
FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS



Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church Newsletter
September/October 2004

Casting Vision

Adopt a School

By Pastor Dan Martella



In the early days of our church we developed a church vision statement and a list of seven shared values. Number four on our list of shared values is: *The Nurture of Our Youth*. Because our youth are vital to the church, we encourage their growth in Christ through personal friendship, social interaction, group Bible study, Sabbath School and worship services, Pathfinders, Camp Winnekeag, mission service opportunities, and Adventist education.

Adventist education has not received a lot of press in our local church in recent years. We've had our hands full planting and nurturing a new church. We've been absorbed in a church building program. We've had our financial challenges, both in our families and in our church family.

Very few of our Merrimack Valley Church young people are currently enrolled in Adventist schools. The reasons? Adventist education is expensive. Our closest schools are located in distant cities. Some have lost confidence in the ability of our schools to deliver a quality education. Still others have simply not considered the advantages that an Adventist education brings.

In light of these challenges the Southern New England Conference is encouraging all congregations that do not have a constituent relationship with an area Adventist school to give study and consideration into participating in an *Adopt a School* program. The Conference proposal encourages churches to explore, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, a growing interaction shared between the local church and school.

On July 13 our Merrimack Valley Church Board took an action to adopt Greater Boston Academy/Edgewood Elementary School. The Board also decided to dedicate the entire children's offering on the second Sabbath of each month to

GBA/EW between now and the end of the year. When our finance committee meets to develop our financial goals for 2005, they will explore additional levels of financial participation in our *Adopt a School* program.

While our financial support of Adventist education is important, it is even more important that we encourage more and more of our church families to give their children the advantage of an Adventist education. The Adventist education edge provides a learning environment that supports the spiritual values of the home and church. It enables children to excel in their academics and life-skills development. It provides a place where children can anchor their relationship with Jesus and the church. It helps our children to take their place in the advancing mission of the church. Adventist schools educate for eternity.

Much has been made about the government's *No Child Left Behind* education plan. This has been the goal of Adventist education from the beginning. We want no child left behind when Jesus comes!

Real Prayer Doesn't Ignore Sin

By Gustav Mergenthaler

God is calling on His people everywhere to humble themselves, pray, seek His face, and turn from their wicked ways. If we choose not to let Jesus deal with the sin in our lives, all other attempts to seek Him will be in vain. Our humility will be a mockery. Our prayers will not be heard (see Ps. 66:18), and we will have no desire to seek Him.

In Selected Messages, Bk. 1, p. 121 etc., you will find those familiar words, "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs, and to confess and

(continued on page 2)

Real Prayer Doesn't Ignore Sin

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put away their sins". This is part of the preparation work we must engage in before revival can come. "Our heavenly Father is more willing to give His Holy Spirit to them that ask Him," she starts, "then are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it" is our work, by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant us His blessings."

In Revival p. 87 "It has been said that one of the characteristics of our age, of its life and thought and theology, is the lack of a sense of sin." Instead of hating sin and abhorring it for what it has done to the human race and for what it cost the Son of God, we've made peace with it, watered it down, and acted as if there's no devil who goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Before true revival can come to God's church, we must allow the Holy Spirit to confront sin in our lives. We must lose our self-righteous smugness that says, "I am o.k. and you are o.k.," and humble ourselves before God, confessing our weakness and love of what He hates—sin.


It is easy to look righteous. We just go down our checklists of all the things we are not doing, (no drinking, no smoking, not eating this or that, not wearing this or that). But God looks into the depths of our hearts. What is He going to have to do to separate us from the pride, the self-seeking, the gossip, and the envy that are eating the soul out of Christ's body and damming up the revival showers of blessing we so desperately need? All those points on the checklist are very important but we need to see how God is seeing us. If all our religion is able to do for us is make us highly morale people who are good citizens and kind to animals, it has failed. The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. (DA p. 172) Therefore the things we say and the feelings we harbor against those of our own faith who differ from us in concept and strategy need to be put aside. Ellen White states: "we have far more to fear from within than from without. The hindrances to strength and success are far greater from the church itself than from the world...A house divided against itself cannot stand. Satan and his angels are actively at work to secure a harvest from seed thus sown."

There is a Savior who is eagerly waiting, not only for us to feel regret for our sins, but also for us to experience a fundamental change in our thinking that will result in restored purpose and changed perspective. He does not expect us to do it alone. It is God's kindness that leads us towards repentance. (Romans 2:4) Yes, God requires the surrender of your will, but that's all you can do. And even this action is prompted by the Holy Spirit. "We can no more repent without the spirit of Christ to awaken the conscience than we can be pardoned without Christ." (STC p. 26) What is keeping you from experiencing the full measure of God's life and love in your life?

"He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive. Then let us not be satisfied with only a little of this blessing, only that amount which will keep us from the slumber of death, but let us diligently seek for the abundance of the grace of God...only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception." (MLT p. 57)

And when that power flows through the church like water over dry ground, thirsty, burning people will come to us and, like the hummingbird, find refreshment in our Spirit-ripened fruit.

Next issue..Asking for Revival.



40 DAYS OF PURPOSE
A PURPOSE-DRIVEN LIFE CAMPAIGN
OCTOBER 9 – NOVEMBER 20, 2004

Have you ever wondered, "What on earth am I here for?" Do you think you may have missed God's will for your life? Join us for the *40 Days of Purpose Campaign* to learn God's 5 purposes for your life, then put the purposes into practice through the personal disciplines, group connections, and church-wide events that will take place during the six weeks of the Campaign. Imagine the impact on our community if all of us at Merrimack Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church were committed to living out God's purposes for our lives! Bring a friend along with you, and start living a purpose-driven life.

A Sense of Purpose in Surrender

By Louise Ford

What follows was written as a personal musing. As we prepare our hearts for Jesus' Second Coming, let us search our hearts.

As distinct and separate as all things appear, they are but part of the full portrait intended to surround us, to bring us together...to make us whole. What of the individual who wants to 'stop' and 'stand out'? What is... a stem without the flower? A drop of dew without the rose? A blade of grass without the soil? A speck of sand without minerals? The bark without the tree? The clouds without a sky? Who am I, without the world I live in? OR (What is my Church without my membership?)

If I were a leaf in autumn who refused to let go of the branch, I might wither and die still clinging. Who would note my valiant battle? Perhaps the branch from which I'm continuing to sap needed energy.

My role is to be part of the whole. It matters only that I be me. My essence must meet the needs of my surroundings. I can be strong, weak, bright, dull, shaded, bare, or abundant...all, as long as I follow my season. Rest assured, it will always change: a brisk wind, a cooling breeze, a tropical air...all will influence my role. Trying to defy the forces around me creates unintended tension. The wonderful

exhilaration of falling to the ground to take my place is subverted.

As that leaf, what would I have missed by not "letting go"?

Being part of a display of riotous colors
Being 'one of the bunch' a playful child immerses himself in
Being savored and pressed as a memory
Being a painter's inspiration for color or shape
Being a poet's rhyme
Being a writer's allegory
Being God's messenger

Clinging is not so great, after all. Imagine instead, fading away under footsteps of life to mulch and feed what's yet-to-come. What a grand life!

To open up and 'be' – 'let go' ! There is our joy. There is our destiny.

Would a maple leaf, determine to 'be' special and choose to live on a birch tree? All effort. No fulfillment. Rebellious. Unneeded, unwanted, use-less.

So, grow where you're planted.
Drop your seed and die to striving.
"Be", "be", "be" what you are.
We need you !
God wants you !

ADDRESS UPDATE

Louise Ford
24C Farley Street
Lawrence, MA 01843

Alloys & Petty Gomwe
10919 Fondreu Rd. Apt 2821
Houston, TX 77096
978-726-2794 (temporary)

Brian & Jessica Grant
Branch River Apt Bldg 2 Apt 22
Raymond, NH 03077
603-303-8300

Jeanine McKillop
65 Revere Street
Malden, MA 02148
781-249-0460

Stanley & Jean McKillop
20 Quaker
Newton, NH 03858

Kenny & Donna Patch
P.O. Box 8765
Surprise, AZ 85374
602-725-6666 (cell #)

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

2	Andreas Golzer	25	Margarita Santana
4	JoAnn Artis	26	Helene Gillman
4	Matt Heng	30	Sue Ruether
7	Kate Saxton	30	Jeanette Voltaire
8	Flor Portillo		

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 Holliman
24	Duk-Mee Lee
24	Clarice Reiss
25	Bob McCall

OCTOBER

1	Abigail Martinez
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

Campmeeting Picture Gallery

BEGINNERS



Pictured in boat from left: Ayzlynn, Shayla and Jenna Crowley along with other participants

SABBATH LUNCH



Pictured: Merrimack Valley family and friends

KINDERGARTEN



Pictured from left: Jenna Crowley and Braighan Forrester

SABBATH GET TOGETHER



Pictured: Merrimack Valley family and friends

SABBATH SNACKS



Pictured from left: Katherine Nelson

SABBATH AFTERNOON NAP



Pictured: Alexander Dovich

Vacation Bible School Picture Gallery

LAVA LAVA ISLAND



JUNGLE GYM GAMES



SING AND PLAY BAY



TROPICAL TREATS KITCHEN



Pictured from left: Joan Reiss, Chali Masotta and Nancy Saxton

CHADDER'S ISLAND ADVENTURE THEATER



Pictured: Jean McKillop

TROPICAL TREATS



In the Kitchen - Salads

German Potato Salad

Ingredients:

5 lbs bag of potatoes
1 red onion, diced
1 tablespoon parsley (fresh or dried)
1 teaspoon salt, or to taste
1 teaspoon garlic powder, or to taste
1/8 cup red wine vinegar
1/8 cup warm water
Olive oil

Directions:

Boil potatoes whole, until done. Peel and cut the potatoes into small pieces. In a large serving bowl, combine potatoes, and the diced onion, sprinkle with parsley, salt and garlic powder.

Mix red wine vinegar and water then pour over potatoes. Add just enough olive oil until the mixture is moist.

Does not need to be refrigerated if eaten the same day as prepared.

Submitted by: Ingrid Mergenthaler

Baby Spinach Salad

Ingredients:

1 bag of baby spinach leaves
1/2 bag Ocean Spray Craisins (orange flavored)
1/2 bag Sunkist almond accents sliced almonds (ranch)
Traditional Feta cheese – crumbled to taste
1/4 cup Italian salad dressing
1/2 cup orange juice

Directions:

Snap off the spinach leaf stems then wash and dry the leaves. In a medium serving bowl combine spinach leaves, Craisins, almonds, and crumbled Feta cheese.

Mix Italian salad dressing with orange juice then pour over salad. Stir to combine.

Submitted by: Alice Jacobson

Oil and Vinegar Slaw

Ingredients:

1/4 cup red wine vinegar
2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons peanut or vegetable oil
1 sack, 16 ounces, shredded cabbage mix for slaw salads
1 teaspoon salt
salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

Mix vinegar and sugar. Add oil. Add cabbage to dressing and season with salt and pepper to taste. Toss with fingers to combine. Adjust seasoning. Let stand 20 minutes. Re-toss and serve.

Yield: 6 to 8 servings
Leftovers keep 2 days in the refrigerator

Submitted by: Sherri Dovich

Ambrosia Salad

Ingredients:

1 pint of plain yogurt (or sour cream)
2 cans of drained pineapple chunks
2 cans of drained mandarin oranges
1/2 bag of shredded coconut
(If desired 1/2 bag of mini marshmallows)
Blueberries to taste
Strawberries – sliced to taste

Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, combine first 5 ingredients and refrigerate overnight. Before serving add fresh blueberries and sliced strawberries

Submitted by: Karen McClendon

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 7 Nursing home ministry
- 10-14 NAD Pathfinder Camporee – WI
- 14 Nursing home ministry
- 16 7 p.m. Church board mtg.
- 23 3:30 – 7 p.m. Edgewood (EW) registration
- 24 5–7 p.m. Greater Boston Academy (GBA) registration
- 26 7:30 p.m. Elder meeting
- 29 Salisbury Beach summer outing
- 30 GBA/EW school begins

September

- 4 Nursing home ministry
- 11 Fellowship dinner
Nursing home ministry
- 12 Pathfinders - 10 hour Basic Staff Training
ABC Open House
- 14 7 p.m. Church board mtg.
- 25 Communion
- 26 Pathfinder area event - The Big E
- 30 7:30 p.m. Elder meeting

October

- 1-2 GBA Alumni Weekend
- 2 Newsletter submissions due
Nursing home ministry
- 9 Purpose Driven Life begins – Ends November 20
Fellowship dinner
Nursing home ministry
- 12 7 p.m. Church board mtg.
- 15-17 SNEC - Pathfinder Leadership Training
- 22-24 SNEC - Women's Ministry retreat
- 22-24 SNEC - Youth Spiritual retreat
- 28 7:30 p.m. Elder meeting
- 31 2 a.m. Daylight Savings time ends

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

Salisbury Beach Picnic

Fun in the Sun for the
Whole Family

August 29, 2004
Salisbury Beach, Salisbury, MA



A Talent Night in October
****RESCHEDULED****
for Spring 2005

In Celebration

Devin Grace Johnson

Born Sabbath,
July 17, she
weighed 8
pounds, and was
21 inches long.
She is the
daughter of Caleb
and Dana
Johnson and joins
her brother Owen.
Congratulations to
her Grandparents,
David and Joan
Swenson and
Uncle David.



New member

Flor Portillo



Pictured from left: Flor Portillo and Pastor Dan Martella



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 percent of
your purchases.****

Bible Word Search – Women of the Bible

All the words listed below are in the puzzle. Circle each word as you find it. After you have found all the words, put the leftover letters in the correct order to reveal the mystery word. Mystery word answer on page 10.

Y J D E K C I R T G S E S O M C R E L F Y R A M N C D M C N H H L Z E I N L O I S A N E S A L I E E A W O N D G U E H I K E V L W B H U M D N G R A S E P E E D E E C A E I H R R T B R R C L R J L A W R T A L E E O Y L I D E Y A R T E B O R R S R O N N G N H T U R C T S E Y H T E B A Z I L E S I N L H R R H A V I R T U O U S E A T W A I G Y R E T L U D A D U S O G N E C R O V I D T A I T E D A G S C A R L E T N H A I I A H T R A M O T H E R S M R	Adultery Barren Betrayed Ceremony Children Clothing Daughters Delivery Divorce Dowry Elizabeth Esther Eunice Hagar Harlot Jewelry Jezebel Leprosy Lineage Lois	Magdalene Maiden Marriage Martha Mary Moses Mothers Rachael Rebekah Rings Rituals Ruth Scarlet Sisters Tricked Virtuous Wedding Wife
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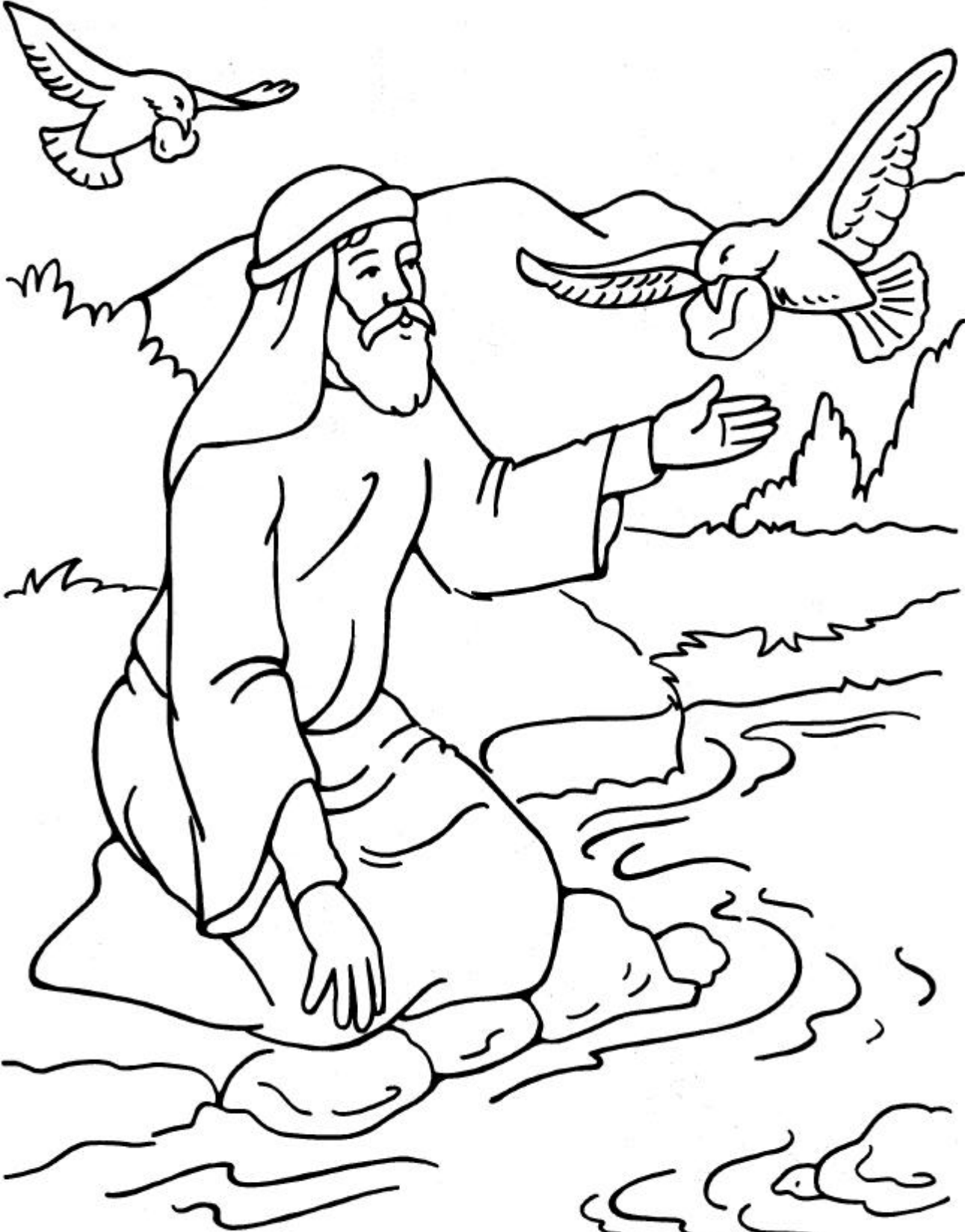
Bible Quiz – The Good Samaritan

Jesus had been preaching, "Love your neighbor," which was a part of the Old Testament Law (Leviticus 19:18). Correct answers can be found on page 10.

- One day a lawyer asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" What was the lawyer's purpose for asking the questions?
 - He wanted to find out how to gain eternal life.
 - He wanted to test Jesus' interpretation of the Law.
 - He wanted to find out the right way to interpret the Law.
 - He wanted to show off what he knew about the Law.
- Instead of answering the lawyer's question directly, Jesus told the Parable of the Good Samaritan. How did the poor Jewish man in the parable get injured?
 - He fell off his donkey.
 - He tripped and broke his leg.
 - He was partly buried by an avalanche.
 - He was robbed and beaten.
- Two Jewish religious leaders passed by the injured man without stopping to help. Finally, a Samaritan man came by, stopped and did everything possible to assist. Why did it take an extra measure of compassion for the Samaritan man to come to the assistance of the injured man beside the road?
 - He was afraid the injured man would attack him.
 - The Jews and Samaritans despised each other.
 - The Jews and Samaritans were at war.
 - He was in a hurry to reach his destination.
- What is the main lesson of Jesus' Parable of the Good Samaritan?
 - Offer assistance to anyone in need.
 - Temple leaders had become legalistic and forgotten the spirit of the Law.
 - Extend your love to all Christians.
 - Extend your love to everyone in the world.

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

Kids - get your crayons and color this picture



Elijah Is Fed by Ravens

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King's Kids Pathfinder Club

For Kids ages 10-15
 Contact Bob McCall 978-667-6670
 or Sherri Dovich 978-470-3294
 for more information.



Contacts

Sherri Dovich, Editor.....(978) 470-3294
 Bob McCall, Photo Editor, Printing.....(978) 667-6670

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

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
<http://www.twopaths.com/wordsearch.htm> - Bible Word Search Puzzles
<http://www.adventistyouth.org/> - Center for Youth Evangelism
<http://www.christianitytodaymovies.com/> - Biblical perspectives on contemporary cinema
<http://www.adventistbookcenter.com/> - Adventist Book Center (ABC)
<http://www.dayspring.com/ecards/index.asp> - Christian e-cards by DaySpring
<http://www.adventsource.org/cgi-bin/start.cgi/start.html> - AdventSource provides resources for the local church

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To: