4780 University Dr.  
 Alabama #2  
 Ooltewah, TN 37363  
 423-396-9850

## In the Kitchen

### Granola Cereal

By: Marge Patch

- 7 cups Oatmeal (small container - Old Fashioned Oats)
- 1/2 cup whole wheat flour
- 1 cup wheat germ
- 1 1/2 cups coconut
- 2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted nuts

Mix above ingredients in a large bowl and set aside.

- 1/2 cup sunflower oil
- 1/2 cup warm water
- 1 1/2 tablespoon vanilla
- 3/4 cup brown sugar

Mix above 4 ingredients in a blender.  
Add to dry ingredients & mix thoroughly.

Bake on cookie sheets @ 250 degrees stirring every 15-20 minutes until golden brown & crisp, approximately 1 1/2 hours.

## Web 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

## CONTACTS

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Blanche Castle - Printing ..... (978) 368-1134

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

Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church

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